

In our last podcast, we took a short commercial break to explore some of the passages relating to the millennial kingdom, which is the time between Jesus Second Coming through the end of 1,000-year period when Satan is locked away in the Abyss. As we pick up the *Revelation* narrative, we arrive at the end of the 1,000-year reign.

## EP172 Revelation 20:7-10

### *Satan is Released & Defeated*

#### **Revelation 20:7-10**

And when the thousand years are caused to be ended, the Satan will in the **future** go out from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea.

And they marched up over the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the city caused to being beloved, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, and the devil who is **now** deceiving them was caused to be thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the Beast and the False Prophet were, and they will in the **future** be caused to be tormented day and night forever and ever.

For 1,000-years mankind will have lived in peace under the rulership of Jesus and His wife. Satan has been locked up in the Abyss and the demons have been removed from the earth and held in prison for judgment. There has been no war, no one trained for battle, and justice has prevailed around the earth. No nation has come against another to take what the other has; rather, the peoples of the world have lived in safety and security.

Disputes have been settled justly; and the Lord's princes, the church (His wife), have shepherded and judged the nations in righteousness. People have lived long fulfilling lives enjoying the fruit of their labor. So long as they went to Jerusalem each year for the Festival of Tabernacles and worshiped **Yahweh**, they were provided for in abundance. Jesus assured rain in its season, and He made the earth so fertile that the abundance of crops was guaranteed. Even the animals that previously were dangerous would cause no harm. This was what we would consider to be a perfect earth.

However, even though God reconstructs the eco-system making it possible for man to live on the earth without danger, the one thing He does not reconstruct is the heart of man. No, the heart of man is still dangerous. The heart of man is still corrupt, without good, and self-seeking through and through. In addition, God also does not remove the one thing that is both the bane and the blessing of our existence, and that is choice, our **personal sovereignty**. People will still choose whether they want to worship and obey **Yahweh** or not. People will choose to abide in peace or choose to rebel and pursue evil. Unfortunately, as wonderful as the 1,000-years will be, the heart of man is still bent on wickedness. All it takes is one little nudge and their rebellion, once again, becomes uncaged.

*"And when the thousand years are caused to be ended, the Satan will in the **future** go out from his prison."* Frankly, this is unthinkable. The hateful dragon is finally locked away and completely impotent.

We must ask, why in the world would **Yahweh** release this devil to, once again, wreak havoc on the earth? Especially since He knows exactly what this dragon will do when he is released.

Satan emerges from the Abyss to engage in one final conquest of humanity, one final middle finger to the heavens before his eternal punishment.

What about the demonic hoards, the servants of the dragon? Here is what we know. When Jesus returns, He gathers together the demonic beings that have been occupying the heavenly realms and the Kings of the Earth who have been leading the efforts on the earth, and He confines them in prison, much like Satan being interned in the Abyss.

### ***Isaiah 24:21-23***

So, it will happen in that day, that **Yahweh** will punish the host of heaven on high, and the kings of the earth on earth. They will be gathered together like prisoners in the dungeon and will be confined in prison; and after many days they will be punished. Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, For **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of hosts) will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and His glory will be before His elders.

During the time that Jesus reigns on the earth, these angelic beings are imprisoned awaiting their punishment. No longer will **Yahweh's** glory shine before the hosts of heavens on high, but it will be before His elders, the 24-Elders that is (His wife comprised of Jews and Gentiles). With that said, the reference to Gog and Magog indicates that at least these two Spirit Princes are released from their prison to support Satan's efforts. But we just do not know if there are other bad angels released to provide support to Satan.

## **The Opposer**

When Satan was first tossed into the Abyss, an angel "*laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and the Satan...*"<sup>1</sup> All these various descriptions and titles are used, but the main emphasis was on the dragon, the Leviathan who used his power and force to brutalize and devastate both mankind and the angelic beings he kept down with his tail of deception. But after 1,000 years in prison, it seems that his power has been subdued, and he does not storm out of prison as a mad raging fire breathing dragon ready to stomp on all who stand in his way. Instead, he is referred to as "*the Satan.*" The definite article "*the*" is used to ensure that we do not think this is some other opposer, but it is the same angelic being: the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and the Satan.

With this switch in focus from the dragon to "*the Satan,*" we know that this angelic being will move forward as the one who opposes, the adversary, the deceiver.

