***The Angel with the Key to the Abyss for Satan

RV235-02***

We are studying Revelation 20:1-3. Our subject is "The Binding of Satan."

We now enter one of the most dramatic and important chapters to be found in the Bible. Mankind today thinks that it is moving into a new age of sophisticated freedom, prosperity, and equality. The old social foundation of biblical morality is being discarded for a moral code that is based upon one's own preferences. American culture is a product of Reformation Christianity. This is today being challenged by people who enjoy our freedoms; who enjoy our prosperity; and, who enjoy the enriched lifestyle of Americans.

**Multiculturalism**

So, these immigrants come into our society, and they come in with inferior cultures – cultures which inherently have in them, in one form or another, some very brutal practices. You've heard the word "multiculturalism." Multiculturalism is the in-thing (the politically correct thing) to do today. It is the attitude to have. What that means is that all cultures are equally good. So, that while the Aztecs in Central America slaughtered people by the multiplied thousands to rip their hearts out in human sacrifices, and all that accompanied that culture to this day is just as good as a culture that comes from Reformation Christianity – a Christianity that pointed to the Bible as the voice of God, and to the way back to God. This is a Reformation Christianity that said, "If you want to amount to something in life, become a devotee (become a fan) of doctrine.

If you're a young person, and you want to grow up and have a significant life, zero-in in the days of your youth and your capacity on the Word of God. Make no move in life that is not governed and guided and controlled by the Word of God. That's the only way you can control your thinking to be straight; the only way you can control your emotions to be on-track; and, for your will to be compatible with the mind of God. Multiculturalism, as we look upon the practices of various cultural groups, is not equal to that which is based upon the Word of God.

Furthermore, we are faced with neutrality in moral principles, and this is paraded as ultimate freedom, when in fact it is another religion freeing the old sin nature to be its uninhibited self.

Recently, the public school board here in Irving passed a resolution that teachers in the classrooms of the Irving public school system will be required to give some moral instruction to the students. You should hear the howl the protests are going up: "How dare you suggest that teachers in the public school should talk to students about what is right and what is wrong. On what basis?" And what is objected to is that the only basis for an objective right-and-wrong is the Bible. It can't be what 51% of the population agrees to. It has to be the standard of the Word of God that says, "This is right and this is wrong."

**Ungodliness and Unrighteousness**

Of course, the homosexuals and the lesbians are in the forefront of screaming bloody murder, because if you're going to talk about what the Bible says about those things, you come up with that uncomfortable word: "abominations." Our society is gearing itself for the end. As we have indicated to you earlier, ungodliness (this attitude of indifference and contempt for God, and no fear of God) results in indifference to our biblical principles, and that leads to unrighteousness. All the problems in society of unrighteousness will never be solved until you solve this problem of ungodliness – people recognizing the authority of God in society and in your life.

When people say that we must not allow Christians to be in positions of prominent power in political areas, for example, what they are saying is that the Bible doesn't have to be the basis upon which a society functions. And that's wrong! The Bible is not an optional book for the divine institution of government to function. It is the only way that that divine institution can function. If you keep your eyes and ears open, you're going to be surprised how much antagonism you find toward Christians who are taking over school boards, and Christians who are taking over city councils, so that the people who want to operate a society that accepts abominations as a lifestyle will be free to do so.

**Heathenism**

The only source of true knowledge about God is the Bible, and that today is being discredited and being discarded. The result, as we pointed out to you, is heathenism – heathenism of the most spiritually benighted kind. Heathenism is not just somebody who's never heard the gospel. A heathen is somebody who has come to God-consciousness or gospel-hearing, but who has been negative to that revelation. That's what makes you a heathen. Therefore, you can be a sophisticated college / university graduate, and a professor in a school, and you have rejected the Word of God (the gospel message), and you are a heathen. That sophisticated professor on that videotape that I told you about in the previous session was the person that was in highest standing and esteem in his profession and in society, but he was a heathen. When he found himself up against the Judgment Seat of God, there was no way out for him.

