

REVELATION 20



Revelation 20: 1-4

Satan Bound for 1,000 Years (vv. 1–3)

God temporarily restrains Satan to allow for Christ's reign on earth without satanic deception.

Angel from heaven with key and chain (v.1)

Satan bound and thrown into the Abyss (v.2)

Sealed for 1,000 years—no deception of nations (v.3)

Temporary imprisonment—not final—he "must be released" for a short time

The PIT

- Isaiah 24
- 2 Peter 2:4
- The "pit"—often called the Abyss or bottomless pit in Scripture—is understood to be a temporary holding place for certain demonic beings or Satan himself, not the final place of judgment.
- The pit (Greek: *abussos*) is **locked and sealed**—it is not the Lake of Fire.

- Luke 8:31

Place	Greek Term	Who Goes There	Duration	Description
The Pit/Abyss	<i>Abussos</i>	Demons, Satan	Temporary (1000 yrs)	Prison or holding cell
Lake of Fire	<i>Gehenna</i>	Satan, Beast, False Prophet, all unsaved	Eternal	Final destination of judgment

Do Humans Go There?

No—people are not sent to the Abyss.

Human souls after death go to one of two places before the final judgment:

1. For the Unsaved: Hades (Sheol)

- A holding place for unbelieving souls before the Great White Throne judgment (Revelation 20:11–15).
- Described as a place of torment (Luke 16:23).
- Eventually, Hades is thrown into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:14).

2. For the Saved: Presence of the Lord

- Believers go immediately to be with Christ (2 Corinthians 5:8, Philippians 1:23).
- They later receive resurrection bodies and rule with Christ in the millennium.

Breakdown of terms

Term	Who Goes There	When	Purpose
Abyss (Pit)	Satan & demons	Now → 1000 yrs	Temporary prison for spirits
Hades	Unsaved humans	Now → Final Judgment	Temporary holding place
Heaven/Paradise	Saved humans	Now → Eternity	With Christ
Lake of Fire	All unsaved, Satan, demons	After judgment	Eternal separation (Rev. 20:10–15)

The Millennial Reign of Christ (vv. 4–6)

The righteous reign with Christ in a literal 1,000-year kingdom.

- Thrones and judgment given to the faithful (v.4a)
- Souls of martyrs and those who resisted the Beast reign with Christ (v.4b)
- “First resurrection” (v.5) – Blessed and holy are those in it
- Second death has no power over them (v.6)

Thrones and judgment given to the faithful (v.4a)

- Revelation 3:21 – *“The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne...”*
- 1 Corinthians 6:2 – *“Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?”*
- 2 Timothy 2:12 – *“If we endure, we will also reign with Him.”*
- This would include the raptured and resurrected church—believers from the Church Age.

Old Testament Saints (Possibly)

- Some passages suggest Old Testament believers will also share in the reign.

Daniel 7:22

“...judgment was given to the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.”

They are likely resurrected after Christ’s second coming and share in the Kingdom rule.

What will we be doing?

We will act as co-rulers under Christ, helping administer His Kingdom on earth.

- Revelation 2:26-27 – *“The one who conquers... I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron...”*
- 1 Corinthians 6:2 – *“Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?”*
- Matthew 19:28 – The apostles will judge the twelve tribes of Israel.

Role: Local and regional rulers, judges, administrators—like a divine government of peace and righteousness.

Enforcing Righteousness

They will uphold Christ's law and help maintain justice in a world filled with mortal humans.

- Though Satan is bound, people born during the 1,000 years still have sin nature.
- Ruling “with a rod of iron” implies correcting sin and enforcing God's moral standards.

Role: Acting like magistrates, mayors, and spiritual guides—ensuring justice, order, and peace.

Teaching God's Ways

We will help spread knowledge of the Lord across the earth.

- Isaiah 2:3 – *“...He will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His paths...”*

- Habakkuk 2:14 – *“The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord...”*

Role: Priestly, teaching, discipling, bringing God's truth to mortal nations.

Ministering as Kings and Priests

The saints are called “a kingdom of priests” (Revelation 1:6; 5:10), and their role will reflect that.

