

Is Satan Bound Now or Later and What is the Binding?

Revelation

20:1-10



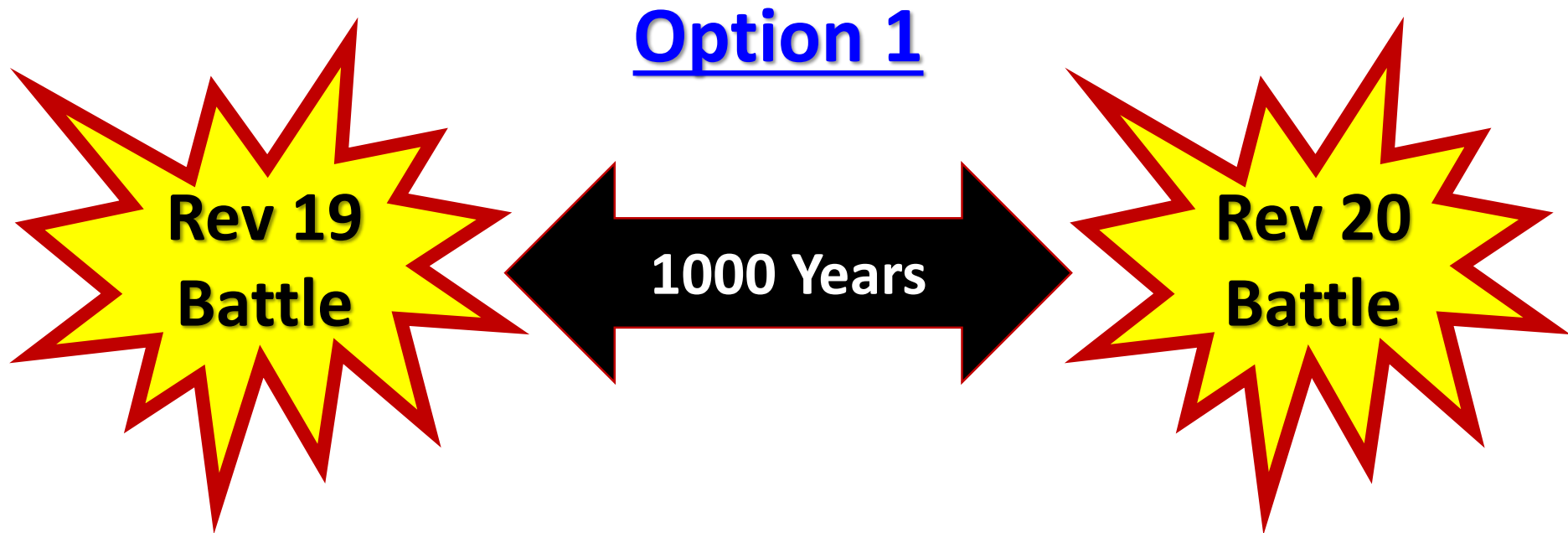
¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. ² And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, ³ and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while. ⁴ Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years. ⁷ And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. ⁹ And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, ¹⁰ and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.



Revelation 20 is the chapter that divides Christians into different eschatological (end times) camps.

It is by far one of the most difficult chapters in the Bible.





Option 2

John is not introducing a new, separate and distinct battle in Revelation 20 and I must interpret my understanding of the 1000 years in the same chapter a different way.



Option 1

**This Age | 1000 years | Age to
Come**

Option 2

This Age | Age to Come



Matthew 24:3

- As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”



Mark 10:30

- who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, **and in the age to come eternal life.**



Everyone doesn't enter the Age to Come.

Only those who are part of Christ's family enter the Age to Come and only those whom Christ has saved receive eternal life.



Ephesians 1:21

- far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, **not only in this age but also in the one to come.**



Option 1

The 1000 years of Rev 20 is literal and futuristic on this earth distinct from the age to come.

Option 2

The 1000 years is symbolic of a very long time and the 1000 year kingdom is in heaven presently.



