

## Revelation\_20

Let us turn again our heart and mind to the bliss and abundance in the chapter 19. As we hear the great voice of much people in Heaven, our heart, mind, soul and, even, our body echo with our Lord's salvation, glory and power. Beholding our God's righteousness and uncompromising divine justice fills our soul with 'Amen! Alleluia!' We hear His sound voice. We follow the prophets, apostles, the multitude of the faithful witnesses – all of them led by our Master's Spirit, and the martyrs carried in the arms of our crucified Lamb of God, our risen Savior and our glorified Lord of lords. Examples, testimonies and praises of that multitude flow from their souls to ours; praises excel from whispers to rolling thunders. We rejoice and honor the Almighty Lamb of God! We are a part of His Bride eagerly putting on the splendor of His righteousness; bravely despising the ignorance of the slaves in darkness; although they see us only as hopeless and aimless sufferers. The world of enticements and dangers has become a short battle only; before the everlasting triumph. The Heaven is opened before us and the FAITHFUL and TRUE reveals Himself in glory and bliss: we see Him as the Living WORD of GOD! As we behold Him as He is in reality: our KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS, right here & now - in our sight – the beast, the earthly rulers are thrown into the lake of fire. Their armies of slaves blinded by their false prophet are slain by His sword: their flesh is devoured by their own abominations – the worship of the wicked dragon and beast. These rich revelations prepare us to behold the next unveiling of the mysteries beyond perception and belief of blind sinners. To Christ's Bride the splendor and bliss of our Bridegroom's glory are an overwhelming power lifting us from death to life in Christ and from dust to glory; all because He desired to rescue us from hell and to give us life forever.

**1]** And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. **2]** And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a

thousand years, **3]** And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. **4]** 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. **5]** But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. **6]** Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. **7]** And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, **8]** And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. **9]** And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. **10]** And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever. **11]** And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. **12]** And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. **13]** And the sea gave up the dead who were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead who were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. **14]** And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. \This is the second death. **15]** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

**1-3]** I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, cast him into the bottomless pit, shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

To form some perception who is this angel, what his significance and the scope of his representation are, I'd like to take a brief reflection at the angels we 'met' already in this book. In 1: 1, the angel serves our Lord Jesus in bringing Christ's Revelation to His servant John. In 1: 20 and the chapters 2 and 3 are the seven angels 'of the churches' – Christ's ministers. In 5: 2 a strong angel proclaims the question: Who is worthy... In 5: 11 a multitude of angels is around the throne as if leading the chorus of multitudes glorifying the Father and the Son. 7: 1&2 are the 4 angels holding back the destruction of the earthly environment and, the 5<sup>th</sup> angel to seal the Israel's children for the Living God - before the awful destruction. In 8: 2 we meet the 7 angels with trumpets. From 8: 6 – 9: 1, five of the 7 angels trumpeted. In 9: 13 the 6<sup>th</sup> angel sounds the triple "Woe" of the destruction. In 10: 1-7 a mighty angel announces the fulfillment of prophecies. He gives a little book to John - to digest. He tells John to measure God's temple, altar and worshipers; but not the outside court [11: 1-2]. In 11: 15 the 7<sup>th</sup> angel signals the proclamation of Christ's victory, everlasting reign in praise &, His reward to His saints. In 12: 7-9 Michael's angels battle against the dragon and his angels. In 14: 6-7 the angel of the everlasting Gospel leads a group of 6 angels: three before & three after the appearance of "the Son of man sitting on a white cloud having a sickle". In 15: 1 is a great sign: 7 angels having the 7 last plagues. In the # 5-6 the 7 angels come out of the heavenly temple. In 18: 1 the earth is lightened with the glory of a powerful angel proclaiming the fall of the great Babylon. In the # 21 another mighty angel by casting a great stone into the sea demonstrates the violent overthrow of the evil city, Babylon. In 19: 17 an angel standing in the sun loudly invites all the fowls to

