

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Golden Age

SERMON REFERENCE: Revelation 20:1-10

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2369

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) There is coming a day on planet Earth when the Garden of Eden will be restored.
 - i) The entire Earth will blossom as the rose.
 - ii) There will be no more poverty.
 - iii) There will be no need for hospitals.
 - iv) There will be no need for mental health facilities.
 - v) There will be no military bases.
 - vi) There will be no gambling dens or houses of prostitution.
 - (1) There will be no more sin.
 - vii) Everyone will be youthful.
 - viii) The lion and the lamb, the calf and the lion, the little child and the serpent will play together.
 - ix) War will be a thing of the past.
 - x) Israel will be restored to her land, and Jerusalem will be the world's capitol.
 - xi) The resurrected saints will rule and reign with the Lord Jesus.
 - xii) The Earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as waters that cover the sea.
 - xiii) We call this time period "the Millennium."
- b) The word "millennium" means one thousand years.
 - i) Revelation 20:2-7
 - ii) The Millennium is the coming 1000 year reign of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the Earth.
- c) There are three basic schools of thought among theologians regarding the Millennium:
 - i) Amillennialism
 - (1) This is the belief that there is no Millennium.
 - (2) Amillennialists take the prophecies that deal with the Millennium and spiritualize or allegorize them; they do not believe in the literal fulfillment of prophecy that speaks of Jesus ruling and reigning here on Earth.
 - (3) Amillennialists take the promises that God has given to Israel and apply them to the church instead.
 - (a) They apply the blessings to the church while applying the curses to Israel.
 - (4) They believe the Millennium is an allegory for Jesus ruling and reigning through the church.
 - ii) Post-millennialism
 - (1) The word "post" means "after."
 - (2) Post-millennialists believe that Jesus Christ is coming after the Millennium.
 - (a) There must be 1000 years of peace on Earth before Jesus Christ can come back.

- (3) They believe that the church has been assigned to Christianize the world; and after we bring in the golden age by preaching the Gospel, then Jesus will come again.
 - (a) However, instead of the world getting better and better, the Bible teaches that the world will continue to grow worse and worse.
 - (b) The Gospel is not something to save civilization from wreckage; it is God's plan to save man from the wreckage of civilization.
 - (c) By preaching the Gospel, we are not necessarily bringing in the Kingdom; we are getting people ready for the Kingdom that will appear when Jesus comes again.
- (4) Post-millennialists do not believe in the imminency of Jesus' return; they do not expect Jesus to come at any moment.
 - (a) With the post-millennial view, even if the Millennium began today, we would have to wait one thousand years for Christ to come again.
- iii) Pre-Millennialism
 - (1) Pre-millennialists believe that Jesus must come before we can have one thousand years of peace here on Earth.
 - (2) Jesus will literally come in power and great glory to rule and reign on Earth.
 - (3) Our major responsibility in this day and age is to get people ready for the second coming of the Lord Jesus by preaching the Gospel.
- d) There are four basic things about the golden age that is to come that we will see in this passage in the book of the Revelation.

2) THE FORCEFUL RESTRAINT OF SATAN (Revelation 20:1-3)

- a) In the golden age, or the Millennium, Satan will be bound.
 - i) Today, Satan is going about as a roaring lion.
 - (1) 1 Peter 5:8
 - ii) There is coming a time when this roaring lion will be chained and cast into prison.
 - (1) He will be sentenced to one thousand years in the bottomless pit.
 - (a) This is not his final destination but a holding tank until he is finally cast into the lake of fire.
- b) The indictments against Satan:
 - i) He is charged with murder.
 - (1) Revelation 20:2
 - (2) He is called a dragon.
 - (a) In the names given to him, we see Satan's wicked character.
 - (3) John 8:44
 - (4) Satan brings spiritual, physical and eternal death.
 - (5) John 10:10
 - ii) He is charged with extortion, perjury and deception.
 - (1) Revelation 20:2

