

The Exile of Evil

Revelation 20:7-15

Sooke Baptist Church

Sunday, January 30, 2022, 9:30pm, In-person

Also on Facebook Live Stream and YouTube

03:00

Coffee/Question:

"This is the true meaning of exile: some insurmountable force that keeps you from going back."

(Suketu Mehta)

Do you agree/disagree with the quote? Explain.

Revelation 20:7-15

At the end of this present time, which the Bible calls “the last days,” Satan will be released from his prison.

Look back at Revelation 20:1-3.

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ² He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³ He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

Revelation 20:1-3

The Abyss is a temporary holding place, a spiritual prison for Satan and his fallen angels.

Since the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, Satan is not free to do as he pleases – he is not free... to deceive the nations into coming together, with the fallen angels, to attack the church of Jesus Christ for the purpose of annihilating it.

It is important to remember these foundational truths regarding the victory of Christ over sin, death and the devil.



Satan’s face-off with Jesus in the desert, following Jesus’ baptism, resulted in Satan being bound.

Jesus spoke of this in a conversation he had with some religious leaders who accused him of being demon-possessed and drawing upon demonic powers to perform miracles.

Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them...
if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons,
then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

...how can anyone enter a strong man's house and
carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the
strong man? Then he can plunder his house.

Matthew 12:24-29

The strong man Jesus spoke of... was Satan.

Satan's house which Jesus had entered... was... the earth.

Satan's possessions were, according to 2 Timothy 2:25-26, the fallen sons and daughters of Adam and Eve that Satan had taken captive to do his will.

Since his desert victory, Jesus had been carrying off, that is, he had been rescuing sinners from the world's worst human trafficker.

This is what Jesus had announced he would do when he returned from his face-off with Satan in the desert.

In his hometown, Nazareth, and in the synagogue, he had regularly attended, Jesus said to his neighbors...

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim
freedom for the prisoners and
recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4:18-19

Three and a half years later, when Jesus gave his life in sacrifice, when he willingly hung upon a Roman cross, he accomplished an even greater victory, that endures for all time.

Jesus announced this victory a week before his death. After he was anointed at Bethany by Mary; after he had entered into Jerusalem on the day we call Palm Sunday, Jesus said...

John 12:23-32

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

²⁴Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

John 12:23-32

²⁷"**Now** my soul is troubled, and what shall I say?

'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸**Father, glorify your name!"**

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."

²⁹The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

John 12:23-32

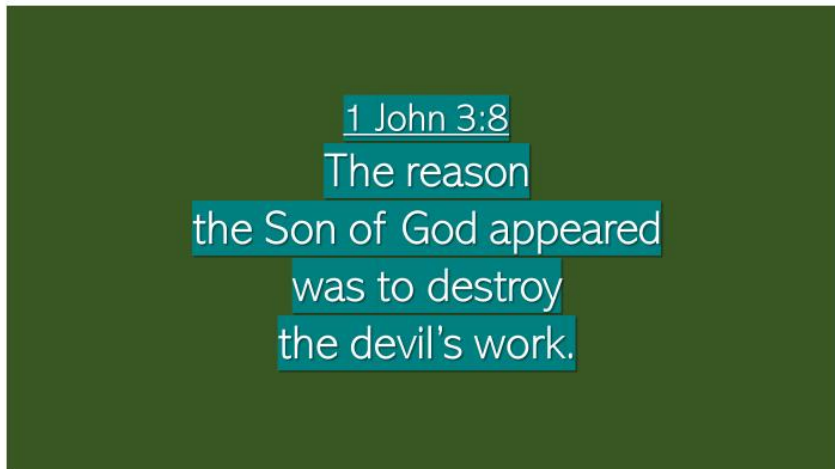
³⁰Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine.

³¹**Now** is the time for judgment on this world; **now** the prince of this world will be driven out.

³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

What did Jesus say would be the proof that Satan would be driven out?
The fact that Jesus would draw all people to himself.
This is what has been happening since the resurrection and ascension of Jesus.
Jesus through his people has continued to plunder Satan's kingdom.

The Holy Spirit confirmed through John in his first epistle, this is how Jesus is destroying the devil's work. 3:8.



We have also learned through the book of Revelation, that in the last days, the people of God will be persecuted.

But as we just read in Revelation 20, Satan, will be released from the Abyss at the very end of the last days... and when he is, he will immediately do what he has always done – he will set about deceiving the nations.

This is the nature of the fallen angels.
They are never what they appear to be.

The fallen angels masquerade as beings of light,
when in reality they are darkness personified.

**The fallen angels pretend to be speakers of truth,
but they are liars.**

The fallen angels present themselves as reasonable,
when actually, they are ferocious and cruel.

**The fallen angels promise to give life,
but they are thieves and only take it.**

At the end of this age, there will be a brief moment, when the fallen angels, led by Satan, the dragon, will deceptively persuade humanity, through the two beasts... to join them in one last final attempt to bring about what they failed to do when they warred against God in heaven.

