



Daily Verse and Comment

Revelation 20:1-3

(1) Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. (2) He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; (3) and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

New King James Version

Identifying [Satan](#) as the fulfillment of [the azazel](#) goat (often translated as "scapegoat") in Leviticus 16 originates with extra-biblical sources, overlooks Scripture's consistent statements about the responsibility for [sin](#), discounts the principles and requirements of the sacrificial system, and ignores the finished expiatory work of [Jesus Christ](#). Leaping over these foundational planks, some conclude that the *azazel* and the binding of Satan are linked.

However, the stated purpose of Satan's binding is to curtail his deception of the nations throughout the Millennium. It will not be a permanent measure, nor will it be final justice or the true solution to mankind's estrangement from [God](#). Nothing in Revelation connects Satan's binding with any sort of expiation of sin.

Not a single scripture shows that Satan is the author of all human sins, an idea based on the "Book of Enoch" and human reasoning. In spite of Satan's influence, each person is still responsible for his own sins. Satan will pay the penalty for the sins he has committed, and with His own life, Christ has already paid for the sins of those who accept His sacrifice.

Asserting that Satan is the author of humanity's sins gives rise to the claim that mankind cannot be "at one" with God until Satan is out of the way. Part

of the confusion has arisen because the word “atonement” can be separated out into “at-one-ment.” Regrettably, this linguistic feature often leads to a wrong conclusion about the meaning of the word.

The primary meaning of *atonement* is “expiation”: “to provide legal satisfaction, such that guilt is removed, and the obligation of punishment is paid.” It can include cleansing, forgiving, pardoning, purging, and covering. The *effect* of atonement is that two formerly estranged parties are brought back into agreement—they are “at one”—because the controversy between them has been legally satisfied.

The focus on the [Day of Atonement](#) is the *means* of atonement, which Satan's binding cannot legally achieve. It will neither remove mankind's guilt, nor lift the curse of the law. Regarding the separation between God and man, that gulf can only be bridged through the atonement God provides through Christ.

The idea of man and God becoming reconciled through Satan's binding also overlooks the fact that during the Millennium, the Devil will be unable to influence anyone—yet people will still be sinning. Will the defanged Satan still be the cause of their sins? Will humanity be unified with God just because Satan's broadcast stops?

On the contrary, during Jesus' final [Passover](#) (John 13-17), He repeatedly returned to the themes of [peace](#), unity, and oneness with God, all of which are possible with Satan still on the loose. All this occurs through Christ's work, mainly through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Humanity can become “at one” with God only through the Son, not merely by keeping the evil one at bay.

Also, if Satan's binding were the actual solution to human sin, then all sins committed *after* he is loosed would remain unatoned. Will the people who arise in the second resurrection put their [faith](#) in Satan's prior binding—trusting that it would provide expiation for their sins, too—or will their object of faith be Jesus Christ?

Satan, however, is not the factor keeping us separate from God—our sins are (see [Isaiah 59:1-2](#)), which Satan *cannot* cause us to commit. What hinders

mankind from being unified with God is *the presence of sin* rather than the presence of Satan. Jesus Christ alone supplies the solution to sin.

— David C. Grabbe

To learn more, see:

[Who Fulfills the Azazel Goat— Satan or Christ? \(Part Four\)](#)

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[Azazel Bearing Sins](#)

[Azazel Goat](#)

[Book of Enoch](#)

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[Extra-Biblical Evidence](#)

[Purpose of Satan's Binding](#)

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[Satan's Binding Not Solution to Human Sin](#)

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