

# **Revelation 20**

## **“Binding Satan”**

**April 1<sup>st</sup> 2012**

**Introduction – The Millennium is going to be a great time**

### **What the Bible says about the Millennium**

#### **#1 - Jesus will rule with a Rod of Righteousness – Isaiah 11:4**

- I love that – I don't really trust our rulers, I am willing to biblically submit, but I'm always wondering why is this happening in Washington or Sacramento or the Vista County Courthouse
  - I watch the news and I am so tired of corrupt pastors and politicians
  - So tired of people hurting little kids
  - I can't wait for Jesus to rule
- Talk about trust in your leaders, the man with the nail scarred hands is in charge, you know He loves you!!!
  - And when people want to step out of line, bam, the rod of righteousness
  - You want to over tax my people – bam
  - You want to rip off a congregation – bam
  - You want to hurt a little kid – bam, bam, bam
  - What a great time

#### **#2 – All animals will be tame – Isaiah 11:6-7**

- The curse is reversed and so animals stop eating each other and you – a little child will lead a lion, a wolf and a bear

Can you imagine if my son could have a pet lion, wolf or bear – you that do children's ministry already know he carries around a little stuffed wolf

**I can just imagine him grabbing the lion by the mane, and jumping onto his back**

- running with the wolves
  - and trying to wrestle a grisly
  - my son would do it if he had a pet lion, wolf and bear that were tame

#### **#3 – All war will be over – Isaiah 2:4**

- The people of the earth will turn their swords into plow shears
  - And the nations will learn war no more
  - No more need for West point
- No more seeing the horrible pictures of our brave men and women leaving the battle field in body bags
  - I can't wait for this time

**Some Bible scholars have speculated since people start living abnormally long life times, that the world goes back to preflood conditions where they lived to 600, 700 years old**

- most Bible scholars believe that the reason that was the case was there was this water canopy that surrounded the earth
  - blocking harmful UV rays that cause aging
- if that was so this water canopy would make all of the air on earth super oxygenated, meaning, oh we are speculating, but it maybe even fun to breath during the millennium
  - oh did you feel that – that was cool, lets do that again - oh oh oh
- And you runners, you long distance bikers or hikers, you wouldn't get tired with that much oxygen in the air
  - Oh where are you going son, oh I'm running out to Palm Springs – you are running, yeah, literally running out to Palm Springs

### **The Millennial Kingdom is going to be a wonderful place**

- And on Wednesday Night if you can be here we are going to look at five aspects of the Millennium from Revelation Chapter 20
  - And we are going to have a great time, looking at those this Wednesday

### **But friends understand this, part of what makes the Millennial Kingdom such a wonderful place is what we read about in the text**

- one of the aspects of the Millennium that makes it such a wonderful time to be on earth is the fact Satan is bound
  - right now the enemy of our souls has great influence on world events
  - He influences world leaders, TV, music
- He influences them to serve themselves and not God
  - And by doing so He is influencing many in the direction of Hell
- But during the Millennium he will be bound
  - For 1,000 years he will have no influence upon people or the world system
  - That is part of what makes this time so glorious!

### **And as I was thinking and praying over chapter 20 and what part of it to emphasize here on Sunday Morning, what the Lord put on my heart is this**

- We as New Testament believers, don't have to wait for the Millennium to experience one of the best parts of the Millennium
  - Oh we will have to wait to ride on the back of lions
  - To see an end of war
  - And to really, really enjoy breathing

### **But what we don't have to wait for is to see Satan bound in our lives now**

- bound in our lives now as he will be bound in everyone's life during the Millennium
  - but how, and what am I talking about

**Well first understand that when I talk about binding Satan in our lives I am not talking going weird ultra Pentecostal on you this morning**

- I know some of you still get a little nervous when Pastor Rob doesn't come out to teach and so I will save the snake handling til at least next year
  - Obviously I'm kidding
  - Maybe pull out some snake props
  - Just kidding – anyway

**I am not going all ultra Pentecostal on you this morning, because I as a student of the word know Satan is not someone to mess with, to claim to stand up to on my own in the power of the flesh**

