

THE COMING GOLDEN AGE
Message Number Three
Shadow Mountain Community Church
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April 27th & 28th, 2024
“No Devil”
Revelation 20:1-3

G-1 Sitting on thirty-seven acres of land southwest of Colorado Springs, ADX Florence is the most secure prison in America. If you could walk its corridors, you'd pass a “who's who” of archvillains, including Zacarias Moussaoui, who masterminded the 911 attacks; Terry Nichols, who helped plan the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing; James Marcello, the notorious Chicago crime boss; El Chapo, the Mexican drug kingpin; and until recently, Theodore Kaczynski, the Unabomber. Kaczynski was found dead in his cell in 2023. Superspy Robert Hanssen also died in his cell. In fact, most of those in the Florence supermax will never leave the place alive. Each prisoner has extremely long sentences, and they're largely kept in solitary confinement with little or no time outside their cells.

G-2 Each unit is 7 by 12 feet, with a stool and desk made of poured concrete, a concrete bed with a

foam pad, and a toilet with a sink at its top. The cells are soundproof, and multiple cameras monitor each prisoner 24 hours a day. Only a narrow slit of a window lets in light, and the slits are designed so prisoners cannot ascertain where they are in the complex. [["The World's Most Secure Buildings: ADX Florence Prison," IDENTIV, July 20, 2022, https://www.identiv.com/resources/blog/the-worlds-most-secure-buildings-adx-florence-prison.](https://www.identiv.com/resources/blog/the-worlds-most-secure-buildings-adx-florence-prison/)]

There's never been an escape from ADX Florence.

I know of only one penitentiary more secure than America's supermax complex in Colorado. Designed by Almighty God for the worst of the evil agents in the unseen realm, **G-3 that prison is known as the Bottomless Pit or the Abyss.**

According to Revelation 20, when Jesus returns to set up His Millennial Kingdom, an angel will come from heaven. John described him as . . .

V-1 Revelation 20:2-3 - Having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should

deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished.

One of the most significant facts about the Coming Golden Age is the total absence of Satan. The world will be free of his provocations for 365,250 days—a thousand devil-less years!

“When Satan is sealed in the abyss, his influence on the earth will not simply be lessened; it will be nonexistent. Imagine a world in which Satan can no longer manipulate leaders, tempt sinners, take advantage of the weak, or corrupt the strong!” [\[Swindoll\]](#)

I want to point out three things about these opening verses in Revelation 20: the person of the devil, the prison of the demons; and earth’s period of deliverance from Satan’s schemes.

P-1 I. The Person of the Devil

In Revelation 20:2, the apostle John used four different words or titles for this person of evil. We’re told a powerful angel from heaven will lay hold of . .

V-2 Revelation 20:2 - The dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil, and Satan.

This list of names carries an air of authority, as if it were the verdict being announced to a prisoner before they are thrown into jail.

What's behind these four terms?

P-2 A. The Dragon

First, John referred to the devil as a dragon. This image occurred earlier in Revelation 12, where John saw a “great, fiery red dragon” who sought to destroy the Messiah at the time of our Lord’s first coming (vv. 1–5) and who will dominate the events around His second coming.

Here, in Revelation 20, John identified the ultimate version of this dragon as Satan.

A. The Dragon

P-3 B. The Serpent of Old

Verse 2 goes on to mention “that serpent of old.” This takes us all the way back to Genesis 3, when the serpent appeared in the garden of Eden to tempt Eve and Adam into doubting and disobeying God.

Satan deceives by misquoting the Bible. He used that ploy on Eve in the garden and he tried to use it on our Lord in the desert. Today, Satan uses the subtle method of Scripture taken out of context to deceive many.

A. The Dragon

B. The Serpent of Old

P-4 C. The Devil

John gave us a third title for this evil personage: “the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil.” Our English word devil comes from the G-4 Latin *diabolus*, which itself comes from the Greek word John used here—*diabolos*. The root meaning is “one who accuses or slanders.”

The Bible repeatedly condemns slander, with God Himself hating it according to Proverbs 6:16, 19. It is listed as a behavior of those who reject Him (Romans 1:30) and even labeled as demonic by James (James 3:15-16). Slander can be seen as a branch of gossip, involving spreading harmful information about someone in order to damage their character. In journalism, this is referred to as ‘malice aforethought’ - deliberately telling a story

with the intent of harming someone's reputation. This is exactly what the devil delights in doing.

