

The Binding of Satan

When does it occur?

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and 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.

4 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.

5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection.

6 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.

7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison

8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea.

9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book* of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20 [NKJ]

This is not a paper that discusses the various streams of eschatology. I bluntly state at the outset that my position is amillennial: that is, I am certain that sound Biblical exegesis demands that the thousand years of verses 2-7 refers to the Gospel Age, the period of time between the first and second coming of Christ. This is the period when Satan is stated to have been bound (v7-9), apart from the 'little while' of verse 3.

My reasons for this position are stated in other papers and need no rehearsal here. It is the position of sound evangelical theologians throughout church history; indeed, during the Reformation, millennialism (then called *Chiliasm* from the Greek word for 'thousand' used in Revelation) was considered so obscure and aberrant that Calvin didn't even bother refuting it at length.

Not to mention that even in the days of Paul he [Satan] began to assail it, (1 Corinthians 15,) shortly after the Chiliasm arose, who limited the reign of Christ to a thousand years. This fiction is too puerile to need or to deserve refutation. Nor do

they receive any countenance from the Apocalypse, from which it is known that they extracted a gloss for their error, (Revelation 20:4,) since the thousand years there mentioned refer not to the eternal blessedness of the Church, but only to the various troubles which await the Church militant in this world. The whole Scripture proclaims that there will be no end either to the happiness of the elect, or the punishment of the reprobate. Moreover, in regard to all things which lie beyond our sight, and far transcend the reach of our intellect, belief must either be founded on the sure oracles of God, or altogether renounced. Those who assign only a thousand years to the children of God to enjoy the inheritance of future life, observe not how great an insult they offer to Christ and his kingdom. If they are not to be clothed with immortality, then Christ himself, into whose glory they shall be transformed, has not been received into immortal glory; if their blessedness is to have an end, the kingdom of Christ, on whose solid structure it rests, is temporary. In short, they are either most ignorant of all divine things or they maliciously aim at subverting the whole grace of God and power of Christ, which cannot have their full effects unless sin is obliterated, death swallowed up, and eternal life fully renewed.¹

Nor do I intend to talk at length about the actual binding of Satan. Like many aspects of Revelation, it is a symbolic picture of a heavenly truth to emphasise the sovereignty of God in protecting the church and directing history to his ends. This binding is an effect of the cross of Christ to control Satan's activities so that his oppressive tactics are restrained from completely destroying the church. Just as Job suffered terribly, but did not die because God only gave Satan permission to test him but not destroy him (Job 1:12, 2:6), so the church has always suffered, but has not been wiped out. She has continued to preach the Gospel in order to ensure that the elect of every generation are brought to faith.

Satan wants to rule the earth and must do away with the church to do so. From the beginning he has desired the chosen vessel of God for personal expression - man on the Earth. The binding prevents this from taking place, until the end when God allows the restraint to be removed so that mankind on Earth is brought to judgment, having fulfilled its sinfulness (Rev 20:7; 2 Thess 2:6-12). Then the society of men becomes so evil that it fully manifests the depravity of Satan around the globe.

Why was Satan bound? What are the results of the binding?

So that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished v3.

Satan primarily works by deception; he gets men to do what he wants by convincing them that they are doing what they want, what is good for them. Sin is always self destructive, it never brings good fruit, but men follow sin in the hopeless pursuit of selfish ends. They believe it will do them good by satisfying this or that craving, when all it does is promote further and more intense craving. Take any sin, and the necessary end of it is death; not just the death of condemnation for sin (Rm 6:23), but the natural fruit of it is dissolution, depression, stagnation and destruction.

For instance: someone who devotes himself to visual pornography for personal stimulation finds that he needs more and more intense forms to satisfy himself as time goes on. What satisfied once no longer works. Thus his viewing becomes more and more depraved. Unless checked and resisted, this progression leads not only to utter filth, but to viewing

¹ John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book Three, p.1106.

paedophilia and torture. In the end folks given over to this frequently commit suicide. The same process is seen in drug abuse, financial greed, occultism and all forms of sin.

This is the way Satan works, he deludes people into doing what he wants voluntarily. So the first result of the binding is that his deception is somewhat restrained so that his global ambitions are checked.

Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints (Verses 7-9)

A second result is that the binding prevents Satan from controlling entire nations by deception so that he can gather an empire to attack the saints of God. Many times Satan has tried to gather this empire in history, but every time, against seemingly overwhelming odds, such empires have been cut off. Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, Attila the Hun, the Moslem Empire, Napoleon and Hitler obviously spring to mind. At one point they sweep all before them, then suddenly they are killed or surprisingly, emphatically defeated.

Though many have tried to destroy them, God's elect have continued to this time to be a significant force in human history, even though the real power of the church is not in obvious strength, but in secret prayer.

The root behind Satanic deception

The base of the deception is to divert a person from the truth of God and get them to ally themselves with the devil. Even though the benefits of peace with God are clear if considered objectively, even if there are good examples of believers with grace and order in their lives, Satanic deception encourages folk to avoid submission to God and to serve Satan via sinful indulgence.

Consider the case of drug abuse. The facts surrounding this issue are now well known and publicised; everyone knows the dangers of smoking crack cocaine or injecting heroin, even the psychotic results of smoking marijuana are now well documented. Furthermore, almost every schoolkid in an UK urban school will know personally someone who is in trouble with drugs - so rife is it in the playground today. Yet despite all this evidence, masses of kids are taking drugs. It is crazy but it is prevalent. The only reason why this happens is the deception behind drug taking - a quick satisfying hit that numbs problems and gives pleasure for a while.

The same is true of sexual promiscuity. All kids know the dangers of sexually transmitted diseases, all are aware of the lethal effects of AIDS and yet there is a veritable explosion of fornication amongst very young children. This is not only seen in the teen pregnancy statistics (the UK having the worst) but is obvious to anyone in a city centre on a Friday night. The appalling sight of drunken 16-17-year-old-girls calling out for sex with anyone in the middle of a high street is not only shocking, but is commonplace. It is now unusual for girls to be virgins beyond the age of 14 in the main cities of Britain.

What sins do is place people in the hands of the devil. As they worship their chosen sin, they worship him. As they give themselves up to drink, drugs, sex or whatever, they give up on God. Furthermore, one sin often leads to another and another. Drug abuse frequently leads to poverty and then stealing. Fornication leads to unfaithfulness, transmission of

diseases and adultery. Drunkenness can lead to violence, anger, apathy, depression or destitution, depending upon the personality of the drinker.

What happens when the restraint is loosed?

We have already seen what the binding does, so when the restraint is taken away these things flourish:

- Widespread deception, ultimately from Satan but also a general atmosphere of deception in many areas of life.
- Encouragement to sin.
- Worship of Satan, at first covertly and hidden amongst other sins, but gradually more overtly.
- Hostility towards the church, eventually culminating in physical persecution. This presumes an approaching end to the Gospel testimony of the saints, **When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.** (Rev 11:7)

Are there other texts that talk about this period of deception?

Indeed there are; foremost is probably Paul's statements in 2 Thessalonians:

6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way.

8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

9 The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

(2 Thess 2:6-12)

This indicates that as the deception increases there is a revelation of the lawless one, who is identified with Antichrist:

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming. (1 Jn 2:18)

Now, this paper is not a discussion of Antichrist and I want to refrain from delving into that subject here. Suffice to say that as the end approaches, as the deception heightens, there is a revelation of Antichrist in the way John explains in Revelation 13 and 17. This coming of Antichrist is associated with:

- The working of Satan with deceiving signs and miracles. (v9)
- Unrighteous deception, i.e. deception that leads to sin. (v10)
- An avoiding of the truth, hating of truth - especially the truth as it is in Jesus. (v10)
- Strong delusions. (v11)
- Believing the lie. (v11)
- Pleasure in unrighteousness. (v12)

We need to investigate this lie of verse 11. This is the ancient lie of the serpent in Eden that if man follows Satan he will become as God, knowing good and evil - i.e. having personal freedom and becoming godlike.

For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. (Gen 3:5)

This is the lie referred to by Paul in Romans 1, often missed in many translations that use the indefinite article instead of the definite 'the'.

Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonour their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. (Rm 1:24-25)

A characteristic of the lie in the end is going to be a focus upon becoming like God as a result of practices and teachings that are human ideas and not the Gospel.

Paul goes on to explain that this lie, far from making people like God, renders them into slaves of Satan and results in vile passions:

For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

(Rm 1:26-32)

One of the results of following this lie is that deception leads to sexual sin, and particularly homosexual sin. A result of the removal of restraint is a proliferation of:

- homosexual behaviour
- unrighteousness
- sexual immorality
- wickedness
- covetousness
- maliciousness
- envy
- murder
- strife
- deceit
- evil-mindedness
- treachery and gossip
- God is hated
- Violence
- Pride
- Boasting
- inventions of evil things
- disobedience to parents
- lack of discernment, forgiveness, mercy, love and trust
- hypocrisy.

While these are shown as the normal behaviour of sinful men throughout time as a result of the fall, they are specifically shown to be the result of the lie. When the restraint is

removed, this lie will again be prominent and thus all these things will resurface with renewed vigour.

Another passage is the warnings of Jesus regarding the end.

Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these *are* the beginning of sorrows. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Matt 24:3-14)

From this we can see other features of the removal of the restraint at the end:

- There is widespread deception.
- There are false Christs that deceive many.
- There are various wars.
- Various nations attack other nations.
- There will be pandemic infections.
- There will be great famines.
- There will be serious earthquakes that distinguish them from the regular earthquakes throughout history.
- Christians will be hated.
- Christians will be betrayed.
- There will be many false prophets causing deception.
- Love, and the virtues associated with it, vanish.

A final passage is again by Paul:

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was. (2 Tim 3:1-9)

In the last days when the restraint is removed we will see:

- Perilous times
- Selfishness
- Love of money
- Boasting & pride
- Blasphemy
- Disobedience to parents
- Thanklessness

- Unrighteousness
- Lack of love
- Unforgiveness
- Slander
- Lack of self-control
- Brutality
- Good hated
- Treachery
- Love of pleasure rather than love of God,
- A form of godliness that denies salvation.
- Making captives of gullible women

So from all this we can see that the removal of restraint results in: a massive list of bullet points. This long list needs to be reduced down; perhaps this form will suffice:

- **Unrighteousness:** unforgiveness, good hated, slander, treachery, gossiping, lack of love, hypocrisy, malice, wickedness, evil-mindedness, pleasure in unrighteousness, lack of discernment forgiveness, mercy, love and trust, inventions of evil.
- **Disobedience:** to parents, encouragement to sin.
- **Selfishness:** no self-control, thanklessness, covetousness, envy, hedonism, love of money, boasting & pride; love, and the virtues associated with it, vanish.
- **Violence:** brutality, murder, strife, warfare, unprovoked attacks.
- **Deceit:** widespread deception, ultimately from Satan but also a general atmosphere of deception in many areas of life; deceptive practices, making captives of gullible women, strong delusions
- **Ungodliness:** blasphemy, hatred of God.
- **Sexual sins:** homosexual behaviour, sexual immorality.
- **False religion:** open worship of Satan, a form of godliness that denies salvation; a focus upon becoming like God as a result of occult practices and teachings, false Christs, false prophets, deceiving signs and miracles.
- **Opposition to Christ and his church:** Christians will be hated and betrayed, hostility towards the church culminating in physical persecution, hatred of truth - especially the truth as it is in Jesus.
- **Societal problems:** Perilous times, various wars, pre-emptive strikes on other nations, great famines, pandemic infections, serious earthquakes.

So, evidence of the restraint removed is a time when all these things are prominent, following a time of relative quiet, and (at least a superficial) godliness. Is this in the future, or is there a period when these things can be said to have emerged?

It is my contention that all these items are in full operation now and have been growing in intensity in the last 100 years. We could write another paper just listing the events that have conspired to bring this about, but we will mention but a few here.

