

## Chapter 20 [part 1]

This chapter, like a telescope, zooms in on the time Satan is bound a thousand years, the little season he is loosed; Jesus ushering in the millennial reign with what is commonly called the first resurrection; Satan and his angels being conquered, the last resurrection, and the final judgement.

**[1] And I saw an angel come down out of heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.**

**[2] And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,**

**[3] And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled; and after that he must be loosed a little season.**

\* Review the study of [Chapter 9:1], the angel, the fallen star, and the bottomless pit.

The Lord said of Lucifer, “you shall be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.” [Isa 14:15] [Revelation 1:18] I am he that lives, and was dead; and behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; **and have the keys “of” hell and of death.**

It is profound that the “key of the bottomless pit” and the “keys of hell and of death” were keys “of” these three realities instead of “to” them. For meanings of the word “of” is “over;” e.g., the “Queen of England” also means “the Queen over England.” [example given by Webster] A key to the entrance of a place is merely an instrument which gives the holder power to open or to close that place, this key gives control over every aspect of those places! So, the angel of [Verse 1] has “**power over**” the bottomless pit, clearly, under the direction of “he who is alive forevermore.”

[Psalms 7:15-16] He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made. [16] His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate. (head or crown)

[Isaiah 38:18] ... they that go down into the pit cannot hope for your truth.

[1 Nephi 3:207] That great pit which has been digged for the destruction of men, shall be filled by those who digged it, unto their utter destruction, saith the Lamb of God. [1 Nephi 7:29]

The key mentioned in [Verse 1] in this chapter is the same key that was mentioned in; [Revelation 9:1] And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth; and **to the angel was given the key “of” the bottomless pit.** *\*notice again, the key “of....”*

Again, “key,” represents power, not only to open and to close the bottomless pit, it gives power over the pit, as presented in this chapter and in chapter 9, in which “the angel was given the key!”

John speaks of this power in his letter to the servant of the church in Philadelphia:

[**Revelation 3:7**] These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that has the key of David, he that opens, and no man shuts; and shuts, and no man opens.

**Key:** (Fig) a means of gaining or preventing entrance, possession, or control. [Webster]

This angel is now going to use that power to close the bottomless pit, and secure Satan in it for a thousand years and he and his angels will not be able to cause havoc on earth during that time.

There is another definition to the word “key” that particularly comes into play in **Verse 1**.

**Key:** (Figurative.) an important or essential person or thing; a leading principle.

Key is used comparatively in this way in the book of Luke:

[**Luke 11:53**] Woe unto you, lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge, the fullness of the scriptures; you enter not in yourselves into the kingdom; and those who were entering in, you hindered.

“Those who were entering into the kingdom,” were hindered because their spiritual leaders had “taken away *the essential leading principles* of knowledge, the fullness of the scriptures.”

History shows that man is inclined to do this; look at what the Lord told Hosea and Jeremiah; [**Hosea 4:6**] My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; and, [**Jeremiah 7:24**] they walked in the counsels, and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

Even today, due to those in leadership positions taking away the “key of knowledge,” i.e., the leading essential principles of the gospel, many good and honorable people eagerly, and in ignorance accept changes and substitutions to “those essential principles” the Lord has given to his people.

Thankfully, this condition is not to be permanent; for concerning the millennial reign, the Lord said; “I will give you pastors according to my heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.” [**Jeremiah 3:15**] It’s sad that so many of his people will wait until then.

**[1] And I saw an angel come down out of heaven, having ... a great chain in his hand.**

The “**chain**” in the angel’s hand, of [**Verse 1**], will “bound Satan a thousand years!” This is a very important metaphor for it represents the righteousness of the saints. Notice this:

[**1 Nephi 7:55-62**] The time is speedily coming, that the righteous must be led up as calves of the stall, and the Holy One of Israel must reign in dominion, and might, and power, and great glory. [**56**] And he will gather his children from the four quarters of the earth; [**57**] And he numbers his sheep, and they know him; [**58**] And there shall be one fold and one shepherd: [**59**] And he shall feed his

sheep, and in him they shall find pasture. [60] And **because of the righteousness of his people, Satan has no power**; [61] Wherefore, he can not be loosed for the space of many years; [62] For he has no power over the hearts of the people, for they dwell in righteousness, and the Holy One of Israel reigns.

The chain in the angel's hand is diametric to the one Enoch saw in Satan's hand, for "he beheld Satan, and he had a great chain in his hand, and it veiled the whole face of the earth with darkness; and he looked up and laughed, and his angels rejoiced. [Genesis 7:30-32 & D&C 36:5a-d] That which is diametric to righteousness is unrighteousness. So, Satan's chain typifies unrighteousness!

