

Revelation 06-02-24b

Let's resume our study now in Revelation chapter 20. We have seen the binding of Satan. Satan is not going to be bound until this time.

Peter describes Satan as roaming the earth like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. And he is not bound. You can't bind him.

You can't pray him into submission. He will operate within the bounds that are set for him by God. And we have a very clear account of that in the book of Job.

A couple of other places as well. Peter himself being sifted like wheat. But the binding of Satan takes away the element of deceit.

One of the arguments that people always make is, well, I was fooled. And there is allowance made for Eve in the garden because she was deceived. But Adam was not deceived.

And in the same way, people down through history have been deceived by the woman who rides the beast, the mystery Babylon woman who has always been offering this enticing, alluring alternative to the truth. But that's all going to be swept away. The beast is gone, the woman is gone, Satan is gone.

And it's just real people with an unobstructed view of the operation of God for a thousand years. The Lord Jesus Christ is going to be known and be ruling. The resurrected Old Testament saints.

I mean, nobody is going to doubt that resurrection happens because all of these people are going to be walking around saying, yeah, I lived in, you know, 1440 B.C. I saw the Red Sea part. Let me tell you about it. There's going to be some, take them 600 years just to tell all their stories.

Can you imagine all of the descriptions? Be able to ask some of these old parties, well, what was it like when the... What did that manor really taste like? When the ground opened up and swallowed the core of Dathan and Abiram? How big was that hole and what kind of a sound did it make? We'll all be speaking Hebrew, so we'll understand it all just great. Well, all of the deceit is gone. It is going to be the last stage, just like a good scientist operating a lab experiment.

And you're solving for one variable. You're testing in every different situation. So, you have perfect creatures in a perfect environment.

Adam and Eve in the garden. You have fallen creatures in a fallen environment, which is our situation now. Now you're going to have fallen creatures in a perfect environment.

Perfect government, perfect justice, long life, no deception, free access to God and the things of God. You're going to be able to see angels and church-age believers and they're floating around every which way. Nobody's going to have any doubts or any confusion about reality.

The reality of God, the reality of spiritual things. It's going to be down to simple choice. Do I accept this or not? What is the sign of acceptance? What is the sign of acceptance? It's obedience.

It used to have in the marriage vow, love, honor and obey. That means I accept this. When the woman says this, she says, I accept this man as my husband.

He's the man of the house. He's the head of the family. The Bible says the man is the head of the woman.

And it's not a qualitative judgment. It's a functional assignment. It's like officers and enlisted.

And when an enlisted man signs his contract and part of his responsibility is to salute anything that's wearing gold or silver that walks by. It can be the greenest, stupidest lieutenant that ever walked the earth. Hasn't even finished his basic training or whatever.

He's got his commission and he's wandering around bumping into things. And this guy might be a seasoned master gunnery sergeant with 28 years in the service. Been all over the world.

Fought three or four wars. But when he sees that lieutenant, what does he do? He pops in the smartest, sharpest salute. Just the same as if he was a three-star general.

Why? Acceptance. I accept the system. This is the system.

I'm saluting the system. I'm saluting the rank. I'm fulfilling my duty.

It doesn't matter the yo-yo that's on the other side of those butter bars. Doesn't matter. I salute because that's my duty.

And I am loyal to the system. I'm loyal to my oath. I'm loyal to my responsibilities.

And this is the view that women ought to have because men and husbands screw up all the time. And you're not supposed to be loyal because we are brilliant and infallible. And we always do a great job.

You're supposed to be loyal because it is your duty before the Lord. It is a faithful stewardship to be supportive and to be the help meet when the meat and the help of the husband is impossible to follow. The leadership, the fitness, the meatness for a task is not visible.

It's not there. And you think we're, it always reminds me of what they said when I was trying to go to the Naval Academy and I was reading the little brochure and they said, yes, you know, you have some leaders that you would follow through fire and there's others you just feel like pushing in. And I know a lot of times that people question the number of functioning neurons in somebody that's in authority over them.