Well, this human viewpoint arrogance toward the Bible is adrift in our society today; multiculturalism is undermining the American Reformation Christianity culture; and, the New Age religion defies man. The climax of all of this is the ultimate disaster of the tribulation. The wrath of God is poured out on mankind at the Second Coming of Christ, bringing universal suffering. And that wrath, ending up in the lake of fire, is so terrible. As we led you through the characteristics of hell in the previous session, you saw how awful it is; how devastating it is; and, how absolutely horrifying it is, because there's no way out once you're on that road, and it's all because people do not believe that God is there; that He has spoken to us; and, that we are subject to the authority of Scripture.

God, as the Creator, does exist. He has communicated with mankind through the Bible. When we disobey, and when we violate His principles, He has no recourse but to exercise His wrath upon us. I want to read you a little more through Romans 1. Oh, I hope you have your Bibles here today. Please turn to Romans 1:18-20. I want to stress once more that an unbeliever who ends up in that terrible lake of fire is without excuse. We've looked at Romans 1:18, which says, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness. God's wrath against violations of His standards of absolute righteousness refers to His character, as we reviewed it in the previous session. Anger is revealed constantly to mankind from God in heaven. God makes it clear how revolted He is by evil.

**Ungodliness**

Ungodliness is a lack of reverence for God as the supreme authority over man as the Creator, and against the resulting unrighteousness that comes from that – violations of God's moral laws in the Bible. Because people reject the God of the Bible, they reject His moral laws revealed in the Bible.

Young people, it is a terrible thing to break a moral law of God. It is a fool's game. Your peers, that surround you out in the world system, tell you, "No, that's not a problem. It's not all that bad. It's OK. Do it. You'll see. You'll get away with it. Nobody will do anything." And it will seem that the wrath of God is not building up against you. But I can tell you on the authority of the Word of God, for young people and adults alike, that wrath does build up.

**Men Suppress God's Revealed Truth**

Furthermore, this verse tells us that men suppress God's revealed truth about sin; about absolute righteousness; and, about the judgment of God. Sinful men ignore the Bible, so they thereby suppress God's truth. They hold down Bible doctrine from influencing human life and society. That's what this outrage is about these Christians having the audacity to be running for public office; and worse, to be winning. They suppress the light of doctrine by the acts of their own wicked natures.

In this verse, Paul is dealing specifically with suppressing truth about God from out there in nature. That is the truth that he is talking about which has been suppressed. This is truth from the universe, and truth that comes to us when we look at ourselves as human beings. You can't look at yourself as a human being, and look at that animal you have (that little pet you have in your house), and probably notice a difference. There is a considerable difference between you and your dog; and, between you and your cat. Your cat and your dog are often far more pleasant than you are. They are often a lot more fun to be with. But they are different. They are not in the image of God.

Paul says, "The universe holds you responsible for what you see." Only a fool evolutionist would say that this creation made itself. Man himself is a person who can do such tremendous things. We have gone to the moon. We figured out how to do it. That tells us that we have great, tremendous capacity as human beings. Yet, there are limitations. And down in our heart, we know that there is someone who is greater than we are, who not only has a mind, but He has omniscience. He not only has power to do things like we do in our finite way, but He has omnipotence. He is not only one that can move about and be in places, but someone who is everywhere at once. He is omnipresent. And suddenly, a person realizes that He's out there. As Dr. Francis Schaeffer used to say, "He is out there, and He is not silent." He has spoken to us.

Now look at Romans 1:19: "Because that which is known about God is evident within them, for God made it evident to them." Why is God so angry? Here is the reason for His intense anger against human wickedness. What is known about God, mankind has never been without information about God. Creation itself gives you information about God. No individual person has ever been without information about God that he needed to have. God has made the information about Himself clear to the human race from natural revelation of creation.

