**Revelation 20:1-10**

I. The Passage

A. Satan’s defeat (v. 1-3 and 7-10)

1. Who he is and what he does (v. 2-3)

a. He is the dragon (violent), ancient serpent (the snake in Eden), the devil (= accuser), Satan (= Adversary)

b. He deceives (v. 3). His goal is to “lead us astray” or cause us to “wander” from our devotion to the Lord, and he will use whatever he wants towards that end.

2. His final defeat: takes place in two stages

 A. Stage 1 (v. 1-3)

He is seized, bound, and thrown into an Abyss that is locked and sealed for 1000 years

B. Stage 2 (v. 7-10)

He is released, gathers a massive army, but then is thrown into the lake of fire forever

B. The reign of God’s people (v. 4-6)

1. Thrones are set up

2. A group of people come to life

a. They are those who were beheaded and didn’t receive the mark of the beast

b. Their coming to life is described as the first resurrection, and the second death (v. 14 = lake of fire) will have no power over them

3. They reign with Christ for a thousand years as priests

II. Where the Millennial views agree to disagree

A. The Pre millennial view

Christ’s second coming takes place before the millennium and ushers in a time of reigning for the saints, followed by the release of Satan, his ultimate defeat and the final judgment

B. The Post millennial view

Christ’s second coming takes place after the millennium. The church age will eventually lead directly into the millennium as the gospel spreads and Christianity exerts a powerful influence over society ushering in a golden age of human civilization. After Satan is released at the end of the is period, Christ will return for the final judgment.

C. The A millennial view

We are currently in the millennium. Satan was bound at Christ’s first coming and will be released just before his second coming. The second coming of Christ will bring the final judgment and the eternal state.

III. Where the views should agree to agree

A. Satan’s defeat is absolutely guaranteed

1. God has absolute power over Satan. It’s no contest (see v. 2 and 10)

2. But, in line with God’s own plan, Satan’s defeat comes in stages

a. This can be a source of frustration for us

b. But we can also celebrate the many stages of Satan’s defeat

1) Three times Satan is “thrown down” in Revelation (12:7-9, 20:1-3, 20:10)

2) In the history of the world, Satan experiences several massive defeats (at the beginning of time, at Christ’s first coming, and at Christ’s second coming)

 c. We can take our stand against Satan knowing we are facing a defeated foe

See Ephesians 6:10-20)

B. Our victory/reigning is absolutely guaranteed

1. Christ has achieved victory for us in his 1st coming and will achieve victory at his 2nd coming

 2. But, in line with God’s own plan, our victory comes in stages

 a. This can be a source of frustration

 b. But it can also be a cause of joy as we celebrate each victory

1) Let’s live in light of the victory we already have in Christ (a victory in the midst of trials and temptations. See Romans 8:35-37)

2) Let’s live in light of the victory we one day will have when Christ returns

IV. Implications for our lives today

A. Those for whom life is good right now

 This is a cause for further celebration and gratitude

B. Those for whom life is challenging right now

1. This is a call to jump back into the battle with renewed focus, courage, and perseverance

2. Mike Mason: “The devil knows a secret about people. He knows that most of us don’t want trouble. We don’t like it. When trouble comes we shy away, trying to act as if everything’s cool. Most people will do almost anything to avoid confrontations. . . Whether we like it or not There’s a war going on and we’re in it. Since spiritual warfare is not an option but a necessity, we might as well be happy about it. Waging war in Christ’s name is not an oppressive duty but a royal privilege. Jesus wants us to fight alongside Him. He longs for us to rise up out of our misery and apathy, to take arms against the foe, and to feel the joy of victory flowing in our veins.”

 3. Where do you need to take up the armor of God (Bible, prayer, fellowship, etc.)

C. Those for whom life is overwhelming right now

1. There is still a victory to be had even when life is crushing you: the victory of humility and total dependence on the grace of God

 2. See Paul’s experience of the thorn in the flesh (2 Cor 12:7-10)

Satan had his own purposes for this thorn (= to torment Paul), but God had his larger purposes for this thorn (= to bring humility and dependence on Christ).

3. See God’s encouraging words to those walking through trials: Isaiah 40:10-11, Isaiah 41:12-13, Isaiah 43:1-3

**Discussion Questions**

1. On Sunday we considered the three most popular views regarding the millennium (pre-mill, post-mill, and a-mill). What new insights and ideas were sparked for you, and what questions were raised in your mind?

2. Regarding important issues in the Christian faith, how do we decide which issues we can simply agree to disagree on and which issues are worth taking a firm stand on?

3. On Sunday we noticed the word “deceive” in v. 3, which literally means to cause to “wander,” and we talked about how Satan’s main goal is to get us to wander from our pure and simple devotion to Christ. Accordingly, he will use whatever he can to get us to wander: both the good times in our lives and the bad times. As you think about your own experience, when have you been most vulnerable to wandering from the Lord: when life is good or when life is tough?

4. Consider the Mike Mason quote given on Sunday regarding our call to engage in spiritual warfare: “The devil knows a secret about people. He knows that most of us don’t want trouble. We don’t like it. When trouble comes we shy away, trying to act as if everything’s cool. Most people will do almost anything to avoid confrontations. . . There’s a war going on and we’re in it. Since spiritual warfare is not an option but a necessity, we might as well be happy about it. Waging war in Christ’s name is not an oppressive duty but a royal privilege. Jesus wants us to fight alongside Him. He longs for us to rise up out of our misery and apathy, to take arms against the foe, and to feel the joy of victory flowing in our veins.” How does that quote strike you?

5. On Sunday we talked about how Satan’s defeat comes in stages and our victory comes in stages. What do you think it looks like for you to live out the victory you have in Christ in this season of your life (see point IV above for 3 possible answers to that question)?