

(The Following is a collection of e-mails from the Old School Baptist forum by Dr. Ronald Pound. They are singular in subject matter but may not read smoothly from one post to another...David R. Hethorn, webmaster.)

Gleanings from Revelation 20

Please note that in this study I present different concepts and ask questions. I do this because I simply do not know and am asking for help in finding certain answers.

Let me ask this, since Revelation 19 refers to the Second Coming of Christ and His judgments against the systems of the Beast and the False Prophet does chapter 20 present what is called elsewhere the *Judgment of the Nations*? Does Revelation 19 present the *beginning* of the judgment of the nations, and then Revelation 20 *the course of that Judgment and its final conclusion*?

Let me also note that when Christ comes at the end of this church age and deals with the two systems of the Beast and False Prophet, Revelation 19, the system of evil considered from its Civil and its Religious sides, the two final leaders of these two systems, shall be cast alive into the Lake of Fire and then later Satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire, Revelation 20, where these two *already are and have been during the course of the 1,000 years*.

Please note that the Beast and False Prophet are cast alive into the Lake of Fire, they will not appear before the Great White Throne, and then Satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire. He does not stand before the Great White Throne Judgment because Christ judged Satan when Christ died on the Cross.

Joh 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world (the elect world): now shall the prince of this world (reprobate world) be cast out.

Joh 14:30 Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

Joh 16:11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

Beyond doubt Revelation 20 is one of the most difficult chapters to understand in the entire Bible because it covers so many different happenings from so many different perspectives.

We must deal with several different beings presented from different perspectives. These are:

1. The Great Angel Who Binds the Dragon;
2. The Dragon himself and his binding for 1,000 years, then his loosing;
3. The reason why the Dragon is bound and cast into the bottomless pit, so that he cannot deceive the nations until the thousand years be fulfilled;
4. The Prison House of the Dragon, called the bottomless pit, in distinction from the Lake of Fire;

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Here is from the French Bible of <http://lsg.saintebible.com/revelation/20.htm> Louis Segond, please do compare these different translations on Rev. 20. In my opinion the different translations are much better study helps than man made commentaries.

Let us note Luke 8:31

28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not.

29 (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.)

30 And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him.

31 And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.

32 And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them.

33 Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked.

34 When they that fed *them* saw what was done, they fled, and went and told *it* in the city and in the country.

35 Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.

36 They also which saw *it* told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed.

37 Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again.

There is much fear in the spirit world of the place called the deep or bottomless pit.

2 Peter 2:4:

4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

The term hell above comes from tartarus and denotes the prison house of torture in the spirit world. This is in distinction from the deep or bottomless pit. These angels, in my opinion, are those who fell during the days of the Great flood and then afterwards.

At this point let me ask if the 1,000 years here represents the course of the church age or is a different era? In order to *expand this problem* I have with a settled understanding let me insert the terms *church age* in the place of the 1,000 years and then read the passage:

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years or *church age*,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years or *church age* should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

The question here that must be asked is, has Satan already been consigned to the bottomless pit and has not been deceiving the nations during the church age?

1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Have the nations been deceived or undeceived during the church age? I understand that the elect nation, the New Covenant Israel, is no longer deceived, *but they are undeceived because of the work of grace upon them and their being brought out of the kingdom of evil and Babylon and not because Satan has been cast into the bottomless pit.*

I also understand that is may be yet another way to speak of the work of effectual calling and relates to the inward work of grace that Satan is not able to hinder within the elect of God. However, does this solve the problem of his being cast into the bottomless pit and bound with chains while he is yet permitted to walk about on the earth and devour whom he will?

Let us also note that following the 1,000 years then Satan will be let out of the bottomless pit and then he will again deceive the nations for a short time and gather them together as the *New Covenant Gog and Magog*.

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

So are we looking *here at the present end of the church age*? From our present perspective it certainly would seem so. This is just one of the real problems in trying to understand Rev. 20.