feast upon the carcasses of discomfited armies and their kings – the followers of the beast and his false prophet. All these **angels glorify our King** of kings and **Lord** of lords, **proclaim His Gospel**, **assist His** redeemed and faithful **Flock**, battle against the hordes of evil and bring God's revelation. Some of them are **heavenly residents**; others are **Christ's messengers and ministers** of His Word **in the world**. Some angels appear as our God's power and a presentation or vision of particular parts in His purpose: **glory to the Father and Son** in our God's redemption of obedient and in our God's justice toward stubborn rebels. **See angels and ministers as chain-links**. They all participate in battling and **binding the devil** – as our Captain of the entire host appoints each one. The entire chain is not as weak as the weakest link in it. This **chain** is strong, **unbreakable**, because of **Christ's power** in His entire testimony. In His love He places on our shoulders our burdens. **He calls us** to deny our carnality and to embrace His call. [Matthew 16: 24; Mark 8: 35 & 10: 21 and Luke 9: 24] **His call is not depriving** us of any lasting wealth and pleasure. **He liberates us** from our self and selfishness to enable us to feast on the 'Manna from above' and on the 'Bread of Life'. He is our **Fountain** of **purification** and refreshing **living water**. In the wilderness of the world in sin, **He is our Tree of Life**. This angel with **the great chain and the key of the bottomless pit** in his hand represents the entire Gospel proclamation and **every link in the testimony of the faithful**: patriarchs, prophets, beggars and kings, apostles, martyrs and witnesses. When we **walk** in the power of Christ's Spirit, we **receive** Him. He gives us power to be the children of God: **we believe on His Name**; we are **born, not of blood**, nor of the will of the **flesh**, nor of the will of **man**, but **of God** [John 1:12-13]. Please look into Matthew 12: 28-29. *If I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the **kingdom of God is come** unto you. Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he **first bind** the strong man? Then he will spoil his house.* Now, look into 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10: 4-6. *The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the*

*knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ – our King of kings. Look in [R] 18: 1-2: I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. He cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen...! The angel in 20: 1 is just an angel, yet in his hand is the key of the bottomless and the great chain; he performs a great task by the power of Christ... Remember the two ‘small’ witnesses with the great testimonies? One is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 5:2. The Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife. She said unto her mistress: Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! He would recover him of leprosy... Through the testimony of this “little maid” our Lord’s glory was spread far away – outside the land of Israel. The other example is in 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 3:1&10. The child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision. 10] The LORD came, and stood, and called: Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant hears. Through the ministry of Samuel the nation of Israel was restored to the worship of our Lord. Remember the two coins of the poor widow in Mark 12: 42&43? There came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, two little coins. Our Lord calls unto him his disciples, and says unto them: Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow has cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury... The mighty, creative and saving power of our King’s Spirit is in every testimony He generates & accomplishes. In the [R] chapter 9 the falling star uses the key of the bottomless to release so much evil. In these 1<sup>st</sup> 3 verses [R 20], the faithful messenger uses the same key to cast the Enemy into the pit and to seal him. In 7: 3 is the seal of grace; here [R 20: 1] is the seal of everlasting condemnation. The seal is our God’s order, appointment, or, His permitted consequences of sins. Now let us search the significance and meaning of the number thousand. In many places of the Scriptures the meaning is literal. In a significant number of passages the meaning is symbolic or it means “very many”. The Revelation-Book*

**contains many, many symbols.** I'd like to explore a few **examples of other than literal meaning** of the word **thousand**. In Exodus 20:6: *Our LORD is showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Him, and keep His commandments.* In Leviticus 26:8 our God promises a blessing to the faithful: Five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put **ten thousand** to flight: your enemies shall fall before you by the sword. In Deuteronomy 7: 9 we read: the LORD God keeps covenant & mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a **thousand generations**... In 32: 30 is another example: How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight... Joshua speaks to encourage Israel in 23: 10: One man of you shall chase a thousand... In 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 18: 7 women answered one another - as they played, and said: Saul has slain his **thousands**, and David his **ten thousands**. In the Psalm 50: 10 our God speaks: Every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a **thousand hills**. The prophet Micah in 6: 7 says: *Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil?* In many places in the Psalms & prophets the word thousand indicates just a large number; not necessarily an exact sum. Thousand years could mean a long but not precisely indicated time-period. God's Lamb bound Satan long ago [R 17: 8]. If the devil had been free to work out his wicked intensions, nothing could have been accomplished in the Name of Christ. Millions of sinners are not bound in the bottomless pit and they worship Satan's image in sins and blasphemies. All the faithful children of our Heavenly Father in Christ and we - His children in need of corrections - suffer because our Lord loves us; He permits us to suffer for a good testimony, for our correction and for our growing in the faith and knowledge of God's Son. If the Adversary has not been bound, limited, none of us would endure physically or spiritually. God reigns! Our Lord confirms the martyrdom of our brother Abel and condemns the murderer. By God's placing the rainbow in clouds, by Melchizedek's blessing to Abram, by accepting Abraham's offering, by many other signs and wonders, the Almighty God, the Father and the Son, testify that the Holy Spirit reigns in the heart of His godly worshipers. He is the One