In Genesis 3, the devil slandered God in front of Adam and Eve when he said,

V-3 Genesis 3:4-5 - "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

With subtle cunning, the Devil spun a tale about God with the intention of tarnishing His reputation and portraying the Lord as stingy instead of generous.

In the centuries since, he has delighted in accusing God's children before the throne, pointing out our faults and making accusations against us as he did about Job (Job 1:9–11), Joshua (Zech. 3:1), and the entire family of believers (Rev. 12:10–12). His efforts are thwarted because we're covered with the precious blood of Christ, though that doesn't stop his accusations.

A. The Dragon

B. The Serpent of Old

C. The Devil

P-5 D. Satan

John's final word was Satan. "He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan." That term comes straight from the G-5 Greek word satanas, which means adversary. This word occurs more than thirty times in the New Testament, and what an awful association we find when tracing it through Scripture. Satan tempts us (1 Cor. 7:5), takes advantage of us (2 Cor. 2:11), buffets us (12:7), hinders us (1 Thess. 2:18), provokes us to lie and to deceive (Acts 5:3), and tries to steal the Word of God from our hearts (Mark 4:15).

Thomas A. Tarrants, President Emeritus of the C. S. Lewis Institute, wrote,

G-6 "We can safely say that [Satan's] goals are to reclaim or at least neutralize God's people, G-7 to destroy the church, G-8 to overthrow the kingdom of God, G-9 to displace God as King of creation and to G-10 become the object of all worship. This helps explain much of the evil and suffering that rages on earth."

[Thomas A. Tarrants, "Hindrances to Discipleship: The Devil," C. S. Lewis Institute, June 4, 2012, https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/hindrances-to-discipleshipthe-devil/?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA_5WvBhBAEiwAZtCU7zWQqpv9PWJsUaTqgntFTfcmcmvDtEhDeMdOaLrBy_fPn2Qb8FilxhoC66UQAuV_DwE.]

Today Satan continues his strategy of division. He injects the poisons of suspicion, intolerance, hatred, jealousy, and criticism.

If you have ever felt unusually tempted, buffeted, taken advantage of, hindered, provoked, and weakened toward the Word, it's likely the adversary was plying his arts on you.

Oh, to be rid of him!

And, some day, we will be!

I. The Person of the Devil

P-6 II. The Prison of Demons

Now let's look at the opening verses of Revelation 20 again and notice the prison to which the devil is destined:

V-4 Revelation 20:1-3 - Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand

years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up.

The term bottomless pit is better translated abyss, because the Greek word John used was G-11 abyssos, meaning “a very deep place.” This is God’s supermax prison for evil spirits. It isn’t hell. That will be the devil’s final destiny, but for a thousand years Satan will be banished from earth and imprisoned in this mysterious penitentiary.

The prophet Isaiah wrote,

V-5 Isaiah 24:21-22 - It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will punish on high the host of exalted ones, and on the earth the kings of the earth. They will be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and will be shut up in the prison.

The book of Jude says,

V-6 Jude 6: And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the Great Day (niv).

For reasons only God knows, He allowed the devil and some of the evil spirits to travel around earth's atmosphere and cause trouble, but in mercy to us He imprisoned some of these "principalities and powers" in the abyss.

Remember when Jesus cast the demons out of the man in Luke 8? Those demons "begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss" (v. 31 niv). It was a place they dreaded. During the Trumpet Judgments in Revelation 9, an angel will open the shaft leading down to the Abyss and release these malignant and heinous demons. They will swarm the earth, terrorizing its inhabitants. This will happen during the Tribulation. Thankfully, after those seven years, all demons will be reincarcerated in the Abyss along with Satan himself.

John told us in Revelation 20 that the devil will be bound with chains he cannot escape and consigned to a prison he cannot avoid for a thousand years.

I. The Person of the Devil

II. The Prison of Demons

P-7 III. The Period of Deliverance

During that time, John said, Satan will . . .

V-7 Revelation 20:3 - Deceive the nations no more till the thousand years [are] finished.

During the millennial reign of Christ, we who live and govern with Him on earth will be delivered from Satan's tyranny. As Swiss theologian René Pache wrote,

“What change shall take place when the tempter is no longer able to seduce the nations! That will be better than it was in Eden, for Satan caused our first parents to fall.” [René Pache, *The Return of Jesus Christ* (Chicago, IL: Moody, 1955), 395.]

