



A Study in Revelation

Symbolism then...
society status



Symbolism now...
man loves wife

WE NEED TO GO BACK IN TIME!



Books come in different genres





This was true in Antiquity

Fables





This was true in Antiquity

Fables



Satires





This was true in Antiquity

Fables



Satires



Romances





This was true in Antiquity

Apocalyptic Literature



Apocalyptic Literature



- Written in cycles
(not a timeline)



LATHER • RINSE • REPEAT
LATHER • RINSE • REPEAT
LATHER • RINSE • REPEAT
AS NEEDED

Apocalyptic Literature



- Written in cycles (not chronology)

- Written with great symbolism

A series of vignettes





Symbolism

An Age to
Come

Peculiar
use of
numbers

Visions
and
Dreams

Coming
Cataclysm

Angels and
Demons

A series of vignettes



The Final Vignette (Revelation 20-22)

1 Context

A series of vignettes



The Final Vignette (Revelation 20-22)

1 Context

2 Vignette

A series of vignettes



The Final Vignette (Revelation 20-22)

1 Context

2 Vignette

3 Victory!

A series of vignettes



The Final Vignette (Revelation 20-22)

1 Context

A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

Rev. 1-3



The world's in darkness
The church is the light
Jesus is ever present



Live right!
Jesus will return!

A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

Rev. 4-7



- God's people are persecuted by the world
- They are subjected to many trials and tribulations
- But God will save his people in the end

A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

Rev. 8-11



- God warns the world of coming judgment
- God gives the chance to repent
- Most fail to move in repentance
- God will bring final judgment

A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

Rev. 12-14



- There is fundamental warfare between:
 - Jesus and Satan
 - Satan and the church
- Satan has his minions
- But Jesus wins in the end

A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

Rev. 15-16



- The wicked won't have to wait for future punishment
- It starts in this life
- Then Jesus completes it in the end

A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

Rev. 17-19



- Meet Babylon...

Babylon: Lust for power,
selfish autonomy, human
greed, rampant idolatry,
unbridled hedonism



A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

Rev. 17-19



- Meet Babylon... the lust for power, selfish autonomy, human greed, rampant idolatry, unbridled hedonism
- Meet the beast...

Rome: “The City of seven hills”

- Palatine Hill
- Capitoline Hill
- Quirinal Hill
- Viminal Hill
- Esquiline Hill
- Caelian Hill
- Aventine Hill

Sextus Propertius Elegies



translated by C. John Holcombe

ocaso press 2009

“The city high on
seven hills, which
presides over the
whole world”
- Book 3, Elegy 11

A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

Rev. 17-19



- Meet Babylon... the lust for power, selfish autonomy, human greed, rampant idolatry, unbridled hedonism
- Meet the beast... the world's systems that support Babylon that which allures, tempts, seduces, and draws people from God

Ancient Jewish wedding

- 1) Betrothal ...
- 2) Dowry paid ...
- 3) Wedding with marriage feast



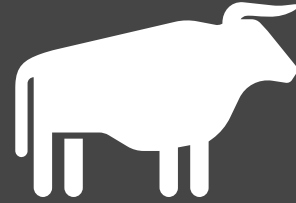
What's left to be said?



Those who wear the
mark of the beast
meet judgment
(Rev 15-16)



Babylon is fallen
and judged
(Rev 17*f*)



Christ defeats
the beast
(Rev 19:11*f*)



A series of vignettes



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1 Context

2 Vignette

A series of seven vignettes

Age of the church



2nd Coming

Rev. 20-22



- Start the victory song...
(the binding of Satan)

Rev. 20:1

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain.

Rev. 20:1

Καὶ εἶδον ἄγγελον καταβαίνοντα ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἔχοντα τὴν κλεῖν τῆς ἀβύσσου καὶ ἄλυσιν μεγάλην ἐπὶ τὴν χεῖρα αὐτοῦ.

Rev. 20:2

And he seized the dragon,
that ancient serpent, who is
the devil and Satan, and
bound him for a thousand
years,

Rev. 20:2

καὶ ἐκράτησεν τὸν
δράκοντα, ὁ ὄφεις ὁ
ἀρχαῖος, ὃς ἐστὶν
Διάβολος καὶ ὁ Σατανᾶς,
καὶ ἔδησεν αὐτὸν χίλια
ἔτη

Rev. 20:3

and threw him into the pit,
and shut it and sealed it over
him, so that he might not
deceive the nations any
longer, until the thousand
years were ended. After that
he must be released for a
little while.

Rev. 20:3

καὶ ἔβαλεν αὐτὸν εἰς τὴν
ἄβυσσον καὶ ἔκλεισεν καὶ
ἐσφράγισεν ἐπάνω αὐτοῦ,
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χίλια ἔτη. μετὰ ταῦτα δεῖ
λυθῆναι αὐτὸν μικρὸν
χρόνον.

