



[Revelation 20:1-3](#)

(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.

New International Version

Many commentators believe this angel is Christ Himself, as no single angel seems to be the match for [Satan](#). When Daniel cried for God's help, it took two angels, both Gabriel and Michael to overcome “the prince of the kingdom of Persia,” thought to have been Satan ([Daniel 10:13](#)). If the key to the bottomless pit is like the keys of Hades and Death—that is, in the possession of Christ alone—[Revelation 1:18](#) may support this speculation.

Satan's imprisonment in the bottomless pit is not his final sentence, but he will be “bound and gagged” for a thousand years, no longer able to deceive anyone. It is almost inconceivable to imagine what [the world](#) will be like without Satan around. Except for a short time in Eden, mankind has never experienced a time when his anti-[God](#) attitudes were not constantly pervading our environment (see [Ephesians 2:2](#)).

Once Satan is sealed away, a great weight will be lifted from the minds of people. A great sigh of relief will go up. When that prison door clangs shut and Satan's influence is cut off, people may finally experience true [peace](#) of mind. The brain-fog caused by his attitudes will be gone, and human beings will for once be able to think clearly. [Sin](#) will not disappear altogether, since

people will still have to overcome their carnal natures, but without Satan's encouragement, they will have a fighting chance to conquer it.

With Jesus, the Prince of Peace ([Isaiah 9:6](#)), triumphant over rebellious humanity, and Satan out of action, peace will descend over the [whole earth](#). With peace, as James writes in [James 3:18](#), the fruit of righteousness can flourish. Over time, under Christ's righteous government administered by the children of God, the creation will begin to return to the way it was before Adam sinned ([Romans 8:18-21](#)). With Satan a nonfactor, healing can begin.

Peter describes it in different terms in [Acts 3:19-21](#):

[Repent](#) therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. And that He may send [Jesus Christ](#), who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

Two very important steps in God's plan will occur in quick succession: the [return of Jesus Christ](#) prompting the [first resurrection](#) and the binding of Satan. The Devil will be imprisoned for most of the thousand-year reign of Christ with His saints, and until he is released for a little while ([Revelation 20:7](#)), the earth and its inhabitants, human and otherwise, will enjoy “times of refreshing.” During this time, God will work with humanity through His resurrected firstfruits and a proper relationship between man and God will be restored.

What an advantage those people will have then, able to live, overcome, and grow without Satan's constant pressure to ignore or defy God! Instead, godly teachers will be near to say, “This is the way, walk in it” ([Isaiah 30:21](#)). People will still have to make their own choices, but free from the Devil's hateful and rebellious attitudes, they will be much more inclined to decide to do what is good.

Yet, because of this advantage, they will not receive as great a reward as God's firstfruits. Because those in this age have had to fight Satan's influence all their converted lives, they will receive, as the author of Hebrews puts it,

“a better resurrection” ([Hebrews 11:35](#)), one that includes, among other things, reigning with Christ throughout the Millennium ([Revelation 20:6](#)) and following the Lamb wherever He goes ([Revelation 14:4](#)). As overcomers of Satan with Christ, the firstfruits stand on the first tier of those who are raised into God's Kingdom.

When Christ returns, so many wonderful things will come to pass, not the least of which is the confinement of Satan for a millennium. What an excellent reason to pray, “Your kingdom come” ([Matthew 6:10](#))!

— Richard T. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:
[The Binding of Satan](#)

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