- Jude 1:9 seems to indicate that even Michael the Archangel wouldn't come against Satan by himself, but instead said to him, the Lord rebuke you
  - No, I am not going to encourage you this morning to do what I witness and was a part of early in the ministry at Calvary Chapel Paris Texas
  - When I first moved out to Texas we did not have a midweek service for the first year
- So I because I grew up in Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa, went to Calvary Chapel Bible College, and the only church I had ever worked at was Calvary Chapel Vista, I wanted to see what else was out there
  - And I will never forget for the rest of my life, coming into a church of God

**I was greeted by ushers wearing white gloves, I had never seen ushers with white gloves, Ernie, Jim we need to get you a pair of white gloves my friend**

- I was told where to sit and then as the pastor came out, he started by saying, first thing out of his mouth, not hello, how are you tonight, if you need a Bible raise your hand, open your bulletin for a few announcements, none of that. First things out of his mouth was, "Satan told me he was coming here tonight"
  - I was like hold up – what did you just say?
  - Did you just say Satan told you he was coming here tonight
- There is so much wrong with that statement
  - First of all why are you talking to Satan?
  - Secondly he is coming here, like Satan can be in only one place at a time, he is not God, and he is choosing your Wednesday Night church service to hang out?
  - Oh it got better

**Then the pastor instructed those ushers wearing white gloves to stand and bar the doors so Satan couldn't get into the room**

- now come on
  - my Bible says that one angel on one evening killed 186,000 Assyrian warriors, just some angel

- you telling me Satan is going to be intimidated by four guys in white gloves – maybe it's the white gloves???
- No way – listen friends I know Satan is someone that neither you nor me want to mess with on our own

**So when I talk about binding Satan this morning, I am not going to encourage you to any kind of weird chanting or yelling of “bind the strong man, bind the strong man” as you sit in a bath of Holy Water**

- sorry I was in a weird mood when I prepared this study – that wasn't even off the cuff, that bit about yelling Bind the strong man was actually in my notes
  - anyway...

**What I do want us to consider this morning is how we can bind the effects of sin and Satan in our lives**

- and thus experience one of the most wonderful parts of the Millennium in our lives right now
  - and this subject of binding the effects of sin and satan reminds me of a story in the life of Christ
  - from Matthew 17:14-21 – turn there with me if you would

**Jesus is coming down off the Mount of Transfiguration with Peter, James and John**

- and they run into the other disciples who have encountered a man whose son was demon possessed
  - here was a young man who was struggling with the effects of sin and satan
  - he was hurting himself, making life miserable for all those around him
- and yet more than that, the disciples were powerless to do anything about it
  - and maybe you can relate
  - maybe sin and its effects are out of control in your life
  - maybe sin and its effects are out of control in someone's life you love
  - and maybe you just seem powerless, defeated, well
- The disciples certainly were and so Jesus says to them...

**“O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.” – Matthew 17:17**

- Jesus says, there is a problem here, this is a faithless and perverse generation
  - Not really the kind of verse you want hanging in your living room, yes, those are Jesus' words to me!

**But they could be Jesus' words to us, couldn't they??**

- because I see a very similar situation happening all around us in the church today
  - There are teenagers falling down all around us in our culture –
  - There is addiction, pornography out of control
  - There are marriages failing
  - And people going to Hell
- and yet it seems the church has no answer – so powerless

### **And Jesus points out to this men and women**

- you are faithless, you are perverse
  - and because of it you are powerless
  - Sin and Satan are not bound in your life

**And then – I know you know this, but Jesus then gives the answer to deal with their faithlessness and perversity, He gives them the answer to see sin and Satan bound in their lives when he says**

**“However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.” - Matthew 17:21**

- This kind does not come out except by prayer and fasting
  - What is Jesus saying??? –
  - We have talked about it – before – are we talking about the demon or the faith
  - It doesn't really matter

### **Because beyond that**

- Jesus is saying the answer to faithlessness and perversity, the answer to seeing sin and Satan bound
  - Remember why are they powerless?
  - The reason - faithlessness and perversity
  - And the answer
- You are to be a person of prayer and fasting
  - The answer to faithlessness and perversity is prayer and fasting

### **The answer to faithlessness is prayer**

**You see the reason I think that call of God is for us who are serious about Jesus to be devoted in prayer is simply prayer changes things, it is the vehicle by which we partner with God to see His work be done**

