

## **Revelation 20:1-4 – The Binding of Satan**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: John's vision, as he lies on the Isle of Patmos, was coming to a close with a wonderful picture of victory. So listen carefully as God's Word is proclaimed so you can be enlightened of this victory.

Our headings are: **Identify of the Angel, Activity of the Angel, and Sovereignty of the Angel.**

Our goals are: That **seeing how Christ's love for you, you will confidently look forward to your resurrection in the future and you will worship the Lord better now.**

### **Identify of the Angel**

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

1. This angel who appeared from heaven came down to earth with a key in his hand is none other than Jesus Christ. But how do we know that it was Jesus? Wasn't it Christ who conquered death and hell and took the keys away from the Devil? No one else has this power that the angel displayed. (Remember, angel simply means "messenger of God."

Revelation 1:18 "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

2. And what comes to mind when you see a person with keys in his hand coming up from a bottomless pit? This picture may conjure up 推想 on your mind an ancient prison without our modern "human rights." It was a picture of suffering with no hope of escape. There was no cable TV, weight room, law library, and no one could sue the government for the right to have pornography. There is a powerful warden 看守人 and he intends to keep the community safe.

### **Activity of the Angel**

2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

1. What does the angel do? Jesus, the Angel, laid hold of the Devil. This Devil is identified specifically by his name, his person, and his actions. And Jesus binds him up and puts him in a bottomless pit.

2. As you learned before, being put into a bottomless pit it is not always referring to the end of the world. (Just like when one was burned with fire and brimstone (Sodom and Gomorrah) it did not mean that that was eternal hell.) How do we know that this binding of Satan is not the end of the world? Because Satan will later come out from this restriction and go back into the world. If it were the end of the world, Satan would never be freed from hell. He would be condemned there forever.

3. But is Satan really bound? What does that mean? Does the Bible say that in other places? (A doctrine is never developed on one passage alone.) Generally...Jesus came to destroy the Devil.

1 John 3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Jesus said it in clear words! He came to destroy the works of the Devil and take what he claimed.

Luke 11:20 "But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. 21 "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. 22 "But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils.

Specifically, Jesus came with the expressed purpose of destroying the Devil's works by taking him captive. And this all started immediately when he started his earthly ministry. The Devil falsely claimed to own everything. But notice Jesus reply.

Matthew 3:8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

This incident epitomizes 概括 the struggle between Jesus and the Devil. Later Jesus more specifically said this was going to happen: The pretend ruler of the world was facing judgment imminently.

John 12:31 "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

And the demons anticipated this as well... they anticipated their destruction with Christ's coming.

Mark 1: 24 saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"

Jesus asserted authority over the demons and constantly cast them out of the possessed.

Mark 5:7 And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore 乞求 You by God that You do not torment me."

Mark 5:9 Then He asked him, "What is your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name is Legion; for we are many." 10 Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country.

Colossians 2: 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle 展览物 of them, triumphing over them in it.

While Satan has been bound it does not mean that all his activity has ceased. He is simply restricted from his regular activities so the Gospel can spread.

4. Why all of these graphic descriptions of the Devil and his power? This was done to show the greatness of Christ's power over him. The Devil was a monster and a sneaky 鬼鬼祟祟的 snake, but Christ was greater than he. And it was up to Christ when the Devil was restricted or let go. Yes, the Devil will have some freedom for a brief while later – but that is at Christ's permission and Christ's time.

5. This certainly proved that God's kingdom had come on earth. This is clearly shown in

Luke 10:18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Satan fell suddenly and with force.

Matthew 10:28 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Ephesians 4:8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."

Augustine agreed: "The devil was conquered by his own trophy 战利品 of victory. The devil jumped for joy, when he seduced 诱使 the first man and cast him down to death. By seducing the first man, he slew (past tense of 'slay') him; by slaying the last man, he lost the first (man) from his snare.

6. That is the work – destroying the Devil – is what Christians continue to do today thorough his church.

Hebrews 2: 14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

Further, this shows that the power that God gave to his people over demons (snakes, lions).

Psalm 91:13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

Romans 16: 20 And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

The Devil might rage but he is ineffective and impotent 无力的 to stop God's kingdom.

## **Sovereignty of this Angel (Introduction)**

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

1. But now it gets really interesting. There are many people on thrones with Christ...meaning they are ruling and making judgment. Twenty-four rulers, representative of the church, have already been described as ruling. Rev. 4:4. When will this ruling take place? Now! Christ is ruling now...

2. Let me now introduce two words: Amillennialists 千禧年的信徒 and postmillennialists. Who are these? These are people who view this reign of Christ from different perspectives. To best show the difference you have to ask and answer the question: When did Christ kingdom begin? As we have proved, classic historical interpretation pointed out that the Christ's kingdom began at his resurrection and ascension and he now continues to rule until all his enemies become his footstool. So those who subscribe to this view say that Christ's kingdom is the millennium. (See Psalm 110.) This is postmillennialism.

Acts 2: 29 "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 "Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 "he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. 32 "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. 33 "Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. 34 "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, 35 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'"

The flow of activity here shows that Christ's reign began after his resurrection.

Hebrews 10: 12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

Amillennialists believe that Christ is reigning now as postmillennialists believe with a difference. They believe that Christ is reigning in heaven with the dead saints and they don't know what will happen in the future of the world. Postmillennialists believe that Christ is ruling on the earth through his saints and that he will continue to rule more and more as the Gospel spreads more and more. The truth is, the church has been optimistic about the spread of the Gospel – no unsure. St. Athanasius, among many early and later church fathers, spoke at length on the subject of the victory of the Gospel throughout the world and the inevitable 不可避免的 conversion of all nations to Christ.

Isaiah 11:9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.

Daniel 7: 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

Someone wrote: Christians never supposed that their high calling was to work for some sort of détente (dey-**tahnt**) (easing of relations) with the enemy. The enemy had to be conquered.

And doesn't this fit in well with the Christ command to go into all the world and make disciples "of all the nations."

3. And Christ will rule for 1000 years with his church – the militant church and the victorious church.

### **Conclusion:**

Before the coming of Christ, Satan largely controlled the nations, but his strong deadly grip 控制 was shattered 粉碎 by the Gospel as preaching the Gospel and conversions took place around the world. Those who rejected the Gospel, like the Jews, were destroyed. We say that "Pentecost and Holocaust were the Ascension applied." And all of this was and is being accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit that Christ gave to his church.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: First, hear these words of encouragement to go face the challenge of bringing many to Christ: 1John 4:4 – "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." John's point is that you are assured of victory because of who you are and who is on your side. Don't give up serving the Lord even when things look dark. Second, remember the darkness in which the world is in. Love them enough. Acts 26:17 'I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 18 'to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.' Third, praise the Lord more and better for your freedom from sin, death, and hell.

Finally, if you are not trusting Jesus that he will take away your sins, may I urge you...plead with you...to ask him to forgive your sins and make you his child because he died for the sins of all kinds of people.