**Jesus in the gospels, Paul,
Peter, James, Luke, and
Jude are all silent
concerning a future 1000
year kingdom on this
earth.**



Furthermore, John is also silent in his gospel and all 3 epistles about the 1000 years.

Without Revelation 20, scholars would not believe in a literal 1000 year kingdom on this earth before the eternal kingdom.



Revelation 20:1



• Then I saw

In Revelation 20 is John circling back or moving forward?



I would argue that John is circling back.

And the reason I would argue this is found in 20:3.

What is the point of saying Satan is being prevented from deceiving the Nations?

In Rev 19 the nations that were deceived by Satan and made war against Christ were annihilated by Jesus when He returned in flaming fire.

There are no nations to deceive at this point.



Revelation 19:15



- From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron.
- He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.



Revelation 20:1

- an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the **key to the bottomless pit** and a great chain.

The key represents complete authority over the realm of death.

Literal or Symbolic

Are we to understand that a literal key is opening a literal door to a bottomless pit and a literal great chain is being used to secure a literal dragon?

I think not.



**I find it very interesting that in the
“church”**

- **A literal interpretation is understood to be conservative and good**
- **And a symbolic or figurative is liberal and bad**

Let me show you a few texts.



Matthew 16:18

- And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.



Matthew 16:19

- I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”



Ephesians 6:16

- In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish **all the flaming darts of the evil one;**



Revelation 1:18

- and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.



Revelation 20:2



- And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,

Is this already or not yet?

Option 1

Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit in the future but is presently free.

Option 2

Satan was bound when Christ rose from the grave and will be loosed to deceive the Nations during the GT until his eventual destruction.



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**If the binding of Satan is
yet to come—what then
was accomplished when
Christ crushed the head
of the serpent?**

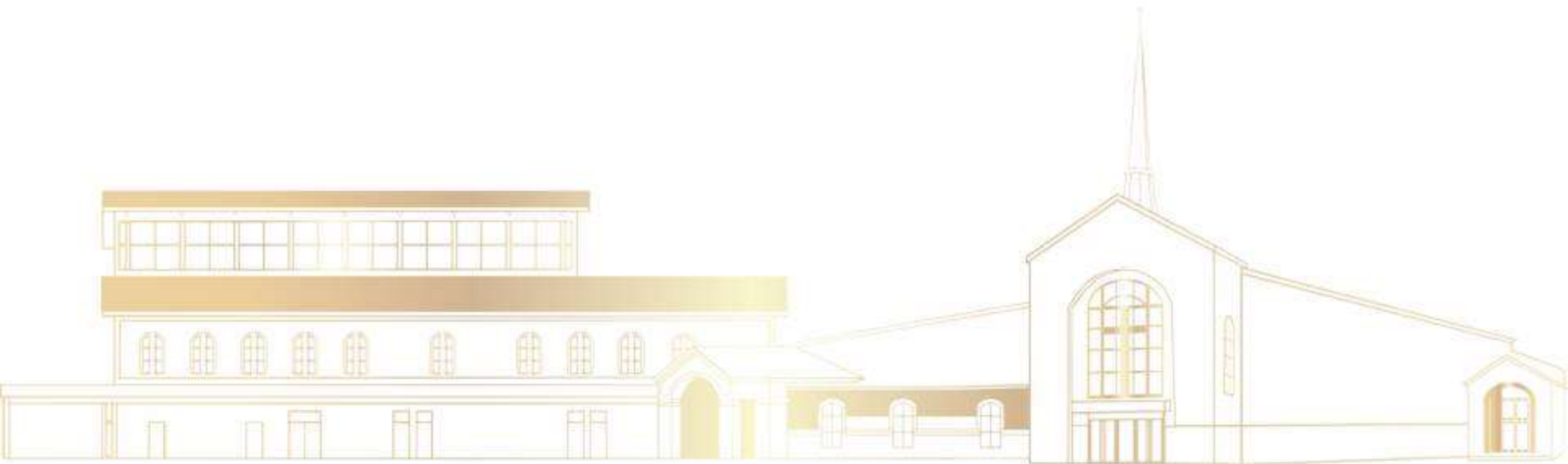




Did the cross do
anything to
Satan's influence
or impact pre-
cross v. post-
cross?