This scene has already been shown to the reader in the pouring out of the sixth bowl in Revelation 16:13-15.

Revelation 16:13-15a

Then I saw three impure spirits that looked like frogs; they came **out of the mouth** of the dragon, **out of the mouth** of the beast and **out of the mouth** of the false prophet.

¹⁴ **They are demonic spirits that perform signs**, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

¹⁵ Jesus said... **“Look, I come like a thief!”**

The fallen angel's hatred of God is unquenchable.
They want to drive God out of heaven.
They seek to hurt God by harming those he loves.

As Revelation 20:9 says, they will surround the camp of God's people, the city he loves.

There are two things we must take note of in Revelation 20:9.

1. God's people are described as being a camp.

A camp typically is transient, not permanent.

Like Abraham, as described in Hebrews 11, the people of God are strangers on the earth.

They are temporary residents in a foreign country.

That said, God's people, while they live here on the earth are fully engaged in blessing the earth and its' people with the goodness of God.

But they know that everything... is temporary.

That is why they hold everything... lightly waiting for the moment when God will announce, "Behold, I am making all things new!"

2. God's people are also described as being like a city.

Jesus said in Matthews 5:14, that his followers are like a city... on a hill.

The people of God gathered in local churches around the earth, in addition to being a different kind of human being, live and interact with one another in a different kind of human community.

As they do so, the life of heaven visibly emanates from them.

At the very end of this present time, Satan will deceive and manipulate fallen humanity to gather for war against God and his people.

But the vision which was shown to John was clear - **there will be no war.**

If we live to see this day... to be a part of it, the Scripture teaches us that we are not to panic, for this will be the day of our redemption.

What will happen?

2 Thessalonians 1:6-7 and Revelation 16:15 amplify the statement made in Revelation 20:9.

Revelation 20:9

But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-7

God is just: he will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.

Revelation 16:15

“Behold, I come like a thief!

This too is a scene that has already been revealed in the Revelation.

The armies of the nations will look upon Jesus and his holy and powerful angels and they will cry out, to the mountains and the rocks...

Revelation 6:15-17

Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains.

¹⁶ They called to the mountains and the rocks,

“Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷ For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?”

There will be no war.

Jesus will appear and when he speaks with a loud command, his enemies will be undone, while his people, simultaneously, will be rescued.

We will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and then to accompany him as he descends to the earth. See 1 Thessalonians 5:14-18

So many historical events in the biblical narrative foreshadow this day, confirming over and over again... God always rescues his people.



When the Egyptians pursued the Israelites to the shore of the Red Sea, God made a path through the sea, and then decisively dealt with Pharaoh and the Egyptian army when they tried to cross in order to re-enslave the Israelites.



When the Babylonians surrounded Jerusalem, God sent an angel who put to death, 185,000 men of the Babylonian army, and rescued his people from famine and exile.



When Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship the image of Nebuchadnezzar, they were not burned, but walked out of that furnace, without any smell of smoke on them.



The hordes of hell surrounded the cross where Jesus hung, and shrieked in delight when he breathed his last breath. But three days later, our Lord Jesus he walked out of the tomb, the Victor over sin, death and the devil.

There is no future for evil.

The will of God, which is good and perfect... just as God is, will be done on the earth as it is in heaven.

With our passage for today, we come to a theme in scripture that we must carefully examine.

Our understanding needs to be informed by Scripture.

If we don't get this right...

The gospel will be diminished
to simply being a good suggestion

**God will be misunderstood
and misrepresented**

The devastating nature of sin and evil
will be airbrushed

**God's rescue will not be seen
to be glorious**

What is the lake of burning sulfur, which was shown to John in Revelation 20:10, into which the devil was thrown, where he will be tormented day and night forever and ever?

We will come back to this – but let me simply mention it today.
We must see the movement of Jesus' victory – first he bound Satan, then he drove him out, and ultimately he will exile him to a place where he can no longer cause harm or deceive.

Let's come back to the lake of burning sulfur.
The lake of burning sulfur is an apocalyptic symbol.
We've already encountered many apocalyptic symbols in the Revelation.



Jesus

Jesus as the lion of Judah and the lamb looking as if it had been slain.



The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit as seven blazing lamps.



Satan

Satan as a dragon.



Babylon

Human culture without God as the harlot of Babylon.




**Political
authority
exercised
without God**

Political authority exercised without any reference to God
as a beast from the sea.



**Religious
authority
disconnected
from God**

Religious authority disconnected from God as a beast from the land.
We've also seen numbers as symbols.



2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 12
42, 1260, 3 ½,
24
666
144,000 – $12 \times 12 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10$
1000 – $10 \times 10 \times 10$

2 – is the symbol of witness seen in Revelation 11:3 and Deuteronomy 19:15

3, 7, 10, 12 – as numbers that represent completeness

- Babylon is split into three parts (completely ruined) (Revelation 16:19) at the sounding of the seventh trumpet.
- 7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls – speak to the completeness in which God will bring about his judgment upon the earth... to rescue his people and to make all things right.

