

The Rebellious One-Third of God's Children

by Steve Barwick

In this study we're going to take a look at the one-third of God's children who rebelled against our heavenly Father in the first world age, as well as what happened to the other two-thirds of God's children during the that rebellion. And we'll examine what's going to happen to them as well, at the end of this flesh earth age.

We'll also see that there was also a small but faithful remnant of God's children who faithfully stood by Him during the original rebellion. These are known today as God's elect. And just as they served our heavenly Father in the "world that then was," so they faithfully serve Him today by bringing forth Father's Word to His wayward children.

So let's get started:

Reading through the Bible, you might come to the conclusion that our heavenly Father is obsessed with the idea of rebelliousness. For example:

Deuteronomy 9:24 Ye have been rebellious against the LORD from the day that I knew you.

Isaiah 30:1 Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:

Isaiah 30:9 That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD:

Jeremiah 5:23 But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone.

Ezekiel 2:7 And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious.

Hosea 7:14 And they have not cried unto me with their heart, when they howled upon their beds: they assemble themselves for corn and wine, and they rebel against me.

There are dozens more examples of God's warnings about rebellion throughout the Scriptures. After all, rebellion is *exactly* what this present second world age is all about, which is to say, giving those who rebelled in the first world age an opportunity to *change their rebellious ways* by embracing His Word wholeheartedly, and to be restored permanently to their Father's eternal kingdom as a result.

You see, the bottom line is that in the first world age, at Satan's rebellion against God and His throne, Satan deceived one-third of God's children into rejecting God altogether and accepting him as their "God" instead.

But can this be documented in the Scriptures? Indeed it can, for those with eyes to see and ears to hear. As it is written in the great book of Revelation, chapter 12:

Rev 12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

Rev 12:4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

That great red dragon is our adversary, Satan, the devil (Rev. 12:9). And as we know from Job 38:7 as well as in Revelation 1:20, the “stars of heaven” are God’s children, the angels.

With his “tail” (i.e., his propaganda outlets) our old adversary was able to draw away the “third part” (i.e., one-third) of the “stars of heaven,” meaning one-third of God’s children -- deceiving them into following *him* rather than God.

What About the Other Two-Thirds, and the Elect?

According to the Scriptures, not only did one-third of God’s children rebel under Satan’s leadership, but *the other two-thirds of His children sat on the sidelines* – apparently with mild disinterest -- and basically waited to see who would win.

While this is not specifically written of in the Scriptures, Jesus taught, by analogy, in parable form, of *all three-thirds* of God’s children in the great parable of the sower. So let’s take a discerning look at this parable, and see if we can understand the hidden message He was imparting:

Mat 13:3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

Mat 13:4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

Mat 13:5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

Mat 13:6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

Mat 13:7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

Mat 13:8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

Mat 13:9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Do *you* have ears to hear? Then open your spiritual ears and *hear with understanding* this parable taught by your Lord and Savior:

What we have here, metaphorically speaking, are the three-thirds of God's children, and what I like to call a small but productive remnant, which are actually God's elect, chosen to serve Him in the first world age because they stood by Him faithfully during Satan's rebellion, and worked to save as many of God's children as possible from Satan's deception.

We have as follows:

- the "some" that "fell by the wayside"
- the "some" that "fell upon stony places"
- the "some" that "fell among thorns"
- and last but definitely not least, the "other" that "fell into good ground"

The "some" that "fell by the wayside": The seed that fell by the wayside (vs. 4) represent what happened with the *first* one-third of God's children. The fowls (Satan and his fallen angels) "devoured" them, which is to say, *consumed them with deception*.

The "some" that "fell upon stony places": The seed that fell upon the stony places (vs. 5) represent the *second* one-third of God's children. They had no depth of understanding in God's Word, and therefore when Satan tried to take God's throne, they withered under the heat of spiritual battle. They wouldn't take a firm stand for their heavenly Father. They were worthless.

The "some" that "fell among thorns": The seeds that fell among the thorns represent what happened to the *final* one-third of God's children. In agriculture, when seeds fall among thorn bushes, the thorn bushes spring up and choke off their growth. Metaphorically speaking, this means the spiritual growth of this final one-third was choked off by the cares of life which spring up around us. They were too busy waxing their cars, doing their hair, and taking their kids to soccer practice, so to speak, to study God's Word. And as a result, their spiritual growth in God's Word was strangled. They too became worthless to God when Satan tried to take God's throne.