having power to bind the old serpent, the dragon. Never before was that binding of Satan manifested as in our Savior's ministry before, during and after His crucifixion. His outpouring the power and anointing of His Holy Spirit bound the devil and sealed him in the bottomless pit in their heart and in their daily walk in steady obedience to His will. They reigned with Christ on the earth and our Lord turned all the stumbling blocks into the stepping stones and obstacles into opportunities, dungeons into the places of bright revelation, persecutions into brilliant testimonies, and martyrdoms into triumphant entries into glory... Forever He reigns and on His head are multitudes of crowns [R 19: 12]! In Leviticus 25 Israel was given the 7-year Sabbath. Seven times 7-year Sabbaths would bring them to the 50<sup>th</sup> year: the Year of Jubilee when all were to be graced with giving and receiving liberty. Sadly, they never obeyed God's Word. His Living Word, the brightness of His glory, and the express Image of His Person [Hebrews 1: 3], came as a humble servant. In Luke 4:18 He declared it: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, [19] to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. [21] ...Today is this fulfilled. He declared that He has been sent and they, not only disobeyed, but also violently rebelled against the only Redeemer. On the 50<sup>th</sup> Day, He fulfilled the promise! The trumpet of Everlasting Jubilee, Christ's Eternal Sabbath dawned upon us! Not only 7 times 7, but 10 times 10 times 10! Thousand Years, endless reign of Christ & His saints is manifested on the earth! Thousand times He fulfills His Father's pleasure! Thousand times He saves all who trust and obey Him! Thousand times He binds the devil! This is our glorious King of kings and Lord of lords! This is our Heavenly Bridegroom; the longing of our souls! What about Satan's release afterward? This is our sad part of the entire deal. Our faithfulness is not 10x10x10. We ought always to **strive, pray and long for full obedience**. We must never deceive ourselves thinking that we are rich. Remember Revelation 3: 17? *Because **you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and***

*have need of nothing; and know not that **you are wretched**, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked...* Remember some of the “seven churches”? 2: 4] *...thou hast left thy first love... repent, and do the first works... 2:14] you have them that hold the doctrine of Balaam ...to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. 2: 15] you have the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which I hate. 2: 20] you suffer that Jezebel, false prophetess, to seduce my servants to fornicate and sacrificed to idols. 3: 1] I know your works; you have a name that you live, and are dead... I have not found your works perfect before God. 3:15] you are neither cold nor hot: I would you were cold or hot; on and on... Whenever we relax our hold of our Master, whenever we neglect His Thousand Year in our heart and daily walk, we let the powers of darkness lose against us. For the obedient servants here is 3: 22] *He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches.* As soon as we are told: Repent, rush back to our Lord! Let not Satan deceive us any longer! Make the lose season as short as possible. O, Lord God our Father in Christ, deliver us from our darkness by Thy bright Revelation. Grant us unity in Thy Holy Spirit. Bless us in Thy loving Lordship that we live for Thy pleasure, labor fervently, and rejoice in Christ, our eternal Ransom.*

**4-5]** 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. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. At the end of the verse 5 is the sentence: ‘This is the first resurrection.’ It refers back to the verse 4. What thrones we read about in the verse 4? Who are *they* that *sat upon them*; upon the thrones? Is their judgment justifying, condemning others, or, do they judge in the sense of discernment? I think most of thrones are seats; but not every seat is a throne. In Matthew 19: 28 our Lord Jesus teaches his disciples: *Verily I say unto you that you which have followed me, in the regeneration when*



