

Revelation 20:9-10 – Satan’s Final Defeat

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: It is not uncommon that a losing retreating 撤退 army will try to booby-trap anything so it can destroy as many of the enemy soldiers as possible. The retreating army thinks this way: “We will lose, but we will take as many lives as we can as we lose. They might win, but we don’t want them to enjoy victory.”

And in a way, this is how the Devil will act at the end. He will know that he lost and that his judgment will be coming soon so he, his fellow demons, and his people will make one last effort to destroy God’s people. But he and his cohorts 军团 will lose. They will lose because Christ’s people can never lose. Christ gave you eternal life. And he prays for you. He continues to love you. He equips you with everything you need to fight the Devil, the flesh, and this world. But in this final defeat of Satan you gain Christ’s protection in the fullest sense and this is what will be declared to you today in this message.

Our headings are: **Satan’s Final Stand**, and **Satan’s Final Defeat**.

Our goals are: That you will learn **not to give in to Satan’s temptation but boldly live for Christ’s glory**, knowing that Satan will be defeated by the Lord who bought you with his own blood. I hope you will also **see Christ’s true love for you**.

Satan’s Final Stand

9 They went up on the breadth of the land and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city...

1. With Satan loose for a while after the Gospel has spread to the ends of the earth at the end of the millennium, he will make one final stand...one last attempt to destroy Christians. He knows he is going down...but like a losing army, he wants to take as many down with him as possible. How can you know that the Devil knows he will be condemned forever? The Bible tells us. Demons know their end and at one time begged they begged Jesus for extra time before their final torment!
Matthew 8:28 When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. 29 And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"
Luke 8: 31 And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss 地狱.

2. You may ask: Since the Devil is presently bound and only loose just before the world ends, is he inactive today? Answer: When Satan killed Christ through his surrogates – the Jews and the Romans - he shot himself in the foot. Instead of destroying Christ, he himself was condemned and limited in hell. But Satan’s present binding is not as if he has no active part in man’s affairs. It simply means he was limited – much more than he was in the past. Yes, God always puts limit on Satan. Remember God’s limit to Satan in the life of Job? .
Job 1: 9 So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 "Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.
But Satan is bound much more now. This is why you see less possession by evil spirits today.

3. Back in our text, John then described the visual of Satan’s last stand against God’s people. He said that Satan will surround God’s people – meaning that he will attack them on every side.

4. This visual was similar to the Assyrian invasion of Israel in 722BC. Readers of the Old Testament understood this similarity.

Isaiah 8:7 Now therefore, behold, the Lord brings up over them The waters of the River, strong and mighty—The king of Assyria and all his glory; He will go up over all his channels And go over all his banks. 8 He will pass through Judah, He will overflow and pass over, He will reach up to the neck; And the stretching out of his wings Will fill the breadth of Your land, O Immanuel.
Israel belonged to “God with us” – Immanuel, so Immanuel – Jehovah God, Jesus Christ – would destroy and scatter the enemy of his people. In Isaiah’s case, the enemy was Assyria.

Isaiah 8: 9 "Be shattered, O you peoples, and be broken in pieces! Give ear, all you from far countries. Gird yourselves, but be broken in pieces; Gird yourselves, but be broken in pieces. 10 Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing; Speak the word, but it will not stand, For God is with us."

At the same time the readers of Revelation would remember God's promise of surrounding them. Job 1:10 "Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

Psalms 125:2 As the mountains surround Jerusalem, So the LORD surrounds His people From this time forth and forever.

5. But how will the Devil and his army of friends attempt to deceive the nations? They will do so not by directly contradicting God's Word but by...

- a. By using doubts: Eve, did God really say: Don't eat?
- b. By using substitution: It is good to pray...but you can pray to any god alongside Jehovah.
- c. By using excuses: Adultery is wrong, but temptation is too strong. I'm too busy. It's too hard.
- d. By elevating man: Because you are wise, you know best how to worship God.
- e. By pretense: Encourages you to think that because God is making you successful in life, it is his approbation 认可 of your lifestyle. They forget that God sends the rain on the just and the unjust. These types of deceptions are worse than putting a gun to one's head and demanding one sins. They are worse because they make sins appear more acceptable.

6. So though surrounded by the Devil and his army as the sand of the sea shore, God's people will win.

The victory is promised to Jesus alone, Son of Abraham, who would have children as the sand on the sea shore. God's Word always comes true.

