

Three Angel's Message Series
Lesson 12: One Thousand Years & The Abyss
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

Prophetic Outline (1000 years) Revelation 20:1 – 3

After Satan's army is defeated and the wicked are as dung all over the earth at the second coming of Jesus what happens to Satan and His demons?

Revelation 20:1-3

- 1 And I saw an **angel come down from heaven**, having the key of the **bottomless pit** and a **great chain in his hand**.
- 2 And he laid **hold on the dragon**, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and **bound him a thousand years**.
- 3 And **cast him into the bottomless pit**, and **shut him up**, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be **loosed a little season**.

Satan will be cast into a bottomless pit unable to escape and unable to tempt or deceive anyone for one thousand literal years [Millennium]

Millennium: "It derives from the Latin *mille*, thousand, and *annus*, year."
(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennium>).

Since the context of the prophecy is NOT symbolic the time associated with the prophecy must be taken literally. Satan and his evil angels will be locked up on this deep dark devastated wasteland for 1000 literal years. They will not be allowed to go to the gates of Heaven, roam the universe, other worlds and galaxies to try to tempt and wreak havoc on others. They are bound to this "bottomless pit" for 1000 years!

Bottomless pit or deep, in Revelation 20:2 is not talking about a literal large hole in the ground with no bottom.

Bottomless pit Greek - abussos : [*ab'-us-sos*] *depthless*, "abyss": - deep pit.

What are the three characteristics of the "bottomless pit"?

- 1 - Spiritual atmosphere of Satan and his demons, deep darkness.

One of the main literal characteristics of a pit is that is dark with NO light. The word bottomless pit is a perfect description of the spiritual atmosphere of Satan and his demons, deep darkness.

Ephesians 6:12

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the **darkness of this world**, against **spiritual wickedness** in high places.

Darkness of this world = spiritual wickedness

Matthew 6:23

23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how **great is that darkness!**

Proverbs 4:19

19 The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

2 – God's restrictions on Satan

The “bottomless pit” is a depiction that God has restrictions on Satan and his demons. Satan does not have free reign to do what he wants, because if he did he would totally destroy this world in an instant. Also, remember, Satan and his demons are invisible to the world; they cannot be seen unless given permission.

Let's look at two verses that give us another depiction of the “bottomless pit.”

2 Peter 2:4

4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to **hell**, and delivered *them* into **chains of darkness, to be reserved** unto judgment;

Hell (Greek) tartaroō [*tar-tar-o'-o*]

From Τάρταρος Tartaroō (the deepest abyss of Hades); to **incarcerate** (imprison or confine).

Jude 1:6

6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in **everlasting chains under darkness** unto the judgment of the great day.

Remember, if Satan did not have restrictions he and his demons would have destroyed all on this earth! In our study in Revelation 9 during the scenes of the fifth trumpet these restrictions are let loose. The scenes of the fifth trumpet line up with the fifth plague of Revelation 16.

Now let's compare the bottomless pit of Revelation 9 and 20.

Who has the key to this “bottomless pit”?

Revelation 20:1

1 And I saw an **angel come down from heaven**, having the **key of the bottomless pit** and a **great chain in his hand**.

Revelation 9:1

1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw **a star fall from heaven** unto the earth: and to him was given the **key of the bottomless pit**.

Star (Greek) astēr (*as-tare'*)

Probably from the base of [G4766](#); a *star* (as *strown* over the sky), **literally or figuratively**: - star.

Who is known as the bright and morning star from heaven?

Revelation 22:16

16 I **Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.**

Remember Jesus is the bright and morning star. He is the Archangel, Creator and Chief of all the angelic host. He has the key to the bottomless pit, the abyss.

What other Bible text confirms this?

Revelation 1:18

*18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the **keys of hell (Greek: unseen/grave) and of death.***

Hell in this context in the Greek means the “unseen” or grave. The bottomless pit is unseen by us but is known by God. Jesus also has the key to the grave and death.

Remember a key, locks and unlocks a place of restraint. A person with the key to a door of restraint has power and authority of the contents inside. The key that Jesus has to the bottomless pit reveals His power and authority over the Satan and his demons. The key is Jesus' exclusive right to lock or unlock.

What does Jesus do with the key during the fifth trumpet which lines up with the fifth plague?

