

THE REVELATION

OCTOBER 27, 2024

Chapter 20:7-10

The Story of the Revelation - A Paraphrase

The Continuation – Part 4

Long, long ago ...

After the events of the *seventh trumpet* were complete, John saw seven angels coming out of the Tabernacle in heaven. They were dressed in white with gold vests. One of the four living creatures gave each angel a bowl containing a part of the wrath of God that was to be poured out on the rebellious people under the control of Satan and the *two beasts*.

With the pouring of the *first bowl*, the rebellious people who had 666 on their foreheads or hands were covered with terrible cancerous sores.

The *second bowl* was then poured into the *Great Sea*, and everything in it died, and the water turned to blood.

With the pouring of the *third bowl*, all the fresh water in the empire, including the streams, lakes, springs, and stored water in pots, turned to blood. The *second and third bowls of wrath* were to pay the *beast* back for the evil of killing the saints and prophets of the LORD. Blood was all the empire had to drink, and it was all they deserved.

The pouring of the *fourth bowl* caused the sun to beat down on every person in the empire, and the people were terribly sunburned. These first four *bowls of wrath* did not change the people's minds; they still said terrible things about God and would not stop doing the horrible things they were involved in.

With the pouring of the *fifth bowl*, darkness covered the empire. The people were scared. They bit their tongues, and they were in pain from the cancer sores, sunburns, and fear. Even the darkness did not change their hearts. Neither did they change their ways of doing evil things.

With the pouring of the *sixth bowl*, God dried the water in the Euphrates River. John then saw the *great red dragon, the beast, and the false prophet* holding something that looked like frogs, calling all the world's kings to join them in their war against the LORD. They invited them to come to the valley of Megiddo and bring their people with them. Because the Euphrates River was dried, the kings of the earth to the east of the valley could easily make their way to the valley to join the evil trio with the people of their empire.

With the pouring of the *seventh bowl of wrath*, John heard a voice coming out of the Temple, and it said, "It is done." The Temple in Heaven was no longer needed. The LORD *Jesus* was about to leave heaven and come to earth with all the saints, never to return to that Temple again. Suddenly, there

was a great earthquake, and it was the worst quake ever in the world. The *Great City of Babylon* was broken into three sections in the quake and destroyed. Other cities of the nations around Babylon were destroyed, too. The earthquake caused the mountains and the islands to move from the places where they had stood for thousands of years. That did not change the hearts of the people, so the LORD sent hailstones weighing 100 pounds each, and people died. But, now that the LORD revealed the destruction of the *City of Babylon*, He would take the time to explain why it was destroyed, and that included the *great harlot* of all time.

The angel told John that he would show him the *great harlot* who had had ungodly relationships with kings and people on the earth for thousands of years. He would tell John how she had forced them to drink her evil concoction of wine. The angel carried John off into the wilderness to see the home of the *Great Harlot*, and there he saw her riding the *beast with the seven heads and ten horns*. John already knew this *beast* because he was the ruler of the *Revived Roman Empire*, which he had already described in detail.

The *great harlot* was dressed in purple and scarlet; she wore gold with valuable stones and pearls and a gold cup in her hand. The gold cup was filled with all the sinful and nasty tricks she had used to make the kings and people commit ungodly relationships with her. On her forehead, John saw a sign that said, "*Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and the Abomination of the Earth.*" She was the mother of all idol worship; she was the reason people worshiped false gods; she was one of the main reasons people hated God. John did not understand, and then the angel told him she was the force controlling the seven empires of the world that had harmed the Nation of Israel through the centuries. Five of those empires had already passed into history; one was in power at the time of this vision, and one was still to come in the future. He warned John that the last empire would be worse than all those that had come and gone before.

Everyone who had 666 on the forehead or hand would be amazed when the *seventh beastly empire* came into being and would give total devotion to it. Each empire had a king in charge, and each king reigned from his mountain one after the other. Seven in all, the mountains in order were Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Mede/Persian, Greek, Roman, and the Revived Roman kings. But after the seventh king took control, he was soon removed by an eighth king, deadlier than all the rest. The eighth king would take the place of the seventh king. Because of that, the angel told John he was really the eighth king, but he was sitting on the ousted seventh king's throne as if he were the seventh king.