It says, "Because that which is known about God is evident within them," and that means "among them:" in their midst. What he is referring to is the world in which you live. The evidence for God is out here in creation. It declares the fact that people are not ignorant about God, but rather that they ignore what they know. And that's why they're heathen. The testimony of creation is ignored. Sinners choose to pretend that God is non-existent; non-demanding; and, non-communicative. And that's not true. He is in existence; He does demand things of us; and, He does communicate. The fact is that God has, from the very beginning, revealed Himself to mankind. And, as Romans 1 tells us, sinners perverted the truth.

**Homosexuality**

Somebody today was telling me that they have run into a homosexual interpretation of Paul's Romans 1 condemnation of that sin, and pointed out the Paul says, "It's an unnatural act." And the homosexual community takes that passage and says, "Oh, no, you're misinterpreting that. It's unnatural for a heterosexual to do this, but sodomy is natural for we homosexuals. So, we are supposed to do what is natural for us." How's that for exegesis?

That is what is known as heathenism. The passages is quite clear, and it is applicable. And I want to tell you something else. One of the arguments I've been hit with recently is that the reason we, as a society, should not take a position that homosexuals don't have special privileges. They are not a minority that has certain civil rights above the rest of us. By that I mean like the poor church in Florida. This large church discovered that their organist was a homosexual; it became public knowledge; and, they dismissed him. He brought suit, and the court said, "You can't turn him out; that is, he is a minority, and he is protected.

The Word of God condemns this as an act of abomination. God has spoken, and to turn against that is to pervert the truth. So, what is the thing that we're being hit with? We're being told that under the Old Testament order, the death penalty was imposed upon those guilty of the sin. And that's true. So, this argument is: are you going to suggest we should execute homosexuals and lesbians? I'm amazed that even when I've said that "under the Jewish order," that was God's way, but we're not a theocracy. We are in the church age, and this sin has been reiterated under grace.

All the evils, and all the documents, and all the commandments are reiterated in the New Testament under grace. That's why the Ten Commandments do not apply to us. By the way, the Ten Commandments are superb because of one thing: they're negative. They're negative throughout, because when you're negative, then it's very clear what the difference is. Where is right, and where is wrong? The book of Romans condemns that sin as much as the book of Leviticus does. We don't apply the death penalty, but we still do not have to say, "Yes, we accept this as an alternative lifestyle."

Well, I can see that, in the public school, somebody is liable to bring this up. Years ago, when I was teaching first grade in Berean Christian Academy, I had a very bright student, and we were talking about things that were wrong for Christians to do. And they mentioned several of normal things. Then one kid said, "Smoking is really a wrong thing to do." How dare you say a thing like that? He could say that now, and be commended. But in those days, if you were anybody, you were smoking.

One man told me about a church where they had gathered. The men of the church around this table, and they were writing the church constitution. One man he picked up his cigarette; puffed it; and, then knocked the ashes off in the ashtray on the table. This man said, "I think we ought to have something in this constitution about a statement of Christian conduct." This man didn't make the connection that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and God said, "I will not hold you blameless if you contaminate it and hurt it." Here he was doing something that was destructive to the body, and people didn't make the connection.

Well, this kid brought up smoking. And I said, "Yes, it's a very bad thing." Some of the other children made a contribution, and we went on. Later that afternoon, his father was at my door. Every now and then, I've had the experience of fathers who have come to punch me in the nose. Usually, I've been able to snarl back hard enough to protect myself, but he was indignant: "My son came home and told about the fact that you talked in class about smoking being a bad thing to do," because this father was a smoker, and I knew that. I'd been around him at his home, and he was a real puffer.

So, I said, "Well, we were talking about things that are wrong, and the children mentioned a number of things that you would agree were wrong – that people who are Christians certainly shouldn't do, and people in general shouldn't do. And one boy brought up the smoking. And what would you have me to do, sir? Tell him, 'Oh, no, smoking is wonderful. As soon as you can, start doing it.'"

He said, "Well, you're right." Of course, I was right. He should have known that to begin with. The smoking was bad, and the kids knew it was bad, and it was dumb. But this father was stuck with an evil, and he wanted to justify it. Even though the very Scripture about his body being the temple of the Holy Spirit was in the Word of God, he ignored it.

