

Revelation 20:7-15 – The Final Defeat And The Great White Throne

Rev. 20:7-10: *“And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from the prison and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners...”*

- Vs. 7 mentions a few interesting facts. The enemy gets one last chance to “deceive” people, and the number of those he leads to fight against God is “like the sand of the sea.”
- Remember, a lot of people are born during the millennium, and this shows how many will choose to not follow Christ and will be deceived. These who are born and choose to not follow Christ will outwardly act right, for there is no outward rebellion but their hearts are not changed.
- The term “Gog and Magog” in vs. 8 may be a reference to the enemies of God who are spread throughout the earth (Eze. 38-39). Here in Revelation 20, it does not refer to a specific location
- In Ezekiel, Gog is a reference to an individual. It seems that the people who rebel are those who are a distance from Jerusalem where Christ is reigning. This is not the battle of Eze. 38-39.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says regarding those who participate in this rebellion,

“Who are these who will follow Satan? Those who survive the Tribulation will enter the Millennium in their natural bodies, and they will bear children and repopulate the earth (Isa. 65:18–25). Under ideal circumstances in which all know about Jesus Christ (cf. Jer. 31:33–34), many will outwardly profess faith in Christ without actually placing faith in Him for salvation. The shallowness of their professions will become apparent when Satan is released. The multitudes who follow Satan are evidently those who have never been born again in the millennial kingdom.”

- Vs. 9 tells us that the enemy brings his army and camps around Jerusalem. There is no war. Fire comes out of heaven and destroys those who are a part of this rebellion.
- Vs. 10 tells us the enemy himself is thrown into the lake of fire where the beast and false prophet already are. It is not a place of annihilation since the beast and false prophet have been there for 1,000 years already.

Rev. 20:11-15: *“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw...”*

- We do not know where this judgment takes place. I do not believe it is somewhere in heaven for sin does not dwell there.
- The throne that Christ (my view – see John 5:25-29) or the Father is sitting on here is not the same one we have seen before in Revelation nor is it the one He sits on as ruler of earth during the millennium.

- Those at the Great White Throne judgment are unbelievers. Every person throughout history who was not saved will be at this judgment.
- Note that vs. 12 tells us that “books” were opened along with the “book of life.”
- What are these other books? It tells us in vs. 12 that the dead are judged by what is written in the books, based on what they had done.
- It is important to note that the books mentioned that record the deeds of the unsaved is not designed to get us to think people earn their salvation.
- As one writer put it, *“these books record every thought, word, and deed of sinful men – all recorded by divine omniscience... They will provide the evidence for eternal condemnation.”*
- Their works are the result of a life lived without Christ as is their judgment, but as we see they face separation from God because their names are not written in the book of life.

Lehman Strauss writes regarding these “books,”

“These “books” will contain the evidence to show just cause why those who come forth in the second resurrection are not written in the book of life. Precise and indisputable records will be available as evidence to prove the sinner worthy of hell. God keeps books, and His books are accurate, so that no one at His bar of justice will be able to find fault with the final decision He makes.”

- There is the belief that the books noted in vs. 12 regarding those without Christ is used to determine degrees of punishment in hell (Mt. 11:20-24; Lk. 12:47-48).
- The “book of life” has our names in it. Every believer has their name written in that book. In the OT, a “book” is noted, and most believe this is representative of the book of life (Ex. 32:32-33; Ps. 69:28; Ps. 139:16; Dan. 12:1-2; Mal. 3:16).
- The NT talks about our names being recorded in heaven (Lk. 10:20) and the book of life is mentioned in places such as Phil. 4:3.
- Rev. 13:8 tells us that there are names written in the book of life before the world was created. Obviously, God knows who would be saved. See also Rev. 3:5; Rev. 13:8; Rev. 17:8; Rev. 21:27 for reference to the book of life.
- Some believe that all names are written in the book of life, and when people die without Christ their names are removed. Others believe our names are added when we put our faith in Christ.
- The unsaved have their bodies resurrected at this time (note the word “sea” along with other places where the unsaved are buried (their souls have been in hades), and they will be resurrected and stand before the Great White Throne.
- Vs. 13 tells us that all the unsaved are judged, and that the location of the unsaved dead (hades), inhabited by those whose name is not written in the book of life, will be cast into the lake of fire as well, and they suffer eternally.
- This brings to an end sin in the universe and prepares the way for the new heavens and the new earth.