The change in the crossover to the 20th century

At the turn of the 19th century there was a break from the tradition of trusting in God and honouring the Bible. Before then, Queen Victoria could boast to a visiting Indian prince that the British Empire was built upon God's Word. Victorian society may have had a seedy underbelly, but this was an underbelly and the unrighteousness of the back streets was

condemned in decent society. Church attendance (even if many were only professing Christians) was as high as 95% of the population. There was even an honour among thieves that became a byword. Certain crimes prominent today were unheard of and unknown.

As the century had drawn to its close, there was a new offensive against God that would have lasting effects. This offensive drew forces on many fronts. First there was the attack of Darwinism. The hypotheses of uniformitarianism, evolutionary theory, the geologic column, man's descent from apes etc. changed the way society viewed the Bible and God. It became scientific, and therefore rational, to question the Bible and be atheistic. This was a revolution in human behaviour. Previous societies may have opposed the Christian God but no intelligentsia had previously questioned the very existence of God himself. Worse, the claim that man is just an animal caught in a fight for the survival of the fittest made morality redundant. Whatever helped the individual survive became endorsed by science. This led to situation ethics whereby anything was justifiable if it resulted in the desired objective. Many other changes resulted from evolutionary theory that had a massive effect on society, education, warfare, politics and so on. The resultant theory of eugenics even paved the way for Hitler's Final Solution of genocide. Man had lost his bearings as a rational creature created by God with a purpose in his life, a life that should be lived in obedience to conscience and divine commands.

The First World War of 1914-18 changed the world forever. Not only did it generate many questions about God's sovereignty that such a thing could happen, but it also had huge ramifications for the future of Europe in the way the nations were arbitrarily divided up at the end. The present problems in Iraq and the Balkans have much to do with what happened then and the seeds of the next world war also were sown by the unwise terms of the treaty with Germany. The disillusionment caused by the brutality and cost of the First World War is hard to imagine. It changed everything, and following hard on the heels of Darwinism, many saw no further point in following God.

While all this was going on, liberal scholars had been growing in temerity. Throughout the latter years of the 19th century, and into the 20th modernism began to invade the religious world. The effect of the various theories, many based upon evolutionary ideas, was to state that: God is dead, the Bible is not the sure word of God, miracles didn't happen, creation was by accidental means, Jesus did not exist, early Biblical books were not written when the Bible said that they were, indeed they were written hundreds of years later. Even the Gospels were stated to be cobbled together by various unknown authors and then used to put over the views of certain schools of thought.

Coupled with this, in 1885 a new version of the Bible appeared that for the first time was not based upon the same family of manuscripts as all the previous translations. This is to say that for 1900 years no one had known the real words of the Bible. Two ancient manuscripts were the basis of this new textual theory, originally stated by Westcott and Hort, yet these manuscripts reveal thousands of contradictions, corrections and errors between them. From this a whole new stream of translations began to appear that for a hundred years poured forth from the presses. Today there are dozens of Bible versions and no standardisation. Some of these versions are so bad that they beggar belief - yet often they sell in millions.

Also this period saw the unexpected rise in popularity of the occult. Everyone had thought that paganism was dead, but a group of writers and a few occult organisations brought a new lease of life to the ancient religion. Gerald Gardner was responsible for the revival of

witchcraft and is the biggest influence on pagan and witchcraft groups. By the 1950s British society responded by repealing the Witchcraft laws. Other groups such as the Theosophical Society, Rosicrucianism, Mesmerism, Freemasonry, New Thought, Vedanta Society and others either sprang into life or received a shot in the arm. But it was not just pagan groups that emerged, brand new religions sprang into being in the 19th century such as Bahai, along with a myriad of cults that grew out of formal Christian churches: The Watchtower Society (JWs), Mormons, Christian Science, Unity School and many other smaller groups. Within the realms of evangelicalism there was also revolution with the development of the Pentecostal churches and the Charismatic Movement. Again the influence was subjectivity against the objective word of God.

As if that wasn't enough, a whole new science appeared, that of psychology, coupled with a new pseudo-science - psychoanalysis, a technique based upon occult conceptions and methodologies mixed with unproven assumptions and fabricated evidence (in, at least, the case of Freud). People no longer needed a pastor or a church support structure, they could pay to see a 'specialist' to talk to whenever they wanted. A multi-million dollar industry was born. The fact that the overwhelming evidence shows that it did virtually no good to anyone in 100 years appears to be irrelevant; it was another blow to the church.

