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## Solitary Confinement

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**T**he combination of the violent anger of the lost who are now totally controlled by the devil, and the anger of God in the seven last plagues, has killed all the unholy people of the earth—priests, the rulers, and every one who fought against His chosen people, whether they were rich or poor. The brightness of His glory blots them from the face of the whole earth. “At that time those slain by the Lord will be everywhere—from one end of the earth to the other. They will not be mourned or gathered up or buried, but will be like refuse lying on the ground.” Jeremiah 25:33.

When Christ has taken His people to the City of God, not one living person is left on Planet Earth. “See, the LORD is going to lay waste the earth and devastate it; he will ruin its face and scatter its inhabitants—the earth will be completely laid waste and totally plundered. The LORD has spoken this word. The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt. Therefore earth’s inhabitants are burned up, and very few are left.” Isaiah 24:1, 3, 5, 6.

“I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the devil, and Satan, and bound him for a thousand

years. And he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up. He set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.” Revelation 20:1-3.

Have you ever talked on the telephone and said, “I’m sorry, but I can’t come over. I’m all tied up”? I’ve said that before. Did I mean that my wife had gotten angry with me and tied me up in ropes or chains so that I was helpless to move or to physically come over? No! Of course not! I meant that I had another commitment. I had something else I was doing that I felt was more important than coming over to your house right now.

Will the devil be chained with literal “chains” made out of metal? Of course not! He will be chained with a chain of circumstances. He is isolated to Planet Earth—and now that this earth is “without form and void,” it resembles a bottomless pit. Have you ever said, “That is really the pits”? It will indeed be “the pits” for the devil. With the righteous in heaven and the wicked dead asleep in the sleep of death on the earth, the devil and his angels have no one to tempt. Time will hang heavy upon them. It will drag slowly by for one thousand years.

Super stupendous! The devil will be put in prison. This is how it is expressed in the *Clear Word Bible*: “Then I saw an angel come down from heaven holding in his hand a large key and a huge chain which I was told symbolized his power to bind. The angel took hold of the dragon, that ancient serpent who is called the devil and Satan, and bound him to this planet for a thousand years. It was like throwing him into a dark pit from which he could not escape.

“The angel confined him to this desolate planet and he had no one to deceive until these thousand years were over. That’s when the wicked will be raised to life, which is known as the second resurrection. Satan will then be free again but only for a little while.” Revelation 20:1-3, CWB.

The phrase *bottomless pit* pictures the earth in a state of disorder and darkness. The Bible says that “in the beginning,” the earth “was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.” The Hebrew word here translated “deep” (Genesis 1:2) in the Septuagint (Greek) translation of the Hebrew Old Testament is the same word translated “bottomless pit” in Revelation 20:1-3. Revelation teaches that God will bring the earth back, partially at least, to this condition.

Looking forward to the great day of God, the prophet Jeremiah declares,: “I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone. I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking;

all the hills were swaying. I looked, and there were no people; every bird in the sky had flown away. I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all its towns lay in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger.” Jeremiah 4:23-26.

For a thousand years, Satan will travel back and forth in the devastated earth looking at the results of his rebellion against the law of God. During this time he will experience extreme pain. The Judgment of the lost takes place during this one thousand year period between the first and the second resurrections.

Judgment was given to God’s children. “The Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High.” Daniel 7:22.

“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.” Revelation 20:4.

During the 1,000 years, the righteous will judge both unholy people and unholy angels.

“Do you not know that that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world. . . . Do you not know that we will judge angels?” 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3.

And Jude declares that “Angels rebelled against God, so He had to expel them from heaven and confine them to this world until the day of judgment when they will be destroyed.” Jude 6, CWB. “The wicked remained dead and were not resurrected until these thousand years were over.” Revelation 20:5, CWB.