*the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.* I would suggest you to listen to my expounding on that verse in the Gospel according to Matthew. In Luke 22: 28-30 our Lord adds to the same subject: *You are they which have continued with me in my temptations. 29] and I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; 30] that ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.* In Ephesians 2: 4-6 is also something very interesting. *God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, **has quickened us** together with Christ, (by grace you are saved;) and **has raised us up** together, and made us sit together in heavenly places **in Christ Jesus**...* In [R] 3: 21 our Lord says: *To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.* These words include no idea of our own earthly throne... In [R] 4: 4 we see *round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.* In [R] 11: 16-17 we see them “**judging**”: *The four and twenty elders fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, saying: **We give Thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty**, which art, and was, and art to come; because **Thou** hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast **reigned**.* In Luke 17: 20-21 our Lord Jesus was demanded of the Pharisees: *When the kingdom of God should come, he answered them: The kingdom of God comes not with observation: neither shall they say: Lo here! Or, lo there! For, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.* In Acts 1: 6 just before our Lord ascended, the disciples ask Him about ‘kingdom to Israel’. *Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?* In 7-8 *He said unto them: It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But **you shall receive power**, after that the **Holy Ghost** is come **upon you**: and you shall **be witnesses** unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.* These words reveal the nature of the New Israel and the reign of our King **with** His saints. Instead of desiring

to 'alter the heavenly calendar', we pray for the laborers in our Lord's harvest. In Luke 10: 2-3 He says unto us: *The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray you therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth laborers into His harvest. Go your ways: behold, **I send you forth as lambs among wolves. God's Lamb reigns!*** Even a giant, as our God made the prophet Elijah to be, manifested frustration and desired to leave the fierce battle. In the 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 19: 4-8 *he went into the wilderness, and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. As he laid and slept under the tree, behold, an angel touched him and said unto him: Arise and eat. And behold, there was a cake baked on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat, drink and lay down again. The angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. He arose, and did eat and drink. **He went forty days and nights unto God's mount - Horeb. God's Lamb reigns!*** Our King reigns in the entire universe! All the forces of evil crumble into dust and ashes at His appointed time. Lord Jesus Christ reigns in His Gospel proclamation and ours; if His Spirit guides and corrects us. He reigns in suffering – His and ours. He reigns in the death of His martyrs and faithful disciples. He reigns in Gethsemane & on Golgotha. He never fails. Christ's Spirit and His Word of Life and Truth give us discernment to love and embrace our Father's good pleasure and to abhor His displeasure. In [R] 1: 5-6 *Jesus Christ, the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth loves us, and washes us from our sins in his own blood, and **He has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father.*** In [R] 5: 9-10 *the four beasts and four and twenty elders sing a new song, saying, Thou hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.* As He did reign in this world while He ministered in the flesh, so **we** are appointed to **walk in the light of His teaching and reign with Him in the midst of adversities by His power in our walk.** In Romans 8:16-17 *The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs of God, and joint-heirs*

*with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.* 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:12 tell us: *all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.* The apostles reigned with Christ. They reigned in fervent labor and patient suffering and our Lord Jesus is glorified in them forever. As He prayed in Gethsemane: Father, not my will, but thine, be done [Luke 22: 42], they followed His example and we are called to do the same. The souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. **They were not** the blind and fearful slaves of the beast – the worshippers of his image. Saints' thousand year reign was Christ's salvation in their daily walk 10 X 10 X 10 victorious against all the fury and cruelty of the dragon. When our Savior carried them through their martyrdom their souls lived - on and on - reigning with their beloved Bridegroom. In John 11:25-26 our Lord Jesus says unto Martha [and to us]: I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believes in me, though he was dead, yet shall he live: whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die. This is the first resurrection. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. Revelation 11: 2-3 *the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot **forty and two months.** I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a **thousand two hundred and threescore days,** clothed in sackcloth.* These periods point to our Savior's Gospel-ministry. He continues His work through His disciples. His Gospel calls to repentance, so its garment is sackcloth. **Because it is the same Gospel He preached and witnessed, the entire Gospel-time is symbolized by forty and two months or twelve hundred and sixty days. The thousand year reign with Christ also points to the entire time of Gospel ministry.** [R] 12: 5 in a few words tells the Gospel: She brought forth a man child: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. The souls of men died in Adam and in Christ they are raised into His new life; this is the first resurrection: **trusting and obeying** our **Heavenly Father revealed** to us **in His** beloved and only begotten **Son.** *The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.*

The impenitent stubborn rebels reject our God's grace 10 X 10 X 10; all the time. Our Lord Jesus testifies in *John 3: 18: He that believes in Jesus is not condemned. He that believes not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.* Our Creator waits patiently until His appointed time; until the last one of His redeemed will cast himself at our Saviors feet, to get delivered from sin-slavery. We must remain prayerful and on guard [first and foremost] that **His love** for the Father's pleasure **fill our heart** always.

