

Date: 10.06.2020

Time: 7.30pm

Prayer Meeting taken by: Rev Gavino Fioretti

Psalm: Psalm 98 (Scottish Psalter)

Scripture: Revelation 20

Outline: The end of Satan and of evil

a) Introduction

1. The devil is bound

2. The devil is released

3. The devil is defeated

4. The devil's people are condemned

5. The devil's achievements are over

The end of Satan and of evil

- **Introduction**

This is one of the most debated parts of Revelation. There are 3 possible interpretations for the 1000 years spoken of; pre-millennium, post-millennium and a-millennium

Pre-millennium: this is the idea the 1000 years precedes the second coming – the devil is bound for 1000 years, then given freedom for 1000 years before Jesus returns to defeat His enemies.

Post-millennium: this is the idea that the church will grow as the devil is bound and Jesus will return to a “Christianised” world.

A-millennium: this is interpretation that we will have, that the millennium, the 1000 years, is not a literal period of time. It describes a time when the devil is bound (which is now, not a future time). The church will be oppressed, but not defeated, because Christ has won the battle. The 1000 years symbolises a long time when the devil will be bound and nations exposed to the gospel.

In the book of Revelation, we're presented with different visions of how God will punish His enemies – the events are not described in chronological order, but different enemies are focused on at different times. Different events are described in different places in the book of Revelation, with different details describing the events.

1) The devil is bound

The work of Christ: Our understanding is that this happens now, started with the first coming of Christ. Through the cross, Jesus defeated these enemies. The devil is not dead, but bound, his influence is limited and his power is limited.

The kingdom of Christ: The gospel reaches further. Places that were in darkness have seen the light of the gospel because Jesus bound the devil with His life and His death. The gates of Hell will not prevail against the church. Jesus is risen, immortal and glorified. He is on the throne. So don't be afraid of the emperor of this world – you serve King Jesus. It doesn't matter what the world thinks of Jesus – He's on the throne over the church and over the world. He's defeated the devil, the one who had pretended to be king.

The followers of Christ: This describes those who have been faithful to Jesus, even willing to die for Him. They are before the Lord. The saints are reigning and ruling with Christ. The kingdom of Jesus is invincible, so there's no reason for the follower of Christ to give up, surrender or go astray. Jesus is on the throne and His enemies' power is limited. Persecution of the followers of Christ will be present, because the kingdom is not yet fully established, but this persecution is under the control of Christ. The first resurrection spoken of here refers to a spiritual resurrection for the followers of Christ; they have been born again, born of the Spirit.

Christ is on the throne. He is a merciful, wonderful King who welcomes those who seek Him into His kingdom.

2) The devil is released

To deceive the nations: The devil does all he can to deceive the nations, telling them not to surrender.

Against God's people: The devil uses his last moment of life to use his resources against God's people. The devil's heart is to take as many image-bearers of God as possible into Hell. The devil's increased freedom could be seen now, before the second coming of Christ.

For a little while: Persecution will increase, so we should be ready and unsurprised if this comes. The devil will try to the very end to destroy you, but this is for a while, for a short time this is allowed to happen.

3) The devil is defeated

With the nations: The devil raised an army from the nations to stand against God and His people, but God destroys him. This is not a physical battle, but a spiritual battle. Jesus will fight for us, destroying His enemies. Those with the devil will share his destiny.

With eternal torments: The devil will be thrown into the lake of fire to be tormented forever – he will pay the price and will be condemned by God for all eternity. The devil's

time will be over, his influence will be over, he will never lie, undermine, or cause God's people to doubt again.

Jesus' victory over the devil will be sudden and immediate. Jesus' victory is over His enemies, devil, the world, false religions, sin and death. We'll know peace and prosperity. Sin will be replaced with perfection.

4) The devil's people are condemned

The judgement spoken of here is for unbelievers. Christians will be with Christ.

By God: Followers of the devil will be judged by God. There will be no lawyers – it is God who judges. This will be a fearful thing for those who have opposed God, who will then have to face Him.

Justly: There is a case against these people and God will judge justly. The righteous judgement will come from the righteous judge.

As God's enemies: Those who fight against the purposes of God are His enemies who will share the same destiny as the devil.

Eternally: Those not believing in Jesus will be eternally separated from Him.

These words are difficult to consider and difficult to speak on, but they're in the Bible. Hell is an awful place. The only way out is Jesus. Ask Him to save you. Surrender your life to Him. Repent of your sin and believe in Him. Call on His name and ask Him to save you.

5) The devil's achievements are over

Death and Hades: The devil brought death. The devil is defeated and death and Hades will be thrown into the lake of fire. Death is the most fearful enemy – it's a scary thing – but it will be defeated. As believers we have a great hope, that we will be free from death and from the fear of death once and for all.

Once the damage the devil has caused is restored, chapter 21 can begin – the new Heavens and earth can come.