

Study Guide: The Resurrection of the Saints and the Defeat of Satan

Text: Revelation 20:1–10

Main Idea: Satan's power is real but limited, his time is short, and his defeat is certain. Christ reigns in victory, and those who belong to Him share in that reign forever.

1. Satan Bound for a Thousand Years (vv. 1–3)

John sees an angel descending from heaven with a key and a great chain to bind Satan for a thousand years. The dragon—the devil, Satan—is thrown into the abyss and sealed, preventing him from deceiving the nations during Christ's millennial reign.

Key Observations:

- Satan is powerful but not all-powerful.
- It only takes **an angel**, not God Himself, to bind him—showing God's unmatched authority.
- The binding symbolizes a divinely imposed restraint on Satan's ability to deceive.
- His time is limited; he will be released briefly before his final defeat.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the binding of Satan teach us about God's ultimate authority?
 2. How might this passage correct both fear and obsession about the devil's power?
 3. What encouragement can believers draw from knowing Satan's time is limited?
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2. The Thousand-Year Reign of Christ (vv. 4–6)

John sees thrones and those seated on them given authority to judge. He also sees the souls of martyrs who had refused to worship the beast. They come to life and reign with Christ for a thousand years—this is called the first resurrection.

Key Observations:

- The **first resurrection** belongs to all who are in Christ—those who share in His life and victory.
- These saints reign with Jesus as **priests and kings** during the millennium.
- The **second death** (eternal separation from God) has no power over them.
- The focus is not just the timing but **belonging**—being united with Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. What hope does the "first resurrection" give to all believers?
 2. How does this passage help you view death differently as a follower of Christ?
 3. In what ways can we live now as those who will "reign with Christ"?
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3. The Final Rebellion and Judgment (vv. 7–10)

When the thousand years are complete, Satan is released for a short time. He deceives the nations once again—Gog and Magog—gathering them for a final rebellion against God's people. But fire comes down from heaven and destroys them. The devil is cast into the lake of fire forever, joining the beast and the false prophet.

Key Observations:

- Even after a thousand years of peace, human hearts apart from Christ remain prone to rebellion.
- Satan's deception continues, but his efforts end in total failure.
- God's judgment is swift and final.
- The lake of fire signifies eternal punishment and the complete defeat of evil.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does this final rebellion reveal about the nature of sin and the human heart?
 2. How does God's swift victory demonstrate His justice and power?
 3. Why is it significant that Satan's judgment is final and eternal?
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4. Assurance and Victory for the Saints

Revelation 20 reminds believers that Satan's defeat is sure and Christ's reign is eternal. Those who share in the first resurrection are safe from the second death. Our confidence is not in our strength but in Christ's finished work.

Key Observations:

- **"Blessed and holy"** describes every believer who belongs to Christ.
- The second death has no hold on those sealed by the blood of Jesus.
- God's story ends not with despair but with triumph—**the dragon falls, the saints rise, and Christ reigns.**
- Because Jesus wins, **we win.**

Discussion Questions:

1. How does this passage strengthen your assurance of salvation?
 2. What difference does it make to live with the confidence that "Jesus wins"?
 3. How can this truth shape your response to trials, fear, and spiritual opposition?
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Final Discussion & Application

1. What contrasts do you see between Satan's apparent power and God's ultimate sovereignty?
2. How does Revelation 20 help us live with hope and courage in a fallen world?
3. In what ways can the promise of reigning with Christ motivate you to endure faithfully today?
4. How might you encourage someone who fears evil's influence to rest in God's victory?

Key Takeaway:

History is in the hands of Jesus Christ. Satan's fury is real, but his defeat is certain. The same Jesus who reigns for a thousand years will reign forever—and all who belong to Him will share in that reign.

“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.”

— Romans 16:20

“In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

— Romans 8:37