Let me try and note the following:

1. After the loosing of Satan from the Bottomless Pit, then he shall go out and deceive the nations again;
2. This Gog and Magog is distinct from that of Ezekiel in that this Gog is from the four corners of the earth, and is a number that is beyond the human mind to number, *even as the sand of the sea*.
3. We need to be mindful that even as there is an Old Covenant Gog and Magog even so there is a New Covenant Gog and Magog;

4. They are both the enemies of God and seek to do evil to the Israels of God under both Covenants;
5. The New Covenant Israel of God is the sum total of saints of God who are manifested in the Gospel Churches and the Gog and Magog are those who opposes the saints of God who are manifested in the Gospel Churches.

Let us consider the place of the proposed war that *will not happen*:

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

What is the breadth of the earth?

Job 38:18 Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare if thou knowest it all.

During this time the entire earth will be inhabited with those who follow Satan.

Their goal is to destroy the camp of the saints as well as the beloved City of God.

The Camp of the Saints speaks of those Saints who come from afar and are encamped near or about the beloved City of God. Perhaps this speaks of those saints who did not come to the manifested way of the Lord in the Gospel Church during their life time.

The beloved City of God in the New Covenant is the Gospel Church, in this case the sum total of the Manifested Saints in the visible Gospel Churches.

Heb 11:10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Heb 11:16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Heb 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

Heb 13:14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

Re 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

It seems to me that the City of God that is now on the earth, the Gospel Church, is yet to undergo a final glorification and shall exist in full glory and perfection, so far as saints are concerned, on the New Earth.

In my opinion Revelation 20 is another way of presenting what is called the Judgment of the Nations. The first part of that Judgment is when Christ returns in Flaming Fire and judges the then existing Beast and False prophets and their systems and followers. He casts them alive into the Lake of Fire see chapter 19.

The final part of Revelation 20 pictures the conclusion of the Judgment of the Nations when Satan gathers the resurrected reprobates against Christ and his people in yet one more effort to overcome them. Satan DOES NOT RAISE THEM UP, but Christ does, John 5, for the power of the Resurrection has been given into the hands of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has not given the power of resurrection unto the Devil or Satan no matter what some commentators have said.

During the long course of the judgment of the nations, they as nations shall be judged on the basis of how they rejected Christ and treated the followers of Christ under both Covenants.

No human forces will lead this final effort, but Satan himself shall lead them on his way to being cast into the Lake of Fire where the Beast and False Prophet already are.

This means that the final attempt will be much worse than anything that has yet happened. Yet, the saints need not worry, for Christ has already guaranteed this final victory and we shall triumph in and by Christ and His power and ability.

. The Throne and the Saints sitting on these Thrones;

As we move further into Revelation 20 we come to the Thrones that are already sitting in the Heavenlies and those sitting on them.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them:

Then we come to those saints who are in their **soulish** condition and have been beheaded for the cause of Jesus Christ.

Re 20:4 and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

They too shall live and reign with Christ for the 1,000 years here introduced.

In my opinion this is distinctly different from the Millennium that the Pharisees taught the Jewish people to expect. **John's Mill** does not concern itself with any carnal state nor does it seem to agree with the Pharisees' concepts of a greater natural Israel in the flesh under the Law of Moses and the Prophets.

John's views do not agree with the Christian Zionist views being advanced by those who follow the Scofield system and its several variants.

It seems to me that John is presenting two types of Saints, **the already enthroned saints**, and the **soulish saints** who have come out of the great tribulation and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

These seem to be two distinct groups of saints yet they both shall rule and reign with Christ.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them:

What are we to look for and expect here? In my opinion this joins with Dan. 7.

13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

15 I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of *my* body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

16 I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.

17 These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, *which* shall arise out of the earth.

18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

Re 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Re 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Dan. 7:21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings *that* shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

25 And he shall speak *great* words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy *it* unto the end.

27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

When our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into the Heavens *in His private ascension* on

the basis of His own blood, *He did cleanse the heavens.*

Job 15:15 Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight.

The fall of Adam and Eve placed the natural creation under the curse. This has not yet been removed, but shall be removed at the Great Second coming when the Lord God makes all things new. This is also known as the time of the restitution of all things.

Ac 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Rom. 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the

firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

When Christ did privately ascend into the heavens, in my opinion He then did cleanse and purge the heavenlies from the results of the sin and fall of Lucifer and the other angels that did fall.