But that's not the basis for respect and obedience. Obedience means I accept this system. I have made a commitment and I accept it.

And in the millennial kingdom, there's going to be a government in place and you either accept that government or you don't. God is visible. Christ is manifest.

His people are on the earth. His king is on the throne. And you either accept the king.

By the way, if you go to Psalm 2, I have mentioned this a few times because it has a faulty Hebrew text and it has caused a lot of confusion because down in, this is the one that says the Lord has said, Thou art my son, today I have begotten you, asking me I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron. You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.

This psalm, that's what is being fulfilled in Revelation 19 and 20. Why do the nations rise and the people imagine a vain thing, plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against his anointed, saying let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us. They don't say I don't believe in the Lord and I don't believe in his anointed, do they? They say I don't like the restrictions.

I chafe under the authority. It bugs me. I don't agree with it.

I don't like it. I don't accept it. Let us break these bonds in pieces.

I don't just want to loose the bonds and get out from under them and sneak quietly off into the desert. I want to shatter the bonds. I don't want to get out from under the government.

I want to destroy it. You see the difference? Cast away their cords from us. I want to tear them up and throw them away so that they don't work for anybody anymore.

He who sits in the heavens shall laugh. The Lord shall hold them in derision. The people have come to this and said you know this is a cruel mocking God up there just laughing at people down there.

You look at the people who are still trying to resist the Lord Jesus Christ when he comes back at the end of the seven years, after the hailstones, after a third of everything dies, a third of everything turns to blood, a third of everything is scorched, disease, famine, death, violence, bloodshed, things falling out of the sky, darkness, the sun is dark, the moon turns to blood, locusts, stinging, all of this stuff going on. Nobody wants to repent. And when Jesus shows up, these people say let us gather together and get rid of this scourge.

Here's the cause of all of this stuff that's been happening the last three and a half years. It's this Jesus. And here's Satan, he's going to come and lead us against him.

And this is what I was talking about in the first session. There is a way of thinking that is absolutely incorrigible. It's not susceptible to conversion or to being taught.

It doesn't want to hear. It doesn't want to listen. It is enraged.

It is angry. It is anti-God, anti-Bible. It is hostile to spiritual things.

And there's no talking with it. There's no reasoning with it. There's no convincing it.

It is clearly committed to Satan's side. And you waste your energy doing any more than giving it a wide berth. Why do the nations rage and the people plot a vain thing? The Lord will hold them in derision.

He will laugh. Then he will speak to them in his wrath. And he will distress them in his deep displeasure.

And what does he say in verse 6? I have set my king on Mount Zion and you're going to obey him. I declare the decree. Here's the Son.

So it says in verse 10, Be wise, O kings, be instructed, you judges of the earth. This is the choice that everyone makes. Do you serve the Lord with fear? Do you rejoice with respect, with trembling, with recognition of the power of God? Then in verse 12 it says, Kiss the Son lest he be angry.

It doesn't say kiss the Son at all. And everybody realizes it doesn't say kiss the Son. What they can't figure out is what does it say? Well, I won't get off into this one of these days.

If we do this Psalm in Hebrew, I'll explain it. But the words, I think, have been misdivided. And the word here is actually a word that means to accept.

It's the Hebrew word that means to accept. And it's been misdivided and they ended up with a word that means to kiss. And then they have bar, B-A-R.

It's got that little dash at the top I showed you. And so it says kiss dash bar, kiss the Son. Well, look, this is Psalm 2. It's Hebrew.

This is not Aramaic. And bar is the word for Son in Aramaic. How do you get Aramaic back in Psalm 2? The first 50 Psalms are attributed to David.

Nobody is speaking Aramaic in a thousand plus B.C. But that's the best they could make out of it. And that's not what it says at all. And if you re-divide the words, I'll give you that one of these days.

But anyway, the verb is to accept. And it basically means be wise, O kings. Be instructed, you judges of the earth.

Serve the Lord with fear. Rejoice with trembling. Accept his rule.

Lest he be angry and you perish in the way when his wrath is kindled but a little. It's the rod of iron idea. Blessed are all those who put their trust in him.