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Jesus said:



Matthew 12:29

- Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, **unless he first binds the strong man?** Then indeed he may plunder his house.



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Did Jesus bind the strong man?



If we say “no” Jesus did not bind Satan after the devil’s defeat at the resurrection then we must ask what was Jesus’ point in telling us that one must bind the strong man before he can plunder his goods.

If we say “yes” Jesus did bind Satan after His resurrection then we must ask: “In what way is Satan bound?”



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**According to Revelation
20:3, what is the
limitation this binding
of Satan creates?**



Revelation 20:3



- and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, **SO that he might not deceive the nations any longer,** until the thousand years were ended.

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**The first 4000+ years of
human history is
characterized by Satan
deceiving the nations often
including Israel**



What is the Great Commission Christ gave His Church?



Matthew 28:19–20

- Go therefore **and make disciples of all nations,** baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, **to the end of the age.”**



Matthew 24:14

- And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world **as a testimony to all nations,** and then the end will come.



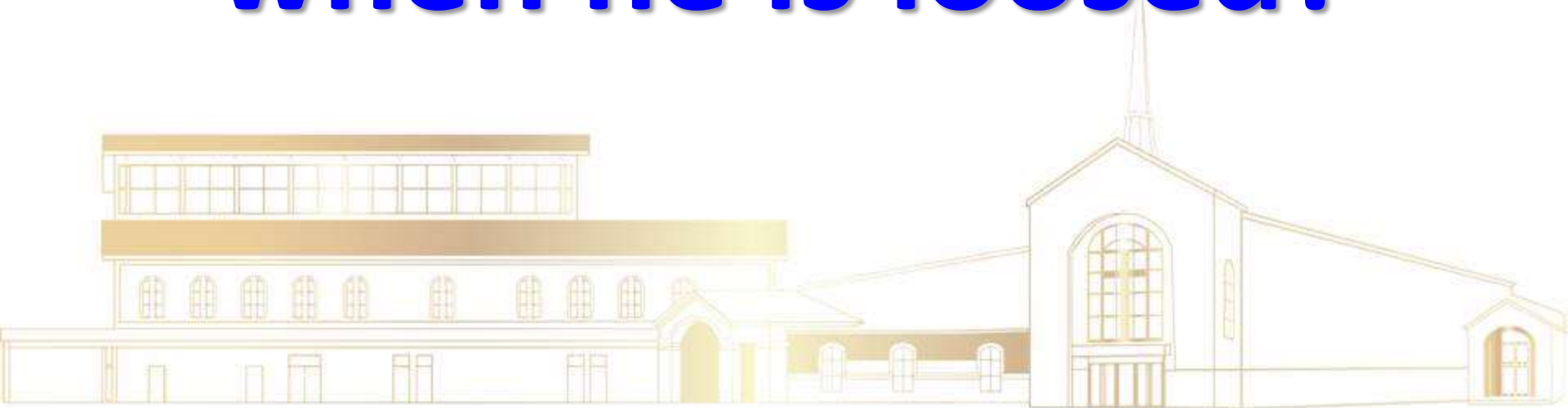
Romans 1:5

- through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name **among all the nations,**



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**Rev 20:8 describes
what Satan will do
when he is loosed?**



Revelation 20:8–9



- **and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea.**
⁹ And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them,

I would argue that the releasing of Satan in v. 3 for a little while is the removal of restriction to deceive the nations which occurs during the final Great Tribulation just prior to the return of Jesus to destroy the nations and establish His Kingdom.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ
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Look @

Matthew

24:23-24



Matthew 24:23-24

- Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe him. ²⁴ For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.



What I am trying to show you is:

**Jesus, John and Paul address
deception as a key characteristic of
the time just before the return of
Christ.**

Not the end of the millennial kingdom.