The "other" that "fell into good ground": Finally, you have God's elect. They're represented by the seed that fell into good ground and brought forth much fruit. They stand on God's side, and work to produce good fruit on His behalf by carrying forth His Word and planting it into the minds of men, working to bring as many of God's wayward children back to Him as possible through the Word of God.

Compared to the billions of God's children, there are relatively few of these productive "others." As it's written in Luke 10:2, "*The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few...*"

The elect are that tiny remnant of God's children – the micro-flock of Luke 12:32 -- who stood firmly and faithfully by God during the great rebellion of Satan in the first world age, and who at that time worked to help pull as many of God's children as possible out of the fire of Satanic deception and into the camp of eternal life.

And it's they our heavenly Father trusts and uses during the course of this second world age for the very same purpose. They produce fruit for our Lord by planting seeds of truth into the minds of God's wayward children, hoping to draw them out of the flesh entanglements of this age, and the vain church traditions that hold them back from understanding God's Word. And in the process they seek to turn God's wayward children back to our heavenly Father's Word, where they'll ultimately find salvation and eternal life.

You cannot say that these "other" are part of ANY of the three-thirds of God's children, in that they simply do not fit the characteristics of any of those three groups described above. They're a separate group unto themselves. A very tiny group, which again, you can simply call God's productive fruit-bearers, or God's elect.

The bottom line, as we shall continue see, is that ALL THREE-THIRDS of God's children ultimately failed Him, with the exception of that tiny and quite separate "other" group composed of the elect.

But before we see what our Lord and Savior had to say about the three-thirds, and the elect, an important question first needs to be answered.

Question: During Christ's first advent, why did He speak to the multitudes in such parable form?

Answer: Our heavenly Father addressed that very question through St. Matthew in this same 13th chapter of the great book of Matthew, explaining, in verses 34-35:

"All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world." (Matthew 13:34-35)

Wow. There you have it. Our Lord explains that some things have been "kept secret from the foundation of the world." And you're reading about some of those secret things (though definitely not all) in this very study. (See my Bible study [A Strange Thing: Mystery in the Garden](#) if you'd like to learn even more "things kept secret from the foundation of the world.")

What's important here is the word "foundation" in the final sentence of Matthew 13:35 above. It's the Greek word *katabole* (Strong's G-2602). And it means the very "founding" or "conception" of a thing.

But this Greek word is derived from another Greek word, *kataballo* (Strong's G-2598). *Kataballo* means "to throw down with violent intensity," with the prefix *kata* meaning "down" (Strong's G-2596) and the suffix *ballo* meaning "to throw (with violent intensity)".

What this means, then, is that when Christ speaks in parables such as the parable of the sower we've been studying here, He's speaking of things that have been kept secret since the very overthrow, or *downfall*, or the first world age, when our heavenly Father destroyed every living thing, which in turn led directly to the *conception* of this second world age.

That's the very *key* to understanding many of the parables of Christ. They have to do with the events of the first world age, and the establishment of this second world age.

Indeed, in Matthew 13:34-35, St. Matthew is simply quoting from Psalms 78:2, which explains that when the Messiah would arrive to this earth for His first advent, He would "utter dark sayings of old." As it is written in that great Psalm:

Psa 78:2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

The phrase "dark sayings of old" would be better translated, from the original Hebrew, as "puzzles of the antiquity" or "conundrums of the ancient times".

Psa 78:3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.

Psa 78:4 We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

Yes, at His first advent the Messiah would speak these "puzzles of the antiquity" to the People. But according to Psalms 78, those of us who understand these "puzzles" or parables are to pass that understanding on to our own children, so the meaning of these parables won't be forgotten from generation to generation. They are passed on down the through ages by God's elect. And just as we're doing so in this short study, so *you* are to do the same.

But of course, the religionists and Bible thumpers have failed miserably at teaching these parables of Christ, because they simply don't understand the very Word of God they profess to teach. They prefer instead to teach vain church traditions such as "earth is only 6,000 years old." Thus, they make void the Word of God with their empty traditions.

So what's revealed to us in Matthew 13:34-35 and again in Psalm 78:2-4 which Matthew quoted from, is that Christ's "parable of the sower" had to do with that time of old – the time of the first world age and Satan's rebellion, in which one-third of God's children were deceived into following Satan, and the other two-thirds basically sat on the sidelines either caring not to be involved, or unsure of which side to take in the controversy.

