

A VICTORY CELEBRATION AND A TESTING

Scripture: Revelation 20:1-10

Introduction:

- A. Chapter 19 recorded the victory of the Little Lamb of God over the forces of evil. He has fulfilled the battle plans bound up in the seven sealed book given to Him in chapter 5.
- B. The time has come for Him to reign as Victor over the reclaimed creation.
- C. Let us take note of what might be referred to as “mopping up operations” and establishing the order of rule in the new kingdom operations.

I. FIRST IN ORDER IS TO REMOVE THE LEADER OF THE REVOLT. Vs. 1-3

- A. V. 1 An angel (Michael) comes down from heaven with the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.
- B. V. 2 The angel takes hold of the devil, binds him with the great chain and casts him into the bottomless pit where he will remain for 1,000 years.
- C. V. 2 He will be released for a little time at the end of the 1,000 years.

II. LEARN OF TWO RESURRECTIONS. Vs. 5, 6

- A. Every person shall be resurrected; but not at the same time.
- B. Verses five and six both speak of the first resurrection. This language indicates there will be a second.
- C. The dead in Christ, the saved, shall be first at the beginning of the 1,000 year reign and the lost dead after the 1,000 year reign. 1 Thessalonian 4:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54
- D. Verse 6 declares that those in the first resurrection free of the second death. This by implication teaches that those not in the first resurrection fall under the power of the second death.

III. THE ORDER OF RULE DURING THE THOUSAND YEAR REIGN OF CHRIST IS SET. Vs. 4-6

- A. V. 4 Thrones are revealed with those who shall sit upon them judging the peoples of the world for 1,000 years.
- B. V. 4 identifies those who shall sit upon the thrones.
 - 1. Those who had been beheaded for the witness of Jesus and for the word of God.
 - 2. Those who had not worshipped the beast or his image.
 - 1. Those who had not received his mark in their foreheads or in their hands.
 - 4. These are called blessed and holy.
- C. V. 6 Those in the first resurrection are identified as priests of God and of Christ.
- D. Over whom shall these reign? The word of God reveals the identity of these. We will discuss this in the next lesson.

IV. THE FINAL TEST OF THE MASTERPIECE OF CREATION VS. VS. 7-10

- A. Satan is loosed out of prison. Why? For 1,000 years people have been born and lived under the rule of Jesus and His redeemed people. During this time they have not faced testings; they have not been given a choice. God has cared for their every need. As in the days of Job, Satan challenges the Lord by saying, “They only obey you because they have no other choice.”

- B. These have been living in a Garden of Eden scenario without any testing of loyalty to their Creator.**
- C. Satan is loosed and goes forth to deceive the peoples of the earth.**
- D. Like Adam and the woman, multitudes are deceived and follow Satan in his last attempt to defeat God.**
- E. Satan leads them against the beloved city and God sends fire from heaven and devours them.**
- F. Satan is cast into the fires of hell where he shall be tormented day and night forever.**
- G. All rebellion is over. There remains only the judgment of all who rebelled against God from Cain's day until the Battle of Gog and Magog.**

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. We may not understand much of the end-time teachings, but we can know that it shall come.**
- B. If it should come today, do you know for sure you would be in the first resurrection?**
- C. Only those who have repented of their sin and have trusted Jesus to save you, you will be in the first resurrection.**
- D. Are you prepared? If not, today is the day of salvation. Trust Him now while you have time and opportunity.**