Well, that's where we are here in Revelation chapter 20. The first resurrection, still looking at the Old Testament economy primarily. If you look at this as the first resurrection, everybody who is currently resurrected at the point that the Old Testament saints are resurrected, everyone at that point is essentially in the first resurrection.

If you want to comprehend everybody, then that includes Jesus, the church, and the Old Testament saints. You know, over in Corinthians it says there will be a resurrection each in his own order. Christ the first fruits, then those who are Christ's at his coming.

That's where you get the church age perspective from Paul. Here, we're getting the Israel perspective because that's who God has been dealing with for the last 15 chapters. So, that's why it says those who have not worshipped the beast or his image have not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands.

They lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Blessed and holy is he who has a part, not part, a part, meros, an apportionment, an allotment in the first resurrection. Over such, the second death has no power. If an Israelite, if an Old Testament saint, all the way up to Pentecost and the seven years of the tribulation, if they are judged by these who sit on the throne and are apportioned and allotted a meros in that resurrection, that's a get out of judgment free card at the end of the millennium.

They have already got their, what they used to call in the south, their bona fides. Their bona fides. They've already demonstrated faith under trying circumstances.

So, they are not subject to the second death because they are not subject to that post-millennial judgment. Their life has already shown the fruit of faith. They've already got the robe of righteousness, so to speak.

So, blessed and sanctified. Holy, of course, doesn't mean that you glow in the dark. It means you're set apart, sanctified.

You are special. You have been assigned a status. The Levites were holy.

They were set apart, given a specific station. Over such, the second death has no power. They shall be priests of God and of Christ and shall reign with him a thousand years.

These, of the Old Testament saints, are the overcomers. They are the elite. They are sort of like

the equivalent of the 24 elders.

And the overcomers spoken of in Revelation 2 and 3 from the church age. These are the equivalent. And notice that the language is very similar.

Ruling authority, priesthood. Remember the 24 elders? They're like priests, the 24 courses. These overcomers, still looking at this from an Israelite perspective, also are given rulership, crowns, and priesthood.

24 courses. So this is parallel in the Israelite world. Reign with him a thousand years.

They only reign with him a thousand years. Why? That's the duration of the Israelite millennial kingdom. And their ruling authority is in that realm.

Because they are resuscitated Old Testament saints. And that's their function. That's where they operate.

They're not glorified. They're not in resurrection bodies. They're resuscitated.

They are human. But they have already passed under the rod and been counted worthy to enter in. They are the five wise virgins.

They have the oil in their lamps. And they enter in. They're not the ones on the outside.

Lord, Lord, in your name. I never knew you. Depart from me.

I don't have any oil in my lamp. Let me go get some. Those are the ones who are outside.

Those people are not yet bonafide. They don't have this get out of judgment free card. They have a thousand years to do so.

Now, why this sort of second chance idea for Israel? It seems to me like Israelites are getting a second chance here. Well, if you do well in your first go around, you are in the ruling and reigning and priestly type of overcomer class. If not, why you live through the thousand years and then you get judged at the end.

Why Israel sort of two goes? You only go around twice if you're an Israelite. And yet the church, you only go around once. What's the difference in the first go around for Israel? No Holy Spirit such as we have it.

It was an exceptional ministry. Why do you think sin is not imputed? Paul talks about it in Romans. Sin is not imputed where there is no law.

God overlooked a lot of things in the Old Testament age. Why? From those to whom much is given, much is required. And that's us.

Much less was given in the Old Testament. Much less revelation. Much less need for the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Why? Because that age was demonstrating the need. You need the Word of God. You need the Spirit of God.

Look what happens when you don't have it. Dismal failure, idolatry, dropping in the wilderness. Can't hold a course and steer for the shore.

Can't make it to port. Can't get into the land and so on. Well, you could argue if you're an Old Testament saint.

Hey, you've got these church age people. They've got a 66 book Bible. They've got the filling of the Holy Spirit, gifting and indwelling and Christ and all the rest of it.

