

**Revelation**  
**A Wednesday Night Bible Study**

Lesson #86

6/11/2008

**Satan's Release From Prison, Deception of the Peoples, and Judgment: Part 2**  
**19:21-20:10**

The last lesson was devoted to the first part of statement number three in the list of eleven statements which describe what God told John would happen when the **“thousand years are expired,”** teloo, i.e., fulfilled and finished:

- 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.”**

This lesson continues with the remainder of statement number three: **“Satan goes out to deceive THE NATIONS WHICH ARE IN THE FOUR QUARTERS OF THE EARTH, GOD AND MAGOG.”**

When the word ethnos, 1484, is translated **“nations,”** the idea is conveyed of organized nations or societies, which may be correct. However it might be better to translate ethnos as **“multitudes.”** The emphasis is not the involvement of organized societies or **“nations,”** but, rather, upon the multitudes of people so numerous that they are described as being **“as the sand of the sea,”** or innumerable.

It is implied that, among those during the Tribulation Period who choose Jesus Christ as their King, and reject Satan, are individuals from various ethnic groups from around the world. Those who survive the Tribulation Period, each in their natural bodies, begin to settle down in an idyllic and peaceful life after the severe trauma they experienced and begin to have children. Likely, with God's blessings, they are extremely fruitful, and soon the few people become many as they grow and multiply quickly. The first residents of the Kingdom surely have sharp and painful memories of their

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traumatic and painful experiences during the **Tribulation Period**, particularly the last three and one-half years. Undoubtedly the experiences are not easy to erase from their memories. The contrast between the horrific past and the joy and peace experienced living under **Christ's Theocratic Rule in His Millennial Kingdom** is sharp indeed, and extremely enjoyable. As children and grandchildren are born and experience life in an atmosphere like unto the Garden of Eden, their ancestors are faithful to recount for them those things from their past and describe the difficult decisions they faced in rejecting Satan's rule and accepting Christ's forgiving grace.

However, none of those born during the Millennial Kingdom have any first-hand knowledge of the pain, trauma, and destruction which results from Satan's presence and activities. The environment is perfect. There are no more typhoons or tornadoes ... no more earthquakes or famines ... no more lawlessness or war. There is little, if any, need for medical personnel, medicines, hospitals or trauma centers. God's universal health-care program requires no taxes from anyone. God has simply removed from His Kingdom the one who is responsible for sickness and disease, thereby eliminating such as a matter of concern or affliction. Everybody lives in an atmosphere and environment of perfection where everyone's needs are instantly met by the uninhibited flow of God's blessings.

In spite of, and perhaps somewhat because of, the fact that those born during the **Millennial Kingdom** have no personal knowledge of the trauma produced by Satan's presence, or the tragedies resulting from sin, or his seduction to rebel, they are not able to fully appreciate the blessings of God's grace. It does not take long for the stories told by their ancestors to fade away and have little impact upon them. Such patterns are not new. Even in this day few people have any knowledge of, much less appreciation of, the price their forefathers paid to protect their liberties and freedoms. Even the freedoms, so costly to the few who have given of themselves sacrificially, seem to have little value to the very ones who use those freedoms to vilify and profane the same ones who sacrificed their own lives to purchase the freedoms underappreciated by so many. The age-old principle is the same to the sin-affected selfish person — what costs a person little or nothing provokes little appreciation in him and has little value to him. The grace of God, and all that it cost Him, is seen best when contrasted against the ugliness of sin's presence and work, and there is no sin nor effects of it in the **Millennial Kingdom**. Thus, generation after generation, while multiplying into the masses of people far greater than has ever lived on this earth, becomes forgetful of God's sacrificial grace, seemingly spoiled by God's provisions and blessings, and ripe for Satan's seductions. It has even been suggested by some that Satan may well be surprised at how gullible and seducible the multitudes are as they willingly choose to follow him. It is amazing that no matter how good God is to man, He is seldom properly worshipped and appreciated!