- Priests intercede, teach, and serve.
- Kings govern and enforce justice.

Role: They represent divine authority and mediate between Christ and the nations.

Managing Cities and Territories

Jesus taught this in parables.

- Luke 19:17 – *“Well done... you shall have authority over ten cities.”*

- Luke 19:19 – *“You are to be over five cities.”*

Role: Actual civil oversight—geographical authority during the Kingdom.

Who Will We Reign Over?

- Mortal humans who survived the Tribulation and their descendants during the Millennium.
- These people still have free will and sin nature (see Isaiah 65:20, Zechariah 14:16–19).
- "Don't you know we shall judge angels?" 1 Corinthians 6:3.

Field trip Back to Isaiah 24

- Isa 24:17 Fear and the pit and the snare *Are* upon you, O inhabitant of the earth.
- Isa 24:18 And it shall be *That* he who flees from the noise of the fear Shall fall into the pit, And he who comes up from the midst of the pit Shall be caught in the snare; For the windows from on high are open, And the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- Isa 24:19 The earth is violently broken, The earth is split open, The earth is shaken exceedingly.
- **Isa 24:20** The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, And shall totter like a hut; Its transgression shall be heavy upon it, And it will fall, and not rise again.
- Isa 24:21 It shall come to pass in that day *That* the LORD will punish on high the host of exalted ones, And on the earth the kings of the earth.
- Isa 24:22 They will be gathered together, As prisoners are gathered in the pit, And will be shut up in the prison; After many days they will be punished.

What if the axis of the Earth shifted?

- **Key Effects of Zero Axial Tilt (Equatorial Rotation)**

No Seasons

- Seasons exist because Earth is tilted $\sim 23.5^\circ$.
- If there were **no tilt**, the Sun would always shine directly over the equator.
- Result: **no summer or winter**, only day/night cycles.

Equator: Hot and Wet Year-Round

- The equator would receive direct sunlight every day of the year.
- Tropical rainforests and equatorial heat would intensify.
- Potential for stronger storms and increased rainfall in that zone.

Poles: Cold and Dim, But Not as Extreme

- The poles would never get direct sunlight, only low-angle light.
- They'd be cold, but not necessarily as extreme as now due to lack of polar night.
- Permafrost would still exist and polar regions would stay cold year-round.

Mid-latitudes: Stable, Mild Climates

- These regions would receive consistent sunlight, but never directly overhead.
- Likely to develop more temperate, stable climates without seasonal swings.

Climate is shaped by more than sunlight angle:

- Ocean currents
- Elevation
- Air pressure systems
- Geography (continents vs. oceans)

Region

Climate in Zero-Tilt World

Equator

Hot, rainy, no seasonal change

Mid-latitudes

Mild, consistent year-round

Poles

Cold, low-angle sun all year

Why Earth Cannot Have a Single Uniform Climate:

Curved Surface = Uneven Solar Heating

- The Earth is a sphere, so sunlight hits the equator directly and the poles at an angle.
- Even if you removed the axial tilt, you'd still get more solar energy at the equator.
- That alone guarantees temperature differences.

Land vs. Water Distribution

- Oceans heat and cool more slowly than land.
- Continents near oceans stay moderate; interior lands can be extreme (hot/cold).
- A uniform climate would require a completely uniform surface—which Earth doesn't have.

Elevation Differences

- Mountains are colder than valleys due to atmospheric thinning.
- Uniform climate would require a flat, sea-level planet—not realistic.

Atmospheric Circulation

- Wind, jet streams, and the Coriolis effect (caused by rotation) move heat around unevenly.
- These natural flows divide the Earth into climate zones (e.g., tropical, temperate, polar).

Could We *Engineer* a One-World Climate?

Theoretically, with planet-scale geoengineering:

- You could try terraforming—modifying albedo, redirecting ocean currents, building sun reflectors, etc.
- **But it would take Godlike control over every part of the atmosphere, ocean, and terrain.**

Closest You Could Get:

- No axial tilt
- A uniform ocean-covered planet
- Constant cloud cover to reduce solar extremes
- No mountains, valleys, or polar ice
- Evenly distributed artificial heating/cooling systems

- Hummm..... Didn't that just happen in Revelation!

