

Binding the Enemy

Revelation 20:1-4

11/04/07

Intro

Last week we focused our study on the end of the Tribulation period, that seven year period of time where God's wrath will be poured out on the earth. At the end of the Tribulation period, Jesus Christ returns to the earth to defeat the nations that will have assembled on the plains of Megiddo in one last attempt to destroy Israel.

Christ will set foot on the Mount of Olives to shepherd the nations with a rod of iron. That will be a day of freedom from the lies and deception that rules the world today!

Jesus will come to set some things right. The world system will be destroyed, the party will become death, the nations will be defeated, but there will be one more thing that will need to be set right.

If Christ is to rule and reign on the earth, then Satan must be removed. That is what we are studying today – the binding of Satan. That will be wonderful day for the world, but there are important applications for us here today as we will see as we study through this section of scripture.

I. Satan is a Defeated Enemy

- In the popular movie series, Star Wars, evil and good are seen in an epic battle of forces and the outcome is far from certain.
- But the reality is that Satan is a defeated foe by the victory of Christ on the cross of Calvary.

A. Yet he fights on

- It's important to see that when God decides the time has come for Satan to be thrown into the

abyss, there is no epic battle of massive forces, He sends one angel and it is done!

- Someone once asked, *If Satan knows that he cannot defeat God, why does he keep fighting?*
- Answer: so he can devour as many people as possible.

Illus – When the Allied forces invaded Normandy on June 6, 1944, 155,000 Allied soldiers fought in the greatest single invasion in world history. Hitler then knew that the war would be lost, but would fight to the bitter end. Satan knows he is defeated and he also will fight to the bitter end.

- Scripture tells us that he seeks whom he may destroy.

I Peter 5:8, Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

- Jesus also gave us insight into Satan's desires...

John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

- Scripture also tells us he knows his time is short.

Revelation 12:12, Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.

B. Deceiving the nations today

- The number one, greatest, most powerful thing that Satan does is to deceive.

John 8:44, “He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

- Verse 3-- This is why when Christ comes to rule and reign on the earth that Satan must be removed, so that he cannot deceive the nations any longer.
- There are several classic lies that we must be aware of;
 - *I cannot be satisfied unless I have more...*
This is the lie behind drugs, worldly sexuality, lust for power and greed.

Psalm 73:1-3, 13, 16-28 God is my portion forever.

- *I am unworthy of God’s love.* Satan is the accuser of the brethren and will try to convince you that you don’t deserve God’s grace and mercy, but if we deserved it, it wouldn’t be grace...

Romans 5:8, But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

I John 2:1-2, My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our

sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

- What we need in our lives to counter lies is the truth; it is the truth that sets us free...

John 8:31-32, 36, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free...if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

II. Begin to Bind Satan Now

- Though Satan seeks to destroy and is a liar and deceiver, we do not have to be defeated!
- There is great insight in scripture in who we are in Christ and the victory that is ours in Him.
- We have authority in Christ to bind Satan from our lives because we are in Christ now.

A. Greater is He who is in you

- There are very important insights from scripture that tell us the church has authority to take a stand right now.
- When Jesus asked His disciples who the people were saying he is, they said, “Some say John the Baptist, and others Elijah, but still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He responded, “But who do you say I am?” Peter was the one who say, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ Jesus responded ...

Matthew 16:18, “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”

- Gates are for defense. We don't have to go through life trying to outrun the gates of hell. Jesus was saying that the church will have authority to prevail over satanic forces. We know that he comes to make destroy and steal, but we can prevail...

James 4:7-8, Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

- Other scriptures also give insight into the victory which God has for His church.

I John 4:4, You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

Romans 8:31, 33-34, What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ...Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns?

B. Tear down strongholds

- It is clear in scripture that we are in spiritual warfare, and we also know that we can tear down spiritual strongholds.

App – One of the most important scriptures regarding spiritual warfare is found in the idea of 'binding the strongman.' When Jesus was accused of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebul, or by Satan himself, He responded with an important insight.

Luke 11:21-22, "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are undisturbed. But when someone stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away from him all his armor on which he had relied and distributes his plunder."

- By the way, this is powerful scripture that helps us see that a Christian cannot be possessed by a demon because Christ comes into our lives when we become believers and He is now the strongman in our lives.

Illus – We read in Revelation 3:20 that when we open the door of our hearts, He comes into our hearts. So if a demon were to try to plunder the house, it would be Christ who meets him at the door!!

- There are some important practical things we must apply to our lives however regarding spiritual warfare.
 - *Stand firm in your faith.*

Ephesians 6:13, 16 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm... in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

- *Go for victory in your thoughts.*

II Corinthians 10:3-5 Taking every thought captive

- *Keep growing in Christ.* Stagnant water stinketh; God is committed to transforming us.

Illus – When the Midianites were oppressing Israel, an angel came to Gideon, who was trying to hide out from them, and said, “Hail, O valiant warrior!” He most certainly wasn’t, but God saw him as he was to become – as he does us.

C. Walk in the ways of the victor

- When you choose to live by God’s ways rather than the ways of the enemy, you are binding Satan in your life.
- God’s ways and the ways of Satan are opposites.

Note: Satan is the accuser of the brethren, so we choose to not be accusers ourselves.

Jesus edifies and builds the church and so we should also do the same.

Illus – When Elisha faced Aram, the enemy of Israel, at Dothan.

II Kings 6:21-23, Then the king of Israel when he saw them, said to Elisha, “My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?” He answered, “You shall not kill them... Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.” So he prepared a great feast for them; and when they had eaten and drunk he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the marauding bands of Arameans did not come again into the land of Israel.

- Satan is bound when we operate our lives in a completely different way than those who are led by the ways of the world. Elisha chose to feed their enemies rather than destroy them.

Romans 12:17-18, 21, Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- James gives a great list of those qualities of those who choose to live by the way of the One who is the victor.

James 3:17-18, But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.