

Revelation 20:5-6 – Resurrection and Destruction

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: We have already examined the rule of Christ during the Millennium. I hope by now you are clear in your mind that Christ will not return for a 1000 literal years on earth. I also hope you understand that the saints in heaven and on earth are ruling now with Christ, (Ephesians 2:6). But Christians do not rule as political entity. You rule as a spiritual force. That spiritual authority that you have comes from heaven. So you rule by the power of the Sword of God – the Word of God. You teach the Word of God and the Holy Spirit brings men and women into submission to Christ. And as you work, Christ begins to rule more and more. You will see two main things from God's Word today: How the Righteous have been triumphantly raised today to rule, and how Satan will never triumph over you.

Our headings are: The **Resurrection of the Godly Now**, and the **Satan Destruction of Satan finally**.

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

The Resurrection of the Godly Now

5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

1. While John was still speaking of the present rule of Christ and Christians during his millennial reign, he wanted to show how special Christians were to the Lord. Remember, Revelation is not about the world, but about the church. Christ was showing his love for the church. He said that those who had died without hope in Jesus Christ would have their resurrection way in the future – after the millennium. But it was not the same for Christians...his children.

2. Learn that Jehovah Witness and Seventh Day Adventists are wrong; there is no such thing as annihilation – which teaches that death is the end and the soul no longer exists. The Bible teaches that after death comes the judgment. Consider these and 50 other passages.

John 5:28 "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 "and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Acts 24: 15 "I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

3. There is another greater comfort. Instead of waiting till the end of the world to face a resurrection of condemnation, Christians already are enjoy a 1st resurrection of life. And when Christians die their death is not hard. They will be raise a 2nd time, but it is a resurrection to eternal life in heaven. So Christians have 2 resurrections (a spiritual resurrection-coming to faith, and a literal one). These 2 types of resurrection were probably pictured for you in the Old Testament.

Numbers 19: 11 'He who touches the dead body of anyone shall be unclean seven days. 12 'He shall purify himself with the water on the third day and on the seventh day; then he will be clean. But if he does not purify himself on the third day and on the seventh day, he will not be clean.

One who had to touch death, had to be cleaned twice... On the 3rd day and on the 7th day. That person, as it were, was figuratively raised from the dead twice.

4. These 2 resurrections (now and in the future) of Christians are repeated in the other places as well.

John 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

25 "Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.

Paul talked about the first resurrection in detail...and he was talking of being saved – being raised from the spiritual dead.

1Corinthians 15: 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

Then again, look at another even clearer passage.

Colossians 2: 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

You are united with Christ through covenant baptism, just as you were united with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection. .

5. This first resurrection that Christians have is most important. This was pictured for us by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We were all raised when he was raised.

Romans 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

And you visually show that you were raised with Christ in baptism. (See also Colossians 3:1)

Ephesians 2:5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

And because Christians have had this 1st resurrection, the 2nd has no control over them. PTL.

Satan Freed and then Destroyed

7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

1. At the end of the Millennium, when God is good and ready (for he only goes by his timetable, and he only goes for what suits his glory) he lets Satan out from hell for a short period of time to make one final stand and let him tempt the church. The question one might ask is: "Why does God allow Satan to come out of hell for a time so that he might deceive the nations?" That is the same question you might ask about a lot of things, like why God allowed sin into the world. The answer is that God has a sovereign purpose that you might or might not know. God doesn't always tell us. He simply does what he does for his own glory.

2. God would allow some who are not elected living on earth—even when a majority of the world would be converted (This serves his purposes). So the whole world would not be converted. Look at an example of how God allowed some corrupt people to remain in a figurative picture about fishes.

Ezekiel 47:10 "It shall be that fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be places for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many. 11 "But its swamps and marshes will not be healed; they will be given over to salt.

Jesus pointed to this. He said the wheat will grow with the tares and be separated on judgment day? Yes, the wheat might be dominant, but there are always some tares. (Matthew 12:37-43).

