**Revelation 20:7-15**

1. **Gog and Magog and Satan’s Final Doom: verses 7-10**
   1. The final battle to try and destroy Christ’s church
      1. This is the third time John has received a vision of this final battle.
         1. Rev. 9:13-21
         2. Rev. 16:12-16
   2. The imagery of this last battle is Gog and Magog
      1. Who/what?
         1. In Ezekiel 38 and 39 Gog is the leader of evil forces that comes down from the north (Magog) to attempt to destroy the people of Israel.
            1. This is a fierce battle in which Israel is about to be destroyed when God strikes Gog with fire from heaven.
            2. It would take Israel seven months to burry the dead (Ez. 39:12).
         2. Identification of these forces:
            1. Josephus identified Gog with the Scythians who invaded the Near East in the 8th/7th century B.C.
            2. Eusebius (260-340) identified Gog with the Roman Empire.
            3. Augustine (4th century) identified Gog and Magog as symbols of all enemies who would rise up to attack the church at the end.
   3. Why is Satan released in the end?
      1. Our discussion last week (5/1/22) got me thinking some more….
         1. We know from Revelation that even though the church suffers much God does protect and care for her.
            1. The sufferings and persecutions of the church gives witness the suffering of Christ. The church’s steadfast faith and hope during such times provides a witness of the resurrection and life of Christ.

This is to the glory of God.

* + - 1. It maybe that God permits Satan to attack His church so that He can glorify His name in rescuing her.
         1. Gog in Ezekiel 38:21-23; 39:1-7

The result of Gog plundering and nearly destroying Israel was so that God could display His glory to all the peoples of earth.

1. **The Final Judgment: verses 11-15**
   1. The great white throne and One sitting on it
      1. Rev. 4:1-5:14 is a vision of heaven with a throne and One sitting on it.
         1. We know this is God the Father (Rev. 5:6,7).
   2. God is the judge.
      1. In other places of the New Testament Jesus is portrayed as judge.
         1. John 5:22,23; 2 Corinthians 5:10.
   3. Intense judgment
      1. Heaven/sky and earth flee.
         1. The physical world and humankind will face the judgment of God.
         2. This paves the way for the new Heaven and new Earth of Revelation 21.
   4. The books and the book of life: verses 12, 15
      1. The books are the collections of one’s deeds.
      2. The book of life
         1. Christians are in there because they have been washed in the blood of the Lamb.
            1. Rev. 3:5; 7:9-17
         2. Old Testament roots of the book of life
            1. Exodus 32:32ff; Psalm 69:28; Daniel 12:1,2
         3. In the New Testament outside of Revelation
            1. Philippians 4:3
         4. If one’s name is not in the book of life such a person will be judged for their sins (v12) and then thrown into the lake of fire (v15).
   5. The lake of fire
      1. The valley of Ben-Hinnom or Gehenna
         1. This was a place south and west of Jerusalem.
         2. What took place was the abdominal worship of burning children to the false gods Baal and Asherah.
            1. Wicked kings Ahaz and Manasseh took part.

2 Chronicles 28:1-3; 33:1-6

* + - 1. By Jesus’s day:
         1. It was a garbage dump and sewer that constantly burned.
         2. Eventually this becomes the word translated as hell.

Matthew 5:22 (geenna) “hell"

* + - 1. The lake of fire is the permanent location of those whose names are not in the book of life.
         1. Rev. 21:27; 22:15

Made up of idolatry, abominations, lies.

* + - * 1. Matthew 25:41-46