

20:20 Vision Ministries—Devotions by Roger Browning Week 8 (February 17-23, 2019)

We will conclude our four-week study of Satan by examining his destiny. No one will want to spend eternity with him in hell. Witness to unbelievers while you still have the opportunity.

Sunday, February 17 (Read Revelation 12:1-6)

Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. (Revelations 12:3)

This passage describes the ongoing battle between the red dragon (Satan) and God's chosen people (the Jews). There is not space here to break down the symbols for Israel and the global government of the antichrist described in v. 2-3. The important truth is that Israel (Mother Mary) is about to give birth to Jesus, the Messiah (v. 2). One-third of the created angels (stars) follow Satan in his rebellion and become the demons that are wreaking havoc on earth today (v. 4). Through evil King Herod, Satan tries to destroy the baby Jesus in Bethlehem before He can grow up and willingly die for the sins of the world (v. 4), but, following His death, Jesus ascends into Heaven to wait for the time when He will reign over the whole earth from His throne in Jerusalem (v. 5). During the Great Tribulation, God will miraculously protect the newly saved Jews in a special place He will prepare (v. 6). This sets the stage for the demise of Satan that we will see in tomorrow's study.

Monday, February 18 (read Revelation 12:7-12)

*The great **dragon** was hurled down—that ancient **serpent** called the **devil**, or **Satan**, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. (Revelation 12:9, emphasis mine)*

We have seen from previous devotions that Satan still has access to God in Heaven. All this will change during the Tribulation immediately following the **rapture** of the Church. When all true believers from the Church Age are brought into Heaven, the devil has to be thrown out because we will enjoy unbroken fellowship with our Lord. Today's text shows the battle between the archangel Michael and his good angels versus Satan and his fallen angels (v. 7-8). I have no idea how angels fight since death is not possible for God's created messengers. Satan loses his right to stay in Heaven and is thrown out along with his band of fallen angels. God wants to make sure that you recognize who is being thrown to earth so He uses all four of the Biblical names for our adversary (v.9). Until the devil is banished from Heaven, he will continue to accuse us 24-7 before the Father (v. 10). All who have accepted the blood of Jesus as full payment for their sins have no fear of death or judgment (v. 11). Trust me! You don't want to be here during the Tribulation when Satan displays his full power (v. 12).

Tuesday, February 19 (read Revelation 12:13-17)

Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus. (Revelation 12:17)

The Apostle John returns to his imagery of the dragon's efforts to destroy the Jews, God's chosen people (v. 13), because Jesus "is the One who has been born King of the Jews" (see Matthew 2:1-2). Satan knows his time is short (v. 12), so he continues towards his goal from the beginning, the destruction of Israel. God has prepared a special place of protection for the Jews during the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation (v. 14). I have been to Petra, the rock city located in Israel, which seems a likely location to protect His people, but no one knows for sure whether or not this will be the place. Meanwhile, Satan turns his attention to others who have given their hearts to Jesus during the Tribulation and have miraculously escaped death (v. 17). **Now** is the time for you to give your whole heart to Jesus so that you will be a part of Heaven's celebration, not Satan's retaliation!

Wednesday, February 20 (read Revelation 13:1-10)

The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. (Revelation 13:2b)

Satan's final effort to take control of the earth will come through a one-world global government under the control of the devil's chosen man, the antichrist (beast). I will not try to explain all the symbols of this passage of Scripture, but I do want to remind you why our world is trying so hard to establish a global government and a global economy. Satan has been trying to accomplish this task ever since the 11th chapter of Genesis when he tried to unify the world at Babylon and build the tower of Babel. At that time, mankind was saying to God, "We don't need **your** plan of salvation. We will build our own tower that reaches into heaven" (see Genesis 11:1-9). Satan is crafty and is not about to change his methods that have deceived many for so long. He still thinks he can overthrow God and establish his own kingdom on earth.

Thursday, February 21 (read Revelation 13:11-18)

Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. (Revelation 13:11)

Billy Graham often said that each of us has a God-shaped vacuum within us that only the Lord can fill. That's why, even during the Tribulation, mankind will seek to fill that void with religion. Satan will choose a religious leader to push the agenda of the antichrist. This man will perform made-for-TV miracles "in full view of men" and deceive all those who have rejected God's plan of salvation (v. 11-13). This false prophet will begin as a man of peace, but he will soon reveal his true evil intent (v. 11). The residents of the earth who follow the one-world leadership of the antichrist will be directed by the government to take the mark of the beast in order to buy and sell. You know the mark as 666. Those who receive the mark will be lost forever (v. 16-18).

Friday, February 22 (read Revelation 20:1-6)

He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:2)

The devil will be imprisoned in an abyss while Jesus rules on earth for a thousand years from the modern-day city of Jerusalem (v. 1-3). In case you are not current on politics, this is why the whole world is fighting with the Jews for the control of God's city, trying to keep that from happening. The antichrist and his global government will behead (v. 4) many new Christian converts during the Tribulation prior to the Lord's return to earth (see Revelation 19:11-21). In light of what is happening today in the Middle East, is anyone still saying that beheading (v. 4) will never take place in our modern world? Wake up! All these signs are taking place right before your eyes. Can you afford to put off a decision any longer?

Saturday, February 23 (read Revelation 20:7-10)

And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Revelation 20:10)

I was shocked the first time I read for myself that Satan is not the **ruler** of hell. I had pictured him in a red suit with a long tail laughing as he threw coals on the residents he had deceived. I now know that God is in charge of everything and everybody and every place. After Satan spends 1000 years in the abyss, he is released back onto the earth. Many children have been born during the earthly reign of Jesus Christ while the devil has been imprisoned. They have known only the authority of the Lord, but they have never had a **choice** to reject Him or His rule. Satan organizes these lip-service believers and marches towards Jerusalem. That's when the end of this earth will take place at God's command and Satan will be thrown into his final residence (v.9-10). We will look at Scriptures on hell in next week's devotions.