666 – is not a literal number stamped on the forehead or hand, but rather speaks of the imprint of the dragon on the human soul – the number testifies to the complete insufficiency of life under the dragon; of life without God

42, 1260, 3 ½

42 months = 1260 days = 3 ½ years = half of 7

These numbers are symbols which describes the period of time... from the day Jesus inaugurated the new covenant with the shedding of his blood until his return to the earth when the new city without a temple comes down out of heaven.

24 – the symbol for the church – 12 tribes, 12 apostles

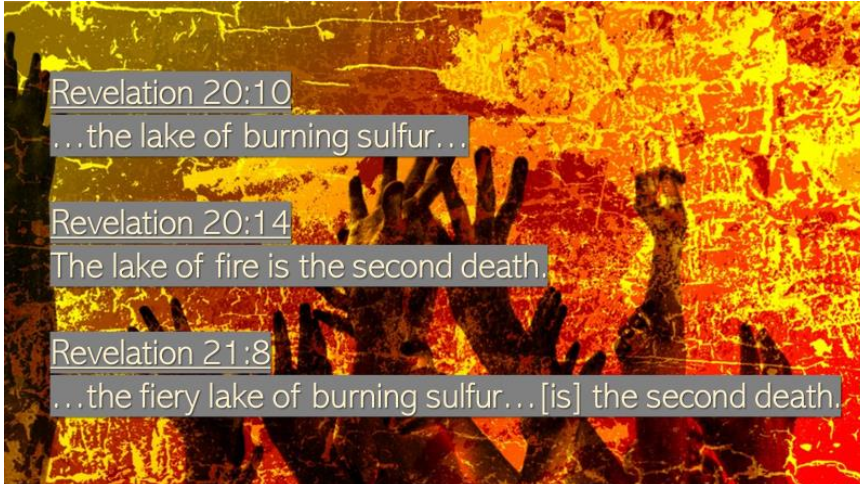
1000 – $10 \times 10 \times 10$ – the fulness of time, to be realized in the last days, between Jesus' ascension and his return

144,000 – $12 \times 12 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10$ – the complete number of the redeemed



And the lake of fire?

Twice in Revelation 20 and then once in Revelation 21 this lake is mentioned.



It was revealed to John, and in turn to the readers of the Revelation... that the lake of fire is a symbol of the second death.

I say this for the sake of emphasis.

The lake of fire, like many other things seen in the Revelation, is a symbol that describes something that is real.

It was revealed to John that there is a second death.

There can only be a second death if there is a first.

What is the first death?

The first death happens to every human being when their physical body dies.

And the second death?

As we see in Revelation 20, the second death happens after the appearing of Jesus, after the resurrection of all from the grave, and after the appearing of all before God to give an accounting for what they have done with their lives.

The second death describes the life to be lived in eternity by those whose names are not written in the book of life.

I want to stop here.

I want to give an opportunity for you to express to me your questions about hell.

It is important, for all of us who are a part of this local church, that these questions be voiced and then answered based upon what the Bible says.

My heart desire in doing so... is that we would be gripped by the glory of God and his salvation, that is freely offered and given to all who look to Jesus.

Prayers of the People (for my own life)

O Lord, your word says in 1 Corinthians 11:28 that we are to examine ourselves before we eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

Is there anything in me that displeases you?

Whatever you show me I will confess, lay down and turn from, trusting in the blood of Jesus that covers and cancels my sin.

Isaiah 1:18

“Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”

Prayers of the People (for my church family)

Lord, it is no exaggeration to say that there is only one thing that we really need in life, and I ask on behalf of my church family for it now.

It is not merely to believe in you, but in prayer and experience to perceive your beauty and to experience your love. Let us love you for yourself alone. Amen

Prayer written by Tim Keller

Psalm 27:4

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek:

...to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

We pray for our children and our youth that their hearts would be captivated by Jesus.

We additionally ask on behalf of those with health needs; family needs; and employment needs...they would find in you grace each day, grace that rescues and grace that sustains.

El Redil Caldas Family

Yuliana is searching for God.

We ask God that you grant faith to Yuliana.

Would you connect her life to yours and to the church family at Caldas.

May she find in you every grace to raise her daughters.



Yuliana

**Three daughters
Nicol, Emiliana, Guadalupe**

1 Thessalonians 5:28

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

We additionally ask on behalf of our missionary....

Prayers of the People (for awakening)

O God, we ask on behalf of those who once knew you, that there may be a turning back to you.

Father, we ask you to call your children back home today and we specifically name anyone who comes to our heart and mind now.

Prayer written by CFC Belfast

Jude 22-23

Be merciful to those who doubt, snatch others from the fire and save them, to others show mercy with fear, hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

We ask these things looking to the one who is able to keep us from stumbling and to present us faultless before his glorious presence.