**6]** Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. Rescued from the power of sin we **live in Christ and so we reign with Him**. Prisoners have greater wealth and liberty in Christ than tyrants in fear of overthrow. Saved beggars become treasurers of His gifts. Joseph, a slave, becomes a governor of the empire. Daniel in captivity shakes the thrones and replaces emperors. Paul in shackles presents the Gospel to the rulers. The evil spirits that firmly grip the hearts of mighty rulers, by the apostles are cast out of their helpless victims. God's Lamb reigns forever & His redeemed reign with Him. Our Lord tells us in Luke 10: 20: Rejoice, your names are written in heaven; such blessedness! Blessed and holy are all who trust and obey God's Son and follow Him unconditionally and permanently. Living in Christ in this world is our blessed ministry. Leaving our [dead] body is our transfer into His glory. **Unity in Christ is life eternal**. Our Lord teaches us our priestly service in Matthew 5:44: *Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you*[6: 9-13], and for our godly life and testimony. 9: 38: pray for Christ's laborers; 17:21 for casting out evil, 19: 13 for Christ's blessings upon children; 21: 13 for godly order in our congregations; 24: 20 for timely deliverance of the redeemed; 26: 39 for our prayers to be in His Spirit; 41: that we do not enter into temptation; 44: to endure following Him to His goal; 54: that the Scripture be fulfilled in all... This verse [6] ends with the

same words: “reign with Him a thousand years”. All the genuine children of the Covenant, the faithful disciples of the Everlasting Gospel of salvation in Christ, reign with Him all the days, or years, of their battle and, forever in glory. As our Master works wholly, solely and forever His Father’s pleasure, so we can do only His will. That is the kind of reign we have with our Redeemer: nothing of our private interest, carnal intension, vain ambition, nothing of satanic design regardless of his craftiest disguise. The “thousand year reign” of Christ’s Spirit in our heart, mind, soul and daily walk should never expire, but it did expire many times in the history of faith and unfaithfulness. The reign of Solomon is a very stark example. Some believers in the [R] 2 and 3 did not keep their reign with Christ as constant and permanent as it should have been. In 2: 4 first love was forsaken; 14 doctrine of Balaam and teaching of Nicolaitans crept in, 20 the wicked Jezebel managed to introduce immorality and idolatry. Satan was loose among them. In the [R] 3: 1 some believers proudly display an empty name but in reality they are spiritually dead. They have turned away from the reign with Christ and they allowed Satan’s reign under a disguise of false godliness. In # 15-16 some leaders had lukewarm practice but proudly professed we are rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing... They let the devil loose against their souls... But our Lord’s Spirit told them the facts: they are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. Israel never recovered their blessings of Jehovah’s reign. Their kingdom was destroyed like all devices and structures of satanic design. Satan is a complete looser and all that follow him must share consequences of iniquity.

**7]** When the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison... This catastrophe happened to every believer or group of believers that turned away from genuine unity in Christ’s Spirit to nominal – empty – religion. Some of the last speeches of Moses are in Deuteronomy. The chapter 32 tells how Israel ended their “thousand year reign” by letting Satan loose against them. In the # 43 we see that for some of them the

wicked enemy was 'loosed a little season'. The reign of Solomon is a very stark example. Enjoying safety, prosperity and multitude of our God's blessings, Solomon neglected faithfulness and violated our Lord's commandments. Solomon's disobedience to our God loosed Satan and endangered Solomon personally and also his entire kingdom. Judah shifted from godliness to idolatry and back on and on. Israel never recovered from gross idolatry in spite of prophecy of Elijah, Elisha and Micaiah, our God's faithful prophets. In my short and limited monitoring of believers I have seen groups of earnest disciples gradually drifting from the "thousand year reign with Christ" into worldliness and carnality of the worldly and nominal religions. When their Enemy, the devil, turned "loose" against their spiritual welfare and unity in our Lord's Spirit, some among them were alarmed and repented; **their time** of satanic oppression and onslaught was "for a little season". Many impenitent perished in sin.