Deception is a Key Characteristic of the GT

12:9

And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, **the deceiver of the whole world**—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

13:14

and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it **deceives those who dwell on earth**, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

18:23

and the light of a lamp will shine in you no more, and the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more, for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, **and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.**

19:20

And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which **he deceived** those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.

20:10

and the devil **who had deceived** them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

During the Final Great Tribulation

- **The false prophet deceives**
- **The beast deceives**
- **Satan deceives**
- **Demons deceive**

I do NOT believe the battle of Gog and Magog is distinct from Armageddon.



Notice the text is very specific.

It DOES NOT say Satan can't:

- **Tempt believers**
- **Persecute Christians**
- **Disrupt Unity**
- **Deceive Individuals**
- **Thwart Plans**
- **Hinder Objectives**



The NT makes it clear Satan is alive and well:

He is the god of this world.

He blinds.

He is the adversary of the believer.

He hinders.

He tempts.

He devours.



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**I need you to see how
similar Revelation
16:14 & 20:8 are**



Revelation 16:13–14



- **And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs.** ¹⁴ **For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.**

**What battle is the battle
on the great day of God the
Almighty?**



**Is the battle of Rev 19 Jesus' and
the battle of Rev 20 God's?**

I think not.

Demons Deceive the Nations for the Final Battle of this Age

16:14

For they are **demonic spirits, performing signs,** who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, **to assemble them for battle** on the great day of God the Almighty.

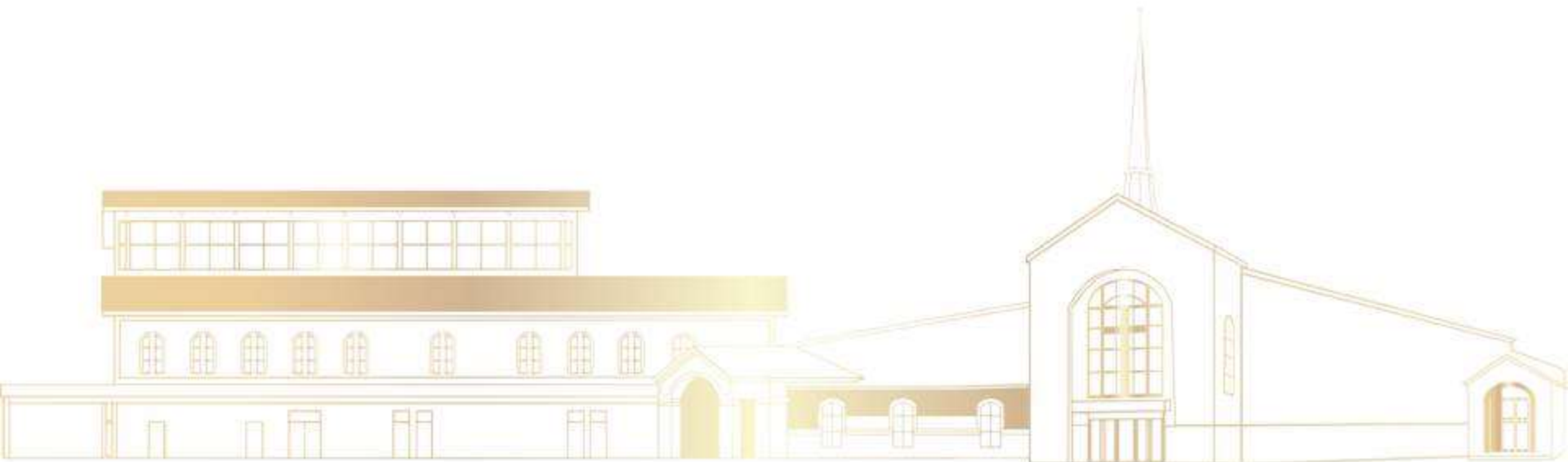
20:8

and will come out **to deceive the nations** that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, **to gather them for battle;** their number is like the sand of the sea.

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“Performing signs”

What do the signs do?