This doesn't mean there won't be sin on the earth. Those with mortal bodies will still battle their fallen nature, and the blessed eternal state of the new heavens and new earth are yet to come. But think of it like this. Today we have three great enemies of the soul: G-12 the world, the flesh, and the devil. Consider how different it will be without the enemy to bedevil us.

Paul said the devil is “the god of this age” (2 Cor. 4:4). During the Coming Golden Age, he will lose his dominion here.

G-13 Gone will be Satan's ability to amplify sexual temptation and marital infidelity (1 Cor. 7:5). While we may be tempted, we'll not have to confront the supercharged enticements of Satan (Matt. 4:1–10).

G-14 We'll not have to contend with being sifted as wheat by his evil designs (Luke 22:31). **G-15** Nor will he fill our hearts to lie to one another as he did Ananias in Acts 5:3. We'll be able to better forgive one another because we'll be free from Satan's devices (2 Cor. 2:11).

G-16 He'll not swoop down on listening souls and snatch the Word out of their hearts (Mark 4:15). **G-17** Nor hinder the workers of God as he hindered Paul in 1 Thessalonians 2:18. **G-18** Nor will he physically and spiritual bind people as he did the poor woman in Luke 13:16 or **G-19** oppress the poor and needy as he did in Acts 10:38.

G-20 Gone will be his ability to plague us with demonically-caused natural disasters, family tragedies, illnesses, and physical attacks (Job 1:13–2:8). We'll be freed from his ability to hinder the work of the Lord on this planet.

G-22 No longer will he create agitation among the nations or prompt rulers to wage wars, commit

genocide, and oppress the innocent (Dan. 10:13–14). His power to influence the leaders of the world to sin will be shelved for a thousand years (1 Chron. 21:1). Revelation 20:3 specifically says, G-23

G-24 Revelation 20:3 - He should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished.

Satan was “a murderer from the beginning” (John 8:44), so we would expect murders to be virtually nonexistent during the Golden Age of Christ. He “has sinned from the beginning” (1 John 3:8), so we would expect the Golden Age to exhibit character and righteousness. He was “puffed up with pride” and coaxed others to the same (1 Tim. 3:6), so we would expect the Millennial Age to be humbler and gentler.

Today the devil makes many people take leave of their senses and do his will (2 Tim. 2:26). The Coming Golden Age will be a time of wisdom and sensibility. The devil delights in throwing God’s children into prison and persecuting them in all manner of ways (Rev. 2:10), so we would expect the reign of Christ to rejoice in the free expression of the gospel with little or no opposition.

In another message, we'll deal with the final doom of Satan, the moment in which he will be forever consigned to hell. But for now, the thought of his being bound is comforting. This is especially true because, for strange reasons I don't fully understand, we're enduring a resurgence of interest in Satan in our culture.

In 2023 Newsweek magazine published a major article entitled, "Satan is Getting Hot as Hell in American Pop Culture." The writer, Paul Bond, who covers cultural trends for Newsweek, wrote, "The Devil is front and center in movies, TV shows, podcasts, and even children's books. . . . On Netflix alone there are dozens of titles dealing with hellish demons."

Bond quoted Carlos Martins, host of The Exorcist Files, as saying that humans crave spirituality. Church and synagogue attendance has been declining in the United States. To fill the void, many people are embracing "a rejection of received social customs and expected behavioral norms in favor of embracing 'me-first' pleasure. . . . The adoption of Satan as a figurehead is merely another 'shock' ceiling through which the movement has broken through."

Bond added, “More Americans are opening the door for Satan to enter their lives.”

[Paul Bond, “Satan is Getting Hot as Hell in American Pop Culture,” Newsweek, March 28, 2023, <https://www.newsweek.com/satan-getting-hot-hell-american-pop-culture-1790669>.]

As frightening as that is, remember, we may only be seven years away from the moment when God will throw Satan into the Abyss and slam the door after him. The knowledge of that future promise should comfort us today. Though Satan is active, he cannot overcome the power of the cross of Jesus Christ and our Lord’s resurrection. Even now, we’re to live in victory.

While we must never underestimate Satan’s power, we also cannot make the opposite error of believing Satan is as powerful, or more powerful, than Almighty God. Satan is not, nor ever will be, all-knowing or all-powerful.

Consider this from author Randy Alcorn,

“What’s the opposite of light? Darkness. What’s the opposite of good? Evil. When asked to name the opposite of God, people often answer, ‘Satan.’ But that’s false. Michael, the righteous archangel, is Satan’s opposite. Satan is finite; God is infinite. God

has no equal.” [Randy Alcorn, *If God is Good: Faith in the Midst of Suffering and Evil* (Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah Books, 2009), 51.]