This evil fake seventh king ruled over the *ten horns* or ten countries that joined together in one hour to unite their power and give the seventh king authority to rule. Each of the ten countries was fairly powerful by itself, but together, their power was massive, and they thought it was great enough to overthrow the LORD Jesus when He arrived to rule as King of kings of the world. The countries united to wage war against *Jesus*. But the countries were all being lorded over by the *Great Harlot*. They did not like her at all. They would let her rule as long as they needed her, but they would dismiss her when they were through with her. Little did they know all of that was part of God's plan and purpose! He made them join together as the final empire and He made them hate the *great harlot* as well as her headquarters in the *Great City of Babylon*.

An angel arrived and shined a light on the *Great City of Babylon* so John could see how the *great harlot* seduced all the kings, merchants, and people of the world to her brand of godless rebellion against the true God. Her headquarters had become the final center of wealth, and all the ungodly people loved to roll around in the sin she had to offer. Her sin was so bad that to God, it seemed like her pile of evil had reached right up to heaven's door, and God was tired of it. He demanded that she be paid back double for all she had done wrong through the centuries. She did not think she had committed any wrong. In fact, she thought she was indestructible and eternal. But she was not! When the plague of the *seventh bowl of the wrath of God* destroyed her, the kings of the earth cried and cried because in one day, she was gone, Babylon was gone, and the *great harlot* was gone. The *Revived Roman Empire* wanted to kill her when it was through with her, but the LORD destroyed her first.

The merchants of the world who provided all the luxuries of luxuries to her seaport were devastated. What would they do with the stockpiles of goods they sent her? Now, they would be bankrupt with no one to pay for what she had ordered. The ship captains and the crews, as well as all the passengers, were appalled. They had arrived at the docks ready to sin with her in all sorts of disgusting deeds, and now they had nowhere to go, nowhere to sin, nowhere to indulge in godless games. No place was equal to Babylon. It was sin-city and the premier destination of the world.

Three groups on earth were devastated at the destruction of the *great harlot and her Great City of Babylon*. Still, in heaven, three groups of people were overjoyed – the saints, Apostles, and prophets of all ages. The destruction of the *great harlot and her city* was the reward for their work over all the hundreds of years they had served the LORD on earth. To prove to John that this *great harlot and her City of Babylon* would never do business with the world again, an angel threw a massive stone in the water, symbolizing her eternal death. Never again would she play the harp, sing a song, build in the streets, or light a lamp. She and the city would be removed from the world forever.

And when John saw the millstone cast into the sea, heaven erupted in joy, and the *great multitude*, the Church in heaven, began to sing “*Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power to our God because He has judged with truth and righteousness the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her sin.*”

When the *great multitude* sang their song, the *twenty-four elders* and the *four living creatures* did what they were created to do – they fell to their knees and worshiped the LORD.

The valley of Megiddo was filled with millions of people who were waiting to wage war with the LORD when He arrived. Many of these people played with the *great harlot* and were entertained in her *Great City of Babylon*, and no doubt her destruction would make them even madder at God. They wanted to defeat Him when He arrived. The angel turned John's attention back to heaven, and, for the first time in the story, he heard a voice from the throne of God.

The Lord and His mighty heavenly host are on their way to Armageddon. The invited guests are called to come the Marriage Supper of the Lord. The Lord and His Hosts arrive at the Valley. The Beast and the False Prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire. The Lord slayed the armies in the valley with the sword of the Word from His mouth. The Birds, the invited Guests arrive to dine on the Marriage Supper. An Angel arrives with a chain to bind Satan. He puts him in the pit in the Abyss at the bottom of the ocean and seals the door for 1000 years. The Seventh bowl of Wrath is over.

For 1,000 years, the LORD will reign as King of kings and LORD of lords on earth. In the Temple, on top of the Holy Mountain of God where Jerusalem sits today. On His Great White Throne with all saints of all the ages past, in their spiritual bodies, ruling with Him. We will be watching over all the Humans, still alive in earthly bodies on earth.

And the story continues!