The example, looking back at the cross. I was shambling around in the wilderness there trying to eat cheap and stay alive. How can you hold me to any kind of a... And it's a valid point.

So, they're going to get their chance. What does God say about the Millennial Kingdom? I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh. You will have no need for any man to teach you because you will have My Word in your hearts and on your lips.

You'll have all of those advantages. You could have had them as the firstborn son, but as is so often the case, the firstborn missed it and the younger wound up getting it first. Jacob instead of Esau.

Isaac instead of Ishmael and so on. The whole Ephraim and Manasseh thing. I mean, over and over again you have this reversal taking place where the elder shall serve the younger and the last shall be first.

But it doesn't mean that the elder never gets there. He does eventually get there and Israel is going to have all those covenant promises fulfilled. So, for those rabble that didn't get it done in the first go-round, they're back for the Millennial Kingdom and they are ruled by those who ought to be elders in Israel.

Not just the elderly, but those who already demonstrated that they get it. They caught on. They have been assigned ruling authority.

They've been assigned priestly authority. These are the leaders in Israel and they will rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years. Why? They're qualified.

They're the ones that go to the head of the class. Now, you notice that we don't really see the church in view. Why is that? This is the first resurrection.

It seems to be all about Israel. The rest of the dead live not. We don't really see much about the church.

Why? We're not here. We're not on the earth. Our earthly lesson has already been learned.

This thousand years is Israel's Holy Spirit, Word of God on the earth. Figure it out in time. We have graduated from that grade school.

We're up in junior high or high school. We're up there where angels learn things now. And we will be in the celestial realm.

This is why we don't have to worry about where is the church going to fit into the land of Palestine when Jesus comes back. What did Jesus say in John 14? I go to prepare a place for you. If I go, I'll come again and receive you to myself so that where I am, there you may be also.

I always kind of struggled with this vis-a-vis the Millennial Kingdom until we did our recent studies and figured out that yes, Scofield and Darby and Dr. Schaefer were right. And there is an earthly people of God in the Millennial Kingdom. And there is a heavenly people.

The Lord Jesus is not going to be sitting on the throne in Jerusalem. David's going to be there. We know that from Hosea 3 and verse 5 and Jeremiah chapter 30 and verse 9 and a couple of other passages tells us like four or five times in the Old Testament David will rule in the Millennial Kingdom.

Why? He's an Old Testament saint. He's the Old Testament king. He is the anointed.

When's the last time you saw a king of Israel get anointed by a prophet? Did a prophet anoint Solomon? Or Rehoboam or Jeroboam or Josiah or any of the rest of those guys? Who's the last anointed? Who's the last Mashiah in Israel? It's King David. So, he's going to be sitting on the throne and the bride and the groom, the glorified church is going to be a step up, a dimension up. And I fully expect that after the Millennial Kingdom Israel is going to catch up.

When you get into the Kingdom of the Father you have a whole different economy. You see no distinction. You see no separation by dispensation by church and Israel.

What you do see is a separation by overcomers and non-overcomers. And the overcomers of every age are going to have access to the New Jerusalem tree of life, river and all of that on the inside and all those who had a pattern of failure are going to be on the outside waiting for the healing leaves to come out. So, this all kind of falls into place.

So, as we continue in chapter 20 we see now who is being spoken of in these first six verses. This is talking about the earthly Millennial Kingdom. Those who had been judged.

It doesn't say who it is that's on these thrones. But these thrones are set up and judgment is

committed to those who sit on them. And then the souls of these who represent the Old Testament saints beheaded for the testimony and so on who had not worshipped the beast or his image.

And of course that is metaphoric for all of the 7,000 that have not bowed the knee to Baal. Going all the way back. They live and reign with Christ for a thousand years.

These are the overcomers. Those who are approved. Then in verse 7, when the thousand years have expired.

So, this is not year 998. It's not year 999. It's after the thousand years are complete.

All thousand of them run. Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations. Same thing he's always done.

Revelation chapter 12. Revelation chapter 19. He is the deceiver.

