

PART THREE
ETERNITY
The End of Satan

Babylon: “Satan’s Seat”

*“How you have fallen from heaven, Lucifer, son of the dawn!
You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low
the nations. You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven;
I will raise my throne above the stars of God: I will sit
enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost height of
the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the
clouds; I will make myself like the Most High’. But you are
brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.”*

Isaiah 14:12-15 New International Version

It is said of the woman “*Babylon, Mother of Harlots*” mentioned earlier; “*The inhabitants of the earth were made drunk from the wine of her fornication*”; and she was “*drunk from the blood of the saints, and from the martyrs or witnesses of Jesus*”. This is not just judgement of Caesar’s slaughtering of early Christians, or later Roman Catholic persecutions of non-Catholics, or even the Islamic slaughtering of non-converting unbelievers, for Judaism had existed before these

with its persecutions of non-adherents such as the crucifixion of Jesus. Now the time of accountability had come from the Throne of God in the image of *Mystery Babylon the Great*.

The greater mystery at this stage of judgement on the world is the non-appearance of Satan in all of the devastations taking place. His evil master-minions had appeared in the persons of the *Beast* and the *False Prophet*, and figuratively in the *Red Dragon* seeking to kill the “*man-child*” offspring of the *Sun-Clad Woman*. Even in John’s present vision he is represented as the steed on which is riding the *Woman Mystery Babylon the Great*, “*a Scarlet Beast full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns*”. The popular interpretation of this is that the seven heads are seven mountains, or Rome, and the ten heads are great ruling powers associated with Rome. But, just as “*Babylon, Mother of Harlots*” is all corrupted revealed religion from the beginning of time, so “*Babylon the City*” with seven heads were former seven imperial powers, Babylon, Medo/Persia, Greece, Assyria, Egypt and Rome and the un-named one of the end-time, so they also represent the anti-God Middle Eastern dominant *political powers* ruled by the *Beast* and *False Prophet*. They are “*Babylon the Great City*” which “*rends to pieces and eats the flesh of . . . Babylon Mother of Harlots*” to assert Satan’s attempts to rule what is left of the destroyed world.

This is the end of *Mystery Babylon*, the repository of every religious and political institution and nation that comes between the individual and God. But there is still the “*Red Dragon*”, both emperor and pope of the world. Just when the *Red Dragon* is gloating over his destruction of all enemies or rivals a *Mighty Angel*, Jesus personified and illuminated with great authority and splendour, appears and announces:

“Fallen, fallen, Babylon the Great . . . because of her wanton drunkenness all the nations have fallen, and the kings of the earth committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth became rich because of her excessive adulteries . . .”

Then another voice sounds from heaven calling on all God’s people still on earth to come out of the doomed city Babylon, “*Satan’s Seat*”, who boasted that she was “*a queen and not a widow*,

who will never mourn. She was swept out of existence by the last *Vial of Judgement*, an unprecedented earthquake affecting all the nations of the world, with mourning, famine, fire and death, finally disappearing into an eternity of torturous perdition

Rider on a White Horse

With a tormented world riven with mind-numbing devastation and ruin from the seven *Judgements*, the skies roll back and a rider on a white horse appears, crowned with diadems. Like a medieval armoured rider, he is clad in white linen with blood-red cloak, eyes like blazing fire and carrying a banner reading, "*KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS*". He is not only Judge and General, he is the King, the Messiah always sought by Israel. Behind him as far as the eye can see ride rank upon rank of innumerable Overcoming saints also riding white horses and clad in white robes.

He emerges from heaven as the promised Messiah to cleanse and claim his purged inheritance, into a world devastated by Satanic deceits, disloyalties, disasters and deaths. The accumulated defiance of Satan has mobilised the nations of the world to unite against Israel and their representative armies are gathered in the Valley of Megiddo. It seems a ludicrous demonstration of earthly power against a small but stubborn Remnant Israel that will not bow to the Antichrist.