And of course, the elect, that relatively tiny productive and faithful remnant of God's children, stood firmly by God and His Word, against Satan, and worked to help "produce fruit," which is to say, help draw as many of God's children as they could back to His Word.

Of course, this may be a mystery to most of God's children today, even to most Christians, for they don't study their Father's Word in any greater depth than reading a verse here or a verse there, from time to time. But everything will be revealed to the multitudes of God's children at Christ's Second Advent during the millennium teaching period. After all, as St. Peter explained in II Peter chapter 3, the evil elements of this earth will be destroyed at Christ's arrival so all of God's children can learn without interference or encumbrance. It will ALL be revealed at that time.

It's only God's elect who, at this time, are given the understanding of the parables, so they can pass that understanding along to future generations all of the way from the time of Christ first advent to the time of His second advent. And why? Because our heavenly Father knows He can trust them with that information. They were completely faithful to Him in the first world age, and He knows they'll be faithful to Him again in this second world age when their time comes to stand against Satan during his great deception at the very end, just before Christ's arrival.

As it is written in Ephesians 1:4 of God's faithful elect, "According as he hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:"

There's that word "foundation" again, which is to say, the *katabole*, or downfall of the first world age. Yes, God's elect were chosen in Christ "*before the foundation of the world,*" which is to say, before our heavenly Father brought that first world age to a screeching halt at Satan's rebellion.

And why were the elect chosen at that time? Because they took their faithful stand for our heavenly Father, and stood against Satan when he led one-third of God's children against the throne of God, and the other two-thirds of God's children stood on the sidelines watching. The elect were that fruitful remnant of God's children who worked with Father to help pull as many children as possible out of the fire of satanic deception.

The bottom line is that the events of the first world age – including how so many of God's children were deceived by Satan -- are written of throughout God's Word, *if you know where to look and you can read with understanding.*

So with that firmly in mind, let's now take a good hard look at *Christ's own explanation* of the parable of the sower, and see what more we can learn about the three-thirds of His children, and the small band of productive servants known as the elect who bear much fruit for Him. As it's written in Mt. 13:18-23:

Mat 13:18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

Christ orders us to "hear" His explanation of the parable of the sower, which means to hear it *with understanding*. So you have to put your spiritual ears on, so to speak, and listen from your very soul.

Mat 13:19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

Spiritually speaking, the *first* one-third of God's children heard God's Word, but didn't understand it. Like many today, it was just so much mumbo-jumbo to them. They weren't even remotely interested in paying attention. This allowed the wicked one, Satan himself, to swoop in and draw them away from our heavenly Father with his smooth talk through his many propaganda outlets. It's no different today, beloved. As Solomon himself pointed out in the great book of Ecclesiastes, there's nothing new under the sun.

You see, God won't force anyone to love Him, or to embrace His Word. He doesn't want a bunch of mindless robots. He's looking for a family that sincerely loves and appreciates Him, and loves and appreciates each other, as well. Those who cause dissension or disruption, or create rebellion and refuse to play by the family rules are simply not welcome if they won't straighten up and fly right.

Mat 13:20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

Mat 13:21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

In the verses above, the word "anon" in verse 20 and the phrase "by and by" in verse 21 are the same Greek word, *euthus* (Strong's G-2117), meaning "immediately," or "at once."

So we see here that this *second* one-third of God's children heard God's Word, and immediately received it with joy, and even endured in it for a while. You can see a lot of these types of people in the churches today. They go to church every Sunday. They participate in the bake sales and fundraisers and the church Christmas play. But the problem is, they don't study God's Word. They just enjoy "playing church."

As a result, they don't have "roots" into the deeper truths of the God's Word. So when a little bit of trouble or persecution arises "because of the Word," they're immediately offended (i.e., stumbled). They don't know which side to choose during controversy, or they're too afraid to take a stand, and they quickly lose faith.

Their lack of "root" (i.e., their lack of solid understanding) of God's Word allows them to be quickly and easily "offended," or better stated, *stumbled* in their faith. These usually end up taking refuge within the vain religious traditions of man, because what the Word of God *actually* says about controversial matters (such as [what really happened to Eve in the garden](#), for example) is just too much for them to handle.

Mat 13:22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

This *final* one-third of God's children, simply put, are too busy running their businesses, or waxing their cars, or partying, or taking their kids to soccer practice, or what-have-you, to pay much attention at all to God's Word.