He's the liar. Been a liar from the beginning. Deceived Eve in the garden.

He started deceiving angels when he was still in the throne room of God. He's been a deceiver and a liar ever since. And his last act of defiance is going to be another big deception.

He's going to go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth. Gog and Magog. To gather them together to battle whose number is as the sand of the sea.

Now, we want to pay close attention. Remember I said pay close attention at the end of chapter 19 and we saw the great feast and the carrying birds and all that. Jesus and his white robed army on the white horses come forth and there is a pitched battle.

Right? And the army fights. And one army is annihilated by the other army. The army of darkness and the beast and all that is annihilated by the army that comes back with the Lord Jesus.

What happens this time? Satan comes out. Gathers everybody together. The number like the sand of the sea.

They went up on the breadth of the earth. They surround the camp of the saints and the beloved city which would be Jerusalem. So then do the saints of the Lord ride forth from Jerusalem on their white chargers wrapped in their white robes and wearing their breastplates of righteousness and all that? How is the enemy led by Satan defeated? What does it say here? Fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

Nobody seemingly fires a shot. Nobody swings a sword. No horses.

No blood as high as the bridles. No seven months to bury the dead. Satan assembles everybody.

They surround the saints and the beloved city and they are instantly incinerated. It's just kind of convenient. They just all gather around.

They all go in one place. You remember when the general in the Old Testament got all the bell worshipers together in the temple and then lit fire to it and incinerated them all? Well, turnabout's fair play. Fire came down out of heaven and devoured them.

Now who's them? That's all of these that have been assembled from the four corners of the earth whose number is as the sand of the sea. And we'll save Gog Magog for a little bit later. I'm very interested in those terms.

Why are they even there? Why doesn't it just say he went off to deceive the nations which were in the four corners of the earth to gather them together to battle? Why does it even mention Gog Magog and what is Gog Magog? But look at verse 10. The devil who deceived them, he didn't get devoured. He didn't get incinerated.

He is seemingly fireproof. He who deceived them, now who's them? Do you think the fallen angels are deceived by Satan? Not anymore. It has to be the human beings, the tares amongst the wheat, the bad fish amongst the good that are deceived and they are drawn out by the devil's presence.

Then the devil who deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and false prophet are. Notice *are* is in italics. You could just as easily say where the beast and false prophet went.

There is no verb there. It just says remember the beast and the false prophet went into the lake of fire? Well, the devil is going in there too. This says nothing about the status.

You see I'm hedging my bets. It says nothing about the status of the beast and the false prophet. Then it says, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Who is they? Who is going to be tormented day and night forever and ever? Specifically from this passage. Exegetically speaking. Those three.

What do we know about those three? Are they human? They are not. Satan is definitely not human. Neither is the beast and neither is the false prophet.

They are of this fireproof race when the armies wipe out the opposition at Armageddon. The beast and the false prophet survive and are cast into the lake of fire. When the fire from God comes down and incinerates all the humans at this battle, Gog Magog, all the people are incinerated but the devil is not.

He is cast into the lake of fire. As of the point where it says they will be tormented day and night forever and ever, the lake of fire has precisely three occupants. It is the unholy trinity who is

occupying it.

The people who just got incinerated and all the people who got wiped out at Armageddon are not there. This gets us up to verse 11 and the great white throne judgment. Then after Satan and the beast and the false prophet are all bubbling merrily away in the lake of fire, then I saw a great white throne and him who sat on it from whose face the earth and heaven fled away.

This is a different kind of judgment than the one we just saw about ten verses ago. I saw thrones and they whose judgment was given to them, plurality, delegated judgment and you get the idea that believers ought to be able to deal justly and fairly with one another. This is Paul's argument in Corinthians.

Why do you take each other to court? Why do you sue one another? And that before unbelievers. Do you not know that we will judge angels? And apparently we are going to be judging, possibly judging each other. Church age believers may be judging at the beginning of the millennial kingdom.

But here, there is no delegation. The great white throne and him who sat on it from whose face the earth and heaven fled away. There is only one individual from whom the earth and heaven will flee away and that is God himself.