It being true that the "righteousness of the saints" will keep Satan "sealed" in his prison for a thousand years; conversely, that which will loose him at the end of the thousand years will be the unrighteousness of some of those living on earth near the end of the millennial reign.

[D&C 28:6a-b] ... **when the thousand years are ended, and men again begin to deny their God**, then will I spare the earth but for a little season; [b] and the end shall come, and the heaven and the earth shall be consumed, and pass away, and there shall be a new heaven and a new earth; ....

Though it must be true, it is mind boggling to see how men will "again begin to deny God," after having lived with Jesus, in harmony with those principles which govern his kingdom. For we read:

"The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." [Isaiah 11:6-9] & [Isaiah 65:25]

**[4] And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them; and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands: and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.**

**[5] But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.**

**[6] Blessed and holy are they who have part in the first resurrection; on such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**

Those who "had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands," as presented in [Verse 4] were defined in detail in the study of [Chapter 13]. They shall come forth in the first resurrection and live and reign with Christ a thousand years, and they shall not die the second death, i.e., shall not be separated from God.

Those of the world who profess to be religious leaders, and claim to understand about man's

salvation, do not understand even the smallest particle of reality about life after death. Some of them get as far as the first phenomena stated in Ecclesiastes, but then are left in total darkness.

[**Ecclesiastes 12:7**] Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

But what happens to the spirit after it returns to God? Does it come back to earth in another body as someone else? Certainly not! Paul said that “it is appointed unto men **once to die**, but after this **the judgment**.” [**Hebrews 9:27**]

After one’s spirit returns to God it is sent to one of four places to await the resurrection; listed here in descending order, **paradise, prison, hell, or outer darkness**.

**Paradise:** The Lord said this to one of the thieves on the cross; “**This day you shall be with me in Paradise**.” [**Matthew 27:48**] [**Luke 23:44**]

[**2 Corinthians 12:3**] And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell; God knows;) [**4**] How that **he was caught up into paradise**, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

**Prison:** ... they shall be gathered together, **as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison**, and after many days shall they be visited. [**Isaiah 24:21-22**]

[**Genesis 7:44**] ... I will shut them up; ... **a prison** have I prepared for them, ....

[**Isaiah 42:5-7**] ... I the Lord have called you in righteousness, ... To open the blind eyes, **to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house**.

[**Isaiah 61:1-3**] The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, **and the opening of the prison to them that are bound**; ....

[**1 Peter 3:18-20**] For Christ also once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit, that he might bring us to God. [**19**] For which cause also, **he went and preached unto the spirits in prison**; [**20**] Some of whom were disobedient in the days of Noah, while the long-suffering of God waited, while the ark was preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

**Hell:** ... And **an hell** I have prepared for them, if they repent not. [**Genesis 6:27-30**]

[**Psalms 9:17**] The wicked shall be turned into **hell**, and all the nations that forget God.

[**Isaiah 5:13-14**] My people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge; ... [**14**]

**Therefore hell has enlarged herself**, and opened her mouth without measure; and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoices, shall descend into it.

**Outer Darkness: The children of the wicked one** shall be cast out into **outer darkness**; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. [Matthew 8:11-12]

[Matthew 25:29-31] For unto every one who has obtained other talents, shall be given, and he shall have an abundance. [30] But from him that has not obtained other talents, shall be taken away even that which he has received. [31] And his lord shall say unto his servants, **Cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness**; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

As can be seen, these scriptures, and numerous other, verify that there are four places where God consigns man's spirit at death. It should go without saying then, that if man goes to one of four places to await the resurrection, he will live in one of four places in eternity, (*lets say, for the sake of this discussion*) depending on the quality of life he lived while on earth..

Paul wrote concerning the resurrection that; "some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?" [1 Cor 15:35] Paul goes on to say that in the resurrection, people will be resurrected with bodies of different glories; he said that there are "**celestial bodies**, and **bodies terrestrial**, and **bodies telestial**; but the glory of the celestial, one; and the terrestrial, another; and the telestial, another. There is one **glory of the sun**, and another **glory of the moon**, and another **glory of the stars**; for one star differs from another star in glory. [42] **So also is the resurrection of the dead.** It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption; ... **it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power**; [44] **It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.**" [1 Cor 15:40-44]

One aspect of the resurrection is very rarely, if ever, considered; but which really answers the hypothetical question Paul wrote in [Verse 35]; which is; "How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?" Notice Paul's answer that there are "celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial, and bodies telestial." And the glory of the celestial bodies are of a different glory than the bodies terrestrial; and bodies telestial. This agrees entirely with:

[D&C 85:6c-g] ... **your glory shall be that glory by which your bodies are quickened.** [d] You who are quickened by a portion of the celestial glory, shall then receive of the same, even a fullness; [e] and they who are quickened by a portion of the terrestrial glory, shall then receive of the same, even a fullness: [f] and also they who are quickened by a portion of the telestial glory, shall then receive of the same, even a fullness: [g] and they who remain shall also be quickened; nevertheless, they shall return again to their own place, to enjoy that which they are willing to receive, because they were not willing to enjoy that which they might have received.

