

“And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.” – Revelation 20:12

Overview:

Satan is released from his prison at the end of the 1,000 years to go out and to “deceive the nations” Rev 20:7-8). This raises the question as to why would God release Satan? There are several answers to these questions but here are a few of the possible reasons: 1) God is sovereign. 2) The Millennium Kingdom is not heaven and man's sinful heart needs to be dealt with. 4) Even in the Millennium every man, women, and child must still decide for themselves about Jesus. 5) To reveal the wisdom of God in the cross. 6) To reveal the wickedness of Satan. 7) To reveal the justice of God's judgment in eternal punishment. The question everyone must answer is still the same, “how do you want to be judged by God?” By what Jesus did on the cross or by what you have done on this earth and recoded in the “books”.

References:

Overview – Acts 17:30-31

Rev 20:8 – Man's sinful heart has not yet been completely dealt with – (Mark 7:18-23)

Rev 20:8 – Two categories of saints in the Millennium

- Resurrected saints – (1 Corinthians 15), will not have children in the resurrection – (Matthew 22:30)
- Those who lived through the Tribulation

Rev 20:8 – Satan's release will reveal

- The wisdom of God in the cross – (1 Corinthians 1:18, 23)
- The wickedness of Satan – (1 Peter 5:8)

Rev 20:8 – Gog and Magog – Not the same one from Ezekiel 38-39, but the same nature of rebellion against God

Rev 20:9 – Beloved city – Jerusalem – (Psalm 87:2)

Rev 20:11 – A great white throne and Him who sat on it – Jesus – (John 5:22, 5:26-29, 6:29)

Rev 20:11 – From whose face the earth and heaven fled away – (Isaiah 34:4)

Rev 20:11 – And there was found no place for them – (2 Peter 3:10)

Rev 20:12 – And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God – (Hebrews 9:27)

Rev 20:12 – Things which were written in the books

- Book of the Law – (Galatians 3:10)
- Record of every time that:
 - Men have walked in the ways of their hearts & the sight of their eyes – (Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 8:7)
 - Men have spoken idle words – (Matthew 12:36)
 - Men refused to receive people who share the gospel – (Mark 6:11)
 - Men responded to the drawing of God with hard hearts – (Romans 2:5)
 - Men act in secret against the will of God – (Romans 2:16, Hebrews 4:13, Mark 4:22)

Rev 20:14 – Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. - (Hosea 13:14, 1 Corinthians 15:26, 55)

Rev 20:15 – Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

- Believe in Jesus and your name will be in the Book of Life – (John 3:16, 1 John 5:12)
- Act upon this message – (2 Corinthians 6:1-2)

Questions:

* Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 & Revelation 20:6 How do you want to be judged? By what you have done or by what Jesus has done on the cross?

* Based on your answer to the above question, is your name written in the Book of Life? For more information, please visit <http://www.calvaryfrederick.com/resources/gift.html>

Additional Study:

Rev 20:7

* Have expired (*teleoō*) – brought to the end: Review chronology

Rev 20:12

* Men have spoken idle words (Matthew 12:36)
- Idle (*argos*) – thoughtless, indifferent=unsympathetic, unconcerned

Rev 20:12

* By the things which were written (Romans 2:5)
- Hardness (*sklerotes*) – a stubbornness with regard to any change in behavior, refusing to think differently
- Impenitent (*ametanoetos*) – a refusal to repent and turn to God