Over time, they end up producing no spiritual fruit for the Lord because they're completely wrapped up in the things of this world. They have no balance between the worldly and the spiritual. God is not the primary focus of their lives. In fact, He's generally not even on their radar screen, except perhaps for a little bit of lip service on the rare occasion when the situation demands it, such as when someone sneezes, or when they're at a funeral and seek to help console others.

As Christ would say in 1John 2:16, "*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*"

The final one-third of God's children in the first world age were simply too wrapped up in the things of the world to care much about God and His Word. Look around you, my friends. It's still the same today. Again, as Solomon said in Ecclesiastes, "There's nothing new under the sun."

We've now seen the three-thirds of God's children, and their characteristics. The first third fell straight into Satan's lap as soon as he turned on God. The second third tried for awhile to stand with the Word of God, but couldn't handle the heat of spiritual battle, and backed off. And the last third of God's children allowed the cares of this world to choke them off from paying attention to God, and thus they became unfruitful.

Now let's look at one last tiny group:

Mat 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Finally, you have God's elect, represented by the small handful of God's children who actually "get it" when they hear God's Word correctly taught, and who fall in love with it and have no fear of carrying it forth to others. They become *fruitful* for God, bearing fruit by bringing forth His Word to others as the opportunities permit.

Notice the four attributes of God's elect: They *hear* His Word, which means, they actually take the time to listen when it's taught. They *understand* His Word, which means they seek out its meaning through study and contemplation and prayer, developing over time a direct educational connection with the Holy Spirit of God. They *bear fruit* for Him, which means they pass along what they've learned to others, with understanding, in order to bring truth to light. And they *bring forth*, meaning, in the original Greek language, they remain faithfully committed to their work for Him, no matter what might try to get in their way of completing it.

In that first world age, *only* God's elect stood up side-by-side with God against Satan and the rebellious one-third who followed him. The elect worked to help save God's remaining wayward children from Satan's great deception. They're relatively small in number compared to the billions of children our heavenly Father created. But they're nevertheless His most faithful servants who love His Word with all of their hearts and all of their souls.

This is why, for example, in the great book of Jeremiah, chapter one, verse five, our heavenly Father would say to the prophet Jeremiah, when He called him to carry forth His Word to the people of the kingdom of Judah, "*Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*"

Yes, before God formed Jeremiah in his mother's belly, He already knew him. And before Jeremiah was ever born into this flesh, God knew him and sanctified him (i.e., set him apart for a purpose and a destiny) and ordained him to carry forth His Word.

How did God already know Jeremiah before he was even born? From the first world age, of course! And why did God sanctify and ordain him? Because He knew He could trust him, from his faithful actions in the first world age.

God foreknows His elect from the world that was, which is to say, from the first world age. He knows exactly who they are, and how they handled Satan's rebellion. And in this second world age – the flesh age -- He places them where He needs them, over the long course of time, opening their minds to the truth of His Word as they study it, and eventually calling them into the service of His Word. He knows He can trust them once He gets their attention and gets them up to speed in His Word of truth.

So how are *you* doing? Is the truth of your Father's Word getting *your* attention? Then perhaps you have a destiny to fulfill in the final days of this flesh age, in service to your heavenly Father in helping spread that Word of truth to God's wayward children!

There's a lot to learn, but you should be getting a good grasp of the basics at this point. And if it's touching your heart and your soul, and opening your eyes and your ears, you may just have a destiny awaiting you that's as exciting and fulfilling as any you could have ever dreamed of.

That's because your heavenly Father will use His faithful elect in the final generation of this second world age to stand up against Satan once again. They will even be instrumental in helping bring about Satan's downfall when they're delivered up to those religious trials described in Mark 13 and Luke 21 (learn more on that subject in the study [Delivered Up and Saved](#)).

The bottom line is that in the first world age, when Satan rebelled against God and tried to overthrow God's throne and set up his own little kingdom, one-third of God's children outright rebelled against God, and followed Satan. The other two-thirds failed Him altogether by sitting on the sidelines, some too wrapped up in their own little worlds to care, and others too unlearned to make the needed courageous and faithful stand.

And finally, a tiny band of faithful and productive children stood by our Father's side and helped face Satan down. (And if you're understanding this study, you may well have been part of that faithful band, beloved.)

So how would you feel if one-third of your children rebelled against you, and the other two thirds basically looked on with mild disinterest?

