

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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## Revelation 20 – Fulfilled Perspective



By Dan Maines

### **Revelation 20 – Fulfilled Perspective**

**Revelation 20:1-2**

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he took hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

† The angel represents Christ's authority. In Matthew 28:18 He declares, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

† Satan's binding is covenantal. Jesus said in Matthew 12:29

that one must first bind the strong man before plundering his house. Through Christ's death and resurrection, Satan's deceptive hold on the nations was broken.

† The thousand years is symbolic of fullness and completeness. Psalm 50:10 and 2 Peter 3:8 both show that God uses a thousand symbolically.

### **Revelation 20:3**

And he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

† The nations had been in darkness, but with Satan bound the gospel went forth (Colossians 1:6).

† The short release refers to the Jewish-Roman war period, when deception and persecution rose before the final judgment on Jerusalem in AD 70.

### **Revelation 20:4**

Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their foreheads and on their hands; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

† These are the faithful martyrs, including those killed under Nero. Revelation 6:10 records their cry for vindication.

† Their reigning with Christ shows their vindication. Daniel 7:22 says judgment was given in favor of the saints.

† This is not a physical resurrection, but covenantal vindication and participation in Christ's reign.

### **Revelation 20:5-6**

The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

† The first resurrection is spiritual, participation in Christ's life (Ephesians 2:5-6, Colossians 3:1).

† The second death refers to covenant exclusion and final judgment upon unbelieving Israel.

† Those in Christ share in His priesthood and kingship (1 Peter 2:9).

### **Revelation 20:7-8**

When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations which are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.

† Gog and Magog represent the enemies of God's people (Ezekiel 38-39). John applies it symbolically to the uprising that culminated in Rome's war against Jerusalem.

† The short time of Satan's release corresponds to the turbulent years leading up to AD 70.

### **Revelation 20:9**

And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

† The beloved city is Jerusalem. Luke 21:20 says, When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near.

† Fire from heaven signifies God's covenantal wrath, fulfilled in

the fiery destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.

### **Revelation 20:10**

And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

† Satan's defeat is total. The beast (Nero and Rome's power) and the false prophet (apostate Jewish leadership) are destroyed together.

† The lake of fire represents the irreversible judgment of God.

### **Clarification on Nero and the lake of fire**

† Nero's literal body was not cast into a literal lake of fire. Revelation is using symbolic language. The lake of fire represents the irreversible covenantal judgment of God. The beast in Revelation was not simply Nero's physical person, but the imperial power system that rose with him, persecuted the saints, and met its destruction in the Jewish-Roman war.

† Revelation 19:20 says the beast and false prophet were thrown alive into the lake of fire. Nero had already died by suicide in 68 AD, but the prophecy does not mean his corpse was burned. It means the beast system that Nero embodied was judged. Nero's reign unleashed persecution, but the Flavian dynasty (Vespasian and Titus) carried forward the beast until Jerusalem's destruction.

† Revelation 20:10 says the devil, the beast, and the false prophet share the same final fate. This is not biological death, but covenantal defeat. The lake of fire is the symbol of total and final removal.

† When Jerusalem fell in 70 AD, the beast power that began under Nero and was continued by Vespasian and Titus met its end in God's plan. In this sense, Nero's beast-head was judged with the rest. His part in the beast was thrown into the lake of fire.

† Revelation uses beast to refer to rulers as heads of one empire (Revelation 17:9-11). Nero was the sixth head, Vespasian the seventh, Titus the eighth continuation. The whole beast system is what is judged, not just the man Nero.

### **Revelation 20:11**

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled, and no place was found for them.

† This depicts covenantal transition, the passing away of the Old Covenant order (Hebrews 8:13).

† The great white throne is Christ's judgment seat (Matthew 25:31-32, 2 Corinthians 5:10).

### **Revelation 20:12**

And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

† This is the judgment of Israel and the nations. Matthew 16:27-28 says the Son of Man would come in His kingdom and repay each person in that generation.

† The book of life shows covenant inclusion through Christ.

### **Revelation 20:13**

And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them; and they were judged, each one of them according to their deeds.

† This is symbolic of the complete judgment, no escape for covenant breakers.

† Death and Hades are emptied, showing the finality of

judgment at the end of the Old Covenant age.

### **Revelation 20:14-15**

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

† Death and Hades being cast away signifies the end of their power. 1 Corinthians 15:54-55 says, Death is swallowed up in victory.

† The second death is covenant exclusion. Those not in Christ faced destruction, but those in the book of life share eternal life.

### **Scriptural and Historical Support**

† Revelation itself sets the time as near (Revelation 1:1-3, 22:6, 22:10). Revelation 20 fits within that same framework.

† Jesus declared Satan was being cast out and bound (John 12:31, Matthew 12:29). The gospel went forth to all nations (Colossians 1:6) during the thousand-year symbolic reign.

† The short release corresponds to the Jewish-Roman war, deception, and persecution before AD 70.

### **Historical Witnesses**

† Josephus records Jerusalem's destruction: The temple was burned to the ground (Wars 6.4.7). This confirms Revelation 20:9.

† Josephus also said, It was the greatest of all wars... not so considerable as they were (Wars 1.1.1). This matches Matthew 24:21.

† Tacitus wrote, The temple... was seen to be burning... the number of the slain exceeded all that had ever been known (Histories 5.12-13). His record confirms Revelation's vision.

### **Conclusion**

† Revelation 20 is not about a far-distant end of world history. It is about the first-century covenantal shift: Satan bound at the cross, the gospel advancing, the martyrs vindicated, Jerusalem surrounded and burned, and the Old Covenant system cast away. The second death fell upon the covenant breakers, while those in Christ share eternal life. Scripture, history, and covenant context together prove first century fulfillment.

† **This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies** †

### Source Index

† <https://biblehub.com/nasb/>

† <https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=J.+BJ>

† <https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Tac.+Hist>

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