**8-9]** *Satan* shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. The four quarters represent the whole earth – the entire world. Satan is just doing what he always did. He turned murderous Cain against the righteous Abel, the perverted Sodomites against the angels visiting Lot, gentile nations against Israel, corrupted kings against faithful prophets, godless Hebrews and gentile rulers against early Christians and a great part of today's world against true faith in Christ. His deceptive friendship is even more dangerous. That is clearly manifested in the time before the great flood: intermarriages did not bring 'the sons of men' closer to God but did intensify corruption of the nominal 'sons of God'. The words 'nations in the four quarters of the earth' give us the definition of **Gog** and **Magog**, but these two names are pointing back to the old Scriptures - for our understanding... In *Genesis 10: 1*] are the generations of the sons of **Noah**,

*Shem, Ham, and Japheth: and unto them were sons born after the flood.*

2] *The sons of Japheth: Gomer, **Magog**, Madai, Javan, **Tubal**, **Meshech**, and Tiras. In the 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 1: 51 is a record of the sons of Japheth: Gomer, **Magog**, Madai, Javan, **Tubal**, **Meshech**, and Tiras. In Ezekiel 27: 13 is this record: Javan, **Tubal**, and **Meshech**, were thy merchants: they traded the persons of men and vessels of brass in thy market. Ezekiel 32: 26 there is **Meshech**, **Tubal**, and all her multitude: her graves are round about him: all uncircumcised, slain by the sword, though they caused their **terror** in the land **of the living**. 38: 1-3 the word of the LORD came unto me: Son of man, set thy face against **Gog**, the land of **Magog**, the **chief prince of Meshech and Tubal**, and prophesy **against him**. Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, **I am against thee, O Gog**, the **chief prince of Meshech and Tubal**... Ezekiel 39: 2-6 I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel: I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand. **Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands**... I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken it, says the Lord GOD. And I will send a **fire on Magog**, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD.*

Reading through all these chapters we can see a pattern. **Noah** was the **godly man** elected to be **the father of the new world**. Japheth was a son in this godly family. Japheth's sons, **Meshech** and **Tubal**, became a mighty multitude of idolatrous people; **Gog** became their **leader**. To them, man's life is only merchandise. They are enemies of Israel and subject to our God's judgment. Fire from God shall devour them. "Fire from God" devoured the slaves of our adversary many times after the heat of our testing and trials were ended. The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the Day of Judgment to be punished: but chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government [2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:9-10]. The cities of the plain were destroyed with fire and brimstone [Genesis 19:

24]. Pharaoh's armies died in the Red Sea [Exodus 14: 28]. Assyrian armies were destroyed without visible fire or water; [2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 19: 35] but it was a clear sign of our God's judgment. Peter's prison guards were killed by their own ruler [Acts 12: 19]. There were many judgment-signs. The final fire of God will be the greatest and the hottest. The heavens and the earth, which are now, are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men [2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3: 7]. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought we to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat [11-12]? The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to punish the unjust... All sinners are deceived to battle against our Lord and so were we until He delivered us from the power of darkness. They all besiege the Beloved City and so did we until we were captured by the Spirit of the Savior we battled against. The Beloved City is the Fellowship of faith in the Son of God, our Master and Lord; although many children are scattered far and wide not knowing one another face to face; all who honor God and work righteousness, are dear to Him [Acts 10: 35].

**10]** The devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever. After our Lord's grace delivered all the souls He redeemed, after divine justice destroyed all the work of Satan and his slaves, Satan must suffer the consequences of his wicked rebellion. Our God's perfect justice and judgment will repay the Destroyer all the evil our Lord with His Flock suffered to the end. My perception is that we will never fully realize what awful horror is in the lake of fire. I remember our Lord's comfort and encouragement in the days of my hard testing and struggles. Now I know that our Savior bears the greater portion of our burden and allows us only as much suffering as we need to cleave to Him and avoid satanic treacherous deceits. By His comfort and loving care



to the end of our journey, our Master is preparing us for His perfect loving presence in His Glory-Kingdom. I observed the opposite heart and mind condition of our Enemy's victims. When they are left to them-selves, even without major visible troubles, they get so restless as if their souls sense the coming of our God's judgment. Some sinners are obsessed by their wickedness: they are constantly on guard for any opportunity of doing some evil to another person; that seems to be their main excitement. As soon as they are left alone and without a possibility of harming anyone, they are tormented in their own mind and heart. They suffer some preface of hell fire and brimstone... Although they deny their true condition and refuse to face the facts, they cannot hide their entangled soul's anguish.