One might think that after having been conquered by Jesus, having all his dark and devious plans proven to be futile, and having been exiled for 1,000 years in darkness, that Lucifer's heart might have been filled with even the tiniest particle of remorse. Perhaps his internment was a time of mercy. Perhaps this was his opportunity for repentance; after all, he was not summarily cast into the **Lake of Fire** like the

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<sup>1</sup> ***Revelation 20:1-2***

Beast and the False Prophet.

But no, there is no remorse nor repentance. He remains true to his nature, and he once again sets out to deceive the nations of the world. “... *the Satan will in the **future** go out from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea.*”

Satan’s purposes are fixed. He sets out to deceive and to gather. This has always been his game. He lies, he manipulates, he twists, and he seduces all for the purpose of gathering followers. But as it will be, so it is now. He has nothing to give his followers, he never has. He has no ability to follow through on any of His claims or any of his wicked schemes. He always leads people into a trap, a trap from which none will escape (including himself) – a trap set by **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of Heaven’s Armies).

We should be understanding by now that the dragon, the devil, the Satan, the serpent, the twisted serpent, has been preserved because he is simply a tool to carry out **Yahweh’s Plan-A**. If he really understood this, he would be so humiliated.

## The 4-Corners

“...*the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog,*” This is incredulous. After the battle of Armageddon, how can anyone in the nations believe they can successfully come against the Son of God? The dragon failed before when he had all his armies including his Beast and False Prophet. Why would he, or anyone in the nations think, even for a moment in time, that they might now have success? Perhaps evil is so dark that those who wield it the most fall deepest into its deception. Yes, the deceivers are deceived.

The phrasing of this next statement is very interesting, and we should not just skip over it as colorful prose; by now we should know that in the **Revelation** narrative, the Spirit does not include odd details just as an exercise of poetic license; rather, the details provided by the Spirit always contains a message that He wants us to search out and understand.

### *Let’s Seek.*

- In the description of Jesus’ Second Coming, we were not told that He flattened the earth out from a sphere into a flat square with literal four-corners.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, we should retain the premise that the earth is spherical; however, from anywhere a person stands there is direction that at some point turns, bends, or angles from north to south and from east to west and vice versa. The Greek word “*gonia*” translated as corners comes from “*gonu*” which means the bend of the knee or an angle.
- According to the **Code**, four is the number capturing the expansive features of creation, from the north to the south to the east and to the west.
- The specific phrase “*four corners of the earth*” is used only three (3) times in the entire **Codex**. In addition to our passage in **Revelation 20:8**, this phrase was first used in **Revelation 7:1** when speaking about four angels who had been standing at the four corners of the earth, **now** holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the

<sup>2</sup> See **Isaiah 40:22**; **Job 26:10**; **Proverbs 8:27** for references to the earth being circular and not a flat square.

sea or on any tree. The third reference is found in **Isaiah 11:12** where we are told “*Then in that Day*” (speaking of the millennium) **Yahweh** will gather a remnant of His people (the banished ones of Israel and the dispersed of Judah) from the four corners of the earth – i.e., from north to south to east and to the west.

- The inclusion of “*Gog and Magog*” in effect modifies the sentence to give us the context of these “*nations*” that “*are at {or in} the four corners of the earth.*” Satan will deceive the nations, identified by Gog and Magog, who are at or in the four corners of the earth. This inclusion is specific so that we do not fall into the trap of thinking that the Spirit is addressing all the nations of the earth. Rather, only those nations, Gog and Magog, that are at or in the four corners of the earth.
- We were first introduced to Gog and Magog when they came against the Lamb at the battle of Armageddon. They led their armies, and a collection of sympathetic nations, into a trap, a bloody slaughter, which according to the **Codex** will take seven years to bury all the dead.<sup>3</sup>
- Gog is identified as the Spirit Prince over the land of Magog and the Chief Prince (“*Rosh*”), of Meshech and Tubal (the Russian provinces, including their extensions in Syria, and Turkey). Like the Prince of Persia, the Prince of Greece, the Prince of the Sons of Israel, Gog is an angel of the highest ranks.<sup>4</sup>
- According to Josephus, an ancient and noted Jewish historian and scholar (born just after the time of Jesus’ death), Magog describes the Scythians, a group of nomadic tribes living in the provinces north of the Black Sea (right above modern-day Turkey) extending to what we know today as the countries of Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, Southern Russia, and Georgia.

#### **Pulling all these pieces together, what can we surmise?**

The idea of a Spirit Prince is that there are angelic entities who magistrate their ways and philosophy to the Kings of the Earth on the earth, and to the other demonic entities which rule over specified territories, all of which flows down to their human counterparts and subjects.