Well, it was kind of sad because he died at a comparatively early age, and went to that big smoking hall in the sky. I wondered about his indignation of talking about smoking such that he would take the trouble to come and speak to me on that subject instead of saying to the son, "Well, it's not a good thing, and I hope you don't do it." Instead, he wanted me to justify it.

"Because that which is known about God, which has been known from the time of Adam, is evident among them from nature itself, because God has made it evident to them." Sinners have perverted the truth.

Verse 20 says that we have a divine revelation: "For since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes, his eternal power, and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made so that they are without excuse." And that's my point. People who sit in the lake of fire are without excuse. Information about God has been in existence from the point of the creation of the universe. That creation testifies to His existence. Things have been revealed about God's invisible attributes through creation. You can't see the invisible attributes of God, but you can see them reflected in creation: His eternal power; His omnipotence to produce this creation; His divine nature; His essence as the Supreme Being; and, the revelation of the existence of an all-powerful deity, infinitely above man in attributes.

So, God has made His presence known in nature. God has revealed the invisible things about Himself through nature so that they are clearly seen. People see the creation of God all around them daily. People use the things in nature, and survive by them. The self-existent eternal God has reflected Himself in the creation of material and living things. Creation, which man can see, reveals the presence of a personal, living, omnipotent maker.

**The Self-Healing Human Body**

So, no rational person can look out on the intricate complexities and the interdependencies of life forms, and attribute to them the mindless chance of evolving over vast eons of time. It's too complicated. The human body itself is an enormous complication. What a machine God created – a self-repairing machine. And more and more, it is becoming evident that the human body that He put together is such a superb machine that it will not break down, as long as you keep one thing intact: you keep the immune system operational. And there are a variety of things to do in order to do that.

One of our men told me about a friend who was very sick. I think it was lymphatic cancer, and he was told that he had a month or so to live. He went down to Mexico where certain treatments are available that are not permitted in the United States, and it cost him $4,000 for a few weeks. He was on an intensive program of nutrition, and of vitamins, and of other things that they were doing intensively. One of the things they said to him was, "We are not treating your cancer. We are treating your immune system. When we get that fixed, the cancer goes." Well, in his case, something like a year later now or more, to the amazement of the doctors, they fixed the immune system, and that fixed the cancer problem.

**Melaleuca Vitamins**

That is always the case with the body. When something goes awry in a physical disease capacity, it's because the immune system that got built in to take care of that has been overridden and contaminated by what people eat; by what people don't eat; and, by the fact that there is so much nutrition that is flushed out of food that you do eat, that only those who are smart enough to know how to put in a balanced treatment of nutrition like those superb Melaleuca vitamins, and fiber bars, and the nutrition drink that's out there now. Just look on the label. Just see what's on there. I know something about this. What is there is superb.

**Antioxidants**

Now, this particular company has come out with an antioxidant. One of the worst things that hits your immune system (perhaps the main thing) is that the body works free radicals are oxidized. These free radicals are demons in the body. They are what breaks down the immune system. Some of us have known for a long time that significant doses of Vitamins C, E, and A, and beta carotene are killers of free radicals. Lo and behold, here comes a company that's on top of things. They have put on a new product. And what do they have in it? A special combination of these vitamins. If you take this Melaleuca product, you're going to be on top of the antioxidants that are out there that kill the body.

**Tumors**

Where do tumors come from? One place. The immune system that God built in originally isn't working. If it is, the tumors go. When the nutrition is there, the system works.

So, this business of saying, "Oh all of this evolved by itself" is so insane as to be so mindless that you cannot believe that educated people would even take it seriously. But evolutionists do this because they hate God. And because they hate God, they cannot accept the fact that He is Creator, because that means you have to follow His rules. That means you are not superior in your intelligence to His. You have to follow what the Bible says. Worse yet, you have to be in church and be instructed. People who hate God do not come to church. Those who love God can't wait to get there, because when we learn His commandments, Jesus says, then we really learn how to love Him.