**11]** I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. In Genesis 1-2 we see Him in the mighty work done by the Word of the invisible Creator. In John 1 we see Him as the perfect and complete Expression of the Father. In 1<sup>st</sup> John 1 we see Him in apostolic testimony. Who among us has no memories of His presence & deeds that we cannot explain or tell anyone: for we have no words. In Luke 1: 35 the angel said unto *Mary*: The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy *Child* which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. In Luke 3: 21- 22 when our Lord Jesus was baptized, while He was praying, the heaven was opened, the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven: Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased. In Matthew 26-27, Mark 14-15, Luke 22-23 and John 18-19 the Lamb of God, our Eternal Ransom, is revealed to us. In the following chapters of all four books and in the opening chapter of the Acts our Risen Lord ushers the massive Gospel proclamation to the entire world. Here [11] we see the fulfillment of His words in John 5: 22: *the Father judges no man, but has committed all judgment unto the Son*, and in Matthew 28: 18: *All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth*. In many parts of this book the words

and phrases are used in a way that helps us search our heart and pray to get better prepared not only for some great changes in the more distant future, but also for a stronger, purer and fervent unity in our Lord's Spirit. The more we see our Heavenly Father's majesty in our Savior's humble service on earth, the closer we get to the full application of the Romans 8: 35-39. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword *separate us*? It is written: For thy sake we are killed all the daylong; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. In the light of His face all dark shadows flee away; that is faith.

**11]** I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. How great is this throne? In the Book of the Revelation alone the throne of Him that sits on it has been recorded more than thirty times: I don't remember a single place describing the size of the throne. The throne signifies the glory and majesty of Him that sits on it. Our Creator and Savior, **our God, is infinite**. His throne is measureless. All goodness, might, holiness, blessedness, salvation, condemnation, mercy and judgment issue, flow, burst or explode from the throne. All true confessions, prayers, praise, gratitude & adoration soar up to the throne. This endless activity continues because of Him that sits on the throne. Worshippers bow down to the ground before the throne and adore Him – not the throne. All the revelations of His might, goodness, holiness and justice that have been manifested in His creation and His sustainment of it, did not convince the rebellious humanity to repent & worship Him. When His face is revealed in majesty & power beyond description, the earth & the heaven flee away; there is no place found for them. I think of the Psalm 139: 7-12. *Whither*

*shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say: Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hides not from thee; but the night shines as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.* I perceive that the fleeing away of the heaven and the earth signifies total defeat of all powers of darkness and utmost helplessness of all evil forces before Him Who sits on the throne. All confidence that rebels think or believe they have in their self-deceit, perversion or craftiness, confidence in earth or in any part of the entire universe, all is groundless – out of place. When the sinners face Him on the throne, their lies, false science and empty excuses flee away. The sinners stand naked before Him Who sits on the throne. Only the righteousness of God's Ransom-Lamb covers our souls and makes us acceptable to our Heavenly Father; children of His covenant, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ [Romans 8:17]. As no child of God's covenant in Christ can be ever forgotten or neglected, even so no sinner can hide from our God's judgment. Today is the witnessing time, today is the day of salvation [Luke 19: 9; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6: 2].

**12-13]** I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. The sea gave up the dead who were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead who were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. In Ezekiel 37 a multitude of dry bones revived to become a host. In Mark 12: 26 our Lord Jesus teaches: *As touching the dead, that they rise: have you not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spoke unto him, saying: I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: you therefore do greatly err.* Our Creator has all power over life and death

before the beginning of His creating the world, and, forever. A strong statement of our Lord Jesus is in John 5: 19-30. Our Lord Jesus says: *Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do: for what things soever He does, these also does the Son likewise; for the Father loves the Son, and shows him all things that He himself does: and He will show him greater works than these, that you may marvel. As the Father rise up the dead, and quickens them; even so the Son quickens whom he will. The Father judges no man, but commits all judgment to the Son. All men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honors not the Son honors not the Father which has sent him. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that hears my word, and believes on Him that sent me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. Verily, verily, I say unto you: The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. As the Father has life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in himself; and hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and come forth. They that have done right, rise unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.* The Gospel Truth is: sin leads to judgment; only God's grace saves us. John saw the dead, small and great, stand before God: none is left out; none is forgotten. The books are open all the time. Guidance for all pilgrims whose names are in the Book of Life is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1: 2-11. *Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that has called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. Beside this,*

*giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. If these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] But he that lacks these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Verse 9 is a warning against negligence and presumption. For all men not having the testimony of being in Christ, our Savior and Master, the Gospel call is still loud and clear in *Mark 1: 15. Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying: The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent you, and believe the gospel.* Trust and obey God's Son today. Your time runs out. The dead were judged according their works. In John 6: 28-29 some Hebrews asked: *What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?* Our Lord Jesus answered to them: *This is the work of God: that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.* Our own work deserves only condemnation. When Christ's Spirit works in our heart and life, we know He is our Lord. The sea, death and hell gave up – delivered the dead... In Mark 4: 37-39 *a great storm of wind arose and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. Our Lord Jesus was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him: Master, care you not that we perish? He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. The wind ceased, and there was a great calm.* In the Revelation 13: 1 John stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a **beast rise up out of the sea...** The sea indicates a great segment of the entire humanity. In *Isaiah 57: 20-21 the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, says my God, to the wicked.* If our Lord calls, sea must respond. If the word 'sea' leaves any uncertainty in our mind if it refers to the oceans or to

the 'sea of spiritually dead humanity', the next two words: 'death and hell' offer no room for doubts; we are looking into spiritual dimensions and conditions. Now, what is death? Can anyone die without death? This list of sea, death and hell includes dead in all times and places. Gentiles had many superstitions about places, manners and age of dying. Divers mythologies tell strange stories about the 'worlds of the dead spirits'. The sea, death and hell listed here leave not any possibility of escape: all will be judged.

**14-15]** Death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. What is death to be cast into anything? Hell in this verse cannot be the final and lasting punishment of rebellion against the righteous God and stubborn rejection of His grace in Christ His only Son. How can we understand this language? Death is separation of soul and body. Our knowledge what happens right after death and all the time until the last judgment is very limited, but it is clear in the Scriptures that the death of the body is not the end of the soul existence. In # 4 we see that the souls of the martyrs lived. Lake of fire indicates the final change. We know the story in Luke 16: 19-30. *A rich man, clothed in purple and fine linen fared sumptuously every day. A beggar named Lazarus was laid at his gate, full of sores, desiring the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died, and was buried. Being in torments in hell he lifts up his eyes and sees Abraham afar off; and Lazarus in his bosom. He cried and said: Father Abraham! Have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. Abraham said: Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime received thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. Beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that we cannot pass from hence to you; neither can you pass to us from thence. Then he said: I pray you therefore, father, you send him to my father's house: I have five*

*brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham says to him: They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. He said: Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. Abraham replied: If they ignore Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*

I am still in my long study and meditation with the focus on the Book of the Revelation. The story of 'the saved beggar and the lost millionaire' appears like a part of the Revelation. We see in that light the entire Bible: our Heavenly Father is revealing Himself to the fallen humanity in His marvelous declaration of His everlasting Gospel of grace in Christ. The Almighty Creator reveals His might in His creation and sustainment of it. The Holy God condemns violation of His order; but He also announces Ransom and victory. The illuminating effect of our Lord's Revelation is obvious in the 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15: 21-26. *Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive; but every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then the end comes, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. He must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.*

Verses 45 and 47 add bliss to brightness. *It is written: The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.*

Now looking back to the condition and situation of the 'rich man' in the story of the beggar, we see the climate in the fire-lake: sinners and sin-consequences forever together; permanently separated from our God's grace; eternally self-condemned to suffer their foolish rejection of God's grace. Verse 15 adds the final accent: *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.* As our Savior declared in Luke 17: 26-30: As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. As it was in the days of Lot; even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. Noah is saved in the ark. Disobedient

world perished in the flood. Lot is delivered out of destruction. Sodomites in their degradation are doomed. By obedient faith we receive God's grace in Christ unto salvation. By stubborn rebellion we aim for the lake of fire. The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord [Romans 6: 23]. Glory to our Savior and Lord!