

Revelation #50

August 6, 2023

Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon**Today's Message: The Final Judgment: Of Satan and of the Dead Revelation 20:7-15**

Tony Garland has included a very helpful chart, which provides, in general terms, a snapshot of what the Bible teaches about human births, deaths, and resurrections. We don't often think in these terms regarding our eschatology, but it is nevertheless a very important aspect of the biblical doctrine of man, which aids our understanding of what is the general course of human life, and why the ministry of the Gospel is absolutely essential for the eternal good of humanity.

Truth: Obviously, every human being is physically born and physically dies. But the Bible teaches us that there are two kinds of births, two kinds of deaths, and two kinds of resurrections for every human being. Pay careful attention to the following chart:

Participation in Births, Deaths, and Resurrections

Event	Unbeliever	Believer	Description
Born Again	No	Yes	The first birth is <i>physical</i> birth. The second birth is <i>spiritual</i> and occurs when a person comes to faith in Jesus Christ. <u>Only believers are born twice.</u>
1st Death	Yes	Yes	The <i>first</i> death is shared by all human beings occurring at the end of physical life.
1st Resurrection	No	Yes	The <i>first</i> resurrection is a Biblical category and occurs in stages beginning with the resurrection of our Lord Jesus (1 Cor. 5:20) and ending with OT and Tribulation saints just before the Millennial Kingdom (Rev.20:5-6). Only believers participate in the first resurrection.
2nd Resurrection	Yes	No	The <i>second</i> resurrection occurs at the end of the Millennial Kingdom at the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev.20:11-13). Only unbelievers participate in the second resurrection. Every unbeliever in history is resurrected in some kind of body in order to appear before the Great White Throne Judgment of God.
2nd Death	Yes	No	The <i>second</i> death occurs after the Millennium and the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:14-15). As there is eternal life beyond this present life for the faithful, so there is eternal life beyond the death of the wicked. The second death is commonly known as <i>hell</i> .

Garland summarizes, "When a person is *born again* (John 3:3-7; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 2:29; 3:9; 5:1, 18), he will only undergo the first death, but the second death has no power over him: "though he may die [the first death], he shall live [be resurrected never to face the second death]" (John 11:25b).

With this in mind, I hope we take to heart the serious nature of the Gospel ministry as a local church body.. Consider the fact that down through the centuries, and especially in the 20th Century, many faithful believers have given up successful careers, left home and security, and even lost their lives in order to proclaim Jesus Christ as both Savior and Lord! And, while we do believe that God has chosen His people from before the foundation of the world, we also must obey the Divine Mandate given us by our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, to go into all the world making disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything He has commanded.

Jesus promised that this undertaking would be met with hostile opposition. He told His disciples in John 15:18-19 that they will be hated because of their association with Jesus. In John 16:1-4 they were warned that because of their testimony concerning Christ that they will be put out of the synagogue, and they will be killed.

In the Acts, as Christ is preached, the opposition to the message becomes stronger and people, both Jew and Gentile become more resistant. Skim the Acts to see the reality of this persecution. (Acts 4,5,7,8,etc.)

In the Epistles, the Apostles labor to strengthen the Church in order to keep believers faithful to Christ and their calling both to love one another and stand firm in the face of opposition. (1 Cor.16:13; Eph. 6:10-20; 1 Peter 5:9)

Finally, the Lord Jesus does not leave us without hope. He promises a glorious resurrection and eternal rewards for being faithful to His calling! (Matthew 19:29; 25:34-36; 1 Cor. 15:20-23; 15:50-53; 2 Cor. 4:17; etc.)

The message is entitled, "The Final Judgment: Of Satan and of the Dead." Here is our outline for today: 1) (20:7-9) Satan is loosed from the Abyss after 1,000 years; 2) (20:10) Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire and 3) the Great White Throne Judgment in 20:11-15.

I. (20:7-9) Satan is loosed from the Abyss after 1,000 years

A. (20:7) "When the thousand years are over / completed, Satan will be released from his prison..."

1. It is Christ Jesus who rules and reigns without interruption for 1,000 years.

a) All of God's people, the redeemed, including the Church, which was raptured, the OT saints who came to faith before Christ's first coming, and Jews and Gentiles who became believers during the Tribulation, will enter the Millennial Kingdom of our Lord Jesus in resurrected bodies.

b) Survivors of the Great Tribulation will come into the Millennial Kingdom in their physical bodies.

(1) During the Millennium, with perfect conditions, both socially and environmentally, and because of lengthened life spans of everyone who has a physical body, they will populate the earth.

(a) These that are born are in an "Eden-like" world, but still possess a fallen human nature.

- (i) They are sinners in need of salvation.
- (ii) They will still have enmity toward God (Rom.8:7), unless they come to saving faith in Christ!

2. Satan is released from prison

- a) During his incarceration in the Abyss for 1,000 he had no effect, no influence on sinful people.

(1) This serves to underscore the doctrine of the **total depravity** of human beings apart from salvation, which is from the Lord!

B. (20:8-9) When Satan comes forth from the Abyss he will go out to deceive the nations.

- 1. This underscores the biblical teaching about Satan: He is a God-hater by nature.
- 2. He will lead a revolt among the unregenerate people of the world, who, in spite of the peace, joy and righteous rule of Christ, are as unmoved as were those who suffered the terrifying judgments during the Tribulation!

- a) This underscores the absolute hardness of the sinful heart toward God!

3. What are we to make about **Gog** and **Magog**?

- a) Gog: most likely a human leader set up by Satan to lead the revolt.
- b) Magog: most likely these stand for the large number of rebels being assembled to revolt against the Lord Jesus and His Millennial Kingdom.