**Evolution**

The systems of life require all parts to appear at the same time. And life forms are so intricately related, you can see how absurd it is to think that these systems could have all popped into being at one time. Well, the evolutionists admit this now. So, they have come up with a word, and what it means is that the way everything fit together immediately was that there was a major jump – a powerful forward motion that put it all together. Is there evidence scientifically? No, but they need that to explain how you can have all the pieces of a living creature, and all of them have to function all one time. How could they work out one piece at a time?

That's like saying, "I have the big wheels in my watch, and it's ticking. As long as I have the case here, it's telling time." You might say, "Well, don't need the little wheels?" They would say, "Yes, I need the little wheels. It can't work without little wheels?" And you say, "Well, how can it be telling time?" They say, "Well, it's a leap." You finally get the little wheels. Does it work? "Well, it needs some other things. It needs springs." And you say, "You don't have a spring." They say, "No, but it's telling time. Can't you hear it?" And you'd say, "That's dumb." And Carl Sagan is dumb. That's virtually what he says.

The creation, which man lives, testifies to the presence of a Creator capable of producing it all at once. He puts all the pieces in at the same time. Because that is true, God holds every person accountable for the revelation from creation. Anybody who is hell who never heard the gospel did had the revelation of creation, and that's what condemns him, because he did not go positive. So, the Scripture says, "He is without excuse." He rejected the life he has. This is not the revelation of the gospel of grace salvation, but it is the revelation that there is a God out there who needs to get you this information. This is the revelation to alert a person to seek His creator, and to seek to submit himself to His authority when the gospel is brought to him.

The scientists who uncover the complex workings of nature and attributes them to evolution is one that in Scripture is viewed as a fool. He has no excuse. He is an ignorant intellectual.

Paul is describing a sinner's arrival at God consciousness: "I see creation. Somebody is out there." When you come to God-consciousness, as every human being does at the age of accountability – at that point, how do you respond determines where you go after that. The natural revelation is so clear in its testimony about God that ignoring it is indefensible. Negative sinners are condemned for their rejection of the light about which God gives them through nature. No one who ends up in the lake of fire can claims that he never was aware that there was a God, and that he was never aware that he should seek Him out to bow before Him.

The suffering of the eternal death of separation from God in the lake of fire is the product of the justice of God and negative volition of the unbelievers toward the gospel. It's just that simple: "I'm in the lake of fire because I was negative at God-consciousness or at gospel-hearing.

"Since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes (His eternal power and His divine nature) have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made so that they are without excuse."

Well, the climax has been reached at the end of Revelation 19. These people are all without excuse because of the rejection of the word of truth.

**John Sees an Angel**

We begin that magnificent chapter of Revelation 20. It is one of the all-time great chapters of the Word of God. John says. "I saw an angel coming down from heaven."

This phrase "I saw" is used periodically by John to indicate chronological progression. You'll notice, for example, that Revelation 19:11 begins: "And I saw heaven open." That phrase "I saw" indicates the next thing in line chronologically.

Notice verse 17: "And I saw an angel standing in the sun." That is the next thing in line chronologically.

Notice verse 19: "And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth." That is the next thing chronologically – in order.

Revelation 20 gives us a summary of chronological sequences of the Millennial Kingdom of Christ on this earth. This is the time when the prophecy of Jeremiah 23 will be fulfilled. Jeremiah 23:5-6 said, "'Behold, the days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I shall raise up for David a righteous branch. And He will reign as King and act wisely, and do justice and righteousness in the land.'" Here's where we learn that King David will be resurrected to rule over the Jewish people in the Millennial Kingdom under the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ: "In his days, Judah will be saved. Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: the Lord our Righteousness."

Here in Revelation 20, the Lord our righteousness begins fulfilling the Davidic covenant based upon the Abrahamic covenant. John sees this angel coming down from heaven. He is a select angel sent from God's third heaven on a special mission. We have no indication that this is a powerful angel, or that this angel possesses any particular attributes, but he comes with God's authority, and therefore he is able to deal with the archangel Satan.

