

ARE WE IN END TIMES?

"Bound and Released"

Scripture Reading: MATTHEW 12:25-30

-) **SLIDE 7-8.** Scripture reading.
-) **SLIDE 9.** This is our 7th week in our series titled "*Are We in End Times?*" Today's message: "*Bound and Released.*"
-) Today I want to look at what the Scriptures say concerning the binding and the releasing of Satan as written in REV 20:1-8. This morning I will be comparing the popular PPD view with how an amillennialist looks at these same events.
-) **SLIDE 10.** First, what does REV 20:1-8 tell us concerning the binding and releasing of Satan?
-) **SLIDE 11.** Explain the PPD timeline.
-) **SLIDE 12.** Explain the amillennial timeline.
-) **SLIDE 13.** Last week we looked at these six events from the PPD view. I promised that I would review the 6 events that occur concerning the millennium from the amillennialist point of view. How would the amillennialist interpret these 6 verses?
-) **SLIDE 14.** Let's take the first two together because they are similar. Read. How can Satan be bound if there is so much evil in the world today?
-) **SLIDE 15.** 2COR 11:14 and 2THESS 2:18. So, we know he's out there causing havoc and temptation today.
-) How can Satan be bound if there is so much evil in the world today? Answer. He is bound but only with certain limitations. And what are those limitations? Let's look at what the text says and how the amillennialist views this.

-) **SLIDE 16.** The text never tells us that Satan is not active. It tells us what? It tells us that he can no longer deceive the nations. What does that mean?
-) In the OT, all the nations of the world except Israel were, so to speak, under Satan's rule. Only Israel had special revelation of God's truth. During this same time, the other nations of the world (the Gentiles) did not know that truth and were therefore in ignorance and error and doomed to destruction. During this time, these nations were deceived by Satan.
-) **SLIDE 17.** Remember the three temptations of Jesus by Satan in MATT 4:1-11 immediately after Jesus' baptism? Read.
-) Could Satan really do this? There is no doubt that Satan ruled all these kingdoms because he had been allowed to deceive these nations since the beginning of time. And since he ruled these kingdoms with his deceptions, he thought he could use them as a bargaining tool with Jesus.
-) **SLIDE 18.** In our Scripture reading today, Jesus speaks of carrying off a strong man's property. This is a direct analogy to the binding of Satan. Let's look at this section of Scripture.
-) Context. Jesus just healed a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute. The Pharisees say He can only do that by the power of Beelzebul (Satan). Jesus disagrees. Jesus says a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand and that His power is from the Spirit of God. And now the kingdom of God is upon them.
-) The strong man and his property. Satan is the strong man. Jesus comes to take back His property so He can establish His kingdom. What must He do first to the strong man? He must bind him. And that is exactly why the AM can say that Satan has been bound. Because Jesus has bound him through His death and resurrection from the grave.

-) **SLIDE 19.** Then just before His ascension, Christ gave His disciples His Great Commission. "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.*" God's truth will now be proclaimed to all the nations. All the nations will no longer be deceived. Why? Because Satan has been bound and cannot deceive the nations for 1,000 years. "*For God so loved the world ...*"
-) **SLIDE 20.** Let's take the next two together because they are similar. Read. First, let's define a saint and let's define the Kingdom of God. A saint is anyone, dead or alive, who has given their life to Jesus Christ. Any and all believers. It is not just a person from the past canonized by the RCC. If you have committed your life to Jesus Christ, you are a saint.
-) **SLIDE 21.** Now, what is the kingdom of God? Very important. This is where the PPD and the AM differ. Remember, the PPD believe that Israel and the church are two separate entities.
-) **SLIDE 22.** Because of that, the PPD believe the Kingdom of God, will be the earthly kingdom set up by Jesus in the millennium. Why? Because that is the fulfillment of OT prophecy that the Messiah will sit on the throne of David and rule and reign.
-) **SLIDE 23.** The AM claims the kingdom of God is a Spiritual kingdom which is upon all the saints right now. Read LUKE.
-) **SLIDE 24.** So, I ask, are the saints reigning with Christ now? Absolutely. Those who are alive (like us) are reigning with Christ. Do we have victory in Jesus? ROMANS 8:37 tells us: "*Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*"
-) **SLIDE 25.** In Christ we are part of the priesthood of all believers.
-) **SLIDE 26.** Have our bodies been resurrected? Absolutely. We are new creations in Christ. Right? The old has gone and the new has come!

-) Every saint has been symbolically resurrected from the dead. We were once dead in our trespasses, but we are now alive in Christ. The old has gone!
-) **SLIDE 27.** Let's take the final two together because they are similar. Read. This is where end-times prophecy can get very interesting. And to those who embrace the amillennial view as a period of time we are in right now, then this is where the pieces of this eschatological puzzle start coming together.
-) **SLIDE 28.** Review the amillennial timeline. Satan is released.
-) **SLIDE 29.** Read REV 20:7-10. The nations will once again be deceived, there will be a great battle against the saints, and Fire comes down from heaven and ends that battle rather quickly. Remember, Jesus always wins.
-) **SLIDE 30.** Let's compare point #6 with 2 THESS 2:3-4. The amillennialist will say these events occur after Satan is released and before the return of Jesus.
-) **SLIDE 31.** Explain timeline.
-) **SLIDE 32.** And this fits perfectly with what Jesus says will happen just before His return. From the Olivet Discourse.
-) Next week we will officially conclude this series on end times. On that day I will explain what happens on judgment day. Then on September 27th, we return to our expository study of the Book of GALATIANS.

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