- Prayer changes things??? – yes, yes it does
  - probably one of the most troublesome passages when it comes to prayer, but it illustrates this point so greatly is when Moses is coming down the mountain after receiving the 10 commandments in Exodus 32
- the people of Israel had just said, whatever God says for us to do, we are committed, we are devoted to follow the Lord
  - and God gives Moses the 10 commandments

- but this process of God giving Moses the law, took a long time and the people became impatient, and eventually they ask Aaron to make them a golden calf
  - and they worshipped this golden calf and then began to commit all types of immoral things around this calf
  - and as Moses was coming down the Mountain, Joshua who up there part of the way with him says, there is a noise of war in the camp, Moses
- But God has already told Moses, it was not the noise of war, but of rebellion

### **As Moses was headed down, God spoke...**

**“And the Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and indeed it *is* a stiff-necked people! <sup>10</sup>Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation.” – Exodus 32:9-10**

- And Moses, you Bible students know, must have been tempted to think
  - They are rebellious – you want to start over with me God
  - Well okay – Father Moses, instead of Father Abraham, I like the ring of that
  - Father Moses, had many sons, many sons had Father Moses

### **It may have been a temptation, but that was not what Moses did**

- he cried out in prayer for the people
  - He pleaded with the Lord to change His mind
  - He reminded the Lord of the promises He had made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
  - And verse 14, oh this should bother you a little bit this morning, verse 14 says...

**“So the Lord relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.” – Exodus 32:14**

- Did you hear what I just read – the Lord relented
  - In the KJV – it says He repented
  - In the NLT – it says He changed His mind
  - What???
- We don’t like to use phrases like that about God
  - Because when we change our minds, it is because we didn’t have enough information in the first place when we decided something or just plain we made a mistake
  - And we know those things can not be true of God, so we are uncomfortable with the language

### **But understand precious ones**

- when it says God changed His mind, or God relented
  - it doesn’t not mean He didn’t have all the information
  - God had all the information and He was completely justified in wiping those people off the map because of their rebellion

- He had all the information and He had not made a poor choice
  - **The word in the text translated “relent” means to turn from an undesirable course of action”**
  - God was justified, He had every right to destroy the people, but He didn’t want to, it was undesirable
  - And God partners with Moses and his devotion to prayer to arrive at the desirable action

**Again another example because I know this kind of talk makes you that lean heavy toward the absolute sovereignty of God in the room kind of uncomfortable, hear me out, we will all be friends when this is over**

- but again as I mentioned last time
  - the first time Jerusalem was surrounded by the Assyrian army, King Hezekiah and His friend Isaiah got on their faces and began to pray
  - and God changed the situation
- The second time Jerusalem was surrounded 200 years later, this time by the Babylonian empire, it says in Ezekiel chapter 22

**“So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. <sup>31</sup>Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads,” says the Lord GOD.” – Ezekiel 22:30-31**

**That Scripture is heavy to me**

- because it seems to indicate, God was completely justified in sending Jerusalem into captivity, but He wanted to follow another course of action
  - and He was looking for one man, one woman to stand in the gap before as Moses had stood in the gap in Genesis 32
  - as Isaiah and Hezekiah had stood in the gap in Isaiah 36-39
  - but this time He found no one, and Jerusalem went into captivity

**I believe God is willing to bring revival to North County, God is willing to heal marriages, God is wanting to set kids free, God wants sin and Satan bound in your life**

- God is willing but is there anyone willing to pray
  - Willing to be devoted to prayer
  - Willing to pray with importunity
  - Importunity?????

**Oh “Importunity” – it’s this great word we hardly use anymore in the English language**

- It comes from an illustration Jesus used concerning prayer in Luke chapter 11
  - Jesus tells a story of man who needs to borrow some food because some visitors have come unexpected – so the man went to his neighbor and knocked at the door and said, I need a few loaves of bread

- But it was late and the man in the house said, I have already gone to bed, my children are asleep, go away
- But the man keeps persisting, the Scripture says
- In the King James version, the one that uses all those cool Old English words it says this...

