

Revelation
A Wednesday Night Bible Study

Lesson #85
6/04/2008

Satan's Release From Prison, Deception of the Peoples, and Judgment
19:21-20:10

Having attempted to understand the marvelous Millennial Kingdom's benefits to its residents, pursuing the meaning of the Greek word **teleo** (5055), translated **"ended"** in verse ten, we now continue to consider what God has told us in verses seven through ten. These verses can be divided into eleven separate statements which are as follows:

- 1) **"The thousand years are ended."**
- 2) **"Satan is released from his prison."**
- 3) **"Satan goes out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, God and Magog."**
- 4) **"Satan gathers them together to battle."**
- 5) **"The number of the nations (people) is as the sand of the sea."**
- 6) **"These who are gathered go up on the breadth of the earth, and compass the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city."**
- 7) **"Fire comes down from God out of heaven."**
- 8) **The fire "devours them," the people following Satan.**
- 9) **"The devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone."**
- 10) **"This is where the beast and false prophet are" (and have been for one thousand years, all during the **Millennial Kingdom**).**
- 11) **Satan, the beast and false prophet "shall be tormented day and night forever and ever."**

The first statement has been studied, thus we move to number two.

The second statement is simple, but it should be noted that Satan does not escape from his prison. He is released by the sovereign Lord God, at His discretion, Who has, as He always has had, absolute authority over Satan. Satan has only been allowed to do his dirty work of deception because God had a purpose for him to fulfill, i.e., to be God's agent to offer man a choice and to test the validity of the professions of those who have claimed to be followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. God's use of him at this time is the same as it has always been as will be seen in the following statements.

The third statement deserves more comment for it not only tells us what the devil will do at that time but also reminds us of what he has always done and does today.

We are told that Satan goes out **"to deceive."** This is his nature. From Satan's very first contact with man, when he approached Eve in the Garden of Eden, to this, his last action on this earth, such is the way of Satan. Deceit,

Revelation
A Wednesday Night Bible Study

Lesson #85
6/04/2008

Satan's Release From Prison, Deception of the Peoples, and Judgment
19:21-20:10

in any form such as lying, twisting the truth or misrepresenting the truth, is an expression of who Satan is and is an indication of his presence and work.

Jesus clearly identified the devil as the source of all deceit and lies and the context was a confrontational conversation between Him and the Jewish religious leaders. In the first part of the conversation, Jesus had said to them: ***"... If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"*** (John 8:31-32). Then Jesus contrasted Who He is with who they were: ***"I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father"*** (8:38). Then Jesus said: ***"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. ... When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it"*** (John 8:44).

Carefully consider the points Jesus emphasizes: (1) The devil is the ***"father"*** of lies, i.e., when a lie is told, regardless of what form it takes, the source, the origin, of that lie is the devil. ***"He speaketh of his own,"*** i.e., that is the nature of the devil. (2) Any person who presents a lie or deceit acts as an agent of the devil in reproducing what originates from him.

Therefore, knowing what the devil is like and what he does, it is not surprising that we read that what the devil does when he is released from his prison. He goes out to deceive multitudes of people into rebelling against the Lord Who has provided their marvelous and wonderful life in the Millennial Kingdom. What he does is not shocking, but it is shocking that he could be so successful because those who are deceived are the recipients of our Lord's blessings in His Kingdom where life is as blissful as is possible on this earth. Asking how this can ever happen stimulates us into reviewing what God teaches us about how to protect ourselves from being vulnerable to Satan's deceptions. While this passage in Revelation twenty tells us what will happen when the devil is released from prison at the end of the thousand-year period, a time far into the future, what the devil does then is the same as he does today. Therefore, we should inform ourselves of what God tells us about his work of deceit lest we become his victims. God warns us: ***"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour"*** (1 Peter 5:8).

Repeatedly God warns His children to be on guard against being deceived (Matt. 24:4; Mark 13:5; Luke 21:8; 1 Cor. 3:18; 6:9; 15:33; Gal. 6:7; 2 Thess. 2:3; 1 John 3:7). He also repeatedly tells us that deceivers shall come and ***"deceive many"*** (Mat. 24:11), even ***"... if it were possible, deceive the very elect"*** (Mat. 24:24). God specifically warns us about this time in which we now live: ***"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to se-***

Revelation
A Wednesday Night Bible Study

Lesson #85
6/04/2008

Satan's Release From Prison, Deception of the Peoples, and Judgment
19:21-20:10

ducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron” (1 Timothy 4:1-2). Also God tells us in 2 Timothy 3:1; *“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.”* This statement is then followed by a detailed list describing the nature of those who, as servants of Satan, deceive people and lead them astray. More information about these deceivers can be found in the little book of Jude, 2 Peter 2:10-18 and 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. In each of these passages it is clear that, in order for him to successfully deceive people, Satan must pretend to be a servant of God. Cloaking himself in such a manner, he mixes in a little bit of truth with his falsehoods, twists and perverts the truths of God and persuades deluded souls into following him in rebellion against God.