4. Satan will gather this vast force, described as numerous as sand on the seashore.

- a) They are gathered from the “four corners” of the earth

(1) A world-wide rebellion!

- b) They are gathered for the **final war** in history

(1) They surround the “camp of God’s people, the city He loves.”

(a) God’s people are encamped around Jerusalem, the capital city of our Great King, Jesus!

5. There, in an **instant**, they are destroyed.

- a) The rebels, Gog and Magog, are incinerated by a great fire from heaven that engulfs them in an instant!

(1) Instantly, those that are killed are sent to the realm of punishment, where they are held awaiting their final judgment.

(a) Hades: the place of the dead.

- (i) Hades is a place of torment for the soul and spirit of the unrighteous dead between death and judgment. (see Luke 16:23-24)

(b) People who are waiting in Hades possess their disembodied soul and spirit.

II. **(20:10) Satan is cast into the lake of fire**

A. Immediately Satan is thrown into the lake of fire and burning sulfur / brimstone

1. In Revelation, Satan has been thrown out, or cast, in a series of stages

- a) When he was cast out of heaven at the midpoint of Tribulation (12:9)

- b) He was cast / thrown into the Abyss (Rev. 20:2)
- c) Now, he is cast into the lake of fire, probably along with his demonic forces.

(1) Hell was prepared for Satan and his angels

(a) See Matthew 25:41

- 2. There, in hell, Satan joins both the Beast and the False prophet
- 3. There, they will be tormented forever and ever!

B. Hell is a real place

- 1. First, we know that the Beast and False Prophet are two people
 - a) Those two people were thrown in at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom.
 - b) Now, Satan is thrown in hell with them.
- 2. Second, hell is described in 2 Thessalonians 1:9 as a real place and a place of eternal torment and misery.
 - a) "They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of His power..."
- 3. Third, the word in the New Testament for hell is *Gehanna*¹ as it is also known.
 - a) Outside Jerusalem was a valley called *Ben-Hinnom*. It serves to illustrate the torment and misery of hell. There a continual smoldering fire burned both rubbish and carcasses of animals and even the bodies of criminals discarded by the Romans. It was a place where in OT times, when Israel was steeped in idolatry that in their worship of Baal, they would offer their children as sacrifices, burning their bodies in the fire (see Jeremiah 19:2-6). The smoke of the smoldering fire left a continual stench in air, described as being full of maggots, rodents and dogs.
 - b) Jesus referred to *Gehanna* numerous times in the gospels. (Matthew 5:22,29,30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33, for examples.)
 - c) Everyone who suffers the judgment at the Great White Throne will be thrown into hell, and will burn as garbage forever. Tragic.
 - (1) For this and many other reasons, the Prophets, John the Baptist, our Lord Jesus and the apostles, and faithful **preachers** and **parents** have warned loved ones to repent and escape the coming judgment!
 - (a) Revelation 14:10-11: a forever torment with no rest ever
 - (b) Mark 9:43, 48: Jesus warned that hell is a place of "unquenchable fire," "where their *worm* does not die."
 - (i) Worm: The conscience. The torment of guilt.

C. The Gospel is good news to all who believe and have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

¹ *Gehanna* is the New Testament word for the valley of Ben-Hinnom (also called Topheth; 2 Ki. 23:10; Isa.30:33; Jer. 7:31-32; 19:6).

1. By virtue of Christ's saving work and His righteousness; by virtue of New Birth, which comes through faith in Jesus, believers are blessed eternally with every spiritual blessing. We are adopted as sons of God, children of God. We are citizens of heaven, forever, heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, partakers of the divine nature, etc.! (Eph. 1:3-14; Rom. 8:17; Phil. 3:20; Col. 1:13; 2 Peter 1:4)
2. I urge you to come to faith in Jesus Christ! Heaven awaits! Glories unspeakable are to be found in Him!

III. (20:11-15) The Great White Throne Judgment

A. (20:11-12) The Great White Throne

1. The imposing magnitude of God's Presence is brought front and center
 2. The place of final judgment against all who rebelled against God and His Christ!²
 - a) There, at this judgment there will be the final indictment without defense for the accused;
 - b) There, evidence will be presented with no rebuttal or cross-examination.
 - c) There, the judge will be completely unsympathetic with no jury, and no possibility of appeal
 - d) There, the guilty will be punished eternally with no possibility of parole.
 3. Heaven and earth fled from His presence
 - a) This describes the uncreation of creation!
 - b) In its place God will create a new heaven and new earth, but not until every sinner and things that cause sin are removed forever.
 4. Standing before the throne are people from all strata of mankind. No favoritism
 - a) These, small and great, the dead will be reunited with dead bodies "in a fellowship of horror and despair." (John Phillips)
 - b) It will be the last time these living dead see anyone, because hell, according to Jesus, is a place of utter darkness (Matt. 8:12)
 - (1) In their sinful state, they loved darkness (John 3:19)
 - (a) Yet, they will love it no more, for there will be unending weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matt. 8:12)
 5. The books were opened
 - a) A divine record of every word, thought, intent of the heart and action will be brought forward
 - (1) Rather than the righteousness of Christ covering their sins, they have only their sin-record standing between them and God.
 - b) Their names were not found in the book of life.
- B. (20:13) No one will escape: The Sea gave up the dead, and Death and Hades will give up the dead.
- C. (20:14) Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. Confined eternally, sealed apart from the heaven of God and His Christ, His people and His new heaven and new earth!

² The following points are presented by John MacArthur

- D. (20:15) If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life— thrown in the lake of fire
- IV. **The Gospel of Life:** The only way to avoid eternal hell is to confess your sins, ask for forgiveness on the basis of Christ's substitutionary atoning sacrifice of Himself on behalf of all who believe! There, resting on Christ is salvation for all who believe! (**Rom.5:9; 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9**)