

March 1, 2011

First- a brief explanation on various End Times models/time lines/and beliefs.

## **The Sixth Scene of the One End**

### **Revelation 20:1 – 21:8**

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the abyss and a great chain. <sup>2</sup>And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, <sup>3</sup>and threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed. After these things he must be released for a little while.

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- 1 “holding...the key to the abyss”- symbolizes his authority comes from Jesus who holds all keys (1:18)  
“the abyss”- in 9:1 Satan was given the key to the Abyss, this is different than the lake of fire & sulfur  
“and a great chain”- symbolizes the binding, the restraint, the punishment of criminals (1 Enoch 88:1)
- 2 Dragon, Ancient Serpent, Devil, Satan- Gen 3, Rev 12-19, and all of Scripture, he is a fallen angel (spirit)  
“bound him for a thousand years”- 10 x 10 x 10. What do 10, 10<sup>2</sup> and 10<sup>3</sup> symbolize in Revelation?
- 3 the messenger with the authority of Jesus binds Satan, preventing deception- does this already happen?  
Matt 12:29, Christ has even authorized His Church to share in this binding and overthrowing of Satan’s power. See Matt 16:16-19; 18:18; John 20:22-23- The Church binds Satan with the Gospel! When sinners are forgiven (loosed), Satan is bound. Where sinners are bound, Satan is let loose upon them (1 Cor 5:4-5)  
“must be released”- God only knows why, but the End Times contain trials and tribulations for the Church

So when does this begin? See John 12:31-33 and 2 Peter 2:4, also remember Revelation 12:7-17

*Brighton: According to the four gospels, then, the devil was bound, conquered, judged, and cast out as a result of Jesus’ saving ministry, culminating in his death on the cross and his resurrection. Therefore, the binding of Satan, the dragon, took place at Jesus’ victory, accomplished by his ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension at the beginning of the “thousand years.” (page 549)*

*(Meanwhile, in heaven...)*

<sup>4</sup>Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed). This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup>Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

<sup>7</sup>And when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup>and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup>And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, <sup>10</sup>and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

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- 4 “thrones”- symbolic of the royal priesthood of the Saints that God has given them (1 Peter 2:9)  
“authority to judge”- The Saints will assist in the judgment on Judgment Day (Mt 19:28, 1 Cor 6:2)  
“souls”- the martyrs already in heaven, not just the beheaded, but all martyrs  
“They came to life”-this is not yet the Resurrection of the Body on the last day, but spiritual regeneration  
The NT speaks of this first spiritual regeneration in many places: John 5:25-29, Eph 2:1-6, Col 3:1-4, Rom 6:1-5  
*Augustine: Hence a resurrection does take place now, and men pass from a death to a life; from the death of infidelity to the life of faith; from the death of falsehood to the life of truth; from the death of iniquity to the life of righteousness... The Lord Jesus, then was willing to make known to us a resurrection of the dead before the resurrection of the dead.* Also look at John 11:25-26 and Galatians 2:20
- 5 “The rest of the dead”- unbelievers are spiritually dead & don’t participate in the reign of Christ (Eph 4:18)  
“until the thousand years were completed”- Christ’s return begins the Bodily Resurrection (20:11-15)  
“The first resurrection”- the 2<sup>nd</sup> Resurrection (of the body) is at Christ’s return, this is of the soul
- 6 “Blessed and holy...” The fifth Beatitude of Revelation (1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9)  
“the second death”- 1<sup>st</sup> death is “life” in unbelief (Jn 5:25; 1 Jn 3:14), the 2<sup>nd</sup> death is Hell  
“Priests of God”- once more, Revelation is a book about liturgical service in God’s temple (7:15)  
“reign with him for a thousand years”- they will reign with him for total, divine complete eternity
- 7 “Satan will be released”- during 1000 years, Satan cannot *directly* attack the Church (12:13-18)

- 8 “Gog and Magog”- Symbolizing enemies of God’s people across the globe (referring back to Ezek 38 – 39)  
 “to gather them for battle”- Scene 6’s Last Battle (9:13-21 (2); 14:14-20 (3); 16:12-16 (4); 19:19 (5))  
 “like the sand of the sea”- enemies of God, spiritually deceived by Satan are innumerable
- 9 “camp of the saints & the beloved city”- symbolizes the whole Christian Church, NOT Jerusalem  
 “fire came down”- like the fire eyes of the Son of Man in Rev 1 and 19, cf Ezek 39:6
- 10 The Anti-Trinity’s final demise is seen. Compare with Matthew 25:41  
 Why would God allow this Tribulation and Satan to deceive and persecute the Church? No direct answer is given, but Brighton has this to say: *And through her sufferings and persecution the church now reflects the suffering of Christ on the cross as she witnesses to that event, and by her steadfast faith and hope she exhibits the resurrection and life of Christ as she proclaims the saving message of Christ’s victory.* (page 576)

## JUDGMENT DAY

<sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. <sup>13</sup>And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and the Grave gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. <sup>14</sup>Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup>And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

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- 11 “Great white throne and him who was seated on it”- 4:2-3 helps us understand this is God the Father  
 12 “dead, great and small, standing before the throne”- We need 1 Thess 4:13-18 to help us clear all this up.  
 “Book of Life”- A heavenly baptismal registry- a book with the names of those who have received Christ  
 “judged...according to what they had done”- Forgiven sinners will be rewarded for good works (Phil 1:6)  
 13 “the sea gave up the dead”- bodies lost at sea will not be excluded from the Resurrection (nor the cremated)  
 “Death & the Grave”- all will be raised, even for damnation, “Hades” (ESV) would be *Sheol* in Hebrew  
 14 Death & the Grave thrown into lake of fire- final destruction of the last enemy, Death (1 Cor 15:51-55)  
 “The second death”- punishment in the lake of fire follows the bodily resurrection on Judgment Day, it is the eternal punishment of those who refuse to repent and believe in Christ

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

<sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

<sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup>And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup>And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. <sup>7</sup>The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. <sup>8</sup>But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

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- 1 “new heaven and new earth”- this will begin Revelation’s undoing of Genesis 1  
 heaven, earth, and sea are no more- Genesis 1:1-2, 6-13, 20-25- only Lights and Mankind remains (So far)  
 2 “holy city, new Jerusalem”- symbolizes the Church of God, hence the bride connection (ch 19)  
 “prepared as a bride”- decked out for the Final Wedding and Eternal feast  
 3 “The dwelling place of God is with man”- He dwells with us now but our eyes have trouble seeing, then we will see Him face to face 1 Cor 13:12! Such rich Tabernacle language in this verse as well! See John 1  
 4 One of Vicar Moss’s favorite verses in the Bible... it turns the table on the “Problem of Evil”  
 6 “the spring of the water of life”- John 4:13-14 both Baptismal and Eucharistic all at once!  
 “without payment”- a clear expression of being saved by grace  
 7 “the one who conquers” hearkens back to the 7 letters to the 7 churches  
 Compare verses 1-7 with Isaiah 65:17-25! Cf 2 Petet 3:10-13 (also 1 Enoch 45:4-6, 72:1, 91:16-17)

Why is a new earth and new heaven necessary? Genesis 3:17-19, Rom 8:18-25

Verse 8 is a so-called “Vice List” seen elsewhere in Rom 1:29-32 and Col 3:5. Those unswervingly persisting in evil will share the fate of Satan and his demonic host.

