

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE

OUTLINE

SATAN CHAINED IN THE BOTTOMLESS PIT FOR 1,000 YEARS (1-2)

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST (4-6)

THREE FINAL JUDGMENTS (7-15)

SATAN CHAINED IN THE BOTTOMLESS PIT FOR 1,000 YEARS (1-2)

In these verses we read that Satan will be chained in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years. There are a couple of schools of thought on this event. Amillennialist and Postmillennialists agree when they say it stands for the conquest of Christ at Calvary over evil forces. Premillennialist believe it refers to a future event at the end of the Tribulation where Satan will be literally bound in a pit.

The Person Doing the Chaining (1)

An angel comes down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a chain in his hand (1). In 1:18 Christ said He had the keys of hell and death, here we see they were given to an angel.

The Prisoner Being Chained (2)

The angel takes hold of Satan and chains him. The angel “laid hold” on Satan and bound him in a pit for a thousand years. The phrase “laid hold” comes from the Greek word *kratos* meaning strength and power; the angel exercised power over Satan. Satan has many names; John lists four of them here:

- The Dragon alludes to his ferociousness and ability to terrify.
- That Old Serpent identifies his deception in the Garden.
- The Devil from the Greek word *diabolos* meaning “slanderer.”
- Satan from the Greek word *satan* meaning “adversary.”

The Purpose for the Chaining (3)

Satan is cast into the bottomless pit that he should deceive the nations no more. God is clearing the way for the reign of Christ. In order to do this Satan is removed off the scene. “The god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4) and “the prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2) is now bound in the pit and his activities and influence on the earth are rendered impotent. Satan will be loosed for a season after the thousand years and for a brief period will resume his activity and deception. The reason he will be loosed is found in verses 7-9—his ability to deceive.

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST (4-6)

Here again we see different views regarding the Millennial reign of Christ. Amillennialist believe it refers to the present Church age which goes on for an indefinite period of time. Postmillennialist say it refers to a future time when the power of the Gospel will rule over the world and usher in the Coming of Christ. Premillennialist hold to the theory it refers to a literal thousand year period when Christ will reign over the earth.

The identity of Those Who Will Live and Reign with Christ for One Thousand Years (4-5).

They sat upon the thrones judging (4a), they were martyrs during the Tribulation who did not follow the Beast (4b), they did not worship the beast (4c) and they reign with Christ for a thousand years (4e). The rest of those who died will be in a place of torment for one thousand years (5).

The Status of Those Who Will Live and Reign with Christ for One Thousand Years (6a):

They were a part of the first resurrection and death has no power over them.

The First Resurrection	The Second Resurrection
Resurrection of the just (Lk. 14:14; Acts 24:15)	Resurrection of the unjust (Acts 24:15)
Resurrection to life (Jn. 5:29)	Resurrection to damnation (Jn. 5:29)
Better resurrection (Heb. 11:35)	Undesirable resurrection (Rev. 20:13)

The Duty of Those Who Will Live and Reign with Christ for One Thousand Years (6b):

“They shall be priests of God and of Christ.” One day in the future, believers will serve as priests and kings (Rev. 1:6; 5:10). Today the believer ministers as a priest by worshipping God and interceding for others (1 Pet. 2:9). Also “they shall reign with him.” What an awesome thought that believers will one day rule with Christ.

THREE FINAL JUDGMENTS (7-15)

A Great World-Terrible Judgment (7-9)

Satan will be loosed at the end of the Millennium to deceive those living on the earth.

- The **target** of his deception “the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth.”
- The **thought** of his deception “to gather them together to battle.”
- The **testimony** of his deception “Gog and Magog.” In Ezekiel 38 Gog was the ruler and Magog was the nation, and both were in rebellion against God and were enemies of Israel. John uses it here to symbolize Satan’s leader (Gog) of the rebellion and the nation (Magog) of the rebellion
- The **totality** of his deception “the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.”

(Some have asked the question, “Where did these individuals come from? Remember, there will be survivors of the Tribulation who will have children. Generation after generation will be born and many will not receive the new birth. These individuals will be ripe for Satan when he is loosed).

As a result of Satan being loosed, he will lead an army against Jerusalem “the beloved city” (Ps. 78:68; 87:2). Jerusalem will be the world capitol of Christ’s Millennial Kingdom (Isa. 2:1-5). When the army arrives there to do battle fire will fall from heaven and destroy all of them.

The Great Wicked Threesome Judgment (10).

The devil was cast into the lake of fire that was prepared for him and his angels (Matt. 25:41). He will join the beast and false prophet have been there for a thousand years (19:20). They will be tormented forever and ever.

The Great White Throne Judgment (11-15).

There are some who believe this judgment is for both the saved and the unsaved. This is not correct because the saved will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ (Rom.14:10-12; 1 Cor. 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:10)

- The Person at the Great White Throne Judgment
The One on the throne is the God, in the person of Jesus Christ (Matt. 19:28; 25:31; Jn. 5:22; 2 Cor. 5:10).
- The Place of the Great White Throne Judgment
It is not in heaven because sinners cannot go there (Rom. 3:23), it is not on the earth because earth is gone (Rev. 20:11). The place of the judgment is unknown.
- The Portrait of the Great White Throne Judgment (11)
Great (the ultimate); White (purity and holiness); Throne (majesty)
- The People at the Great White Throne Judgment (12)

The dead. There are two views as to who these individuals are:

- Only the unsaved, since the Old Testament saints, the Church, and the Tribulation saints have been resurrected and rewarded it only stands to reason that these are the wicked of all ages.
- Saved and unsaved, the book of life indicates that the saved as well as the unsaved will be there.

Their status: “both small and great.” Princes and paupers, rich and poor, black and white, this judgment is no respecter of person.

Their location (13)

“The sea,” those who have perished in the water. “Death,” the force that has the power to hold the wicked in captivity. “Hell”, Greek, *Hades*, translated grave, or temporary holding place for the souls of the wicked.

Their condemnation

- They were condemned from the “Books of Works” (12d, 13d).
- They were condemned from the “Book of Life” (12b, 15). The Book of Life is the record of all those who have been saved. There are two views as to how the names got into the Book of Life.” 1.) The saved are recorded in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world (Rev. 17:8). 2.) The Book of Life contains the names of every person born into this world. When an unbeliever dies, his name is blotted out of the Book.

Their judgment (14-15)

Death and hell were thrown into the lake of fire and sad to say, whoever was not found in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.