With the identification of Gog primarily with the land of Magog, looking back in modern history, we can understand that this Spirit Prince has utilized the blasphemous doctrine of atheism spread through communistic ideology to rule over the spirits and people in the land of Magog, Meshech, and Tubal. Communism, especially as developed by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, rejects the existence of God and views religion as a human-made construct. Marx famously referred to religion as the “opium of the people,” arguing that it was a tool used to keep the working-class passive and resigned to their exploitation.

Though beginning in modern day Russia with the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, led by Vladimir Lenin, this godless philosophy has spread to the four corners of the earth, to such places as:

- China
- Mongolia
- North Korea

<sup>3</sup> See **Ezekiel 39:4-6, 17-20**

<sup>4</sup> See **Daniel 10:13, 20, 12:1**

- Yugoslavia
- Vietnam
- Poland
- Czechoslovakia
- East Germany
- Hungary
- Romania
- Bulgaria
- Albania
- Cuba
- Laos
- Cambodia (Kampuchea)
- Angola
- Mozambique
- Ethiopia
- South Yemen
- Nicaragua

This list includes countries that became communist through revolutions, coups, or independence movements. Some of these countries have since moved away from communistic influence, while others experienced short-lived communist governments. The end of the Cold War in 1991 led to the collapse of many of these regimes, but some, like China, North Korea, Cuba, and Vietnam, remain communist today. And even though some of these regimes have since become democratic in form, the impact and influence of communism and atheism still has a stronghold on the thoughts and beliefs of many of their people.

Perhaps “...*the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog,*” is a **Code** that describes those people living in lands across the globe that despite Jesus coming to His people and establishing His throne in Jerusalem, hold to a humanistic ideology that emphasizes human agency operating in a collective rather than relying on divine intervention, or in the case of the millennium, divine authority. Perhaps this identifies the remnant of those with communistic tendencies who believe the lies proffered by the Spirit Prince Gog.

If so, this answers a question that many have struggled to answer. What about communist China? Why are they not directly included in Biblical prophecy. So many countries and people groups which exist today are identified in the Biblical narrative, including Russia, Iran, Syria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Greece, Turkey, Ethiopia, and so on. But China, who is one of the major world powers of our day and strongest enforcers of communism and atheism, is not directly identified. Perhaps, they are part of this group of nations dispersed across the four corners of the earth who are ruled by Gog of Magog.

Throughout the **Codex**, Gog and those from the land of Magog are prophetically reserved for battle and set aside for destruction because they are purposed (**Plan-A**) to come against **Yahweh**, against God’s holy land, and against God’s holy people. In the first battle, this evil was defeated at Armageddon. In this second battle, their army is massive, numbered like the sand of the sea.

## What is Going On?

### *Revelation 20:7-8*

And when the thousand years are caused to be ended, the Satan will in the **future** go out from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea.

Consider that with all the excuses of victimhood being removed, even when living under perfect conditions, man's heart is proven to still be filled with rebellion. God lives amongst the peoples of the earth. He keeps the peace and provides in abundance. The normal toil and struggle that has accompanied human existence is removed. The **curse** received in Eden is temporarily abated. The only remaining issue is the absolute corruption that exists deep within the heart of man. In fact, all it takes is one little nudge and mankind will once again arrogantly oppose and strike against God and the people of God, just like he has always done.

It seems that in one way or another mankind has always tried to fight against God. This has been demonstrated in the persecution against the bondservants of God, the hatred for Israel, and the intellectual assaults against God's existence as well as His active involvement in the affairs of man. It has been the same story in every generation.

It is ironic that man's fight has always somehow been cloaked in goodness, and he even expects to be judged on a scale where his good deeds are compared to his bad deeds (fingers crossed the good outweighs the bad). Therefore, God provides the perfect opportunity for man to prove out his goodness. He set up the perfect government with the perfect leaders, a perfect living environment, and a long enough time for man to prove out his self-proclaimed goodness. But the problem is that there is no true goodness in man.

### *Romans 3:10-18*

There **now** is none righteous, no, not one; there **now** is no one who is **now** understanding; no one is **now** seeking for God. All have turned aside; together they have been caused to become worthless; there **now** is no one is **now** doing good, not **now** even one.

