Book of Revelation – Satan Bound/ Executive Judgment / 1st /2nd Resurrection -- Rev 20:1-6

Series REV-61

Review of Revelation 19:17-21 – The Battle of Armageddon

At the Coming of Christ, the surface of the earth was completely broken up [as during the flood] due to that 'great earthquake' that occurred under the 7th plague. The bodies of untold millions all over the earth's surface are food for all the fowl of the air. The earthquake virtually destroyed what was not destroyed by the other six plagues. This statement below gives this picture:

> *"The earth looked like a desolate wilderness. Cities and villages, shaken down by the earthquake, lay in heaps. Mountains had been moved out of their places, leaving large caverns. Ragged rocks, thrown out by the sea, or torn out of the earth itself, were scattered all over its surface. Large trees had been uprooted and were strewn over the land. Here is to be the home of Satan with his evil angels for a thousand years. Here he will be confined, to wander up and down over the broken surface of the earth and see the effects of his rebellion against God's law. For a thousand years he can enjoy the fruit of the curse which he has caused. Limited alone to the earth, he will not have the privilege of ranging to other planets, to tempt and annoy those who have not fallen. During this time, Satan suffers extremely. Since his fall his evil traits have been in constant exercise. But he is then to be deprived of his power, and left to reflect upon the part which he has acted since his fall, and to look forward with trembling and terror to the dreadful future, when he must suffer for all the evil that he has done and be punished for all the sins that he has caused to be committed. {EW 290.1}*

Revelation 20

This chapter begins where the narrative left off in Rev 19. Adding more detail to the above painted picture, inspiration records "After presenting the scenes of the Lord's second coming and the destruction of the wicked, the prophecy continues:

> "I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand." {GC 658}

> *"Now the event takes place foreshadowed in the last solemn service of the Day of Atonement. When the ministration in the holy of holies had been completed, and the sins of Israel had been removed from the sanctuary by virtue of the blood of the sin offering, then the scapegoat was presented alive before the Lord…* ***And as the scapegoat was sent away into a land not inhabited, so Satan will be banished to the desolate earth, an uninhabited and dreary wilderness."*** -GC 657-58

(Vs.2) - And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.

Q.1: What does this great chain in Gabriel's hand represent, from verse 1? [see GC 500.4; 660.2,3] _____
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Q.2: Why do you think John uses the same language, the same titles and in that order in vs.2 as he did in Rev 12:9? [hint: think GC & sanctuary theme, note context of 12:9]

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Keep in mind, that Satan's judgments have been in stages. With each 'casting out' his work and activity has been restricted.

The Three Casting outs:

1) From Heaven (lost peace and joy of heaven) – Rev 12:9
2) At the Cross (now longer permitted to taunt holy angels at heaven's gate) -Rev 12:10
3) At the end--in humanity in three-fold manner.

a) 144K – (By choice they will cast him out, in the sealing process) –Rev 14:1,3-5
b) At Second Coming (chained to earth/ Resurrection of the just) –Rev 20:1,2
c) At end of 1000 years, the lost turn on him. (Final Destruction) –Rev 20:10,14

Also, in Rev 12:7-9 reveals the beginning of Satan's rebellion. Here in this chapter, Rev 20, we see his demise, executive judgment and final destruction. Thus, John wants no one to guess about this great adversary of heaven and all the redeemed. Truly the Sanctuary teaching bears this out as we've studied it.

(Vs. 4) – And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

There is much here for our consideration: A picture of thrones, they that sat upon them, and a judgment in the first part of the passage.

Q.3: Whose judgment is taking place now and what text or statements can you give, for Bible or SOP support? _____

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The next few questions will deal with the last part of the text. The first one will stretch your cognitive ability, for it is one not easily figured out, but one which will require putting on your 'Jewish' thinking cap, under Holy Spirit's direction.

Q.4: The next part of the verse deals with an unpleasant subject—beheadings! [It's actually a more efficient form of execution, than bullets and a lot cheaper, if it is used for mass killings—I realize that is being 'crass,' but on a natural level, its true.]

a) Why would the Lord show John in vision, souls of those who had been beheaded (one might wonder how he knew that, but that's beside the point), right after he discusses the thrones in heaven and judgment given to them? Also note why they were beheaded? [You will need a couple hints on this challenging question: There is a relation between those judging and those beheaded. Hint #2: It helps viewing vss.3-7 as a unit] _____

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b) Is there a similarity of the phrase, 'witness of Jesus and for the word of God' and those passages in the book which mention the 'testimony of Jesus', or not? {see Rev 1:2,9; 12:17; 19:10} [and be sure to look at context of each of these passages.]

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c) Several other passages in the book mention—worshipping the beast, image, and mark upon the forehead. Note the references and also note the differences and the context of each. [You may need a separate sheet of paper for this question, its not hard, just involved.]

d) The last phrase of the passage states:

"and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

Who are these people? And why just a 1000 years? _____

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Remember, the best is yet to come. Keep studying and praying, the Lord will bless. We will discuss your findings in our Monday night study.