REVELATION 20 **4-14-24**

COMMENT: PILGRIM

ISRAEL ATTACKED

Revelation 20:1-15 (NIV)

1 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.

4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

7 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth--Gog and Magog--to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. 9 They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.
12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.
14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.
15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:1-15 (NIV) **4-14-24**

[1] 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.

Have you noticed how active angels are when it comes to Revelation?

Had the key to the Abyss (bottomless pit)… had a great chain…

Bound Satan … threw him into the Abyss… locked and sealed it over him.

Satan's crime? Deceiving the nations!

Assuming literal translation, Jesus & his saints will rule on earth for 1000 years, with Satan being bound.

[4] I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. [5] (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection.

Jesus, with angelic assistance will place people in positions of authority to judge on the earth.

Beheaded saints were resurrected and became part of His Kingdom's rule, which may or may not include being a judge (Gk. Krima—we get our word crime from… judicial decision based on a crime).

Beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus & because of God's Word!

And… they did not worship the beast/his image nor receive his mark on their foreheads/hands.

[6] Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

The 1st resurrection seems to be the resurrection of the saints, the followers of Jesus.

The resurrection of the righteous is by stages.

- ✓ **Jesus was "the Firstfruits" 1 Corinthians 15:20-24 (NIV) "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. [21] For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. [22] For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. [23] But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. [24] Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power."**
- ✓ **BEFORE Jesus rose from the dead**.. specifically at the moment of His death, read this: **Matt. 27:51-53 "At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. [52] The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. [53] They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people**.

- ✓ Then will occur the **Rapture of the church**, which will include the resurrection of dead church saints and the translation of living church saints **1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 (NLT2) "We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. [16] For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. [17] Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.** Greek word harpazo = Latin word "rapiemur"…CAUGHT UP--to *seize* - catch (away, up), pluck, pull, take (by force). **SAME WORD USED IN ACTS 8:39 WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT SNATCHED UP PHILIP AFTER HE MINISTERED TO THE ETHOPIAN EUNUCH, THEN DEPOSITED HIM 20-30 MILES AWAY IN AZOTUS.**

- ✓ **The resurrection of the two witnesses** will occur in the Great Tribulation **Revelation 11:3 (NLT2)** **"And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will be clothed in burlap and will prophesy during those 1,260 days… 7 When they complete their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the bottomless pit will declare war against them, and he will conquer them and kill them… 10 All the people who belong to this world will gloat over them and give presents to each other to celebrate the death of the two prophets who had tormented them. 11 But after three and a half days, God breathed life into them, and they stood up! Terror struck all who were staring at them.**

- ✓ Then the **resurrection of the martyred dead of the Great Tribulation** will occur soon after Christ returns to earth **Revelation 20:4 (NLT2)** **"Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his statue, nor accepted his mark on their forehead or their hands. They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years."**

The 1st death is physical death – the 2nd death is spiritual/eternal death…separation from God.

7 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth--Gog and Magog--to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. 9 They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.
I don't know why…but after 1000 years of living under Jesus' rule (with his saints), Satan will be released.
He will go out to deceive the nations (those born during the millennium?).
Satan deceives the nations to gather in battle against "the camp of God's people" and Jerusalem.

This is NOT believed to be the Ezekiel 38 battle of Gog & Magog—that one, limited armies mostly coming out of the north come against Israel. This one, involves all nations from all directions to fight.
FIRE COMES DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND DEVOURS THEM!

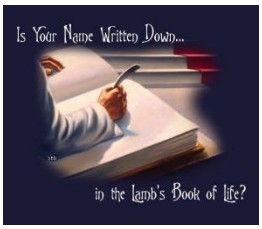
10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.
ETERNAL FIRE AND TORMENTING DAMNATION IS THE FINAL DESTINATION OF THE DEVIL, ANTICHRIST AND FALSE PROPHET.
11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.
The Great White Throne is a heavenly throne of final judgment. The magnitude of this throne and one upon it was so enormous that it made the earth and sky look like it fled away,.

12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.
The books are probably the recordings of the works of people while on the earth, all of which they will be judged!
No one, even those who died at sea and were eaten by sea creatures or just wasted away—all will be judged!
Ecclesiastes 12:14 "God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad."

Romans 2:16 "And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life.

Matthew 12:36-37 "And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak. 37 The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you."

Jude 1:14-15 **“14b …“Listen! The Lord is coming with countless thousands of his holy ones 15 to execute judgment on the people of the world. He will convict every person of all the ungodly things they have done and for all the insults that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”**
14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.
15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
Many have tried to explain away the doctrine of eternal punishment, but the Bible remains clear. The 2nd death is final separation from God—is eternal punishment.

THE BOOK OF LIFE – the Book that contains the names of ALL who have been born again! ETERNAL LIFE!

Those NOT in the book… by the justice of God… must be cast into the lake of fire. ☹