

“THE LAST REBELLION”

REVELATION 20:7-10

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INTRODUCTION

Satan had a good beginning: Is. 14:12; Ezek. 28:14-15; but now we see his terrible end!

Man had a good beginning; next week we see his terrible end.

[ILLUS. How many have known someone with every advantage and opportunity and yet wrecked his life?]

I. THE GOOD ENVIRONMENT

Portraits of the Millennium:

- Is. 2:2-4
- Is. 11:4-9
- Is. 30:23-26
- Is. 65:19-25
- Rom. 8:21-22

“When the thousand years are completed”—brought to an appointed end or goal

II. THE FINAL TEST

A. Reasons for Satan’s Release (7)

1. Proof of Satan’s unchangeable and unredeemable nature
2. Evidence of God’s foreknowledge (Mt. 25:41—everlasting fire prepared for him & his angels)
3. Exposure of the ultimate root of sin—the heart (Jer. 17:9; Mt. 15:19-20)
4. Indispensability of the grace of God for sinful man—even in a perfect world
5. Vindication of God’s justice in condemnation and eternal judgment (See Rom. 3:19)

B. Response to his release

1. By Satan (8a)

- He “deceives the nations.”
- Casts insinuations against God’s goodness and righteousness—just as in the Garden of Eden in Gen. 3.
- He does the same in our lives—“You have it so bad!” “God is so unfair!”

2. By the Nations

- In the 4 corners of the earth; i.e. all the nations.
 - “Gog & Magog”—Using the same terms as Ezek. 38-39 for the world-wide onslaught against Israel at the final great battle of Armageddon (See Rev. 16:12-16; 19:11-21)
- a. Gathered to “the war”—the one par excellence, the last great battle.
 - b. Great in number—“their number like the sand of the seashore” [cf. Heb. 11:12—Israel]
 - c. Surrounded the Holy City and camp of the saints (9)
 - Note “the broad plain of the earth”—evident topical changes upon the earth; Jerusalem is now actually a very high point on the earth (Mic. 4:1)
 - Camp of the saints—Jerusalem is the location of Messiah’s rule, and many saints gather there to worship and serve him. Glorified saints rule with Him.

- “Saints” are *holy ones*, those redeemed and purified from sin. Especially saved Israelites living there in the Millennium; the “Holy City” throughout Scripture is Jerusalem—See Is. 48:2; 52:1
 - “The beloved city” is Jerusalem, specially selected and loved by God and the place of His manifestation and rule: Ps. 78:68-69; 87:2-3; Hos. 2:23.
- C. Results of the “Battle”
1. Fire from Heaven that “devoured them”—“ate them up” (9b)
 - Cf. Sodom & Gomorrah (Gen. 19); Elijah & prophets of Baal—I K. 18; John and the Samaritan city—Lk. 9:54
 2. Lake of Fire for Satan (10)—the one “who deceived them”; ‘thrown into the LOF’
 - a. His companions—“the Beast and the False Prophet”—the unholy “trinity.”
 - Notice, “where the beast and false prophet **are**.”
 - b. His torment—along with the others: “**They** will be tormented.”
 - We assume that all fallen angels will be there with Satan.
 - Later all lost persons will join Satan and the beast and false prophet—vv. 14-15.
 - Continual torment—“day and night”
 - Permanent torment—“forever and ever.”

CONCLUSION

The last rebellion; the last sin; the last deaths.

Our nature is hopelessly sinful.

God’s grace is indispensable to us.

God’s justice is vindicated.

Have you come to Him for mercy? Is there any rebellion in your heart?

Do you ever find yourself either unappreciative or upset with what God is doing in your life?

Satan’s success is to get us to question God’s **goodness** and **justice** and then to get us to rebel against God!

God knows what He is doing; make sure that your heart is right with God!