One of the ways Satan does this is by appealing to various lusts, desires for something one should not have, in the heart of man. It was thusly, by twisting God's Words and perverting their meaning, and then appealing to a lustful desire in her heart, that Satan was able to seduce Eve into sinning against God:

“Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil” (Genesis 3:1-5). God's commentary on this is found in 1 Timothy 2:14 where Paul writes: *“And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.”*

The pattern has not changed down through the ages. Satan detects a point of weakness in a person and appeals to it. As God says in James 1:13-15: *“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”*

Prominently among the areas of vulnerability is the matter of pride. Just before God tells us to *“be sober and vigilant”* in 1 Peter 5:8 *“because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”*, He tells us *“Humble yourselves therefore un-*

Revelation
A Wednesday Night Bible Study

Lesson #85
6/04/2008

Satan's Release From Prison, Deception of the Peoples, and Judgment
19:21-20:10

der the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time” (1 Pet. 5:6).

Pride manifests itself in various ways and always with destructive results as it makes people vulnerable to Satan's deceptions. Consider some of these ways:

- 1) A person thinks he is entitled to something he doesn't have. See Eve for an example of this.
- 2) A person thinks he knows more than he actually does. No one knows everything about anything, particularly the Word of God. There is always something more to be learned which will often shed light on what a person does know and may even correct misguided viewpoints.
- 3) A person full of pride may think that he has learned something new because he has found “a new or original source,” other than the primary one. A good example of this today is seen in people acquiring information from the internet, never really knowing anything about the qualifications or integrity of the people or source from which their information is derived. Sometimes people turn to “experts” regarding the Bible rather than to the Bible itself.
- 4) A person may think he knows a better way to do something than what God says in His Word, but there is no better way than God's way.
- 5) A person who is prideful likes to listen to what is pleasing to him and confirms his prejudices or agrees with what he already thinks he knows.
- 6) A person gets offended, “gets his feelings hurt,” when things don't go the way he thinks they should. Whenever this occurs, it is not only a signal about great danger, but a warning to a person that he needs to deal with his pride problem.

Satan fully understands these points of weaknesses in man and skillfully uses them to deceive people and pervert their thinking. There are surely many other manifestations of pride.

God gives us some solutions to the problem and some steps to be followed which will make us less vulnerable and even correct this dangerous situation when it develops.

- 1) God says, ***“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God”*** (1 Pet. 5:6); ***“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and***

Revelation
A Wednesday Night Bible Study

Lesson #85
6/04/2008

Satan's Release From Prison, Deception of the Peoples, and Judgment
19:21-20:10

mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up" (James 4:7-10).

- 2) Seek to find your information in God's Word. Paul instructed Timothy, *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Tim. 2:15). Too many times people will not spend the time and effort to learn what God says, choosing rather to allow someone else to tell them what God means. There is a big difference. Do not filter the Word of God through someone else's viewpoints and limitations.
- 3) Submit yourself to God. Do it directly. Do it indirectly by being submissive to those who are your spiritual leaders. The alternative to submission is rebellion, which is a characteristic of Satan and something God hates: *"...Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee being king"* (1 Sam. 15:22-23).
- 4) Don't give a foothold to the devil by being disobedient to God and allowing Satan to seduce you. In Ephesians 4:27, God tells us *"Neither give place to the devil,"* and then gives us a long list of commands to follow. Obey what God says.
- 5) Don't give a foothold to the devil by loving and desiring the wrong things in life. God tells us: *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever"* (1 John 2:15-17).
- 6) Don't give the devil a foothold by having the wrong attitude. God tells us what happened to Esau: *"Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled"* (Heb. 12:15). Esau destroyed his life because of his selfish, materialistic attitude. When you read what the devil did to him, you'll learn of the danger a bad or wounded attitude presents.

These are but a few of the warnings listed in God's Word. If a person adheres to what God says and obeys Him, that person is not nearly as likely to be deceived by Satan as many have been.

The next lesson will continue with an examining of Revelation 20:8-10.