Genesis 22:17 - "blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

Remember also Jesus' words that should make you look optimistically to the future:

Matthew 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Satan's Final Defeat

9... And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. 10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

1. Because the Devil would not leave God's children alone, fire came down upon him and his human and angelic army. But note that this was not man's fire, but it was the fire from God. During the Millennium many wicked people heard the Word of God and were pierced with the Sword of the Spirit and were converted. But the Devil has no such hope...and no such desire. So he dies.

2. This fire is a draw back to Sodom and Gomorrah which were consumed in fire for their wickedness – But Sodom's fire was also for the protection of God's people.

Genesis 19:24 Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. 25 So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. 28 Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace.

And this was similar to the fire in Numbers upon Moses' enemies and for Israel's protection.

Numbers 16:31 Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them, 32 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. 33 So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly. 34 Then all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, "Lest the earth

swallow us up also!" 35 And a fire came out from the LORD and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering incense.

And the fire was like that which burned up Elijah's enemies and protected the godly Elijah.

2Kings 1:10 So Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, "If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. 11 Then he sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty men.

And he answered and said to him: "Man of God, thus has the king said, 'Come down quickly!'"

12 So Elijah answered and said to them, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

And it is like God's judgment on Edom – to totally destroy them and save Israel and Judah.

Isaiah 34:9 Its streams shall be turned into pitch, And its dust into brimstone; Its land shall become burning pitch. 10 It shall not be quenched night or day; Its smoke shall ascend forever. From generation to generation it shall lie waste; No one shall pass through it forever and ever.

3. Is it a literal fire that comes down from God to destroy Satan and his army? We don't know. Whether it is a literally fire or not, (Can fire burn spirits?) it shows the true love that Christ has for his children. What we do know is that ultimately the fire is brought through Jesus Christ alone.

4. And it is interesting. The Devil is released from being bound in hell...and all his forces join him and then they are all defeated. They are defeated and sent where the Israel – the false prophet, and Rome- the beast)...were already. It is almost **like God set them up** to come against Christ and his people in order to destroy them. Imagine how this must have comforted the suffering saints!

5. This destruction of the Devil is seen as in the future when God's kingdom has spread and the **knowledge of God has filled the earth.** This also means that those who come up with weird ideas and want to name times and dates (like October 2011-or 2012) for this great war, lack true understanding of the text, the language, and the purpose of Revelation. So you have to leave the Chinese Premier, Vladimir Putin and George Bush out of Revelation.

6. Pre-millennialists say: The world will get worse and worse, Christ will come to snatch his people and the world will continue for a time after that...and Russia and China will fight Israel, etc.

Amillennialists say: We don't know how much God's kingdom will spread. The future is uncertain. (What lacking comfort that would have been for the readers of Revelation!)

Postmillennialists say: The world will largely be conquered for Christ and the Devil will be humiliated and destroyed. What glorious revelation! Christ will have dominion.

Conclusion:

The Devil with his army will make a final stand against the Lord's people but he will be absolutely and totally destroyed in the end. This knowledge would have given the persecuted church much comfort during John's time.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Be encouraged again with the Lord's words through Isaiah. "*Isaiah 8: 9 "Be shattered, O you peoples, and be broken in pieces! Give ear, all you from far countries. Gird yourselves, but be broken in pieces; Gird yourselves, but be broken in pieces. 10 Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing; Speak the word, but it will not stand, For God is with us."* What does this mean to you? 1. You can be reassured that God did not save you and abandon you.

He is always with you. You are secured for eternity. What amazing love! 2. You can boldly face the worse situations in life...personally struggles – like divorce, difficulty raising kids, death, depression, disasters of all kinds...knowing they cannot overwhelm your faith and hope. 3. You can fight the fight for the glory of Christ knowing that none of Christ's elect will ever be lost. You will evangelize fiercely, but not panic. And the Lord will bring to himself those who are his through Christ's life and death.

Finally, Satan will die in hell with all those who refuse to believe in Jesus. But burning in hell is not the only thing that is bad...what is actually worse is the torture of the conscience (Their worm does not die)... knowing that they are eternally separated from God with no hope of salvation. Does this make you afraid? If it does, and I hope it does, ask God to make you his child on account of Jesus Christ. He will remove your fear and adopt you as his child.