Obviously, our heavenly Father was faced with a conundrum at that time: He could utterly destroy the rebellious one-third of His own children in order to restore the perfect harmony and peace of His family kingdom. But how would He deal with the other two-thirds of His children (excepting the elect) who didn't even love Him enough to take a stand for Him? Would He have to destroy them too?

That's not our Father's way. As it is written in parable form in Luke chapter 13, our heavenly Father will do what's necessary to help save His wayward children. But if they don't respond in kind to his benevolence, then frankly, after that, they're done for:

Luke 13:6 He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.

Luke 13:7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?

Luke 13:8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it:

Luke 13:9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

That's the principle our heavenly Father goes by. If something fails to produce fruit for you in a given amount of time, give it one last opportunity. "Fertilize" it *with the Word of God* so it has access to the spiritual nutrients needed to grow and become a productive member of the family household of God. Then, if it still refuses to bear fruit, cut it down.

So instead of destroying His own children at Satan's rebellion, our heavenly Father chose to completely overthrow that first world *age* (which was millions of years old), and start over with this present second world age – an age in which we each have to come through flesh bodies *one time only* to make up our minds *with a clean slate* whether or not we want to serve Satan or God, and also to experience flesh death so that we'll better appreciate the eternal life He has to offer us.

What's more, our Father was not unwilling to make the same trip through the flesh that each of His own children have to make. Indeed, after instituting this second world age, our heavenly Father then came into this world in the flesh tabernacle we call Christ Jesus, and even gave His own life for our sins, as a means of defeating the devil's own plans.

As it is written in the great book of Hebrews 2:14, “*Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil...*”

In short, He came through the flesh and suffered death as we do, to show us the way. He did it perfectly, of course. We all fall short of the mark. But by giving His life for us as a ransom for our sins, we are counted perfect when we love Him, and follow Him, and repent in His name of our personal shortcomings as they happen.

As it is written in Hosea 13:14, “*I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death....*” And as it is written again in Mark 10:45, “*For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.*”

So He has done much to “dung the tree” in hopes it will produce fruit for Him, which is to say, He has done much to give His wayward children everything they need to return to Him with open arms and be received back into the family of God.

He even institutes the millennium teaching period at the very end of this second world age (i.e., Revelation 20:4-7), so all of His wayward children can learn of Him with discipline, unencumbered by these weak and sinful flesh bodies and the sinful elements of this world.

Indeed, at His second advent He immediately destroys with fire all of the evil elements of this earth – all deceptive doctrine, false church tradition, perversion, pornography, drugs, debt and usury, corrupt politics, propaganda and more – so there will be no stumbling blocks whatsoever to learning the truth (II Peter 3:9-12). Even our weak and sinful flesh bodies are done away with at that time, and we will dwell in our new spiritual bodies (I Corinthians 15:52).

And guess what? During that millennium teaching period, for the first time in their lives, many of God’s children who have never heard their Father’s Word taught with understanding and discipline will have a fair chance of hearing and understanding His Word *without outside interference*.

And that includes that rebellious one-third of God’s children who turned against him in the first world age. But will they take advantage of the opportunity in this second world age to love and serve Him?

That’s a question that, in large part, is still up in the air. The Scriptures foretell that just before Christ’s second advent, that one-third of God’s children will once *again* fall to Satan’s deception, and will stand by his side when he arrives to “deceive the whole world” (Rev. 12:9).

Let’s take a quick look. As it’s written:

Rev 9:13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

In this verse, the sixth angel has sounded, meaning the sixth trumpet has been blown. And it's sometime directly after the sounding of the sixth trumpet that Satan and his fallen angels are cast out of heaven onto this old earth, exactly as it's written in Revelation 12:7-12, with Satan having only a short time to deceive the whole world into believing he is the Lord.

Of course, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ returns to this earth *afterwards*, at the sound of the *seventh* trump, to bind Satan in the pit for one thousand years so that His children can have disciplined teaching without satanic interference.

So it's during the time between the sounding of the sixth trump and the sounding of the seventh trump that the deceptive satanic activity really reaches its peak. Here's how it starts:

Rev 9:14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

When those four evil angels who serve Satan are released from their bonds in the river Euphrates, things are going to change dramatically in this old world, beginning first in the Middle East and then gradually spreading around the globe.

Indeed, things already *are* heating up in the Middle East, which is the barometer of the end of this world age. So as a watchman of the Lord, you'd really better be on your toes at this stage of the game, for we are indeed in the *final generation* of this second world age – the generation of the fig tree in which all things prophesied regarding the end days are coming to pass right before your eyes (Matthew 24:32-33).