Revelation 18:23



- and the light of a lamp will shine in you no more, and the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more, for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.

Demons Deceive the Nations for the Final Battle of this Age

16:14 For they are **demonic spirits, performing signs**, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, **to assemble them for battle** on the great day of God the Almighty.

18:23 and the light of a lamp will shine in you no more, and the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more, for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, and **all nations were deceived by your sorcery**.

20:8 and will come out **to deceive the nations** that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, **to gather them for battle**; their number is like the sand of the sea.

Revelation 20:3



- **After that he must be released for a little while.**

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Turn to

2 Thessalonians 2



2 Thessalonians 2:1–2

- Now concerning **the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him**, we ask you, brothers, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.



2 Thessalonians 2:3–4

- Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the **man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,**⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.



2 Thessalonians 2:5–6

- Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?
- And you know **what is restraining him now** so that he may be revealed in his time.



2 Thessalonians 2:6 (NET)

- And so **you know what holds him back,**
- so that he will be revealed in his own time.



**What if Paul is describing
the binding or restraining
of Satan in the area of
being able to reveal the
lawless one to deceive
the nations?**



2 Thessalonians 2:7 (NET)

- For the hidden power of lawlessness is already at work. However, the one who holds him back will do so until he is taken out of the way,



**What if Revelation
20:1 is giving us incite
into the identity of
the one who holds
him back?**



Revelation 20:1–2



- **Then I saw an angel descending from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the abyss and a huge chain. ² He seized the dragon—the ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan—and tied him up for a thousand years.**

Let's be clear. We don't think Satan is tied up.

This is symbolic language to communicate a restriction or containment.



Satan cannot create a global war and eradicate Christianity from the face of the planet.

The Gates of Hell will not be allowed to prevail against the church of Jesus Christ.

To which you say ‘of course not!’ Tell us something we don’t know.

And what you are forgetting is this letter was NOT written to you—it was written to the early church.



2 Thessalonians 2:8 (NET)

- and then the lawless one will be revealed,
- whom the Lord will destroy by the breath of his mouth and wipe out by the manifestation of his arrival.



What I am suggesting is: The revealing of the antichrist will happen when Satan is released for a little season and not a moment earlier.

This releasing of Satan will increase demonic activity to unprecedented levels on the earth until Christ returns to destroy his enemies.



**I think v. 9 and 10 of 2
Thessalonians 2 is
strikingly similar to the
message of Revelation
16:14.**



2 Thessalonians 2:9–10

- The arrival of the lawless one will be by Satan's working with all kinds of miracles and signs and false wonders, and with every kind of evil deception directed against those who are perishing,



The Devil Uses Signs to Deceive

Mt.
24:24

For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and **perform great signs and wonders to deceive**, if possible, even the elect.

2
Thess.
2:9-10

The arrival of the lawless one will be by Satan's working with **all kinds of miracles and signs and false wonders, and with every kind of evil deception** directed against those who are perishing

Rev.
16:14

For they are **demonic spirits, performing signs**, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.

2 Thessalonians 2:10

- and **with every kind of evil deception directed against those who are perishing, because they found no place in their hearts for the truth so as to be saved.**



**What then is
the binding of
Satan?**



The binding of Satan is the inability to reveal the Antichrist (beast, man of sin or lawless one) who will deceive the nations into an all out assault (war) against Christ and His Church until God permits it.



Matthew 16:18

- And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, **and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**



I believe Satan is presently constrained in so much as He cannot deceive the Nations into a global assault against the church and at some time in the future will be released for a short season (20:3) to deceive the nations.

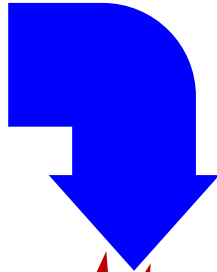
The Nations that followed Satan will be destroyed by God's Sovereign decree.

Then Satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire.

And the Eternal Age to Come with a new heaven and a new earth will begin.



1000+ Years in Heaven



This Age

**Final
Battle**

Eternal Age

