

## Episode #444 The Final Stages 2 – The Little Season

I. We have considered the reality of the coming Kingdom of God on earth. This kingdom ends with a great test of all who are on earth, a test which results in many who fail participating in a revolt against the kingdom. The Lord Jesus Christ puts down this revolt when He returns to earth. This is followed by the thousand-year presence of Christ on earth called the “Parousia.” Yet this too comes to an end, and the following period is the topic of today’s study, when Satan is loosed for the “Little Season.”

### II. The Little Season.

- A. We think of a season as about 90 days. What, then, is a “little season”?
- B. This name comes from Revelation 20:3 (*King James Version*).
- C. Revelation 20:7. The Little Season begins when the thousand years have expired. The thousand years cannot be symbolic for Christ’s reign, which will last forever!
  - 1. When a number of years in the Bible is symbolic, it is a symbol because it is also literal! Examples: the 40 days of the flood, the 40 years’ wandering.
  - 2. The thousand years come and go. They cannot mean “forever,” as some claim.
- D. Revelation 20:8. All causes of stumbling and all people who do iniquity are removed from the earth during the thousand years. This changes in the Little Season. Satan is a major cause of stumbling! He did not learn anything in a thousand years in prison.
- E. The point of the Revolt Against the Kingdom was supposed to be that it would end all revolt and rebellion. So is this gathering of nations another revolt after all?

### III. The Testing of Eve.

- A. We compared the Revolt Against the Kingdom to the testing of Adam and Eve.
- B. I Timothy 2:14. Eve was fooled by the serpent. Adam, though, knew what he was doing. Adam’s rebellion was worse, since he was not fooled. This is how people rebelled in the Revolt Against the Kingdom, the last willful rebellion on earth.
- C. A thousand years have passed, and children have been born who have never been tested or had the opportunity for faith. They have learned the lessons of the past, and so will not rebel against God, But what if some deceiver should come along and fool them, like Satan did Eve? This “Little Season” testing is after the manner of Eve.
- D. For a thousand years they have lived close to Christ, and so should have learned to trust His ways completely. To doubt now is without excuse. Yet some do doubt, and listen to Satan in spite of everything they have learned.
- E. Gog and Magog means people from every nation on earth. This does not mean all people or even the majority of them. It just means that some from all nations are involved. “Sand of the sea” does not necessarily mean very large, just that the number is uncounted. We can pray it will be a low percentage of people after all.
- F. Revelation 20:9. The camp of the saints and beloved city is Jerusalem, the capital where Christ dwells. They can surround it without the number being huge.
- G. This is all the rebellion they are allowed. Who knows what they would have done next? But they are cut out of the kingdom by being destroyed by fire. They have failed the second kingdom test: the one after the manner of Eve.
- H. Verse 10. “Devil” = false accuser. Was his deception a false accusation? He is cast where the beast and false prophet were cast. “Tormented” = “severely tested.” All his wicked ways will be searched out. “For ever and ever” is a childish phrase that does not represent the Greek. “In respect to the eons of the eons.” Every outcome of every

wicked thing he has done will be tested. Then, he will be cast into the lake of fire and destroyed. Ezekiel 28:18-19 will have become true of him. And good riddance!

#### IV. The Great White Throne.

- A. Revelation 20:11. He is terrible to face as Judge! Yet those who appear before Him at this time will have no choice in the matter. He WILL judge them.
- B. Verse 12. “Small and great” means every last one. All are judged. No dead are left. How can Christ take the time to judge so many billions? For well over a thousand years He has been working through men reigning with Him in His government. Why, after all that, would He hesitate to use them now? Christ will judge most men through His representatives. Not everyone deserves to stand before Him personally!
- C. This judgment involves “books” and “another book, which is the Book of Life.” How do these books interact, and what do they have to do with the judgment?
- D. The “books” contain the works of the dead ones being judged. They are set in order based on what is written there: that is, on what they have done. They might receive harsh punishment or lesser punishment, humiliation or commendation.
- E. Verse 13. None left in Death and Hades. All set in order at the Great White Throne.
- F. Verse 14. Death and Hades are destroyed in the lake of fire. No one will be “dead” after this point. Yet many will die the second death in the lake of fire, from which there is no arising. This second death is a permanent one.
- G. Verse 15. Now we learn about the “Book of Life,” mentioned multiple times.
  - 1. Exodus 32:32-33. The LORD can blot the names of those who sin against Him out of this Book.
  - 2. Philippians 4:3. Those who are raised in the first resurrection have their names written in this Book. It is involved in all resurrections.
  - 3. Revelation 3:5. Note: Jehovah in Exodus 32:32-33 is the Lord Jesus Christ of Revelation! The overcomers will not be blotted out of this Book.
  - 4. Revelation 13:8. Those who rebelled in the Revolt Against the Kingdom did so because their names were not written in this Book.
  - 5. Revelation 17:8. Those who follow the Beast are those whose names are not written in this Book.
- H. In light of all this, we suggest that the Book of Life contains all the names of those who are God’s, written there by Him alone. One may be blotted out from there, but only by God. The final fate of all men regarding life or the lake of fire is in God’s hands, symbolized by this Book of Life. This may or may not be a literal book, but either way it symbolizes a great reality.
- I. All are judged based on this book. Those not written there end up in the lake of fire. If they are written there, they need not fear it. They will be judged based on their works, but are free from the fear of the lake of fire.
- J. What happens to those whose names are in the Book of Life, but who were not worthy of the Kingdom of God? I do not know. I just know they are allowed to live.

V. Conclusion: the Little Season and the Great White Throne follow the Thousand-Year Reign of Christ. The Little Season involves the final testing of men after the manner of Eve (testing to see if they will allow themselves to be deceived). All who fail are eliminated. All who have not been raised previously will be raised to be judged at God’s Great White Throne. All men will be judged to take their final place: either destruction in the lake of fire or judgment based on their works. This gets everything ready for the final period: The New Heavens and New Earth.