1. The Parade of the Satanic (20:7-10)

a) Surrender of Satan (20:7)

Rev 20:7 *When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,*

One thousand years after Satan is bound in chains and locked in a chamber in the abyss, he will be released as promised to tempt the nations of people on earth once again, Jews and Gentiles. The previous promise to Satan will give him only a short time to do his dirty deeds (Revelation 20:3b).

b) Seduction of Society (20:8)

Rev 20:8 *and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.*

The phrase “*the four corners of the earth*” is another way of saying *the entire world*. In other words, Satan will attempt to “deceive” the people of all the nations of the world just as he did through the ages, Jews and Gentiles alike. Here we might well take the time once again to address the question that is not specifically addressed in the REVELATION concerning all the population of the world during the LORD’s millennial reign as King of kings.

First, *resurrected spiritual beings* will inhabit the earth with the LORD, each with a resurrected body, each with a throne, each with a job in the administration of the LORD to rule, guide, and direct all the political and religious business of the one-world government in place under His reign. That point is alluded to in Revelation 20:4.

Second, *earthly human beings* like you and I will inhabit the earth with the LORD.

¹⁶ Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths (Zechariah 14:16).

During the 1,000-year reign, these humans will be governed by the *resurrected spiritual beings*. Isaiah says the following about the length of human life during the reign of the LORD.

Isaiah 65:20-23 *No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; For youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be thought accursed. They will build houses and inhabit them; they will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They will not build and another inhabit, they will not plant and another eat; for as the lifetime of a tree, so will be the days of My people, and My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands. They will not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they are the offspring of those blessed by the LORD, and their descendants with them.*

Can you imagine the days of one’s youth lasting until the age of 100? Each will be born with a sinful nature. Each will require salvation. Can you imagine living as long as a tree? In other words,

the length of life will return to the time span before the flood. But notice that work will still be required. It has always been part of *God's Rule* that *the one who does not work shall not eat*. For 1,000 years, businesses will still operate, products will be sold, factories will produce inventory, crops will be grown, food will be sold, vacations will be taken, babies will be born, schools will be filled, and hospitals will still be needed. The only difference is that it will be a one-world government with the LORD in charge, and Satan and all his demons will be absent from the daily life of every human on earth.

Evidently, but not indicated here, the governing *resurrected spiritual beings* will stop the oversight of *earthly human beings* upon the release of Satan from the abyss. The LORD will purposefully allow Satan to “*deceive*” those who want to be *deceived*. We must never forget that it is part of the LORD’s plan for humanity that He will allow them to have their own will and make their own choices about Him. In His *Theonomy*, the Lord has always allowed humans to have *autonomy*. We might think of it this way. The LORD created us in His image with the ability to make choices. The LORD loved His human creation so much that He allowed each human to make the eternal choice to choose or reject Him. Adam and Eve saw and knew the LORD, and yet, He allowed them to make a poor decision that has affected every descendant of theirs through all the ages. Throughout the rest of the Old Testament, only a few people, here and there, were allowed to see the LORD. Abraham saw the LORD and fed Him a meal on the day he was told that he and Sarah would have a son. Then, the LORD allowed Abraham and Sarah to mess up the whole story with the poor choice of bringing Hagar into the equation. We have other examples through the Old Testament that tell the same tale: a glorious encounter with the LORD and then having the *autonomy* of making a poor choice. Then, 4,200 years after the creation of Adam and Eve, Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem. For thirty-three years, He lived on earth. His story spread throughout the world. Religious magistrates came from three distant countries to see Him at his birth, each starting their journey many months before His parents left Nazareth to sign up for the census and pay the tax in their home city of Bethlehem. When the woman in Sidon heard that Jesus had left His home country to take a vacation from the masses of people who were following Him every day, she searched Him out and asked Him to heal her daughter. She knew about the LORD. We find in the Roman records that after the LORD’s death, burial, and resurrection, Caesar Tiberius sent a letter to Pilate asking him to bring the *Healer* to Rome. Tiberius was sick, and he needed healing. He knew about Jesus. Even with all those who saw Jesus during His life and ministry on earth, some refused to believe in Him and made the choice to reject Him. The LORD loves everyone so much that He does not force them to love Him in return. He gives them the *autonomy* to make their own choices. Even with all the humans who will live in the 1,000-year reign of the LORD, who will journey each year to see Him sitting on His *great white throne* in Jerusalem as required by Him, live almost sinless lives as best as humanly possible without Satan and his hordes in the world, will, at the end of the 1,000-year reign, as many as the “sands of the seashore,” choose to reject Him as their eternal LORD. Notice that John does not say “*the sands of the sea*.” We must note that only God can count the granules of the “sands of the seashore” and the sea; however, the “sands of the seashore” number far less than the *sands found at the bottom of the ocean*. In just a short span of time, Satan will find all those who will be deceived by him because they want to be deceived, and a mass of people will follow him instead of the LORD once

again on this earth. It will not be a surprise to the LORD. Their names are not written in the *book of Life*. The LORD knows everything.