- It would take Godlike control over every part of the atmosphere, ocean, and terrain.**

How Can the Earth Be Lived on for 1,000 Years After Revelation's Destruction?

The Tribulation Brings Massive Judgment—Not Annihilation

The events of Revelation devastate the earth:

- 1/3 of trees burned (Rev 8:7)
- 1/3 of sea turns to blood (Rev 8:8)
- 1/3 of freshwater poisoned (Rev 8:10–11)
- Mass death and famine (Rev 6:5–8)
- Great earthquakes and hail (Rev 16:18–21)
- Cities fall and mountains shaken (Rev 16:19–20)

But even in all this destruction, some things survive:

- Not all trees are burned.
- Not all people die (Zechariah 14:16 shows survivors).
- The earth remains inhabitable, though ravaged.

The Earth is Restored by Christ at His Return

- **Isaiah 11:6–9** – The curse is partially lifted: peace in nature.
- **Isaiah 35:1–2** – Deserts bloom; land is healed.
- **Zechariah 14:8–10** – Living waters flow out; topography reshaped.
- **Romans 8:21** – Creation will be "set free from its bondage to corruption."
- **Jesus renovates the ruined earth like a war-torn kingdom being restored by its rightful King.**

Here is how it will look

Feature	Description
Peaceful nature	Animals dwell in peace (Isaiah 11:6)
Healed land	Fertile, blooming earth (Isaiah 35:1–2)
Global worship center	All nations go to Jerusalem (Zech 14:16–19)
Righteous government	Christ rules with perfect justice (Isaiah 9:7; Revelation 20:4)
Population growth	Mortal survivors repopulate the earth

Total Destruction Comes *After* the Millennium

- Revelation 20:11 – Heaven and Earth flee from God's face at the Great White Throne.
- 2 Peter 3:10–13 – Earth and heavens burn, then are replaced.
- Revelation 21:1 – A new heaven and new earth are created.

The earth survives judgment, is restored for 1,000 years, and then is replaced after the final judgment.

Earth's future.

Timeline	Earth Condition
During Tribulation	Ravaged by judgment but not destroyed
Christ's Return (Rev 19)	Begins restoration; conquers evil
Millennial Kingdom (Rev 20)	Earth renewed, ruled by Christ, inhabited again
After Millennium (Rev 21)	Earth is destroyed, replaced by new creation

Was the Earth the Same Climate Before the Flood?

Biblical Clues Suggest a More Uniform, Milder Climate:

- Genesis 2:5–6 – *“...the Lord God had not caused it to rain... but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.”*
- Genesis 7:11 – Mentions “fountains of the great deep” and “windows of heaven” bursting open.

These hint at a very different pre-Flood atmosphere and water cycle—possibly a global greenhouse effect.

Theories Behind the Pre-Flood Climate:

Water Vapor Canopy Theory

- A thick layer of water vapor surrounded the earth.
- Filtered UV radiation.
- Created warm, humid, greenhouse-like conditions.
- Made global temperature evenly warm, even at the poles.

Lush Vegetation Everywhere

- Fossils of ferns, palms, and tropical plants found in polar regions.
- Suggests that areas like Antarctica were warm and lush pre-Flood.

Theories Behind the Pre-Flood Climate:

Gentle Hydrological Cycle

- No violent storms or rain—just mist/dew.
- Stable atmosphere before the global disruption of the Flood.

This could explain longer lifespans and massive reptiles (dinosaurs) thriving globally.

Why Are Ferns Found in Dinosaur Stomachs in Ice?

Fossil Evidence:

- In several frozen carcasses (like woolly mammoths, but also some large reptiles), undigested plant material, such as ferns, grasses, and flowers, has been found.
- The plants are often well-preserved, indicating the animal died and froze very rapidly.

What This Tells Us:

Sudden Catastrophic Freezing

- These creatures were eating tropical or temperate plants and then suddenly frozen.
- Temperatures must have dropped by dozens of degrees in hours or minutes.
- Supports a cataclysmic event—like the onset of the Genesis Flood.