Revelation 9:2 – 5, 11

- 2 And he **opened the bottomless pit**; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.
- 3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.
- 4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.
- 5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment *was* as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.
- 11 And they had a king over them, *which is* the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue *is* Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath *his* name Apollyon.

During the fifth trumpet (fifth plague) Jesus uses the key to unlock the bottomless pit allowing Satan and his angels to reveal themselves and torment those who have not received the seal of God.

Satan and his demon are visible during the fifth plague. They are unleashed creating great havoc on the earth. Remember, during the sixth plague that Satan, the inner core of the beast, will appear to the world in dazzling light to impersonate Jesus.

Revelation 17:8

8 The beast (inner core - Satan) that thou sawest was (visible), and is not (invisible); and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit (become visible), and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they beheld the beast that was, and is not, and yet is (made visible in the future).

Go back to Revelation 20:1 What else does Jesus have in His hand to depict his restrictions upon Satan?

Revelation 20:1 “...a great chain in his hand.”

The great chain reveals that Satan and His evil demons will be bound with no freedom to roam as they did in the past. He is bound / locked up!

So far we learned two of the three characteristics of the “bottomless pit”:

- 1. *Spiritual atmosphere of Satan and his demons - deep darkness.***
- 2. *God's restrictions on Satan - the key, represents Jesus ultimate power and authority over Satan and his demons and the chain, reveals that Satan and his demons will be bound.***

Now let's look at the third characteristic of the “bottomless pit” after the second coming of Jesus.

3 – *The devastated condition of the earth after the second coming of Jesus.*

What will the earth look like after the end of the seventh plague which includes the Battle of Armageddon and the destructive events associated with the second coming of Jesus?

The prophet Jeremiah describes it.

Jeremiah 4:23, 27

23 I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light.
27 For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.

Remember events associated with the second coming of Jesus Christ and the battle of Armageddon that John describes in Revelation 16:18, 20, and 21.

Revelation 16:18, 20, 21

18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.
20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.
21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent (**130 pounds**): and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

So at the second coming of Jesus Christ, this earth will be rocked, pounded, shaken up, and pulverized. It will be greatly devastated!

When Satan is bound in the “bottomless pit”, this reveals the condition of the earth at the end of time. It will be a dark desolate wasteland, not fit for life. The condition of this earth at the end of time will be like it was before this earth was created.

Genesis 1:2

2 And the earth was **without form**, and **void**; and **darkness** was upon the face of the deep.

Without form (Hebrew): waste or desolation

Void (Hebrew): empty

The deep (Hebrew): an abyss

Note again “the deep” (Hebrew and “bottomless pit” (Greek) have the exact same meaning, an abyss.

1000 years: Satan will be cast into a bottomless pit unable to escape and unable to tempt or deceive anyone for **one thousand literal years**.

Why can't Satan tempt anyone on earth during the 1000 years? What happened to the wicked who were alive at the second coming of Jesus?

2 Thessalonians 2:8

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall **consume** with the **spirit of his mouth**, and shall **destroy with the brightness of his coming**:

Jeremiah 25:32, 33

32 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.

33 And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from *one* end of the earth even unto the *other* end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.

All the wicked who were living at the second coming of Jesus will be killed. Their bodies will lay on the ground all over the earth like dung. As we learned in our Revelation 19 study, they will be food for the birds.

Interlude (144,000 reign and judgment of wicked) Revelation 20:4 – 6

While Satan is confined to this earth for one thousand years what will the saved people of God be doing in Heaven during the one thousand years? What does the prophet John see in vision?

Revelation 20:4

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God (Group 1), and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands (Group 2); and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Notice at the end of verse 4 neither group worshiped the beast neither have its mark. It is clear that it referring specifically to the last generation of God's people.

Group 1 - Those who were beheaded/killed for the witness of Christ and His word during the time of the enforcement of the mark of the beast.

Group 2 – The 144,000 those faithful last day world-wide disciples and apostles who went through the seven last plagues alive and were alive at the second coming of Jesus.

As encouragement for us in the last day, in the interlude (break in the action) God reveals in verse 4 that those faithful people of God who were mocked, falsely accused, abused and some killed for not submitting to the beast and his mark in the last days will reign with Jesus 1000 years in heaven. Instead of being falsely accused and judged. They will now be given judgment during those 1000 years. Of course, all the other saved who died in Christ years before the end of time will also be in Heaven with Christ for 1000 years while Satan and his evil demons are bound to this “bottomless pit”, earth.