But Zionist Israel, composed of secular Jews who returned to rule Israel in the name of God's Promised Land, but who had no God in their constitution or lives, have entered into a concordat with the nations of the world to root out these "*religious subversives*" in the cause of "*world peace*".

Suddenly the sky darkens into night-like blackness and the earth rocks with a monstrous earthquake which splits the Mount of Olives into two, leaving an immense gap between the city of Jerusalem and the international army gathered in the region of Armageddon. As lightning flashes in the skies above the panicked Satanic force, the *Rider on the White Horse* appears, with his mighty heavenly army. At the same time there are screams in the Antichrist army as they are struck by a mysterious plague which rots their bodies where they

stand. The panic increases when a voice from heaven is heard calling on all the predatory birds to come and feast on the rotting bodies, a voracious savaging of the flesh in an earthly hellish feast of all the mighty leaders and their destroyed followers.

As the thunder fades and the lightning disappears the heavens flare with a great light and an angel appears to announce the binding of Satan: With contemptuous ease the angel declares that Satan will be bound and confined to the *Abyss* for the next thousand years while the Messiah rules on earth. It is the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy:

"In that day the Lord will punish the powers in the heavens above, and the kings on the earth below. They will be herded together like prisoners bound in a dungeon; they will be shut up in prison and punished after many days. The moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, for the Lord Almighty will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before its elders, gloriously"

The purpose of Satan's incarceration in the *Abyss* at this point is so that the Millennium of peace and plenty can proceed gloriously without his interference. The *Abyss* is a different place from that of the "*Lake of Fire which burns with brimstone*" where the Beast and the False Prophet are consigned; these two places are different from *Hades*, noted earlier, and *Tartarus*. These four places, with *Abaddon* and *Gehenna* are gradations of punishment for unbelievers and demons, not necessarily physical places but spiritual states. This is a reversal of the "*Imagine*" of the John Lennon song:

*"Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try;
No hell below us,
Above us only sky".*

Personally, I have concluded that there is no place among the planets called heaven, that heaven is a spiritual state determined by what I do, or everyone does, here on earth for Christ. This is metaphorically valued, as the Apostle Paul described "*gold, silver, or precious stones . . . wood, hay and stubble*"; or, as Jesus said in his

"parable of the talents", the one who makes the most of the talent he has been donated is the one who profits the most in the hereafter. Or, in his *"parable of the ten virgins"*, the five virgins who prepare themselves for the arrival of the bridegroom are welcomed by him into the wedding feast; but the five virgins who neglect to get oil for their lamps are shut out of the ceremony.

Just as believers are given graduated inheritances and rewards for their commitment of belief on earth, so unbelievers are given similarly graduated punishments for their disobedience. For the unbeliever who neglects to accept the offer of eternal life in his or her lifetime, their punishment of *"hell"* will be commensurate with their neglect of God on earth, like the rich man. His hell was not a place in the universe, or in the bowels of the earth, but in his memory of how he had neglected to accept the offer of eternal life while he was *"alive"*. His hell was the knowledge he had of remorse for neglected opportunities behind him on earth, and an eternity ahead of him to regret his wrong choices. Obviously, his hell is proportionately less painful than that of Jack the Ripper, or of Adolph Hitler. As each individual has lived on earth so will that individual be allotted with eternal compensations of heavenly rewards or earthly punishments.

Anyone who experiences the fire of regret or the worm of remorse in a normal lifetime, will have some slight conception of what an eternity of unpardonable regret or remorse might be. The place of final judgement, the true hell, is *"the lake burning with fire and brimstone"*. In the Hebrew Scriptures it is called *Tophet*, or in Greek, *Gehenna*. Both *Tophet* and *Gehenna* were descriptive names given to the geographical Valley of Hinnom, to the north of Jerusalem, because it was the place where human sacrifices had been offered by fire to the god Molech, and a repository for all manner of contaminated filth, but they serve as proportional analogies for sins that are unacceptable to God.