P-8 Satan counterfeits

Satan lives to counterfeit everything God is and does. His last deception and his master deception is called the Anti-Christ!

Everything the Lord does, Satan counterfeits.

G-25 • Jesus is “the light of the world” (John 9:5). Satan is transformed into an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14).

G-26 • Jesus is King of Kings (1 Timothy 6:15). Satan is King Over the children of pride (Job 41:34).

G-27 • Jesus is The Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). Satan is The Prince of the World (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11) and The Prince of the Power of the Air (Ephesians 2:2).

G-28 • Jesus Christ is The Lord My God (Zechariah 14:5). Satan is The God of This Age (2 Corinthians 4:4).

G-29 • Jesus is “The Lion of the Tribe of Judah” (Revelation 5:5). Satan is a roaring lion going about seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8).

Many years ago the title of a popular book by J. B. Phillips reminded us that Your God Is Too Small. Perhaps in our time, another book should be written titled Your Devil Is Too Big. Our devil is too big if we are fascinated with him; our devil is too big if we think we have to fulfill a vow to him; our devil is too big if we are victims of a curse that has been put upon us. Our devil is too big if we live in fear that our future is in his hands.

P-9 Christ's victory

The victory of Christ does not mean, however, that Satan can no longer fight against us. Think of it this way. God stripped King Saul of his title as king even though he was still allowed to harass King David for ten long years. Although the forces who war against us had their authority removed, they continue to fight. They prefer to live in denial rather than face the humiliation of defeat.

In Satan Cast Out, Frederick S. Leahy says that it is only from our standpoint that there seems to be a gap between the victory of Christ over Satan and the final disposal of the defeated foe. He reminds us that lightning and thunder take place at the same time, but we see the light before we hear the rumble. He writes:

“In objective reality, these are virtually one, but from our standpoint, owing to the fact that light travels more quickly than sound, there is usually a time-lag between seeing the flash and hearing the thunder. With God, the victory and the judgment are all in the cross.”

We can say that we have seen the lightning, but we have not yet heard the crash of his fall.

P-10 Luther

Luther said that when the devil came knocking on the door of his heart, he would send the Lord Jesus to the door. Christ would say, “Martin Luther used to live here but has moved out . . . I now live here.”

Then, says Luther, when the devil would see the nail prints on Christ's hands and His pierced side, he would take flight immediately!

We must keep the door closed, no matter how loudly we hear the knock. Whenever we open the door, we have the tendency to open it even wider the next time. In any battle it is easier to defend a military target than it is to recapture it once it has been in enemy hands.

P-11 God is in control

As human, finite creatures, we have lost the battle, but as children of the King, we have already won it. Why? Because of 1 John 4:4, "He [Christ] who is in you, is greater than he [Satan] who is in the world." Many Christians believe that Satan is sovereign, not God. Many Christians look under their beds for demons, seeing demons in every facet of their lives. To them, I offer a reminder. Satan does nothing except by the permission of the Sovereign God. God is in control of the supernatural battle.

I read about a young boy who had to deal with a neighborhood bully who was few years older than him. He said, "he had me "in his sights." The bully

one day came into his yard . . . and he was scared to death. After a few very long seconds, he decided that the only way to win this thing was to stand up against him, so he started to move towards him. The bully was scared. In fact, he began to tremble all over. The young boy said to himself, “Man, I’m really something! “ Then he turned around and noticed his father, having heard all the noise, standing behind me on the front porch.

It is the same way for us. As believers, we have all the power of the universe at our disposal. The dragon has been slain.

But don’t think of Satan’s defeat as only a future event. He is already defeated. He was defeated by the death and resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 2:14 says that God the Son became a man and died,

V-8 Hebrews 2:14 - “that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.”

He may attack your family, your job, your church, or your circumstances. But when the devil tries to “sift [us] as wheat,” as he did to Peter, Jesus prays for us (Luke 22:31-32). The Bible promises, “And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly” (Romans 16:20).

One of the ways we resist the devil is by remembering his days are numbered, but our years are endless.

Satan has been defeated, but he’s not yet banished and consigned to eternal hell, and that’s why we need to keep our guard up, our armor on, and our eyes open. But remember, Satan is not omnipotent or omniscient as God is. He can be resisted. James 4:7 says,

V-9 James 4:7 - Resist the devil and he will flee from you.