**Archangels**

Remember that angels are different military categories of power, and an archangel is one of the most powerful angels in the hierarchy. And here is just an ordinary angel that appears from heaven, and he's going to deal with Satan, of all persons.

**The Abyss**

John also notices that he has a key in his hand, and that key unlocks the abyss. The "abyss" looks like this in the Greek Bible: "abussos." The word "abussos" means without depth. Therefore, it is sometimes translated as bottomless. It is probably in the center of the earth where no one can go deeper, and from which no one can escape. It is the abode of demons, Luke 8:31 tells us, and they don't like it. It is the place of Satan's abode and authority over his demons.

**Hades**

Revelation 9:11 previously pointed that out to us: "They have a king over them (these demons in the "abussos"), the angel of the abyss. His name in Hebrew is "Abaddon," which means "destruction," and in the Greek, he has the name "Apollyon," which means "destroyer." These are fitting names for Satan. In the Abyss is located Hades, where all the unsaved are currently being held along with some demons until that compartment is emptied into the lake of fire. Nobody is in hell today. Nobody is in the lake of fire today. It's there. It's burning. The brimstone and sulfur odor is there, but it is empty. The first two people in it will be the antichrist and the false prophet.

**The Pit**

The abyss is the pit from which the locust-like demons swarmed to torture mankind, that we already read of in Revelation 9:1-6. So, John sees this angel. Apparently, it is just an ordinary angel. He comes down from God's third heaven, the throne room of God.

**A Key to the Abyss**

He's carrying a key – the key that opens the entrance to the abyss. Obviously, some of you smarter ones out there (which are a lot of you) – having said to you that the abyss is in the middle of the earth, have also put together that some place on the surface of the earth, there's a door – there's an entranceway. There's a place where this key will unlock the path that runs the shaft all the way down to the middle of the earth. You talk about wet-and-wild slides. This is one of the all-time great slides that ever was constructed, from the surface of the earth right down to the middle.

This angel also has a chain in his hand. We have to interpret the Bible literally, so we can't pretend that this is something other than a chain. It says, "It's a great chain," which means that it's strong. The Greek word for "chain" is used in Mark 5:3, talking about the binding of the demoniac in Gadara. This same Greek word is used in Acts 12:7 in the binding a Peter when he was in prison. This same word for chain is used in Acts 28:20, and in 2 Timothy 1:16, of the binding of Paul when he was in prison in Rome. So, we're talking about a real chain which is used to restrict and to restrain prisoners. There's no reason to interpret it in any other way than a literal sense.

**The Dragon**

In verse 2, here's the criminal: "And he laid hold of ..." And so there is no doubt about it, this individual is clearly identified. He is what 2 Corinthians 4:4 calls the god of this age. He is, first of all, identified as the dragon. This identifies him as the great persecutor of the Jewish people. In the role of the dragon, he is a persecutor of the Jews.

Revelation 12:17: "And the dragon was enraged with the woman (who is a symbol of Israel), and went on to make war with the rest of her offspring (the Jewish people) who keep the commandments of God, and hold to the testimony of Jesus. During the tribulation, Satan, the god of this world, in his role as the dragon, is out to destroy believing Jews.

We're told in Revelation 12:4, that in his role as the dragon, he tried to kill Jesus Christ: "And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven (that is, a third of the demons went with him) and threw them to the earth, and the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth, he might devour her child." The god of this world, in his role as the dragon, has been trying to kill off all Jews so that God can't have a millennium, because he has to have Jewish people in it. And he's been trying to kill off Jesus Christ right up to the time of the Lord's ascension.

**The Serpent of Old**

He is further identified as being the "serpent of old." "The serpent old" refers to the beginning of the world. He is the one who tempted Eve, and led her into sin so that it brought upon all of mankind the destructive effects of the sin nature. 2 Corinthians 11:3 says, "But I'm afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your mind should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ." It is always a temptation for the Christian to fall into reversion. It is always a temptation to fall away from the simplicity of doctrine.