Their throat has been caused to being an open grave; they have used their tongues to deceive. The venom of asps is under their lips. Their mouth is **now** full of curses and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths, ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known. There **now** is no fear of God before their eyes.<sup>5</sup>

No matter how many times man has proved that there is ultimately nothing good in him, he has fought

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<sup>5</sup> Note: in this statement the Spirit pulls sequentially from *Psalms 14:1-3, 53:1-3, 5-9, 140:3, 10:7; Isaiah 59:7-8; Psalm 36:1*

and fought and fought for his own goodness. The level of personal and communal delusion in mankind is beyond comprehension. Over-and-over again history has proven that man's goodness is nothing but a fanciful fiction.

For example, based on the timeline in George Kohn's Dictionary of Wars, from 2,925 B.C. until now, there has never been an unbroken period of hostility between one people group and another.<sup>6</sup> Today, there are several sources and databases that track global conflicts, including the Uppsala Conflict Data Program and the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project. These sources consistently indicate that there has been no period of complete global peace, as conflicts, whether large-scale wars, civil wars, or smaller armed confrontations, have always persisted somewhere in the world.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries alone, it is estimated that over 200 million people have been killed because of war. These statistics are reflective of the human condition. No one is righteous. No one does good. As a result, everyone deserves judgment.

In part, this truth is beautiful. It shows us why we need God to be our **I AM** always in everything. It also supports why we should deal with each other based on God's mercy, grace, and forgiveness because if any of us received what we really deserved, we would be burnt toast. Thankfully, God has not dealt with us based upon our sin but based on His blood which was poured out as a sacrifice for our sin. Thus, we obtain mercy even though we don't deserve it. The grace of God is a beautiful thing.<sup>7</sup>

## It's Battle Time

Satan will deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. Even though Satan no longer has the Beast and the False Prophet to deceive mankind, he is still the great deceiver. Just imagine, during the 1,000 years that he will be locked in the Abyss, Satan will spend his time scheming, strategizing, and plotting exactly how he is going to deceive the nations, Gog and Magog, to rebel against Jesus. It will probably be all he thinks about.

Satan will emerge with a plan, and he will focus on those nations, those people groups, who have been lied to by the Spirit Prince Gog and remind them that they can be better off if they were to rule, if humanity decided for themselves what is best for them, and so on. What is shocking however is that the numbers who come to war are so staggering that they can only be described as the sand of the sea. They are essentially innumerable. Satan is once again ready to deceive, and people are ready to be deceived.

After 1,000 years, it seems that people will have forgotten the story, they will have forgotten their prior condition under the rule of Satan, the Beast, the False Prophet, the Harlot, and the hordes of demonic spirits. The pouring out of the great wrath of God in judgment will be a tale for legends and folklore. The generations that did not live during the time of Jesus' Second Coming will wonder if the story is true, if Jesus is really God or if He is just another in a long line of oppressors who want things done His way and only His way. After all, that is the long-drawn-out tale of humanity: one oppressor after another. Humanity it seems will be unsatisfied being ruled by those who have in their hands the "rod of iron," that unbending demand and threat that everyone must do only what Jesus wants, or else.

<sup>6</sup> George Kohn's Dictionary of Wars was originally published in 1968 and most recently updated in 2007.

<sup>7</sup> See **Psalm 103:1-18**. See also **1 Peter 2:10**

Then add to the mix the unchanging rebellion and pride that is inherent to the heart of man, and the combination is toxic. The numbers of those coming to war against Jesus and His wife are as innumerable as the sand on the sea.

***Revelation 20:9***

And they marched up over the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the city caused to be beloved, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them ...

## The March

When the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) Bowl of Wrath was poured out on the earth, there was a great earthquake that terrorized humanity and fundamentally changed the landscape of the earth. We were told that the cities of the nation's fell, and every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.<sup>8</sup> With the mountains being leveled, the earth is now much more like a broad plain making it easier for this vast army to advance for war across the breadth of the earth.

Their objective is of course Mount Zion in Jerusalem, where Jesus set up His throne and where the holy one's camp. The wrath of Satan has always been focused on the city caused to be loved and the people who dwell therein. Afterall:

***Psalms 87:2***

**Yahweh** loves the gates of Zion more than all the other dwelling places of Jacob.

***Psalms 78:67-69***

He also rejected the tent of Joseph, and did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, but chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He loved. And He built His sanctuary like the heights, like the earth, which He has founded forever.