One of the limiting aspects of the lower glories is this; a terrestrial body will not be able to abide the power inherent within the celestial realm; nor a telestial body the terrestrial, and so on.

When the angel told John that "**Blessed and holy are they who have part in the first**

**resurrection**, [Verse 6] he was referring to the “first resurrection” that was yet to come; for one resurrection had already taken place directly after Jesus’ resurrection. And those who were resurrected at that time were certainly “Blessed and holy” also.

The Lord said to Isaiah, “Your dead men shall live, **together with my dead body shall they arise**. Awake and sing, you that dwell in dust; for your dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.” [Isaiah 26:19]

And according to that which is recorded in [Matthew 27:56-57], “the graves were opened; and the bodies of the saints which slept, arose, who were many. [57] And came out of the graves after his resurrection, went unto the holy city, and appeared unto many.”

Also, the Lord showed Enoch that “the Son of Man lifted up on the cross,” and “the saints arose, and were crowned at the right hand of the Son of Man, with crowns of glory. And **as many of the spirits as were in prison** (*signifying all*) came forth and stood on the right hand of God. And the remainder were reserved in chains of darkness until the judgment of the great day. [Genesis 7:62-64] & [D&C 36:11b-c]

[D&C 108:10c] states that “Enoch, and they who were with him; the prophets who were before him, and Noah also, and they who were before him, and Moses also, and they who were before him, and from Moses to Elijah, and from Elijah to John, were with Christ in his resurrection, and the holy apostles, with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, ....”

[Verse 7] begins by recounting the last part of [Verse 3].

[7] **And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,**  
[8] **And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle; the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.**

The events of this “little season,” (roughly ninety years) have been studied in the preceding three chapters of Revelation, and in [Chapter 13]. So only one scripture will be referenced here:

[D&C 85:35c-d] And then he shall be loosed for a little season, that he may gather together his armies; and Michael, the seventh angel, even the archangel, shall gather together his armies, even the **hosts of heaven**. [d] And the Devil shall gather together his armies, even the hosts of hell, and shall come up to battle against Michael and his armies: and then comes the **battle of the great God!**

The gathering of the armies relate to the time just prior to the final conflict; **the battle of the great God**, as mentioned in [Revelation 16;14-16] & in the scripture just mentioned, [D&C 85:35c-d].

[9] **And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city; and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.**  
[10] **And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the**

**beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever.**

[Verse 9] shows that this event will take place on earth, for notice that Satan is to be loosed from his chains after the thousand years; he gathers the nations **of the earth** to battle; and they go “**up on the breadth of the earth, and compasses the camp of the saints, and the beloved city.**”

The saints and the beloved city will still be on earth when Satan is loosed. But when they compass the saints and the beloved city, “fire will come down from God, and **devour them**. No – the fire will not eat them; remember to devour, or to eat, also means to destroy.

They will be destroyed from God’s presence. [Verse 10]

Notice this, again: “the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, **and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; Who shall be punished with destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his everlasting power; ...**” [2 Thessalonians 1:7-10]

**[11] And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.**

**[12] And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.**

[3 Nephi 13:2-3] For behold, out of the books which have been written, and which shall be written, shall this people be judged, for by them shall their works be known unto men. [3] And behold, all things are written by the Father; therefore out of the books which shall be written, shall the world be judged. \* see more details in [2 Nephi 12:66-72] & [Alma 9:15-24]

Man will be judged according to how he responded to those things written in the scriptures!

[Alma 9:18-20] He that will not harden his heart, to him is given the greater portion of the word, until it is given unto him to know the mysteries of God, until they know them in full; [19] And they that will harden their hearts, to them is given the lesser portion of the word, until they know nothing concerning his mysteries; [20] And then they are taken captive by the devil, and led by his will down to destruction.

**[13] And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works.**

**[14] And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.**

**[15] And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

Remember, in the study of [Chapter 16; Verse 3] where it stated that “the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and every living soul died in the sea?” This is not the customary one-third

of the people who die during each of the six thousand year epochs; this is “everyone in the sea!” Because, again, this is near the closing of the little season when all of those who come up out of the bottomless pit shall go into perdition; thus, being destroyed from the presence of God.

Lets review the scriptures used to show this. The sea of [Verse 13] of this chapter is the same sea depicted in [Revelation 13:1] where John “saw another sign, in the likeness of the kingdoms of the earth; a beast rise up out of the sea, and he stood upon the sand of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns; and upon his horns ten crowns; and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.”