- (2) He is called a serpent.
 - (a) The word “serpent” in the Bible speaks of deception.
 - iii) He is charged with slander, liable, defamation and blasphemy.
 - (1) Revelation 20:2
 - (2) He is called the devil.
 - (a) The word “devil” means accuser.
 - (3) He slanders God before men and men before God.
 - iv) He is charged as being an adversary of God; he is charged with high treason against Heaven’s King.
 - (1) Revelation 20:2
 - (2) He is called Satan.
 - (a) The word “Satan” means adversary.
 - (3) He is an accomplice to every crime.
 - c) In this passage in Revelation, an angel holds the key to the bottomless pit, and Satan is cast into that pit.
 - d) Isaiah 14:12-17
 - i) In this passage, we see the biography of Satan.
 - (1) He was once Lucifer, the son of the morning, before he fell.
 - (2) Lucifer means “light bearer.”
 - ii) He will be brought so low that those who see him in the pit will have to squint to see him.
- 3) THE FUTURE REIGN OF THE SAVIOR (Revelation 20:4-6)
- a) During the Millennium, the Lord Jesus Christ will reign on the Earth, and the saints will reign and rule with Him.
 - i) Matthew 6:10
 - b) Human kingdoms will be changed.
 - i) Isaiah 2:2-4
 - c) The animal kingdom will be changed.
 - i) Isaiah 11:6-9
 - d) The mineral kingdom will be changed.
 - i) Isaiah 35:1
 - e) This passage in Revelation 20 speaks of the first resurrection.
 - i) There is no general resurrection; the Bible speaks of a first and a second resurrection.
 - ii) Those who are in the first resurrection are blessed and holy.
 - f) The first resurrection is a composite of three general aspects, likened unto a harvest in the Old Testament:
 - i) The firstfruits
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 15:20-23
 - (2) The firstfruits were a promise of the harvest to come.
 - (3) Christ is called the firstfruits.
 - (a) When Jesus came out of the grave, He was showing the harvest that is to come.

- (b) Matthew 27:52-53
 - ii) The general harvest
 - (1) This takes place at the rapture of the church.
 - (a) This is the general ingathering.
 - (b) This could happen at any moment.
 - (2) 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
 - iii) The gleanings
 - (1) There will be people who are saved during the Great Tribulation.
 - (a) Revelation 7
 - (2) This is the resurrection of the Tribulation saints.
 - g) We, not angels, will be raised to rule and to reign with the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i) Hebrews 2:5
 - (1) There is a world to come, but angels are not in charge of it.
 - ii) 1 Corinthians 6:2-3
 - iii) Romans 16:20
- 4) THE FINAL REBELLION OF SINNERS (Revelation 20:7-9)
 - a) God, who is always sovereign, will release Satan from the pit for one final fling.
 - i) This is God's final testimony to the wickedness of the human heart.
 - ii) It is mankind's final test.
 - (1) Not everyone will be saved during the Millennium.
 - b) There will be no uprising; Satan will not be leading in rebellion.
 - i) Latent sin will still be down in the human heart if it is not washed by the blood of Jesus.
 - ii) God has many children but no grandchildren.
 - (1) Just because your parents may have been Christians does not mean that you are a Christian.
 - c) In the Millennium, there will be God's children, but there will also be those who are children of God's children who have never been saved.
 - i) After a thousand years, these will rebel against God when Satan is let loose.
 - d) God is demonstrating two great principles during this final rebellion:
 - i) Punishment is not the final answer.
 - (1) Prisons are necessary, but they are not the final answer.
 - ii) Environment is not the final answer.
 - (1) After one thousand years of peace and righteousness, latent sin down in the human heart bubbles forth.
 - (2) It was in the Garden of Eden that man got into trouble in the first place.
 - (a) Only Jesus is the answer.
- 5) THE FIXED RESOLUTION OF SIN (Revelation 20:9-10)
 - a) Satan is finally cast into the lake of fire.

- b) Sin will be finished; the problem of sin will be fixed forever.
- c) The rebels in the final rebellion will experience a fiery death.
 - i) This is not Armageddon.
- d) Matthew 25:41
 - i) This is the final resolution of sin.
- e) 1 Corinthians 15:24-25

6) CONCLUSION

- a) What does this mean to us?
 - i) It means encouragement.
 - (1) The Gospel has not failed.
 - (2) We are not trying to make the world better so that Jesus can come; we are waiting for Jesus to come.
 - ii) It means anticipation.
 - (1) Jesus Christ can come at any moment.
 - (2) Matthew 24:44
 - iii) It means evangelism.
 - (1) We need to tell people about Jesus.
 - iv) It means examination.
 - (1) Are you saved?
 - (2) You can be saved today.
 - (3) Ephesians 2:8-9
 - (a) Grace is God, in love, reaching down to you.
 - (b) Faith is your hand reaching up to God.
 - (c) When you put your hand of faith into God's hand of grace, that is salvation.
- b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16