And sooner or later that sixth trumpet will begin to blow, and those four angels will be loosed. And nothing will ever be the same on this earth again. Current events in the Middle East seem to indicate it could be *soon*.

As a Christian, you're supposed to be a watchman for the Lord, so be sure to stay on the watch, particularly in regards to events in the Middle East. This is certainly no time to fall asleep on the watch.

Rev 9:15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

Well, there they are: those "third part" of men, which are the one-third of God's children we've been studying. Yes, this verse verifies that one-third who fell to Satan's deception in the *first* world age are here on this earth in flesh bodies in the final days of this *second* world age.

And they must face Satan once again. They faced him once in the first world age, and fell for his deception. Now they will face him again, in this second world age. You might call it their "mid-term exam." And after the millennium teaching period, they'll face him one *final* time before the day of the great judgment of Revelation 20:11-15. And if they don't overcome Satan's deception at that time, it's "three strikes and you're out!"

Now please don't go running off into the flesh on me, here. Where it says in the above verse that the four angels are released from their bonds in the river Euphrates "for to slay the third part of men," I have to remind you that this is not talking about *physical* slaughter.

The one-third of God's children who followed Satan in the first world age were "slain" with Satanic *deception*. This means they were slain *spiritually* – they were deceived into following Satan, who, spiritually speaking, is *death* (Heb. 2:14), rather than following God, who is Life (John 1:4). And in the final generation of this second world age, that one-third will once again be slain with satanic deception.

Just as God has His great sword of truth, which is His Word (Revelation 2:16), in like manner Satan and his fallen angels wield a great sword of deception – *religious* deception (Rev. 6:4; 6:8; 13:10). It's how they convince that initial unfaithful one-third of God's children to get in line with Satan's policies and follow him heart and soul. And it's ultimately how they'll deceive the rest of the world, too, with the exception of God's faithful elect, who, of course, will not be deceived for they know their Father's Word and stand firm in it.

In short, the four Satanic angels loosed from their bonds in the river Euphrates at the sound of the sixth trump are released for the specific purpose of deceiving that one-third of God's children who fell to Satan in the first world age. Those four evil angels will begin the process of religious indoctrination and deception that will once again ensnare that one-third of God's children at Satan's arrival to this old earth in his role as the false messiah.

And thanks to the activity of those four fallen angels, when Satan arrives to this earth with the remainder of his fallen angels during that time of the sixth trumpet, that one-third of God's children who fell to him in the first world age will almost *instantly* fall to him again, believing him to be the "messiah" they've all been waiting for.

Rev 9:16 And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

The phrase "two hundred thousand thousand" means *200 million*. While that's just a tiny *fraction* of the one-third of God's children who fell to Satan's deception in the first world age (after all, our heavenly Father has literally *billions* of children), it's still quite an army of deceived people those four fallen angels from the river Euphrates will wield spiritual and political influence over right off the bat, after they're released from their chains.

You might think of this 200 million man army as Satan's religious shock troops who will be sent forth to help spread the deceptive religious doctrine that will ensnare that one-third of God's children who fell to Satan in the first world age, and ultimately the rest of the world as well (with the exception of God's elect, of course).

Indeed, in Revelation 12:7-12, we learn that Satan ultimately "*deceiveth the whole world*," with the expressed exception of that small band of God's elect who will stand firmly against him, and who will overcome his deception through the Word of God and through the blood of Christ (Revelation 12:11).

So this 200 million man army is just the start. It's the front-line troops those four satanic angels from the river Euphrates will wield influence over as they go forth to slay (i.e., deceive) the "third part of men."

Here's something to meditate on regarding this initial 200 million man army: If you were standing right there in the Middle East today, *at this very moment*, on the banks of the Euphrates River from which the four fallen angels are soon to be released, and you're surveying all of the turmoil going on around you, and the Satanic acts of murder, mayhem, and terrorist destruction going on even today, could you make an educated guess as to what geographical region of the world might be harboring that initial 200 million man army, even now?

The only group in that area of the world that could field a 200 million strong religious army are the Islamics. Think about it. Call it speculation, if you will. But it makes complete sense that the initial 200 million man army deceived into following Satanic doctrine by those four fallen angels will most likely be *from that very geographic area of the world from which the four angels are loosed*. In other words, if you know where the river Euphrates is, you know where this 200 million man army will most likely come from.