\* This agrees precisely with the foolish man who built upon the sand. [Matthew 7:35]

But look at what [Revelation 11:7] calls this sea; “And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.” And again in:

[Revelation 17:8] The beast that you saw ... shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition.

Remember – we are dealing with metaphors. Now read [Verse 13] this way:

“And the sea (bottomless pit) gave up the dead which were in it; and death (the opposite of life, the grave) and hell (world of the dead, Hades, or place or state of departed souls) delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works.

Just as two classifications of people will come forth in the first resurrection; namely those in paradise, (who will receive celestial bodies) and those in prison (who receive terrestrial bodies); there will be two types of people who will come forth in the second resurrection; those in hell, (who receive telestial bodies) and those in outer darkness (who receive bodies powerless to enter a glory) who will be cast into the lake of fire, figuratively speaking; cut off from all righteousness.

In [Verse 6] and in [Verse 14] a death is mentioned which is called “the second death.” Logically thinking, if there is a second death, there would have to be a “first death.” Let’s see.

### **First Death:**

[2 Nephi 6:36] And it shall come to pass, that when all men shall have passed from this first death unto life, insomuch as they have become immortal, they must appear before the judgment seat of the Holy One of Israel;

[Alma 8:105 -107] Concerning the death of the mortal body, and also the resurrection of the mortal body... this mortal body is raised to an immortal body; that is from death; even from the first death, unto life, that they can die no more; their spirits uniting with their bodies, never to be divided; Thus the whole becoming spiritual and immortal, that they can no more see corruption.

Samuel, the Lamanite, broadened the definition of the “first death.”

[**Heleman 5:69-71**] It behooves *Jesus*, and becomes expedient that he die, to bring to pass the resurrection of the dead, that thereby men may be brought into the presence of the Lord; [**70**] This death brings to pass the resurrection, and redeems all mankind from the **first death**; that spiritual death for all mankind, by the fall of Adam, being cut off from the presence of the Lord, or considered as dead, both as to things temporal and to things spiritual. [**71**] But behold, the resurrection of Christ redeems mankind, even all mankind, and brings them back into the presence of the Lord; **Second Death:** Those resurrected from the first death, i.e., the physical death, at the second resurrection are cast into the lake of fire and brimstone. [**Revelation 21:8**]

[**Verse 14**] And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

And who will experience the second death?

[**Matthew 25:42**] Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

[**Heleman 5:71-73**] The resurrection of Christ redeems mankind, even all mankind, and brings them back into the presence of the Lord; [**72**] and it brings to pass the conditions of repentance, that whosoever repents, the same is not hewn down and cast into the fire; [**73**] But whosoever repents not, is hewn down and cast into the fire, and there comes upon them again a spiritual death, yes, a **second death**, for they are cut off again as to things pertaining to righteousness; [**Jacob 2:64-65**]

[**Alma 9:26-32**] We must come forth and stand before him in his glory, and in his power, and in his might, majesty, and dominion, and acknowledge to our everlasting shame, that all his judgments are just: [**27**] ... And that he is merciful unto the children of men, and that he has all power to save every man that believe on his name, **and** bring forth fruit meet for repentance. [**28**] And then comes a death, even a **second death, which is a spiritual death;** [**29**] Then is a time that whosoever dies in his sins, as to a temporal death, shall also die a spiritual death: yes, he shall die as to things pertaining unto righteousness; [**30**] Then is the time when their torments shall be **as** a lake of fire and brimstone, whose flames ascend up for ever and ever; [**31**] And then is the time that they shall be chained down to an everlasting destruction (*from God's presence*), according to the power and captivity of Satan: he having subjected them according to his will. [**32**] Then I say unto you, They shall be as though there had been no redemption made; for they can not be redeemed according to God's justice; and they can not die, seeing there is no more corruption.

[**Alma 9:52**] God gave unto them commandments, after having made known unto them the plan of redemption, that they should not do evil, the penalty thereof being a second death, which was an everlasting death as to things pertaining unto righteousness.

[**15**] **And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

[**Revelation 17:8**] ... they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, ....

Observe that those whose names were not written in the book of life were not written there from the foundation of the world! If your name is in the book, it will not be taken out; if your name is not in the book, it will not be added!

[**D&C 34:6**] ... Zion shall rejoice upon the hills, and flourish; and Israel shall be saved in my own due time. And by the keys, *essential leading principles*, which I have given shall they be led, and no more be confounded at all. Lift up your hearts and be glad; your redemption draws near. Fear not, little flock, the kingdom is yours until I come. Behold, I come quickly. Even so. Amen.