God is sitting on this throne. There is no place left for the earth and heaven. This is the dissolution of the material universe.

These dimensions, these galaxies, as vast as the universe is, this is the equivalent of God hitting the reset button on the computer and all of the RAM getting wiped. I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God. Standing before God.

Different quality of judgment. Why? Because this is not a judgment for the purpose of approval as was the one at the beginning of the millennial kingdom where those who sit on the thrones are looking for those who will rule and reign as priests with Christ for a thousand years in his earthly millennial kingdom under David. Instead, this is a judgment of eternal retribution, of final condemnation.

And God doesn't delegate that to anyone. We're not going to have to look at some fellow human being in the face and say, you're going to hell, buddy. God himself will face each one of these.

The dead, small and great, stand before God and the books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the book of life. *Book of* is in italics, but it is the book of life.

It's legitimate to put it there. You have the very phrase book of life just a sentence further on. And the dead were judged according to their works.

It doesn't say they're judged as to whether or not they have faith. Why? It's a moot point. If they

had any faith, any saving faith, they wouldn't be standing here.

That judgment has already been made. If they had any saving faith, they would have come up in the first resurrection, church age, age of Israel. The dead, small and great that are standing here are all unbelievers by definition.

Faith is not an issue. And what is shocking to many Christians is sin is not an issue either. Sin is not an issue at this judgment.

Hitler, Mussolini, Pol Pot, whoever you want to think of as doing horrible, terrible crimes. The sins are not an issue here. Why? We have numerous passages that tell us that sin has already been judged.

Remember our memory verse in 2 Corinthians 5.21? And He made Him to be sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. You have 1 John 2.2. He is the propitiation for our sins and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. The penalty for all sins is paid.

No one goes to the lake of fire for their sins. And notice, there is no mention of sin at the great white throne judgment. Now this just kind of twists our brain and we say, wait a minute.

These unbelievers, aren't they dead in their sins and they rejected Christ and so they have to try to pay for their own sins? This is erroneous. This is what church tradition over 2,000 years has done to our thinking. It's not about sin.

We tend to think, well if you don't have sin on your slate, you're good to go. God's not interested in whether or not you've got sin on your slate. The sin's all been taken care of.

What is God looking for at this judgment? Righteousness. This is the difference between having money in the bank or having debt. The fact that you have no debt doesn't mean you have money in the bank.

Sin is the debt. Sin is in the red. Righteousness is in the black.

You cannot get the righteousness that impresses God apart from Christ. It is only Christ's righteousness that impresses God and there is not a molecule of it that a person can obtain in any way other than salvation through Christ. That's the only way.

Notice I did not say union with Christ. Salvation through Christ. Old Testament saints are not united with Christ but they are still capable of claiming His righteousness by faith.

Those in the Old Testament days did it in prospect. Those in the Millennial Kingdom will do it in retrospect. But this is a judgment of works.

Show me the works that are essentially gold, silver, and precious stones. Now, can you right now

go to your house and in your kitchen sink whip up gold? Are you an alchemist? Can you create silver? Can you get a handful of some silicate and compress it and color it and make it into a gemstone? We can't. We don't have the ability to manufacture gold and silver and precious stones and that's exactly why these are used.

These are things that God created and left out there for us to claim and lay hold of. Can we grow wood and hay and stubble? Yes, we can, but they're temporary and perishable. Everybody at this judgment is going to get a chance to show God the gold or the silver or the precious stone righteousness that they themselves have created.

And it is going to be painfully obvious to them this is the standard that they had to meet and this is the standard that they cannot meet. They had the opportunity to meet that standard through Christ, but they've rejected Him. And so it's very clear that by rejecting Him they now have cut themselves off from the righteousness that is required for life with God.

And it's going to be very clear. Here's my bundle of dried hay. Here's my handful of chipped bark.

Here is my tofu. Here is my soy. Here is my wheat grass.

Here's my wheat germ. Here's my oat bran. Here's my sorghum.