The record is brief and dismissive, for the *Beast* and *False Prophet* are cast alive *"into a lake of fire burning with brimstone"*. As for Satan, John's vision says that *"an angel came out of heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand"*. Obviously this angel is Jesus,

because he is the only one who had the keys of death and hell following his conquest of Satan in rising from the dead. He casts the bound Satan into the bottomless pit for a thousand years, the fearsome state which even the demons fear, for they pled with Jesus when he cast them out of the demon-possessed man *"that he would not command them to go into the Abyss"* but rather into the nearby herd of pigs.

At one stroke, with Satan bound in the *Abyss*, the world is cleansed of its false values, its empty rhetoric, its cynical conceits, its unblushing lies, and it awaits the divine conqueror. This millennial rule will be a world as God intended for Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, but they forfeited through disobedience by listening to the temptation of Satan. A world described by the prophet Isaiah:

"In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of the gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see . . . On this mountain the Lord Almighty will provide a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wines—the best of meats and the finest of wines . . . He will swallow up death forever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from all eyes . . ."

The Marriage Supper

While the literal hell-fire of judgement is tearing the Satan-ruled world apart the Lion/Lamb of Judah, Jesus as Lord of Lords, is descending from heaven to a shattered Jerusalem, where only the rebuilt Temple has survived, accompanied by the uncountable millions of his Overcoming saints to take control of the world so devastated by Satan's final rebellion. The divine judgements on the world are completed, the armies of the Antichrist are destroyed. Not since the time of Adam at the unsullied beginning of Creation has God been sovereign over his creatures like now. Not since the time of David has God been sovereign over a nation-state. It is *"Great David's greater son"* who is now ready to finish what David began. With the defeat of the Anti-Christ there begins the redemption and regeneration of the world. David, in his final prophetic psalm exulted regarding this time:

*"Endow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness."*

*He will judge your people in righteousness . . .
He will rule from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth . . .
All nations will be blessed through him,
And they will call him blessed . . ."*

But first there is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb prior to the Wedding of Jesus and his Church of the Messiah. With the religious impostor *Mother of Harlots* defeated the way is now open for the Messiah to celebrate with his true Bride, so long subjected to persecution, misrepresentation and contempt. It is metaphorically designated "*the Marriage Supper of the Lamb*" because Jesus purchased her with his death on her behalf. The *Old Testament* "*Church*", Israel, is regularly described as being betrothed to God as one destined for union with Him in due time. It is the same in the *New Testament* when Jesus describes the Church as "*my Church*"; and the Apostle Paul confirms the "*Church*" as a pure virgin being made ready for her heavenly Bridegroom.¹⁰⁰

Now that all Satanic opposition has been defeated, and elements of faithful witness of believers in both *Old* and *New Testament* dispensations have been either raptured or passed through the purging of the Tribulations, the time has come to celebrate the imminent wedding of the Bride with her heavenly Bridegroom in a "*Marriage Supper*". The songs of triumph have been sung in heaven and the heavenly Bridegroom is now ready to wed his earthly Bride. Both royal Bridegroom and Bride are described lyrically by the Psalmist when he says:

"You are the most excellent of men, your lips are full of grace, therefore God has blessed you forever . . . You love righteousness and hate wickedness therefore your God has anointed you with the oil of joy above your companions . . . Kings daughters are among your honourable women, and at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir. The king is enthralled by your beauty; honour him for he is your Lord . . ."

The Apostle John did not see the Marriage, nor were any details revealed to him; he only heard that the time had come and that the

¹⁰⁰ 2 Corinthians 11:2

Bride had made herself ready. The angel voice announces to John: *“Blessed are they who have been invited to the supper of the marriage of the Lamb . . . These are the true words of God.”*

Yet there are some believers who are not there at the Marriage Supper. Jesus gave the words of warning in his parable of the ten virgins, five of whom went into the marriage feast because they were prepared, but the other five—also virgins, but who were not *“ready”*—found *“the doors were shut”*. They were not shut out of heaven, but they were shut out of the intimate joys of the marriage supper with the Bridegroom and Bride.

