



**SERIES: October “Back to the Future”**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Thursday, 10/14/2021**

**Scripture: Revelation 20:1-3**

**TITLE: Is Satan Real?**

Does Satan exist, or is he just an analogy or metaphor for something else? If He does exist, what is he like? If he exists and God is so powerful, why doesn't God deal with Him? All of these are questions I've wrestled with, and probably you have too.

Today, John will answer these questions as we continue our study of end times in the book of Revelation.

Here's what John writes in Revelation 20:1-3 (CSB).

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven holding the key to the abyss and a great chain in his hand. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the abyss, closed it, and put a seal on it so that he would no longer deceive the nations until the thousand years were completed. After that, he must be released for a short time.”

In Revelation chapters 6-19, John writes about the tribulation that precedes the millennium that John mentions here. In the next two days, we will talk about how the return of Christ relates to the millennium. But today, we want to focus on a key event mentioned here: the binding of Satan.

In chapter 19, Jesus returns after the tribulation and brings His army. Jesus sends the Antichrist and the false prophet into the lake of fire. Jesus destroys all rebels. And now, his focus is on dealing with Satan.

You see, Satan is real. He is a fallen angel. He is, according to Paul, “the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient” (Eph. 2:2) and “the God of this age [who] has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel” (2 Cor. 4:4). He is described as a deceiver, a liar, a murderer, the adversary, a roaring lion, and here as the dragon. He is bad news for the world but not at all like God in power or ability.

So at the beginning of this thousand-year period, Satan is captured, bound, and thrown into the abyss. The abyss is not hell but a temporary place of incarceration where demons are detained. It is a place of torment.

An angel, possibly Michael the archangel, is given the key or the authority to open the door one more time. Why will he be released? We will cover this next week. But know this, Satan is real.

He is at work today in the world. He is a liar. He is a deceiver. But he is not God. He is not all-powerful. He is not all-knowing. He is not everywhere. He is just one angel.

And this dragon will be restrained and ultimately defeated forever. But today, we need to stand firm against this deceiver. So here's my challenge for you today:

How have you been recently deceived by Satan? What lies have you bought? What anti-God philosophy has crept into your worldview? Satan loves to sneak lies in by disguising them as truth. It comes through TV, social media, magazines, friends, family, coworkers, and even people at church.

Find the lie and get rid of it. Satan would be thrilled to see you just 5% off in your view of God and how you live. But we won't let Him. We will say "no" to the devil as we prepare for his day of judgment.