Nothing is going to compare to what God requires. That's the nature of this judgment. They are judged according to their works by the things that are written in the books.

It's all written down. Al Capone gave thousands of dollars to charity. It's all written down in the book.

Big Al is going to go walking up there. I assume he's an unbeliever. He's going to face God.

He's going to say, you know, gave to the orphans. Of course, it was all extortion money and I got it by killing people and all that. But hey, look at the good I did with it.

I built a library. Did these benevolent acts. And he's going to look at it and it's going to be this dry, withering, crumbling, vegetative matter that starts to burst into flames right there in his hands.

And it has no gold and has no silver and has no precious stones. Now, it says, the sea gave up the dead who were in it. Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them.

Why three different places coughing up unbelievers? We've talked about this in the past. What does the sea represent? Death and Hades. These are pictured as being the repositories.

So you would think, well, these are different, are these different kinds of death or are these different kinds of people who are in the grip of death? Well, the death would be your, I died in bed, I fell asleep, it was a dignified death, there I was. The sea, this is the unknown. You know,

you drop something in the sea, it's gone forever.

People were out in the Mediterranean, something falls overboard, you never see it again. It's mysterious, it's unknown, it's chaotic, it's uncontrollable, it's beyond human intervention or comprehension. Death, we manage.

Death, we have ceremonies, we have burials, we have markers, we have memorials, we have services and so on. Hades, this is the negative side of death. Maybe these are the executed people, these are the violent deaths, the ones that were not in the sea, where it's unknown.

Well, he went away one day and I never saw him again. Maybe he was eaten by a beast. Jacob never did know what happened to Joseph, they brought back the bloody coat, but he never did ostensibly know what happened to his son.

And he really didn't know what happened to his son. But these are, it doesn't matter how you are remembered. Julius Caesar, Napoleon, Genghis Khan, great people of history are remembered and memorialized in death by human history and they're well thought of in human history.

There's others that are completely unknown and nameless and faceless. They've lived and died, whole generations of Chinamen lived and died over there and nobody knows who they are or anything about them. And then you have Hades and of course this is related to Gehenna and the trash pit and the criminals and those who were executed or who die under violent circumstances and so on.

Whatever kind of death you died, whatever the last gasp was for your epitaph, they are given up and judged, each one according to his works. Then it says death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. It doesn't say anything, it doesn't say, this would be kind of strange if the sea was cast into the lake of fire.

It's kind of like the irresistible force meets the immovable object. Does the lake of fire turn the sea to steam or does the sea turn the lake of fire to ashes? Well, the idea here is that death in whatever form is abolished. There is no more death.

This is the second death and this is the final death and there isn't going to be any more death. There are going to be no more sentient creatures checking out of eternity. This is the coup de grace.

Anyone not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Notice there is one book of life. Church age believers, age of Israel believers, patriarchal, age of innocence, age of conscience, it doesn't matter where in human history, there is one book of life.

You either accept God or you don't. You either respond to his grace or you don't. You are either in the book of life or you are not.

Irrespective of overcoming, irrespective of whether you have righteousness or your rusty old halo, skinny white gown and so on. It doesn't matter. This is the simple, he that hath the son hath life, he that hath not the son of God hath not life.

The wrath of God abides on him. Anyone not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Now, who is unaccounted for here? Old Testament saints, we know where they are.

Church age saints, we know where they are. Satan, the beast and the false prophet, we know where they are. The elect angels, the unfallen angels, we know where they are.

Who is missing here? What happened to the demons? Oh, we know who you are, the holy one of God. If you come to torture us before the time, remember them speaking through the demon-possessed man to Jesus? What happened to them? Where are they? Death and hell cast into the lake of fire. Where are the fallen angels? Well, out of time.

I have to leave you with that thought. Come back next week and we'll see if we can figure out where Satan's hench angels went to. Father, thank you for the privilege of studying your Word.

Help us to meditate on these things in a fruitful way that will be meaningful and motivating for the life that remains to us between now and the return of the Lord Jesus. We pray that our lives may glorify Him and we ask it in His name. Amen.