Meanwhile, in heaven a great multitude breaks into singing a *“Hallelujah Chorus”*;

*“Hallelujah!
Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,
for true and just are his judgements.
He has condemned the great prostitute
Who corrupted the earth by her adulteries . . .”*

Then the twenty-four Overcoming Church representatives, and the four Living Creatures, fall on their faces before the Throne and worship God, singing:

*“Amen! Hallelujah!
Praise our God all you his servants,
You who fear him, both small and great.”*

Finally, they are joined by the masses of all the saints in heaven singing:

*“Hallelujah!
Our Lord God Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!
For the wedding of the Lord has come
And his bride has made herself ready . . .”*

But before this wedding celebration there is the matter of Armageddon and the fate of Satan to be settled. The *Beast* and *False Prophet* have been defeated, and the religious and political Babylon

destroyed, but the *Red Dragon* is still awaiting his final fate.

The Millennium

The Promised Messiah reigns! The Lord of Glory has returned as he said! There is an interregnum of a thousand years between the incarceration of Satan in the *Abyss* and eternity beyond. In reality "*millennium*" is simply a useful descriptive term because time does not exist outside earthly existence. The term and time "*millennium*" is divinely used to provide a period in which God-believers of all ages and dispensations are fitted to use their acquired spiritual powers, from "*ruling with Christ*" at the top to "*servants of the kingdom*" at the bottom.

It begins with "*the resurrection of the blessed and holy*", the resurrection of all those believers who have not taken part in the earlier rapture but have been faithful during the time of all the tribulations leading to Armageddon. As the Apostle Paul described: "*As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive, but everyone: Christ, the first fruits, then, when he comes, those who belong to him in his own order.*"¹⁰¹

Earlier, under the *Sixth Seal*, there were those—"*a great multitude*"—who "*came out of the great tribulation*", those who answer to the five virgins who had no oil in their lamps when the bridegroom came, and who were "*shut out*" of the wedding celebrations. There were others, like the 144,000, who were taken out of the tribulations, "*redeemed from the earth*" and "*from among men*" as a special reward for their faithfulness.

This great gathering of the saints of all ages, together with the earlier raptured Overcoming Church, signals the start of the millennium, as everyone either "*inherits*" reigning with Christ because they suffered with and for him in their totally committed lives; or receive their "*rewards*", according to the measure of their limited lifetime commitment. This ruling of the nations the Lord shares with his chosen "*companions*", those who were his faithful disciples while on earth:

"You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and

¹⁰¹ 1 Corinthians 15: 22-23

drink with me at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

This is also the time for the *Overcoming Church* to rule with their Lord as he promised:

"To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations. He will rule them with a rod of iron; he will dash them to pieces like pottery—just as I received authority from my Father."

This is also the time spoken of by the Apostle Paul when he said to the Corinthian believers:

"Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!"

During this immortal administration, government by lie, duplicity, expediency and oppression of the poor, is swept away; and new, just, righteous laws based on love and truth with firm discipline are introduced. New policies regarding the animate and inanimate creation will be initiated, releasing enormous energies and wealth on an unprecedented scale, such as during the divinely approved reigns of David and Solomon. With the minds of men and women freed from the limitations and pressures of Satanic influence there will be an upsurge and expansion of unimaginable creativity and innovation. The divine revolution includes the capacity of never dying, of having glorified, corporeal bodies like the Lord's post-resurrection body, with heavenly qualities capable of sublime joys.

