

Lesson 34

Revelation 20:7-10 (NASB)

⁷ When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,

⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.

⁹ And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

¹⁰ And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

3. THE FINAL DOOM OF SATAN ([20:7-10](#))

Apart from frequent mention of the thousand years, no details are given concerning the reign of Christ on earth except that it is a time of great blessing. Many Old Testament passages supply additional information about the Millennium. The main point of the revelation here is that the Millennium follows the Second Coming.

[20:7-8](#). John was told what would happen at the conclusion of **the thousand years**. **Satan will be released from the Abyss, his prison**, and will make a final attempt to induce nations—called **Gog and Magog**—to come and **battle** with him against Christ. Satan's release will produce a worldwide rebellion against the millennial reign of Christ. The armies will be so vast in numbers that they are said to be **like the sand on the seashore**.

Who are these who will follow Satan? Those who survive the Tribulation will enter the Millennium in their natural bodies, and they will bear children and repopulate the earth ([Isa. 65:18-25](#)). Under ideal circumstances in which all know about Jesus Christ (cf. [Jer. 31:33-34](#)), many will outwardly profess faith in Christ without actually placing faith in Him for salvation. The shallowness of their professions will become apparent when Satan is released. The multitudes who follow Satan are evidently those who have never been born again in the millennial kingdom.

The question has been raised as to whether this war is the same one discussed in [Ezekiel 38-39](#), where Gog and Magog are also mentioned ([Ezek. 38:2](#)). These are two different battles, for in the war of [Ezekiel 38-39](#) the armies come primarily from the north and involve only a few nations of the earth. But the battle in [Revelation 20:7-9](#) will involve all nations, so armies will come from all directions.

Furthermore nothing in the context of [Ezekiel 38-39](#) is similar to the battle in Revelation, as there is no mention of Satan or of millennial conditions. In [Revelation 20:7](#) the context clearly places the battle at the end of the Millennium, whereas the Ezekiel battle takes place in connection with end-time events.

Why then is the expression "Gog and Magog" used by John? The Scriptures do not explain the expression. In fact it can be dropped out of the sentence without changing the meaning. In [Ezekiel 38](#) Gog was the ruler and Magog was the people, and both were in rebellion against God

and were enemies of Israel. It may be that the terms have taken on a symbolic meaning much as one speaks of a person's "Waterloo," which historically refers to the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo, Belgium, but has come to represent any great disaster. Certainly the armies here come in the same spirit of antagonism against God that is found in [Ezekiel 38](#).

20:9. The armies will surround **the camp of God's people, the city He loves**. This could mean only Jerusalem, which will be the capital of the world government of Christ throughout the millennial kingdom (cf. [Isa. 2:1-5](#)). The result is immediate judgment. **Fire will come down from heaven** and devour them.

In contrast with [Ezekiel 38](#), there is no mention of earthquake, hail, or other disasters. The only similarity is that in both cases there is fire from heaven, a frequent method of divine judgment on the earth (cf. [Gen. 19:24](#); [Ex. 9:23-24](#); [Lev. 9:24](#); [10:2](#); [Num. 11:1](#); [16:35](#); [26:10](#); [1 Kings 18:38](#); [2 Kings 1:10, 12, 14](#); [1 Chron. 21:26](#); [2 Chron. 7:1, 3](#); [Ps. 11:6](#); etc.).

20:10. After Satan's followers will be destroyed, he will be **thrown into the lake of burning sulfur**. Being cast into the lake that was prepared for him and his angels is the final judgment on Satan (cf. [Matt. 25:41](#)). Most significant as a support of the doctrine of eternal punishment is the concluding statement, **They will be tormented day and night forever and ever**. The word "they" includes the devil, the beast, and the false prophet. The lake of burning sulfur is not annihilation, for the beast and false prophet are still there a thousand years after they experienced their final judgment ([Rev. 19:20](#)).

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Open it

1. In literature, movies, or television, who do you think is the all-time worst villain or bad guy?
Each generation will have its own, mine have changed many times, Hitler to Putin
2. How likely do you think it is that there will be a nuclear war in your lifetime?
Knowing how devastating such a thing would be, I pray it never happens

Explore it

3. What will happen after the thousand year reign of Christ and His saints? ([20:7](#))
When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,
4. What will Satan do right after his release from the Abyss? ([20:7-8](#))
and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.

5. How did John describe those who will be deceived by Satan? ([20:8](#))
the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.

6. In John's vision what battle plan did Satan follow in his war against God? ([20:9](#))
And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

7. How did God defeat the armies of Satan? ([20:9-10](#))
fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

8. What is Satan's, the beast's, and the false prophet's final destination? ([20:10](#))
The lake of fire and brimstone, where they will be tormented day and night forever

Get it

9. What insights into Satan's nature and character do we gain from this passage?
He is the great deceiver and wants all worship and power for himself

10. Why do you think God is still waiting to judge Satan finally and completely?
So no one can accuse God of being unfair

11. When are we prone to lose confidence in God's power and authority over Satan and evil?
When bad things happen and we can't see what God is doing

12. How can we draw encouragement from the certainty of Satan's doom?
God wins in the end and all of his children are with him

Apply it

13. What is one simple way you can remind yourself of God's certain victory over evil?
Remember where the Devil ends up

14. How can you make a dent today in the large following and the power that Satan possesses and enjoys?
Pray against his power