John mentions “Gog and Magog” in this verse. The land of “Magog” lies directly north of the *Promised Land*. Ezekiel prophesied that during the time of Israel’s tribulation, before the *Second Coming of the LORD*, “Gog,” the king of the country of “Magog,” will see the *Nation of Israel* living at peace, totally disarmed, having “beaten their swords into plowshares” (Isaiah 2:4, Micah 4:3). Never again will Israel train for war. The fact is, they will not have the need or ability to re-arm. Their only option will be to run for their lives and hide in the wilderness from Satan and *two beasts*, as told previously in the REVELATION. Not told in the REVELATION story is Israel’s trouble with “Gog and Magog.” Ezekiel 38 and 39 tell us that “Gog,” the king of Magog, along with the kings of Rosh, Tubal, and Meshech, will be joined by the kings of the east and the kings of the south to attempt to attack Jerusalem and the Promised Land to conquer it in the middle of the tribulation. Word will reach the *beast* in the *Revived Roman Empire* of their intent, and the *beast* will move into the land of Israel to protect her against Gog and his armies in accordance with their *peace treaty*. The *beast* will destroy Gog (the king of the country of Magog) and his armies. It will take seven months for the debris from the battle to be cleaned up. Once the *beast* enters the Promised Land, he will decide to stay and set his throne in Jerusalem in the temple and force the worship of himself and Satan. As soon as the 1260 days of protection are up for the *two witnesses*, he will kill them, which will result in their resurrection and the salvation of the *Nation of Israel*. He will then turn his wrath against the *Nation of Israel*, and she will be forced to run for safety. The families of the soldiers accompanying Gog still live north of the *Nation of Israel* when the call to come fight against the LORD occurs. No doubt, three and a half years after having their family members slaughtered by the *beast*, the living relatives of these nations did not join Satan in the Valley of Armageddon. However, one thousand years later, the descendants of “Gog and Magog” will still be alive, living through the divine rule of the *King of kings and Lord of lords*. When Satan is released, the first place he goes to deceive is north of the Promised Land, back to the land of “Gog and Magog,” a people who have, in general, always been godless nations. There, Satan will first garner supporters for one last battle before recruiting from the rest of the world.

c) Surrounding of Saints (20:9a)

Rev 20:9a And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city,

The REVELATION does not tell us about this beloved city (Jerusalem) during the 1,000-year kingdom. Zechariah 14 tells us that on the Day of Armageddon, after the fight, the LORD will place His foot on the Mount of Olives, and an earthquake will occur. This quake will move the land north and south, and a plateau will begin to rise, which will become the highest mountain on Earth. The plateau will measure 50 square miles. In the middle, the LORD will place the Temple described in Ezekiel 40 and the following chapters. With the reformation of the topography of the land around Jerusalem, the “broad plain” will logically be the floor of the valley of Megiddo, the place of the battle of Armageddon 1,000 years earlier. Satan will gather the majority of his new army there. From there, they will move to surround the holy Temple district, which is 50 square miles in size. His purpose will be to remove the LORD from His *Great White Throne* in the Temple and take it for himself.

d) Slaying of Soldiers (20:9b)

Rev 20:9b and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

As we know from the REVELATION, this last battle against Satan has been planned since before the days of creation. The LORD planned this standoff with Satan. It was written in this REVELATION. It will not be a surprise to the devil! It should not be a surprise to the *great red dragon's* army. It has been in the pages of the Holy Writ for centuries. Therefore, the army of Satan is without excuse. It will have made the wrong choice. The LORD will call fire from heaven, and it will be consumed.

e) Sentence of Satanic (20:10)

Rev 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

It will be the last stand for Satan. He will be snatched and thrown into the “*lake of fire and brimstone.*” The work of Satan will be done – never to tempt and deceive again.