The Millennium

Premillennial

- A “rapture” of the church
- A great tribulation
- A 1,000 yr reign of Christ

Postmillennial

- A future golden age of the church (~1,000 yrs)
- A single second coming

Amillennial

- Satan bound (church age)
- A coming tribulation
- A single second coming

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Age of the church



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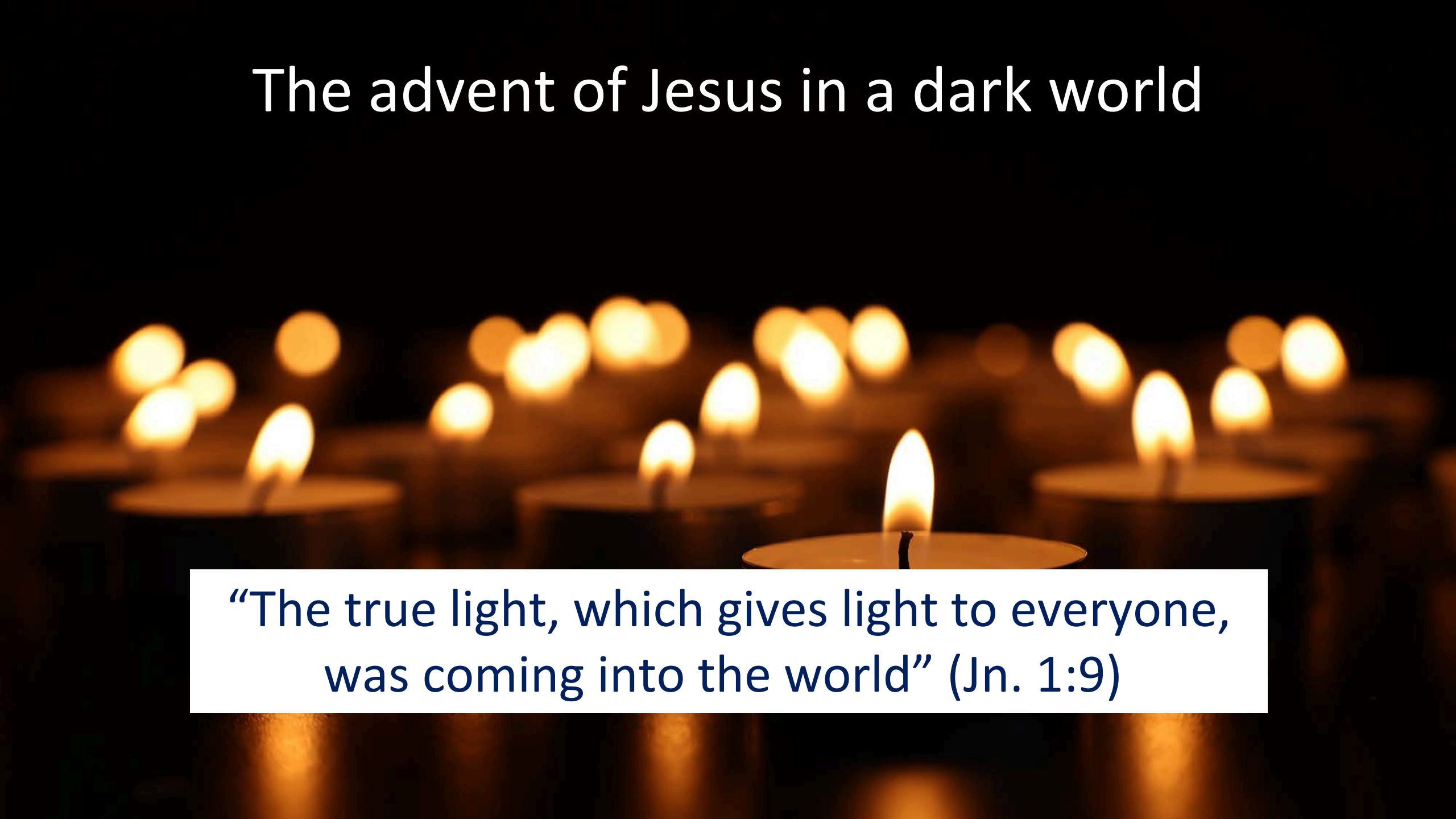
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The advent of Jesus in a dark world



“The true light, which gives light to everyone,
was coming into the world” (Jn. 1:9)