I'm speaking of a people in the Middle East today who number some 360 million in total population, and comprise some 22 states and territories stretching from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Arabian Sea in the east, and from the Mediterranean Sea in the north to the Indian Ocean in the southeast. You know them as the Arab and Persian nations. Again, call it speculation if you will. But the Arabs and Persians are the *only* people in the vicinity of the river Euphrates who have the population numbers large enough to cull this great 200 million man army from.

Rev 9:17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.

Biblically speaking, *priests* wear breastplates. So this is an army of strikingly *religious* adherents. And the fire and smoke and brimstone issuing out of their mouths is symbolic of pure religious deception. Lies. Blasphemies. Tortured spiritual logic. Arrogant religious boastings.

The bottom line is that the four evil angels from the river Euphrates will immediately wield influence over some two hundred million men. And it's my assertion in this study that this two hundred million man army of religious adherents will then go forth throughout the Middle East to help spread the Satanic message that will ultimately deceive the full one-third of God's children, worldwide – the same one-third who fell in the first world age, and ultimately, the rest of the world as well (again, excepting God's elect).

For as it's written in II Thessalonians 2:1-4, when Satan arrives to this earth he'll seat himself in the temple of God *in Jerusalem*, and pretend to be God. And the peoples of the Middle East – Judaic, Muslim and Christian alike -- will be drawn to him. Again, call it speculation if you will,

but I believe this 200 million man army of decidedly religious adherents will lead their own people to that evil one sitting in the temple of God, pretending to be God.

Now I'm not saying the Arab and Persian world constitutes the full one-third of God's children who fell to Satan in the first world age. I'm just saying it all *begins* there at the river Euphrates. That's where the initial 200 million man religious army is formed by those four fallen angels who are released from their bonds at the river Euphrates.

And on the other side of the Euphrates, over in Jerusalem, is where Satan will be seated in the temple, pulling off his great deception, pretending to be the Messiah of God. So that's where you'd better be watching for the peoples of the Middle East to be drawn to. Directly afterwards, the *entire rest of the world* (with the exception of God's elect) will be drawn to Jerusalem as well, to worship the false messiah, thinking him to be the One promised by God.

Rev 9:18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

Fire, smoke and brimstone are symbolic of false doctrine. That one-third of God's children are "killed" (i.e., deceived) by the false doctrine issuing out of the mouths of that 200 million man religious army that's been primed by the four fallen angels from the great river Euphrates.

Again, I must emphasize here, be sure to move from flesh thinking to spiritual thinking. That rebellious one-third of God's children are not *physically* killed. They're slain *spiritually*, by the deceptive satanic doctrine they'll fall for.

But *never* forget: Satan does not come to this old earth in his role as the false Messiah solely to deceive that one-third of God's children he deceived in the first world age. They're just for starters, because they're so ripe for the picking. He practically already has them in his pocket, so to speak, because he had already deceived them in the first world age. But he wants *all* of God's children. In other words, *all three-thirds*.

After all, he knows he's under the death sentence, and the only way he can get back at God for that death sentence is to spiritually destroy as many of God's children as possible. As I've emphasized repeatedly, the Scriptures foretell in Revelation 12:7-12, that when Satan is kicked out of heaven to this earth he comes here to "*deceive the whole world.*" And so he will, with the notable exception of God's tiny fruitful remnant, the elect.

The one-third of God's children that Satan deceived in the first world age will just be the easy pickings. They'll be primed for him by the actions of those four evil angels who will be released from the river Euphrates, and by actions of the 200 million man army of religious adherents those four angels muster up and direct upon their release.

This is another reason our gracious heavenly Father will usher in the 1,000 year "millennium" teaching period on the "day of the Lord" at Christ's Second Advent. Too many of His children have simply never had a chance to learn the truth in this second world age.

How It All Ends

In closing, let's take a quick look at how it all ends:

After Christ's Second Advent and the destruction of his one-world religious system known as Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth (which destruction is described in great detail in Revelation chapter 18), Satan will be chained and thrown into the pit so that he has no influence whatsoever during Christ's millennium teaching period. As it's written:

Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Rev 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

Rev 20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

That angel who throws Satan into the bottomless pit will most likely be Michael the archangel, the same angel who in the final days of this flesh earth age casts Satan out of heaven and down to this earth (Revelation 12: 7-9). Note carefully that Satan is thrown into this pit and sealed there for one thousand years, for a very specific reason, i.e., "that he should deceive the nations no more."