By the end of the 20th century, the net result was that paganism was the fastest growing religion in the UK while Christian denominations bled 2,000 members a week and less than 7% now attend church. Some denominations like Methodism face extinction in a few years, while others (like Anglicans) are up against impending bankruptcy and internal breakdown.

With the collapse of confidence in the church, the Bible and even in God generally, the very roots of society were relocated. No longer were Biblical principles the foundations of education, the legislature, societal mores, or personal behaviour. Over and over again common sense and God's law was abandoned in favour of the ideas of men, usually psychologists. Such was the basis for the repeal of the laws against homosexuality and the legalisation of abortion.

To take one case: various generations of schoolkids became guinea pigs for experiment after experiment, most of which failed miserably. For instance, reading standards for current English children is at its worst ever level since the old-fashioned methods of parrot fashion pronunciation and reading were ditched in favour of word association and chance. Worse was the emphasis upon human rights and the abolition of corporeal discipline. This led to teachers having no control over children at all. As wayward kids disrupt classes, the corollary is that kids that want to learn are unable to do so. The government is faced with massive problems in dealing with thousands of delinquent children, so they leave them in schools to cause more problems. Violence is such a dilemma in many schools that ordinary children are so scared that they carry knives to defend themselves. In this situation, where it is not uncommon for kids to throw chairs at teachers or beat up other kids, the most vulnerable people in society become victims of drug dealers, proselytising groups (like Scientologists), violent whims out of sheer frustration, crime and underground culture.

Sick of school, children emerge at 16 into a dark world of dumbed-down lostness, pervaded by one thing after another that nullifies their brain and individuality. They succumb to a music culture that is full of abusive and foul language, which has a beat that deadens the mind and lyrics that promote drug abuse, bigotry, hate and crime. The scene they mix in often leads to violence and criminality. With nothing to do in sprawling housing estates

they turn to social destruction and delinquency. From this it is a small step to adult gang culture and full-blown criminality.

The lack of any moral absolutes prevailing in schools or many homes, coupled with the lack of parental guidance (parents either don't care or are too busy trying to make a living to be able to juggle all the plates) leaves these kids lost. Having only their teen culture and diabolical (literally) music and media to learn from, they treat important things as trivial. Sex is nothing to them - just a physical act, honour is meaningless, trust is weakness. All these things ultimately arise from evolutionary theory.

The result of all this (and we have only quickly scanned a few areas of life today) is all the things we listed as a result of the restraint being removed. The society we live in exhibits all these Satanic inspired items - and it grows worse by the day. We never thought we'd live to hear of a teenager mug an old lady in her home and then rip her heart out of her chest. We never thought we'd hear of sick men commit acts of paedophilia on six-month-old babies. We never thought we'd hear of teenagers raping an old woman in her home. Who would have thought that the mightiest power on earth, with a Christian political base, would destroy an entire Iraqi city (Fallujah), killing hundreds of innocent people just for the sake of a handful of insurgents who escaped anyway? Who can justify a pre-emptive attack on a sovereign state that results in the deaths of over 100,000 innocent bystanders on the premise of a lie? We could go on and on.

Conclusion

It is my conclusion that the restraint has indeed been taken off Satan and he is growing in his ability to control the world through evil individuals and corrupt governments. The Iraq War would not have been possible even 20 years ago, but now it seems that governments can get away with anything. The condition of our society is plain for every sane person to see. Folk, and especially older people, are continually heard to say, 'The world has gone mad?' Despite governments telling us that things have got better, we all know that things are getting worse and worse, at every level.

All the items on the previous list - from unrighteousness to selfishness, from violence to sexual sins, from false religion to disobedience, all these things are with us in spades this very day. That the restraint on Satan has been removed is very clear, and it ought to have been clear when the world had its first world war, something unheard of in history.

This proves that the restraint was taken off Satan during the latter years of the 19th century. It also means that the world is moving into its final stage of history and that the only anchor to our souls in this time, is God. The more the world degenerates, the more we need to cling to him and honour his word.

Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.

Luke 21:28