Mt. 12:24-29

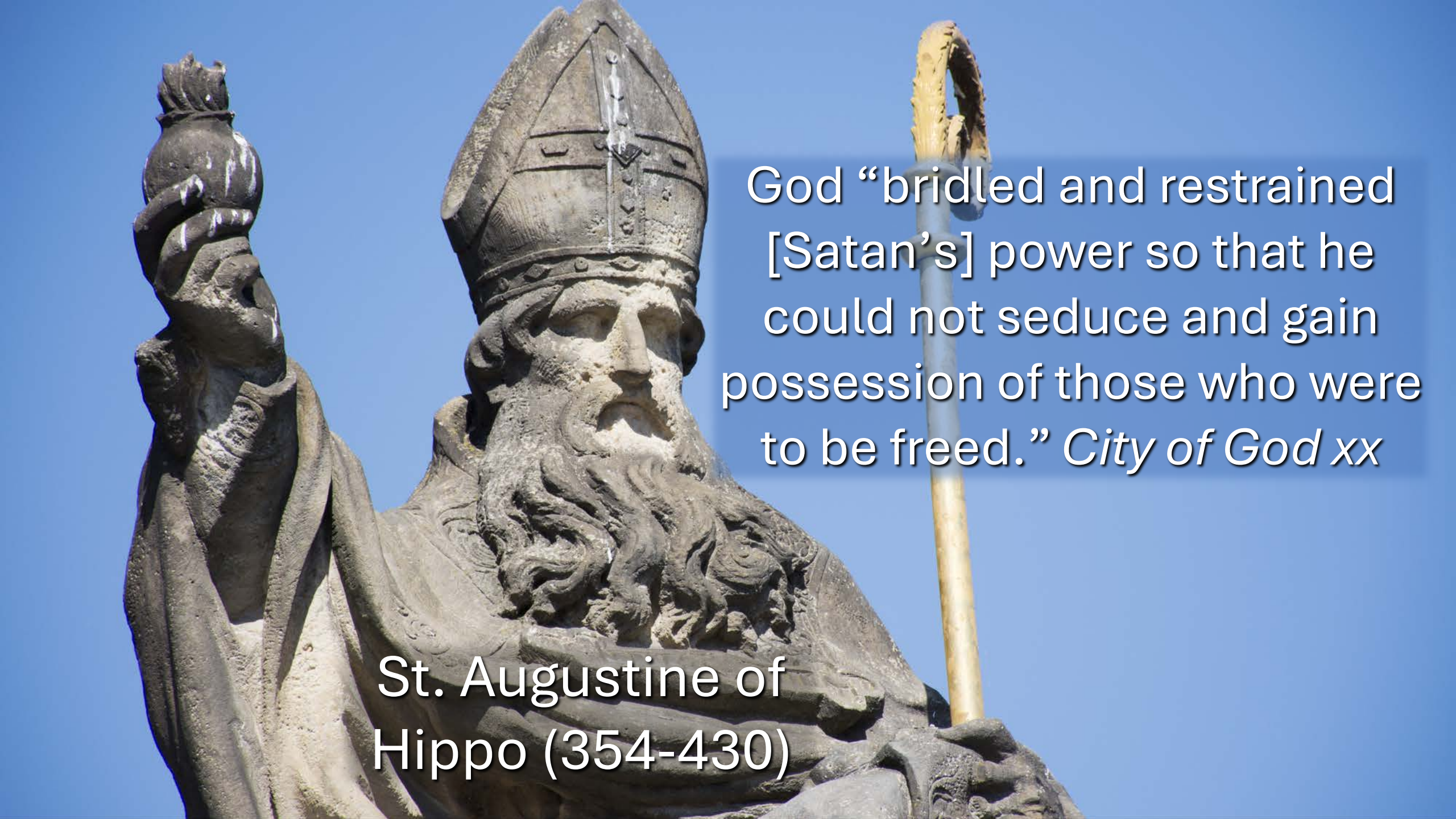
But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.” Knowing their thoughts, he said to them... But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can someone enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first **binds** [*deō* - *δέω*] the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.

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αὐτὸν χίλια ἔτη



God “bridled and restrained [Satan’s] power so that he could not seduce and gain possession of those who were to be freed.” *City of God xx*

