Book of Revelation – 1st & 2nd Resurrections -- Rev 20:3-10 Series REV-62

Revelation 20:3-7 - The Two Resurrections

As we looked at last week, we saw that the Judgment was given unto the saints, those beheaded (vs.4) who will decide with Christ the cases of the wicked (the lost), as we will see from the statement below. Note that the SOP puts the "execution of the judgment" at the close of the one thousand years. [I had been saying the 'Executive Judgment' begins at the Second Coming, but that technically is not correct, and here is the reason why: God will not 'execute' someone until they are judged.] This is the purpose of the 1000 years, to determine why the lost are lost.

"The execution of judgment will be at the close of the one thousand years..."

{EW 52}

"Then I saw thrones, and Jesus and the redeemed saints sat upon them; and the saints reigned as kings and priests unto god. Christ, in union with His people, judged the wicked dead, comparing their acts with the statute book, the Word of God, and deciding every case according to the deeds done in the body. Then they meted out to the wicked the portion which they must suffer, according to their works; and it was written against their names in the book of death. Satan also and his angels were judged by Jesus and the saints...."

After the judgment of the wicked dead had been finished, at the end of the one thousand years, Jesus left the city; and the saints and a train of the angelic host followed Him.

{EW 290-291}

Because we never did an outline last lesson on the chapter, here is the first 2/3 of it:

REV 20:1-10 OUTLINE

	Devil Bound	(vs.1-3)
•	Judgment of the Wicked in Heaven (Jesus and Saints)	(vs.4)
•	1 st & 2 nd Resurrections	(vs.5-7)
•	Devil Loosed	(vs.7)
•	Satan goes out to deceive nations (Gog and Magog)	(vs.8)
•	Satan & Wicked come up and Compass New Jerusalem	(vs.9)
•	Devil cast into Lake of Fire	(vs.10)

Let us read through these first ten verses. In doing so, note if the passage flows smoothly, or if it could be stated more clearly. {Share your comments in our study.}

In verse 7 & 8, Satan is loosed out of his prison house and once again he goes forth on his work of deception.

Q. Who is Gog and Magog in vs. 8?

Notice this statement from GC 663—

He [Satan] represents himself to his deluded subjects as a redeemer, assuring them that his power has brought them forth from their graves and that he is about to rescue them from the most cruel tyranny. The presence of Christ having been removed, Satan works wonders to support his claims. He makes the weak strong and inspires all with his own spirit and energy. He proposes to lead them against the camp of the saints and to take possession of the City of God. With fiendish exultation he points to the unnumbered millions [billions] who have been raised from the dead and declares that as their leader he is well able to overthrow the city and regain his throne and his kingdom. — GC 663.1

Q. In vs. 9, it says that they (the whole wicked host, under Satan's command) come up to 'compass the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city...' The phrase 'camp of the saints' is unique. In light of the information below, why do you think in this final battle in the Great Controversy, John identifies the redeemed, or the beloved city as the 'camp of the saints'?

Doing a study on the phrase "camp of" sheds interesting results in the O.T. I found "camp of Israel," and the four standard or banner tribes—Judah, Reuben, Dan and Ephraim (east, south, north, west). "Camp of Levites" were also mentioned. More than half of the 29 references were in the books of Numbers and Joshua. In Exodus 14:20, it differentiates between the 'camp of the Egyptians' and the 'camp of Israel' separated by a cloud and darkness on the one side, but light to the other (at the Red Sea experience). One can see the great controversy theme in play, just as we see here in Rev 20. The 'Lost' [Egyptians) are in pursuit of the 'Redeemed' (Israel), to take possession of their 'gotta way slaves', just as in the final battle of Armageddon, Satan will convince the lost to take possession of 'the camp of the saints' the

We will discuss verse 10 in our study, for it involves some theological themes that have been used against Seventh-day Adventists.

May the Lord continue to bless us in our pursuit of truth.