



Today's Message

Date: September 7, 2014
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *No Excuses*

Text: Revelation 20:7–10 (ESV)

⁷ And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. ⁹ And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, ¹⁰ and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Introduction: Our sermon text for this Lord's Day contains a puzzling prophecy. Christ's kingdom will last a 1000 years. After that, Satan will be released from the Abyss. He will deceive the nations and gather an army to march against Christ and his people. Of course, this final battle will be swift and end with the utter defeat Satan and his followers.

Many questions arise from this scene. Who are these who follow Satan at the close of Christ's perfect kingdom? Why do they follow Satan? And most important, why would God release Satan to allow him to deceive the nations once again?

Let's consider these questions one at a time.

- I. Who are these who follow with Satan?**

- II. Why would they rebel against the Lamb?**

- III. What purpose does God have for the release of Satan 1000 years after his defeat at Armageddon?**

Today's take-home truth: When the divine Judge sits upon his throne, rebels will have no excuses.

Some observations about the tragic nature of sin:

1. Sinners have a distorted view of themselves.
 - a. Sinners are blind to the hopelessness of their condition.
 - b. Sinners are masters of self-justification.
2. Sinners have a distorted view of God.
 - a. They attribute evil to God.
 - b. They believe that God is weak.
3. These traits lurk in the hearts of all sinners.
4. Only the grace of God through Christ can change the sinner's heart.