3. But do you see the stubbornness of the Devil? He will know that he is defeated but he will try one last time to deceive the nations. His goal is to stop Christians at any cost from having dominion in the earth for the glory of Christ her Creator. Consider how you saw an increasing spiritual warfare and demonic possession during the time of Jesus' earthly ministry. But the Bible teaches that the Devil's plan backfired during Jesus' earthly ministry and it would backfire against him again.

What he taught was for destruction was used to teach the power of Christ. And many believed and had their faith strengthened when they saw those miracles. And Christ's death backfired also.

1Corinthians 2: 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Satan's plan to kill the Lord caused him to die. At the end of the Millennium the Lord will let him go for a time, but only after the church has blossomed and has been strengthened so she can win this epic cosmic struggle and give Christ the glory for her redemption and spiritual strengthening.

4. But what about Gog and Magog? John said that the Devil will gather them together in battle! Let's first learn what one of the common, but erroneous teachings are about Gog and Magog. Many today teach that this is a war between Russia and Israel. But they don't let the facts get in the way of their beliefs. Why is that ridiculous? Among other things, notice that Satan is let out after the 1000 years and then works for war with Gog and Magog. But their teaching often puts this battle before or during the 1000 years. Practically, consider how foolish this interpretation is. According to their interpretation Russian must invade Israel for silver. (Ezekiel 38:11-13). (But Israel is poor today.) Russian soldiers are on horseback, carrying wooden swords, wooden shields, and wooden helmets – with wooden bows and arrows. (Have you looked at Russia's weapons recently?) But where do they get the idea that the Bible spoke of Russia?

Ezekiel 38: 3 "and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.

This ridiculous idea comes from trying to make "rosh" which means "main" or "chief" to be a short form for Russian. They take the other names to mean other cities.

5. Now the full meaning. Let's look at what Ezekiel said:

Revelation 20:8...whose number is as the sand of the sea.

Ezekiel 38:4 "I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords.

Gog is a prince (prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. Gog joined neighboring forces, Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya, Gomer and all its troops and the house of Togarmah) and came together against God's people (Psalm2) who had just returned from captivity. But God would put destroy them and lead them away with fishhooks. The **peoples of the lands, ruled by Gog, are called Magog**. Now in **Revelation**, Gog is also the prince – except he is more wicked. He is the Devil. And he gathers Magog –which refers to nations from the 4 quarters of the earth...a large number. Using OT types to clearly teach people who understood those types was most kind of God.

6. And note that number (sand by the seas) is simply hyperbole – as God used in Josh. 11:4 for the Canaanites, and in Jud. 7:12 for the Midianites. In both of these cases the large number of people against God's people were soundly defeated by God. Large numbers never stopped God before – but these large numbers were often described to show the power of God to destroy his enemies.

7. What happens then to Gog and Magog? Ezekiel pointed out that they were Prince Gog and his alliance Magog were defeated by God's people and they burned Magog's weapons for 7 years. What comfort this must have given to God's people who were reading revelation.

Conclusion:

While the wicked die and are controlled by death and must wait for the resurrection of condemnation, God's people are raised to newness of life now and are reigning with Christ and fighting in his army.

When they are well equipped, they will be exposed to the Devil for a brief time so God could show one last time greatness of his power and confirm his great love for his Bride – the church.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: Rejoice that death and the Devil do not have power of you. Rejoice that you are reigning with Christ today. Rejoice that God will make a spectacle of the Devil at the end of the world – as he did on Calvary – but with greater finality. And work for the kingdom of God. Use the Sword of God to bring men and women, boys and girls into submission to Christ. Live it. Speak it. But you have to know the Word...and know how to use the Word. Those who have a weapon and don't know how to use it end up hurting themselves, or those around them...and they certainly can't protect others if they can use it. Do you know how to use the Sword of the Spirit? Plan to be skilled in the Word.

Finally, Christ will conquer. It is better to submit. If you submit you will have hope. If you don't submit you die. May you call upon Christ to make you his child because he died for the freedom of the world.