What This Tells Us:

Formerly Warm Regions

- These animals lived in areas that are now icy (e.g., Siberia).
- This supports the idea that polar regions were once warm—fitting with a pre-Flood uniform climate.

Rapid Burial and Fossilization

- Many dinosaurs are found in twisted, drowned positions, buried in sediment.
- Suggests they were caught in a violent, muddy flood, not a slow death.

A look back

No Tilt = Uniform Climate

- Today, Earth has a 23.5° axial tilt, which causes seasons and unequal heating.
- If the earth had no tilt, every region would get consistent day length and solar exposure year-round.
- This would lead to a world without seasons—ideal for:
 - Lush global vegetation
 - Longer growing seasons
 - Massive animals like dinosaurs
 - No freezing poles

Biblical and Scientific Clues Support It

Genesis 2:6 – *“But a mist watered the whole earth”*

- Suggests a uniform watering system, not seasonal rain.

Genesis 7:11 – The flood began with sudden geologic upheaval: *“...fountains of the deep were broken up...”*

- Could indicate a violent change in Earth’s crust, possibly triggering:
 - A shift in Earth’s tilt
 - Tectonic movement, mountain formation
 - Change in atmospheric conditions

Biblical and Scientific Clues Support It

Fossil Record

- Ferns and tropical plants in frozen regions
- Dinosaurs found in every continent, including polar areas
- Woolly mammoths with tropical plants in stomachs, frozen instantly
- These are best explained by a globally warm, uniform climate that was violently interrupted—possibly including a sudden axial tilt during the Flood.

The Shift

Feature

Axial Tilt

Climate

Water Cycle

Vegetation

Animal Size & Longevity

Flood Impact

Pre-Flood Earth

Possibly 0° (upright rotation)

Uniform, warm, no ice caps

Mist/dew (Gen 2:6)

Global, dense, and tropical

Large creatures, long human lives

Catastrophic, may have shifted the axis

Post-Flood Earth

23.5° (causes seasons)

Varied: tropical, temperate, polar

Rain and storms

Zonal (based on climate)

Smaller animals, shorter lifespans

Reshaped Earth and set new climate systems

Category	Pre-Flood Earth (Genesis 1–6)	Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 20; Isaiah 2, 11, 65)
Government	No formal structure; ruled by conscience/family	Jesus reigns as King from Jerusalem with glorified saints under Him
Ruler	Man left to govern himself	Christ as sovereign King, reigning with justice and righteousness
Atmosphere	Possibly water vapor canopy; warm, humid climate	Likely restored conditions, but with visible sun, rain, and peace
Climate	Warm, globally uniform (no seasons?)	Mild, globally stable—curse lifted from land; deserts bloom (Isaiah 35)
Lifespan	Hundreds of years (Methuselah lived 969 yrs)	Long lifespans again (Isaiah 65:20–22), but death still possible
Health	Likely strong, disease was minimal	Healing and health restored (Isaiah 35:5–6); no disabilities
Animals	All animals were plant-eating (Genesis 1:30)	Peace among animals restored (Isaiah 11:6–9)
Violence	Earth filled with violence before the Flood (Gen 6)	Earth filled with peace; no war (Isaiah 2:4)
Sin	Increasing rapidly; led to judgment	Restricted by Christ’s rule, but present among mortals (Rev 20:7–9)
Human condition	Mortal, with full free will	Mortal humans remain, but under righteous rule
Spiritual state	Conscience-based worship; no law or priesthood	Jesus physically present; global worship from all nations
Death	Present but rare; no rain until the Flood	Present but greatly delayed (Isaiah 65); no death for glorified saints
Judgment	The Flood destroyed the world (Genesis 7)	Final rebellion judged at end (Revelation 20:7–10)
Saints' Role	None organized	Saints rule and reign with Christ (Revelation 20:4)
Nature of Earth	Very good, but fallen after Eden	Cursed reversed but not fully removed (final restoration in Rev 21–22)