**Doctrine**

What do you need to get through life? You need doctrine, and doctrine, and doctrine. When you have accumulated in your human spirit that reservoir of the Word of God, you don't know how to make it in life. You're not going to even have discuss it with anybody. It's OK if you do. But you're going to have the resources. If you don't have it, you're in the same position as the heathen. It is not because you can't, but it is because you won't believe it – because you won't act upon it, or because there is some place you've walked off the road of God's plan. There is something that God says, "You do not do in life. Your gender does not do this in life. Your relationship in this respect doesn't do this," and you do it. Pretty soon, things come apart. In his role as serpent, he is a great deceiver, and the great tempter.

**The Devil**

Then is called the "Diabolos" (the devil). This means the accuser and the slanderer. It is a quality of foulness. As the devil, he originated sin by rebelling in heaven against God's authority. Please remember that sin began in heaven. 1 John 3:8: "The one who practices sin is of the devil. For the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose – that he might destroy the works of the devil."

Everything that the devil does as the accuser and slander, Christ came to destroy; not the least of which work He came to destroy is the one, to our great relief, which is described in Revelation 12:10, where we are told at this very moment in heaven this is taking place: "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ have come. For the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night." Here is that dramatic doctrinal principle that the devil does not give up as the accuser. Every time you and I sin, he is charging right into the throne room of God, and he's accusing us before God, and before that assembly of angels and saints. And Jesus Christ, as 1 John 1 tells us, has made a provision to cover our sins, so that in that court of justice, God says, "Yes, My child sinned, but he's not guilty. His sin has been covered, and grace will carry him through." Grace will not carry you out of the punishment for willful sinning, but grace will carry you through into heaven.

**Satan**

Then the god of this age is also identified with one more name, and that is Satan ("Satanas"). This name means "adversary." He is the prince of this world who opposes Jesus Christ, and who sought to frustrate the mission of Christ to bring salvation with His death upon the cross. Mark 1:13 says, "And He was in the wilderness 40 days being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels ministering to Him." The final great confrontation with Satan came in this wilderness temptation of the Lord Jesus Christ. The opposer of God is identified by this same combination of names in Revelation 12:9. There is no question as to who is involved here.

**Satan will be Bound**

This one, who is the God of this age, the great archenemy of God is, we are told, bound for 1,000 years. He is bound. Now, how Satan, as a spirit being, can be bound by a chain is not explained. But that's irrelevant. The principle and the concept are clear. The point is that Satan is restrained, and he is rendered inactive by this angel. When? At the point of the Second Coming of Christ, at the point when 1,000-year Millennial Kingdom is about ready to begin.

Just imagine what that means. Suddenly you have a world, and there is no serpent, dragon, devil, and Satan. The god of this age is flushed out of the system. Satan is restrained by a chain. He cannot break this chain. Satan does have, and is described as having, the qualities of a physical body even though he is a spirit. So, he is dealt with here in this description as if he had a physical body, so that he could be tied down with chains. Satan's chain not only restrains him, but it makes him immobile. He cannot leave whatever he's chained to. He becomes inactive on the world scene.

Satan today is not bound, and he is not inactive. I stress that to you because, when we look at some of the views of the millennium, which we will in our next session, you will discover that one of the things that the amillennials and the postmillennials say is that Satan is bound. But the Word of God makes it very clear that Satan is *not* chained and incapacitated.

Take a look at Acts 5:3: "But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land?'" Satan was very active in the case of Ananias and Sapphira, causing them to sin by lying to the Holy Spirit.

Take a look at 2 Corinthians 4:3-4: "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case, the God of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." Satan blinds people to the gospel. He's very active. He's not tied down.

Notice 2 Corinthians 11:14: "And no wonder. For even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. The context says that those who are representatives in the religious world of Satan also portray themselves as angels of light, though they are just deceivers.