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**“Gog and Magog”** are words we must deal with. **“Magog”** was a grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:2) who is thought to have settled in the land north of the Black Sea, often identified as modern day Russia. **“Gog”** most likely (according to The Wordbook of The Old Testament the etymological lineage is extremely difficult to trace) conveys the idea of **“high”** or **“supreme one”** or **“prince.”** **“Magog”** came to mean mountain, or overflowing one, as a people who overflowed a land. **“Gog and Magog”** play a prominent role in the invasion of Israel described in Ezekiel 38 & 39 which takes place at the beginning of the Tribulation Period. Because of the use of the names in that Old Testament prophetic passage, there is a great deal of confusion and mis-interpretation about the appearance of **“God and Magog”** here in Revelation 20 and their role in Satan's rebellion against God. Some people see the prophetic passage in Ezekiel as referring to this time in Revelation 20. They are wrong. There are a number of significant differences between the two passages and about the only thing the two passages have in common is the use of these two names as Dr. Henry Morris points out in his book, The Revelation Record, page 422.

1. **In Ezekiel** the armies attacking Israel are from several specifically named countries surrounding Israel;  
**In Revelation** they come from all over the earth.
2. **In Ezekiel** they are destroyed by a great earthquake and volcanoes;  
**In Revelation** fire comes down from God in heaven to destroy them.
3. **In Ezekiel** the destruction is followed by a seven-month burial and a seven-year burning of the weapons;  
**In Revelation** the destruction is followed by the Great White Throne Judgment and then the renovation of the earth.

There are other differences, but these are sufficient to demonstrate that it is incorrect to apply the prophetic passage in Ezekiel to this time. A better understanding is that **“Gog and Magog”** represent the enemies of God whose goal is to destroy God's people and God's city, Jerusalem. God does not tell us the details of this last rebellion of Satan and his followers. It really is not necessary for Him to do so for us to understand that man, with wickedness in his heart, never really changes, even after having the blessings of God poured out upon him for hundreds of years. Sin, with its results is basically the same yesterday, today and tomorrow and we know that Satan always has been and always will be a rebel against the holiness and righteousness of God. Changing the environment of a person will not change the heart of a person. As Jeremiah said, hundreds of years ago, **“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”** (Jer. 17:9). Only God, Who is the only One Who really knows the heart of man, can wash away its sin and guilt and convert it into a new heart.

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Statements four, **“Satan gathers them together to battle,”** and five, **“The number of the nations (people) is as the sand of the sea,”** have already been touched upon; therefore, we move to statement six: **“These who are gathered go up on the breadth of the earth, and compass the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city.”** There are some erroneous view points of interpretation on the whole of the book of Revelation, such as the Amillennialist view, and some interpreters see the **“camp of the saints”** and **“the beloved city”** as follows: *“The beloved city” is evidently Jerusalem, that is, the Church of God, of which it is always a type in the Apocalypse* (The Pulpit Commentary: Revelation. 2004 (H. D. M. Spence-Jones, Ed., page 473). Of course such a view is wrong and prevents a Bible student from gaining any proper sense at all of what God is telling us. God's Word should not be allegorized away to satisfy some pre-conceived theological idea. Such a viewpoint also allegorizes away any significance to the repeated phrase “thousand years,” as if it is some nebulous reference to an indefinite period of time, usually viewing it as the current day in which we live. Such people seem to think that God cannot say what He means and does not mean what He says. This is not only unfruitful interpretation which produces no real meaning for the reader, but it is also a somewhat arrogant approach to the Holy Scriptures as if God needs man's help to find a way to express Himself.

Statement number seven, **“Fire comes down from God out of heaven,”** is treated in a like allegorical manner by the same people. However, such an approach is dangerously misleading. God prophetically describes this in Malachi 4:1 where He says: **“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch,”** and He needs no weapons or assistance from man to assert His authoritative judgment one last time over the wicked. His patience is gone. There is no more grace to be offered. They are **“devoured”** by God's fire, not annihilated for there is yet one more appearance for them when they are to be summoned from their graves to come before His Great White Throne.

For one thousand years, the beast and false prophet have been experiencing their unending, excruciating pain in the **“lake of fire and brimstone.”** Now they have company: **“The devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”**

At last God asserts His final judgment over the evil Satan along with his two primary henchmen. As Jesus had said it would be, it now is as they hear the Lord say: **“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels”** (Matthew 25:41).