**“I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.” - Luke 11:8 KJV**

**Jesus in a passage of Scripture by the way where He is responding to the Disciples asking him the question, “Lord teach us to pray” - teach us to pray like you, so sin and Satan will be bound in our lives in lives around us and being asked that Jesus gives this illustration of the need for us to pray with importunity**

- and old English word that means...
- **“Importunity” = to insist with persistence**
  - Now don’t misunderstand me, Jesus’ point was not the God is grumpy old man that if you bother enough, you will get your way
  - He was teaching that we need to pray with Importunity, we need to insist with persistence
  - Especially those of you who are disciples, those of you who want to be used of the Lord

**Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew chapter 6, when you pray, not if – He expects prayer to be something you are devoted to in your life**

- not to make God love you more
  - not to make you more saved
  - but to see sin and Satan bound in your life
- I personally believe Satan laughs at prayerless lives
  - It was Charles Spurgeon who said “Satan laughs at prayerless preaching
  - Spurgoen had thousands of people coming to hear him when the average church of the day was 25 people – why, many asked, and he would take them to a basement room and say here is why – people gather in here as I preach, to pray

**I think that is so important – every service at Calvary Chapel Paris there are 10 to 15 women gathered to pray during the service, they pray one service, attend the next, that God would pour out His Spirit**

- and since I have been here they are praying right now for us here too, that God would do a work this morning in your hearts, because we are all in this together
  - my wife started a group of ladies that prays here during first service, and then attends second
  - and guys why is it always the ladies
- where are you spiritual men????
  - Oh I know they are all over this church

- But what an important thing
- Because I believe Satan does laugh at prayerless preaching

**But you know what, it goes beyond the pulpit, I believe Satan laughs at prayerless parenting, or prayerless marriage**

- We are going to read this book, we are going to go to this similar
  - Nothing wrong with those things
- But often the last place we go, the last thing on our minds to go to the source of the only real power there is - And connect with Him through the means He has ascribed - To be devoted, to pray with importunity

**Again I believe God is willing to bring revival, God is willing to heal marriages, God is wanting to set kids free**

- God is willing but is there anyone willing to pray
  - Willing to be devoted to prayer
  - Willing to pray with importunity
  - The answer to faithlessness is prayer
  - And one more thing this morning

**The answer to perversity is fasting**

- Why do I say that??
  - Because fasting in its essence is learning to say no to your flesh
  - You decide to fast, alright Lord, tomorrow no food, I am going to take the time I would normally eat and instead I am going to pray
- So you get up the next day and at first you forget
  - So you go to your cupboard, start to pull out the fruit loops, so good those fruit loops
  - But right as you are about to pour the bowl, you remember – oh no – I’m fasting
  - And you with tears in your eyes put the fruit loops back in the cupboard
- And your flesh, that voice inside you says
  - What are you doing???
  - What is going on??
  - And you answer – I’m fasting
  - Fasting? What is that???

**Then lunch time comes and your flesh starts really screaming – feed me, give me food**

- and you say “no”
  - your flesh has never been told no, ever
  - and it is not happy – what do you mean no
  - how long is this going to last
- you are going to die
  - you are not going to die by the way

- you always need to check with your doctor if you have any medical conditions that would hinder fasting – I do certain things as a diabetic to fast that others do not have to do
- but check with your doctor, I say that again because we live in a litigious society and I don't want a cd of this service to be next to grandma passed out on the floor and you saying pastor Jason told her not to eat

**Check with your doctor, but really pray this in if you have never fasted**

- and then start with a meal or two, then a day or three
  - because you have to learn to say No to your flesh
  - and listen to me, this is key
- By learning to say no to your body when it comes to food something your body really does need, it translates into victory over telling your flesh no to things it doesn't need as well

**Such an important word today because the church in general today seems pretty weak today**

- But why – well Instead of Jesus there is a lot of junk
  - Instead of Christ – there is carnality
  - Because we are big on faithlessness and perversity
  - And light on faith and purity
- But there is an answer friends
  - There is way for us to experience one of the greatest parts of the millennial kingdom right now
- We will have to wait to ride on lions
- See war no more
- And have Jesus rule with a rod of righteousness

**But we can see the power of sin and satan bound in our lives right now as we hear the words of Jesus**

- this kind only comes out by prayer and fasting
  - the answer to faithlessness in prayer
  - the answer to perversity is fasting
- oh faithless and perverse generation how long will I be with you
  - may you that has an ear to hear this morning, hear the things, I believe the Spirit is saying to the churches

A word to the unsaved – the first step is to come to Jesus, the rest of us – as disciples, not if you pray and fast, Matthew 6 says but when, pray that in this week, and see Satan bound