St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

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Premillennial

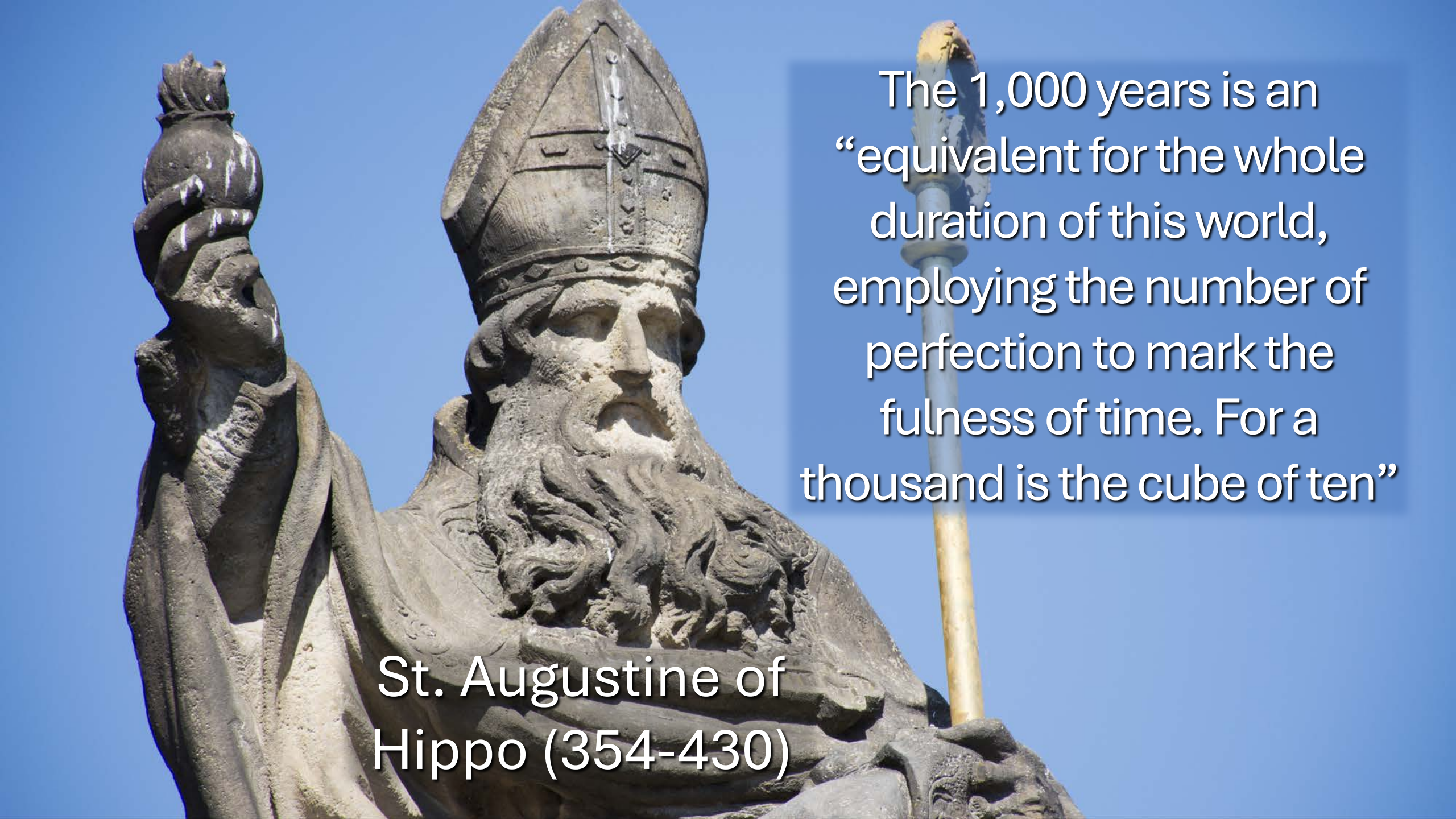
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Amillennial

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The 1,000 years is an “equivalent for the whole duration of this world, employing the number of perfection to mark the fulness of time. For a thousand is the cube of ten”

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Rev. 20:3

and **threw** him into the pit,
and shut it and sealed it over
him, so that he might not
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longer, until the thousand
years were ended. After that
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Rev. 20:3

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ἔθνη ἄχρι τελεσθῆ τὰ
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χρόνον.

Luke 10:17-18

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” And [Jesus] said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.



Compare Satan in Job



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John 12:23, 31-32

And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.... Now is the judgment of this world; **now** will the ruler of this world be cast [*ballō - βάλλω*] out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

Colossians 2:13-15

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

The Bible (in whole or part)
has been translated into
3,500 languages!



Satan still works,
but he can never
destroy the church



Meanwhile back
at the ranch...



What about those
who have died in
Jesus?

The early church knew martyrdom



Rev. 20:4-6

Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection.

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Scripture teaches two deaths and two resurrections

1

Death in this life –

- A soul resurrection for those in Christ
- No second death, but a second resurrection of body and soul

2

Death in this life –

- A death for those not in Christ
- A second death after judgment. No second resurrection.

Rev. 20:4-6

Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection!
Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests
of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand
years.

Those who have
passed on in Christ:

- They live with Jesus
- They share glory
with Jesus
- They have
awareness of the
world

A series of vignettes



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3 Victory!



Symbolism

An Age to
Come

Peculiar
use of
numbers

Visions
and
Dreams

Coming
Cataclysm

Angels and
Demons

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”
(Heb.. 12:1)



Live like the
redeemed!

“And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.”
(Rev. 20:2)



Spread the word!

“Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power”
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Glory is assured!



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