Unlike at the Second Coming, this time there is not even a battle. These of the nations, Gog and Magog, march up and surround the city where Jesus dwells and where His people are encamped, "*... but fire came down from heaven and consumed them.*"

## The Consuming Fire of Destruction

Throughout the **Codex**, God seems to be big on "suddenly" – seemingly waiting until the last moment to act. But when He does act, it is decisive and exacting. Before this mass of humanity led by Gog and Magog could do anything against Jesus or His people, fire comes down from heaven and consumes them—

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<sup>8</sup> ***Revelation 16:17-21***



literally devours them as in to eat them up. What were they even thinking?

Jesus once said, "*I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I **now** wish it was already caused to be kindled!*"<sup>9</sup> Perhaps He was speaking about this very time when the old will be destroyed to make way for the new.

## The Devil's Ultimate Demise

### **Revelation 20:10**

... and the devil who is **now** deceiving them was caused to be thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the Beast and the False Prophet were, and they will in the **future** be caused to be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Finally, the devil gets his eternal comeuppance. He is thrown into the **Lake of Fire** and sulfur (also referred to as "brimstone") where the Beast and the False Prophet had been thrown immediately before the millennial period during the first war led by Gog and Magog.

The entire lot will all be tormented day and night forever and ever or literally "*to the ages of ages.*" This is the horror of eternity without Jesus. Life does not end; it just continues in torment forever and ever and ever. This is a place where existence is defined by the wailing and gnashing of teeth.<sup>10</sup>

Is there day and night in the **Lake of Fire**? It is not likely, but it is a word picture to communicate the unrelenting torment. It will never stop, no how, no way. This torment is unceasing.

## **WARNING**

With the use of the *present active participle*, "*the devil who is **now deceiving** them,*" the Spirit brings fair warning to all who live, as He did to all who have ever lived in every time and epoch. Satan is always—even now—actively deceiving humanity. This is a reality. God is crying out, once again, for humanity to wake up, understand what is happening, and to turn from their deception and choose to follow the living God before it is too late.

## **Now It's The Devil**

The *dragon* was seized and throne into the Abyss, the *Satan* the opposer was released from prison and went out to deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, but now the Spirit brings our attention back to the "Slanderer," the "Accuser," the *devil*.

The Greek word we have translated as "devil" is "*diablos*" and it comes from the word "*diaballo*" which literally means to be the channel ("*dia*") to throw violently ("*ballo*"), which figuratively means to traduce: to expose another to shame or blame by means of falsehood and misrepresentation. That is why we identified the devil as the one who accuses God to us, us to God, us to another, another to us, and of

<sup>9</sup> **Luke 12:49**

<sup>10</sup> **Matthew 8:12, 13:42, 50, 22:13, 24:51, 25:30; Luke 13:28**

course, us to ourselves. He is constantly the channel by which accusation and slander is thrown.

The Spirit's use of the "*devil*" instead of the "*Satan*" gives us understanding of how the nations at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, are deceived. As the devil, he brings accusation against Jesus, against the wife of Jesus, against their rule, against their control, against their character, and most likely against even the thought that Jesus is God to be feared. More than likely he convinces them that Jesus is just a man, and a man with whom they can and need to contend.

The **Codex** addresses the devil's **Ultimate Demise** in several passages. We are told that **Yahweh** will punish Leviathan, the fleeing serpent, and kill the dragon who lives in the sea.<sup>11</sup> He will be cast of his tomb, like a rejected branch, clothed with the slain, and trampled like a corpse.<sup>12</sup> The imagery used to communicate his demise is very poignant: "*Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; it has consumed you, and I have turned you to ashes on the earth In the eyes of all who see you. All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have become terrified, and you will cease to be forever.*"<sup>13</sup>

Satan was convinced he would ascend the mountain of God and sit in the seat of **Yahweh**. Well, he got that one wrong. Fire came down from heaven and devoured all the rebels, and it is at this time that the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and the Satan, is judged and condemned to the **Lake of Fire and Brimstone**, where he joins the Beast and the False Prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever, to the ages of the ages.

In the very next scene, the Spirit takes us to the final judgment for all who have ever lived. We call this the **Great White Throne Judgment**. This is a place where you do not want to be found.

Let's stop here and in our next podcast we will pick back up with our Text in **Revelation 20** where the millennial period comes to completion and the Spirit takes us to the final judgment for all who have ever lived. More specifically, the judgment of all who are not the wife of Christ.

I am glad you "tuned in" and have been "ready to listen."

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<sup>11</sup> **Isaiah 27:1**

<sup>12</sup> **Isaiah 14:19**. Note: The King of Babylon is used as a metaphor for Satan

<sup>13</sup> **Ezekiel 28:18-19**. Note: The King of Tyre is used as a metaphor for Satan.