Ephesians 2:2: "In which you formerly worked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience." What spirit is not working in the sons of disobedience? Satan – the spirit being.

1 Thessalonians 2:18: "For we wanted to come to you (I, Paul) more than once, and yet Satan thwarted us." Boy, isn't that a comfort? The great apostle Paul wanted to do the right thing, and he was thwarted by Satan. How well we can relate to that!

Then 2 Timothy 2:26: "And they may come to their senses, and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will."

Then one more: 1 Peter 5:8 demonstrates the activity of Satan: "Be of sober spirit. Be on the alert. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour." It is quite wrong to suggest that the devil is now chained and inactive.

As a teenage boy, I was told this by the pastor of the large denomination that I belonged to – a Reformation denomination. And I didn't fully understand what he was saying when he told me that Satan was bound. I questioned how Satan could be bound, and so much evil was still being carried out in the world. Who is doing it? And the point is that I understand now what he was saying. He was telling me that when Christ conquered the devil on the cross, it bound him. Do you see how you twist literal meaning into spiritual nonsense? This is not symbolic.

**1,000 Years**

Satan is going to be chained down. He's going to be bound and he's going to be bound for 1,000 years. This 1,000 years will be during the period of the Messianic Kingdom of Christ on this earth, the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant. This is the first time in the Bible that we are given the exact length of time of the Kingdom of God upon this earth with Christ ruling. This is the first time we're told that Christ will reign for 1,000 years.

I want to point out to you that the number "1,000" is never used elsewhere in the Bible in a symbolic sense; that is, in terms of a long period of time. When I was a student in the private department at Baylor University, the head of the department was an amillennial. One day, he took issue with me on the fact that there would be a reign of Christ upon this earth for 1,000 years (as we shall see evolves here in more detail). And during that 1,000 years, Satan will be restrained and bound. And he said, "That does not mean 1,000 literal years. That just means a long period of time. It's like you say, 'I have a job to do, and it's going to take me 100 years to do this.' You don't really mean 100 years. You just mean, symbolically, a long period of time."

Well, that's what comes when you do not treat the Bible literally for the words that it uses. I know now that nowhere in the Bible is the term "1,000 years" ever used in anything but a literal meaning. I wish I had known this then, so that I could have pointed this out to him. This number is to be interpreted literally. It's chronological. It's very important. And it is stressed six times in verses 2-7. It hits it again and again, to make it very clear that this Millennial Kingdom is 1,000 years in length.

So, for 1,000 years, the nations of the world and mankind will be free of Satan's evil influence and control.

There is one thing more: The amillennials try to wipe out this 1,000 years as not being literal by quoting 2 Peter 3:8: "But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved: that with the Lord, one day this is as 1,000 years; and, 1,000 years is as one day." And the amillennials will tell you that 1,000 years is just one day. But you cannot reduce everything that is recorded in Revelation 20 to a single day, or to even a short span of time. That is nonsense, as you will see. It is true that time with God is always viewed with eternity as a frame of reference. So, with being the case, 1,000 years is a very short time with God. It is like a day with us. But for finite people such as you and I are, 1,000 years is a long period of time. It's not just today. But with God, in terms of eternity, 1,000 years is nothing.

In this passage in 2 Peter, he's just telling people why God has taking so long before lowering the boom on them. He's saying, "Yes, it has gone a long time." These people are saying, "Since our fathers died before us, there has been no judgment from God upon what we are doing. How can you say that?" And Peter is saying, "That's because God's time reference is not like yours. He is very long suffering, waiting for you to change your mind.

The Bible time references are always exact. Otherwise what does seven years of tribulation mean? How long is that? What does 42 months of half of the tribulation mean? What can that mean?

So, for 1,000 years, Satan is incarcerated. He has no influence upon the earth. He has no influence upon nations. He has no influence upon political leaders. What a society that's going to be! That's what the world is headed for in the Millennial Kingdom. Next time, we will see what God does with Satan in his incarceration cell.

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