In other words, God wants His wayward children – the full three-thirds – taught with no Satanic interference or influence whatsoever. Our heavenly Father is a good God. He wants the very best for all of His children. And this time around they'll *all* be taught clearly and without equivocation. There will be no wicked influences whatsoever.

So after Satan is sealed in that pit, the great millennium teaching period takes place, at which time Christ and His elect -- that tiny remnant who stood faithfully by Him in the first world age at Satan's rebellion – will teach God's wayward children "the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean" (Ezekiel 44:23).

In other words, God's wayward children will be taught right from wrong, in great detail, and with great discipline, to the point that none of them will ever be able to say, "I didn't know."

But when the one thousand year "millennium" teaching period is over, take a look at what happens:

Rev 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

It's final exam time, folks. God wants to see if His wayward children will embrace and retain what they've been taught during the millennium teaching period, or if once more they'll reject it. So he releases Satan from the pit and plops him right into their midst.

Of course, we know from Revelation 7:9-17, that at this point innumerable people will indeed be saved, and will be given the white robes of eternal life. And they'll worship our heavenly Father and His Christ, and praise Him for the salvation provided. The vast majority of these newly saved individuals will most likely be from the two-thirds of God's children who failed Him in the first world age, at Satan's rebellion.

But many of that *first* one-third of God's children we learned of earlier – the outright rebellious ones who stood firmly and resolutely with Satan in the first age -- will not make it after Satan is released from the pit. God's Word will not stick with them, even after one thousand years of perfect teaching. Let's see why:

Rev 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

Satan is sent out one last time to “deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth.” Just as Satan battled against God at the *katabole* – the great overthrow – in the first age, attempting to overthrow God's throne and take it for himself and his followers, so once again they'll try the same thing. Satan *never* gives up, beloved. He's intransigent.

Rev 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Satan and those he manages to deceive attack God's “beloved city,” Jerusalem, once again attempting to wrest control of the throne from our Lord and Savior.

We're not told how many of God's wayward children are once again taken in by Satan after the end of the millennium teaching period. In Revelation 7:9-17 we're told “a great multitude, which no man could number” are saved. But here we see what appears to be an equally great number falling for Satan's lies once again, and being utterly destroyed by our heavenly Father in the process.

God has promised His children a completely peaceful and harmonious eternity in his family household. And the only way to deliver on that promise is to get rid of the rebels and trouble-makers. And so He does. As the rebels under Satan's command group together to attack Jerusalem, God rains fire down from out of heaven and destroys them.

Rev 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Satan will be cast headlong into the lake of fire, never to exist again (Ezekiel 26:19-21; Ezekiel 28:18-19). And then the great white throne judgment – the final judgment – begins. Let’s see what happens:

Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

This second earth age will be done away with, and the eternal age will be ushered in. But some won’t make the grade.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

The books of judgment were opened. Our heavenly Father is a meticulous record keeper. Nothing gets past Him. Those in “the books” will be judged “according to their works.” And those in the “book of life” will be given their eternal souls and will live forever in His eternal family household.

Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Going all of the way back to the beginning of time, the unfaithful ones, the spiritually dead – those who rejected our Father’s great Word of salvation through Christ -- will be judged according to their works.

Rev 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

And that’s how it ends. Innumerable numbers will be saved by the time the millennial teaching period is over (Revelation 7:9-17). But those with rebellious hearts and minds will be cast into the lake of fire, never to exist again. As it’s written in the great Psalm 37 (which, by the way, [contains a very special message to God’s elect](#)):

Psa 37:10 For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

Psa 37:11 But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Yes, those of God’s wayward children who humble themselves to the Lord and repent of their sins will indeed be saved, and shall “inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the

abundance of peace.” God’s eternal family household will once again be a harmonious one, as soon as the stiff-necked and trouble-making rebels are done away with.

But many of that one-third of God’s children who rebelled in the first age will remain adamantly opposed to God’s plan of salvation through Jesus Christ, and will cling once more to Satan when he’s released from that pit at the end of the millennium teaching period. And as a result, they’ll be judged and cast into the lake of fire, never to exist again. And frankly, good riddance to them, for all of the trouble they’ve caused down through the ages. They will not be missed.

Yes, it’s a sad state of affairs. But if you’ve read this study with understanding, you’ll grasp the fact that our heavenly Father has given them every opportunity to change their hearts and minds and join with Him through Christ. They simply and profoundly choose not to.

And for them, that’s the end.

-- End --

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