The world, which has been devastated with divine judgements—earthquakes, fires, bloody rivers and streams, crops poisoned, mountains laid flat—will have to be recreated as it was in the beginning of creation, environment and ecology balanced, ruling officials replaced, unbelievers pacified and won over to the everlasting gospel and recognition of Jesus as Lord. The world's population will have been reduced catastrophically because of judgements, removals, and plagues, and will have to be taught new laws, new values, new principles.

The widely believed conception of the millennium among

professing Christians—if they have any belief at all!—is of a vague idea of peace on earth and goodwill to men when there will be a wide acceptance of the Christian gospel, while Christians will walk on golden streets in white robes, holding hands with their formerly dead family members, singing and playing on harps, and casting un-won crowns before the throne of God in heaven.

What is shown is that while the millennium *will not be* the eternal "*new earth*" future in which there will be no more sin, death, curse, nor tears; it *will be* the blissful stage before that eternal state. The thousand years will terminate but the interim joys of the new creation, and the heavenly order, will remain. Jesus as Lord of Creation and King of Kings, and his chosen saint-rulers, will not cease to reign

Satan Released

The end of the millennial period is not a cessation of the earthly blessings enjoyed but the release of Satan from the *Abyss* as a final test and cleansing of the human and angelic species. At the close of the millennium God allows Satan to emerge from the *Abyss*. Why? The reason is hidden in the mind of God. It is an insoluble mystery why God should release Satan after a thousand years of peace and prosperity. No divine reason is given, but a reasonable speculation might be that, because he was once the mightiest angel in the angelic pantheon, almost perfect in beauty and wisdom, God is giving him one last opportunity after a thousand years in the *Abyss* to acknowledge the mercy of God. Or perhaps it is to demonstrate to the millennial nations that even after being divinely provided with peace and joy men and women could still not be trusted with their much-vaunted freedom.

Whatever God's intention, with the release of Satan men and women flock to his banner again in rejection of a sinless life with God. From the distant parts of the earth—the Bible lists "*Gog and Magog*", which both Bible and Koran commentators claim is the Caucasus region—Satan recruits an army of rebels to attempt once again to destroy the Holy Land and all it represents of the purposes of God. From three-quarters of the earth—the king of the north, the

king of the south, and a great army from the East, but interestingly no mention of the West—a huge army is mobilised outside Jerusalem ostensibly to settle the “*Israel Question*” once for all by eliminating the defiant core of *Remnant Israel* from the Holy City. The prophet Joel describes it:

*“The great day of the Lord is near – near and coming quickly. Listen! The cry on the day of the Lord will be bitter, the shouting of the warrior there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness . . .”*¹⁰²

Inside the city the Temple has been rebuilt, the Twelve Apostles have been anointed to rule together with the Overcoming Church, the faithful 144,000 have been initiated into the administration, and the new conditions of divine rule and order are in place on earth. The prophet Isaiah had said of this time:

*“Listen, you nations, and pay attention, you people! . . . The Lord is angry with all nations, his wrath against all their armies. He will utterly destroy them with a great slaughter. Their slain will be piled high and their dead will rot. The mountains will be soaked with their blood, and all the stars of heaven will disappear . . . For this is the Lord’s day of vengeance, his year of retribution for Zion . . .”*¹⁰³

It looks as if history is repeating itself, with Jerusalem being the island of peace and perfection of the world instead of the Garden of Eden, only this time the Serpent was an escaped prisoner from the Abyss, and Jesus, is in control of the world.

The brutally atheistic rule of Satan and his hellish companions has left the world in a state of utter confusion and economic ruin. So Jesus, as Lord of Lords and King of Kings, with his companion “*rulers*”, the Remnant Israel and Overcoming Church, also using their “*rods of iron*”, set about rebuilding creation in the original image of God.

“When the Son of Man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory. And before him shall be gathered all the nations; and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left”

¹⁰² Zephaniah 1: 14-16

¹⁰³ Isaiah 34: 1-8

Chapter -17 -
will be available on this site on the 1st June 2009