

Prophecy Sermon #14

Satan's Final Fling

Revelation 20

We are in prophecy, the book of Revelation, looking at end-time events

Next Sunday will be the 15th and final message of this prophecy series as we conclude with the Great White Throne Judgment of God. Then we will begin our Old Testament study on Ezra and Nehemiah

Revelation 20 tells us how the Millennial Kingdom begins. There will be a forceful restraint of Satan

Then we saw last week what the Millennial Kingdom was going to be like in the future reign of Jesus Christ here on planet Earth: righteousness, peace, theocratic rule, removal of curse – the land will be fertile, and the animals will be tame.

Today we will see what happens at the end of the Millennial Kingdom.

I have entitled this sermon "Satan's Final Fling"

Revelation 20

Let us stand for the reading of God's holy and prophetic Word

Revelation 20:2-3, 7-15

Let us pray

You may be seated

Satan's Final Fling

Revelation 12:9-12

Satan is firmly bound in his prison, utterly helpless to interfere.

Now notice something in verse 3: When the thousand years are fulfilled, the old Devil "must be loosed for a little season." Why must he be loosed?

It is to publicly expose what is really in the hearts of those born during the Millennium!

Revelation 20:7

Just when we think we have it made with Satan bound in the bottomless pit, he comes forth again. But it is not a jailbreak. Note that Satan does not escape from his prison. He is released.

God, who is always sovereign, Jesus Christ is on the throne

God allows Satan to have one final fling. Why? It is God's final test of mankind.

At the end of the "1,000 years," Satan will be loosed for a little season to expose people for what they are!

So, Satan will be released out of his confinement in the Abyss, and will again do the work of deception among all the nations in the earth (verse 8).

Revelation 20:8

During the time of the millennium, the most ideal conditions will exist on the earth—the best since the fall. But it will not be a perfect situation.

Sin and death, though greatly reduced, will not be eliminated, and a great number of unsaved men will be alive at the time of the close of the messianic age.

From where did such a company come is a worthy question. Multitudes are born during the Millennium (see Isa. 11:6; 65:30). This will be the time of the earth's greatest population explosion.

Mankind will finally, as a result of a thousand years of longevity and perfect environment, "fill the earth," and the population will be practically innumerable, like the sand of the sea.

And yet, with all these privileges, with every possible incentive to believe on His name and to love and serve Him, there will still be multitudes who will reject Him in their hearts.

One of the most amazing commentaries on the fallen human nature to be found in all the Word of God is right here in this passage.

After one thousand years of a perfect human environment, with an abundance of material provisions and spiritual instruction for everyone, no crime, no war, no external temptation to sin, with the personal presence of all the resurrected saints and even of Christ Himself, and with Satan and all his demons bound in the abyss, there are still a multitude of unsaved men and women on earth who are ready to rebel against the Lord the first time they get a chance.

These will refrain from overt acts of sin and rebellion, but this restraint for many will be one of fear, not love.

Their hearts are naturally "deceitful and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9), There will be a lot of changes. But the human heart alone remains unchanged under these circumstances, and many will turn their backs on God and will go after Satan.

When Satan comes on the scene, people are confronted with a clearcut choice. Will they trust their great Savior and King in Jerusalem, or will they, when finally they have the opportunity, choose sin as their life-style and Satan as their god?

This will be mankind's last and greatest test.

Satan's release will produce a worldwide rebellion against the millennial reign of Christ.

Satan will organize an army of rebels:

They will come from the "four quarters" of the earth – from everywhere

They will be an innumerable as the "sand of the sea"

Gog & Magog – O.T. reference to a rebellious leader and a rebellious people

Here is the last rebellion of Satan and man against God.

Let me ask you a question – Are you rebelling against God right now?

By the end of the Millennium, there will be innumerable rebels who will have given outward obedience to the King, but who, when given the opportunity by Satan after his release, will join his revolution against Christ.

You may ask at this point, "Won't everyone be saved during the millennium?" No.

During the 1,000 years, people will have no choice but to obey Christ

Jesus will rule them with a rod of iron

The rod of iron is necessary because of resistance!

Evil will be subdued, but not eliminated in the Millennial Kingdom

People born in the Millennial Kingdom must personally and voluntarily accept Christ for themselves – just like us

1. They will see the resurrected saints.

2. They will hear the wonderful stories of their parents.
3. They will be living in a perfect environment like the Garden of Eden.
4. They will be enjoying the goodness of God unlike no others since Adam and Eve.
5. They will see the Lamb of God with His beautiful scars.

If these children do not personally and voluntarily accept Christ:

They will look good on the outside

On the inside they will be rebels waiting for a chance to rebel

This ought to tell us the condition of our heart

Changing the environment is not the answer.

Many people think if you can change the environment, you can change the nature of man. Do you really believe that? If you do, let me tell you something. It was in the Garden of Eden that man got into trouble in the first place, was it not? . . . there will always be sin in the human heart.

The criminologist and his prisons are not the answer.

The sociologist and his programs are not the answer. The educator and his philosophies will not solve the problem of sin. The statesman and his politics are not our hope either. Only Jesus is the answer.

There is only one answer to sin—and it is the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is only one help for the wicked heart of man - It's Jesus Christ – crucified and risen again.

1. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, Is Greater Than Our Adversary!

I John 4:4, “. . . greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

2. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, Is the Real Need of the World!

Only He can change the heart of man

Education only produces intelligent sinners

Prosperity only produces rich sinners

Food only produces full sinners

Fine clothing only produces attractive sinners

Housing only produces warm sinners

But Christ produces new men and new women! II Corinthians 5:17

Revelation 20:9

Satan, as the god of this age (2 Cor. 4:4), has carried on his work to defeat the purpose and program of God.

Satan will be delighted at his quick and wide success

Vs. 9

The pace of the record at least suggests that it all transpires quickly.

This army of rebels will dare to attack the capitol city, Jerusalem!

The work of deception will be massive, and a world-wide revolt will begin to form.

Eventually a world-wide invasion of the millennial Israel will take place, and the millennial Jerusalem will be surrounded by these deceived Gentile armies.

But once these armies arrive, the invading forces will be quickly dispensed with fire out of heaven, destroying them quickly and suddenly (verse 9).

Suddenly it will seem that the very heavens are on fire. A falling ring of fire will surround the holy city and the legions of the saints, radiating outward in all directions until every

last unregenerate human being is engulfed and burned to death in the descending and surging sea of flames.

This is but a foretaste of what will shortly become the rebels' eternal fate . . .

Revelation 20:10

For a thousand years Satan's two greatest human accomplices had already been tormented in the lake of fire and, as he himself plunges into the fiery lake. It is the place where these evil men *are*, not *were*.

There are several facts here . . . First of all, the Devil is not in hell today.

In the second place, the Devil is not the first to be cast into the lake of fire. The Anti-Christ and his False Prophet will precede him by one thousand years.

At this point, the instigator of this revolt will be placed into his . . . final abode: the Lake of Fire.

The great deceiver is gone!

The Fixed Resolution for Sin

God lets Satan loose *only for a season*. Then God will end Satan's reign by casting him and his demonic rebels into an eternal lake of fire.

With compassion in my heart for your eternal destiny, let me say that if you reject Christ and follow Satan, the eternal lake of fire waits for you. Why follow a loser?

Let us stand for closing invitation

Hymn #451 – “O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee”

We know that certain of the nations had already begun to neglect their duty to go to Jerusalem and had been punished by a serious drought in their lands. Zechariah 14:16-19