The First group on the Thrones should be considered. Who are they and why are they already enthroned? Why are they distinct from the Martyrs of the final end times?

Those Who Came out of the Graves at Christ's Resurrection

In my opinion they are those who came out of the graves after Christ's resurrection and followed Christ into the heavenlies.

Does the Second Group represent the end time martyrs only? Why is it that they are presented as souls? John saw them in their soulish state.

These are just some of the questions I cannot answer.

However, on this point I seem to be sure, Revelation 20 does not teach in any way the Christian Zionist views of a physical millennium on this present sin cursed earth with a co mingling of glorified saints ruling with Christ from Carnal, Physical Jerusalem among the natural reprobates.

We need to remind ourselves at this point that Jerusalem that is above is not the same as Jerusalem that is on this earth. One is Sarah the other is Agar.

I soul 'sōl noun -s

Etymology: Middle English **soule**, from Old English **sawol, sawl**; akin to Old High German **selā, seula** soul, Old Norse **sala**, Gothic **saiwala**

1. : the immaterial essence or substance, animating principle, or actuating cause of life or of the individual life

2. a) : the psychical or spiritual principle in general shared by or embodied in individual human beings or all beings having a rational and spiritual nature

b) : the psychical or spiritual nature of the universe related to the physical world as the human soul to the human body
-- compare [logos](#)

c) cap Christian Science : [2god](#) b(6)

3. a) : the immortal part of man having permanent individual existence <~s in paradise> <~s consigned to damnation>
-- contrasted with *body*

b) : a person's total self in its living unity and wholeness -- sometimes distinguished from *spirit* <I pray God your whole spirit and ~ and body be preserved blameless -- [1 Thess 5:23 \(Authorized Version\)](#)

23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

The soul is distinct from *the spirit and the body*. I know not how to answer the issue of the Soulish rule and reign with Christ of those here presented. They are not yet in their final glorified state.

Here is perhaps a clue:

Mt 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Re 2:22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

Re 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Rev. 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

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You will also please note that God will still be sitting in His Temple so long as this present sin cursed earth exists and is being judged.

Is John 20's group of souls martyrs the same as the great multitude that came out of the Great Tribulation?

Are they presented as souls because somehow they have not yet been raised in their glorified bodies?

Here are the other usages of the term soul and souls in the Book of Revelation:

Re 16:3 And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.

Re 18:14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.

Re 6:9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

Re 18:13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

Re 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands;

and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Are we noting several differences between the Carnal Mill views of the Pharisees as taught among the Christian Zionists and the followers of the Scofield system, and its distinction from what is actually presented in the Book of Revelation?

My conclusion to this part of Scripture is that John's views of the 1,000 years rule and reign in Chapter 20 is very different from the Christian Zionist's view of the 1,000 rule and reign. I am not suggesting that any one concept is correct on all its points, but asking questions because I also need several answers because I do not know.

One other major point here is **WHERE DOES THIS REIGN AND RULE OCCUR?**

Is it on this present sin-cursed earth or on the New Earth under the New Heavens?

Or is it in between them both during that time known as the Judgment of the Nations after the Second Coming of Christ and before the final state of the New Heavens and the New Earth?

Please note that when the Judgment of the Nations does come, the **heavens** as we know them now shall cease:

Rev. 6:9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Please note that while the heavens as we know them shall cease when the Second Coming occurs and the Father's Throne is made visible in the heavens, YET THERE IS NO MENTION YET OF THE NEW EARTH.

Are we to suppose that the reprobates and all the fallen and evil spirits that shall enter into judgment then, shall stand on the New Earth?

They shall never set their feet on the New Earth. The final judgment shall occur and the reprobates and all the evil and fallen spirits, including Satan shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, without their being on the New Earth.

No fallen or sinful being shall ever be allowed on the New Earth.

I think not, but rather that they shall remain behind on this present earth for the 1,000 years judgment of the nations.

After this judgment is over, this earth as we know it shall vanish away and the New Heavens and the New Earth shall come.

Rev. 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the

end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.
7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Rom. 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope,

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.