The saved people of God will be sitting on the throne as judges for the one thousand years.

Who are they judging during the one thousand years?

1 Corinthians 6:2-3

2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

Daniel 7:22

22 Until the Ancient of days came, and **judgment was given to the saints of the most High**; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

1 Corinthians 4:5

5 Therefore **judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come**, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

God will reveal why the wicked were lost to the saints of God in Heaven.

Remember, there are three phases of judgment:

- 1) Investigative (Trial: Guilty or Not Guilty)
- 2) Sentencing (If found guilty: How long the Punishment)
- 3) Executive (Guilty wicked receive their Payment for sin)

What phase of judgment is given to the saints of the most High?

Going back to Revelation 20:4: **And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them...**

Verse 4, “Judgment” (Greek): krima [kree'-mah]

Thayer Dictionary

- 2b) in a forensic sense
- 2b1) the sentence of a judge
- 2b2) the punishment with which one is sentenced
- 2b3) condemnatory sentence, penal judgment, sentence

Also Strong Dictionary - Judgment from G2919 (Strong's Greek reference number): krinō

Properly to distinguish, that is, decide (mentally or judicially); by implication to try, condemn, punish: - avenge, conclude, condemn, damn, decree, determine, esteem, judge, go to (sue at the) law, ordain, call in question, **sentence to**, think.

Revelation 20:4 is referring to the sentencing phase of judgment.

Remember in Revelation 14:7, first angel's message, it is referring to the investigative phase of judgment. The Greek word for “judgment” in the first angel's message is “krisis” Thayer Definition:

- 1) a separating, sundering, separation
- 1a) a trial, contest

The investigative phase was completed by Jesus, every case has been decided. The last phase which is the executive phase is also completed by Jesus. He will execute punishment upon the wicked by hell fire. The saints of the most High for 1000 years will be given the **sentencing phase of judgment**.

Psalms 149:6-9

- 6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand;
 7 To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and **punishments** upon the people;
 8 To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron;
 9 To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD.

Verse 7 is the sentencing phasing of judgment. The saints of God will determine the intensity and longevity each wicked person will receive as their final payment for their sins as they are consumed in hellfire.

“In union with Christ they judge the wicked, comparing their acts with the statute book, the Bible, and deciding every case according to the deeds done in the body. Then the portion which the wicked must suffer is meted out, according to their works; and it is recorded against their names in the book of death.” Ellen White, Great Controversy p. 661

What happens to the wicked dead after the one thousand years are finished? What is the first and second resurrection?

Revelation 20:5, 6

- 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. [**Stop – next sentence actually in the context of verses 4 and 6] This is the first resurrection.**
 6 **Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection:** on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

In verse 5 “This is the first resurrection” goes in unison with verse 4 of those who were beheaded for Christ and were resurrected along with all the saints of God. In verse 6, all those who died in Christ are blessed and holy and shall be a part of the “first resurrection”.

In verse 5 the wicked dead on the earth will be resurrected after the thousand years, to receive their payment for their sin. This is actually known as the second resurrection event.

When will this first resurrection take place?

1 Thessalonians 4:16

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

This is the first resurrection, those who died in Christ at the second coming will rise again. This is the blessing in which the second death has no power. They will never die again.

But there is a second resurrection as we have seen at the end of the one thousand years of the wicked dead who will be resurrected. This is the resurrection that we DO NOT want to be a part of.

Where else in the Bible is the depiction of these two resurrections?

Daniel 12:2

2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, **some to everlasting life (first resurrection event)**, and some to shame and **everlasting contempt (second resurrection event)**.

What does Jesus say about these two resurrections?

John 5:25 - 29

25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life **(first resurrection)**; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation **(second resurrection)**.

Two Resurrections:

First Resurrection: It is clear that Jesus resurrects the righteous dead in Christ at His second coming, again this is the first resurrection. They will receive God's eternal life reward.

Second Resurrection: But the second resurrection is the resurrection of damnation as described in John 5:29, in which Jesus himself will raise up the wicked to receive their payment for their sin.

1000 years review

Satan is bound to this earth

God's people are in Heaven given the sentencing phase of judgment of the wicked lost (Interlude)

At the end of the 1000 years the wicked will be resurrected

What will Satan and the resurrected wicked do after the 1000 years? To be continued... - Appeal