

Marks of Discipleship

Daily Prayer ■ Weekly Worship ■ Bible Reading
Giving Time, Talents & Resources ■ Spiritual Friendships ■
Service In & Beyond the Church

November 21, 2021

Day 1: Revelation 20.1

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

John's entire Revelation is a vision he is given to help the church understand why evil (in the form of the Roman Empire and its Emperor worship) seems to be overcoming the Church. John finishes his vision with explaining how evil, Satan and death itself will be destroyed. The angel (God's messenger) has to power to bind Satan.

Question: How do explain having a loving all powerful God and evil at the same time?

Challenge: What would your life be like if the fear of death was eliminated?

Scripture: Rev. 1:1-8

Day 2: Revelation 20.22He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,

The terms-dragon that serpent, who is the Devil and Satan— makes it clear who is being bound. It would be a mistake to take the 1,000 years literally. It is the same mistake as taking the 144,000 mentioned in Rev. 7 as the total who will be in Glory with God The 1,000 is a long period of time and is meant to portray a gift of peace and plenty to the ones who have died in the persecution.

Question: Why do you think Satan is called a serpent? Where in the Bible is a serpent mentioned ?

Challenge: With out looking ahead can you think of a reason Satan was bound for just 1,000.

Scripture: Rev. 7:1-17

Day 3: Revelation 20.3

³and threw him into the pit, and locked and sealed it over him, so that he would deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be let out for a little while.

John sees (in his vision) that a reward is to be given to the Martyrs. They shall rule for a long period of time because the forces that deceived the world about God's son Jesus Christ and His Resurrection are no longer around. Evil and death are not easy to eliminate but God's plan of salvation is complete when evil and death destroyed.

Question: Should the Martyrs receive a reward?

Challenge: Think of a time when you have felt at peace? What was happening?

Scripture :Rev. 19:1-10

Day 4: Revelation 20.7-8

⁷ When the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸and will come out to deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, in order to gather them for battle; they are as numerous as the sands of the sea.

Because evil is so difficult to eliminate and the fear of death so strong, it cannot be destroyed easily. Some have thought that Satan's imprisonment was to give the angel time to repent. It that is true then being imprisoned did not help. Satan gathers his forces of power and uses them in the open in a final battle.

Question: What power do you think Satan possesses?

Challenge: Pretend everybody would follow them. What 3 rules would you purpose to make the effects of evil gone or reduced?

Scripture: Rev. 12:7-12

Day 5: Revelation 20.9

⁹They marched up over the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from heaven and consumed them.

The march to Jerusalem is symbolic. Jerusalem was the city where God met humanity. Satan will use his power (which is great) to bring about the death of the saints. It runs up against God's power to bring about life and is defeated. The great deception is that death is more powerful than life.

Question: What was it about Jerusalem that made people think that God met humanity there?

Challenge: Think of a event that shows that life is more powerful than death

Scripture: Rev. 17

Day 6: Revelation 20.10

¹⁰And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

In chapter 19 John sees the current manifestation of evil (Rome) destroyed in 20 the evil behind Rome (Satan) destroyed and the death itself destroyed. This paves the way for the New Heaven and New Earth, where weeping and crying are no more. God's plan of salvation does not just make things better for a time but creates a time and place where all creation lives with God forever.

Question: Read Chapter 18 how does Rome self destruct?

Challenge: How do you picture the heavenly place?

Scripture: Rev. 18 & 21