



## THE VOICE OF EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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### WILL EVIL EVER COME TO AN END?

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We want to take our scripture text today from *Revelation. 20:1-5*, "**And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that will serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 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. And 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 worship the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon therefore heads, 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.**" Regretfully, we all are witnessing a world that is filled with untold evil and wickedness. There is not a day that passes wherein we do not witness an injustice, and yet there are those in leadership who too often turn their heads and simply look the other way. Many times we become infuriated because we witness the criminality and the sinister evil that is not dealt with in a godly and righteous manner. Anyone who pays attention to today's headlines is likely to wonder what ever happened to ethics and justice. Sometimes it seems like fairness never happens in

In matters of business, government, the law, and world affairs. The good news is there is coming a day when the purveyor of all evil, better known as Satan or the devil, will be bound by a chain and cast into a bottomless pit for one thousand years. God will not always turn His back on injustices. His character demands that He give people what is coming to them. Moreover, scripture promises that He will deal with evil absolutely. John's vision foresees that triumphant accomplishment found here in our scripture text. No one knows the day or the hour of Christ's return but when He does return the spirit of righteousness, which He demands, will deal with all evil. We witness in our scripture text as an angel will come down from heaven and he will possess a key to a bottomless pit along with a great chain in his hand. Chains are always a symbol of bondage and captivity. This without a doubt is a very, very powerful angel because he subdues the serpent, the devil, that old dragon better known as Satan. According to the scriptures we know there are what is better known as arch angels, such as Gabriel, Michael, and Lucifer. We know according to Isaiah chapter 14 and Ezekiel chapter 28 that Lucifer rebelled against Elohim. Jesus witnessed this rebellion along with Lucifer being cast out of heaven found here in **Luke 10:18, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."** No one knows for sure when this event took place but most theologians believe this event was when the cosmos was totally obliterated: therefore we have

the account in Genesis chapter 1 of God creating the heaven and the earth and then something catastrophically happened and suddenly the earth was without form and void and darkness was upon the face of the deep. This is better known as the gap theory relative to creation. Ever since that time evil has pervaded the earth and Satan has wreaked havoc on mankind. We know this to be scripturally true and factual according to *Job 1:6-7, "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them. And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it."* It is evident to the discerning reader that Satan pillages and plunders the earth and everything that is in it. Knowing that Satan is a spiritual creature he is like the cherubim in the book of Revelation that have no need for rest in the natural: reading from *Revelation 4:8, "And the four beast had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."* It is without a doubt that Lucifer is an eternal creature, spiritually having no need for physical rest or physical sustenance. Therefore he works untiringly in the earth and especially against the saints of God through his many emissaries. You and I have probably never had a direct

encounter with Satan himself. Some have questioned whether Paul the apostle ever had a personal encounter with Lucifer from his statement found here in **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:7**, "**And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.**" Now the word messenger in the Greek is #32 and it simply means an angel. This messenger was no doubt a fallen angel who had cast his lot with Lucifer during their rebellion while in heaven; therefore this messenger became a perpetual thorn in Paul's flesh. The reason I brought this subject matter up is because we find the words of the apostle Paul found here in **1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 2:18**, "**Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.**" In this passage Paul says that it was Satan who hindered them. Now the word Satan in the Greek is #4567 *Satanas* and it simply means an adversary. This is also the second name given to the prince of the devils with the other name being *diabolos*. *Satanas* is better known as the prince of these fallen angels. Looking back at our scripture text, this great angel of Jehovah will not only chain Satan but will place him in a bottomless pit and will seal this source of evil. Then in Revelation chapter **20 vs.4** we witness the many thrones and how judgment was given to those who sat upon these thrones. Then John beheld the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus Christ, and how Christ adjudicates the righteous and condemns this purveyor of evil for a thousand years to a bottomless pit. It is hard for one to fathom wherein something can fall for a thousand years and never yet find or reach the

bottom? There is no suffering while falling, but the mental anguish and torment of waiting to hit bottom never comes to fruition concerning Satan. This will be just one of many torments and judgments that Satan must endure. Jehovah knows how to torment the tormentor. After the millennial reign of Christ, Satan will be released from this bottomless pit and he will be allowed to go out upon the earth to deceive the nations. The first time I read this passage of scripture as a young Christian I was filled with anxiety knowing after having overcome Satan I must once again face, having to overcome him a second time. But I was wrong; the redeemed will have received a glorified body and we will not be tempted as in time past while in our earthly state. Satan is going to be able to test all those who were naturally born during the millennial reign of Christ to see where their pledge their allegiance. No doubt there will be those like the angels in heaven who will cast their lot with Lucifer. Regretfully, many earthlings will do the same as Satan was able to deceive them. Much of this will take place within close proximity to this old city of Jerusalem. We understand this according to **Revelation 20:9**, "**And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city (not new Jerusalem): and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.**" This will be the finality of Satan and evil according to **Revelation 20:10**, "**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.**" This is a tremendous portrait or picture of Satan's finality which offers hope to everyone concerned about the injustices of our world today. As we seek to bring God's righteousness into our communities, workplaces, and families, it is a relief to know that no human being-no matter how impartial and objective or biased and corrupt: this is Satan's reward. Ultimate justice will someday be

administered by the One who can be thoroughly trusted-God, through Christ. I want to encourage you today to not grow weary or tire but remain faithful, steadfast, and unmovable until Christ returns to the earth. There is coming a day when all accounts will be settled and with accuracy. Suffer me to close with **Romans 14:11-12**, "**For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.**" Therefore we run with patience the course which the Lord has set before us knowing that in the end Christ will adjudicate with absolute righteousness and everyone shall receive their just reward. You will be justly compensated for your work and labor of love in Christ. Therefore let us be very enduring until the time of the end, for those that endure unto the end the same shall be saved. What a day that will be when our Lord we shall see, when we look upon his face, the one who saved us by his grace, what a day that shall be! Never allow or suffer Satan to convince you that what you're laboring is in vain when serving the Lord. We humbly thank you for the way you have loved us in supporting this ministry throughout the many years. May the God of all grace and the God of all comfort keep you and your family in the coming days.

Serving With You All,

Pastor / Evangelist David W. Lankford

**P.S. Please visit Steve Quayle's website for the September 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, meeting in Branson MO. I will be ministering Sunday morning and serving communion. We would really love to see you there!**