Revelation 20:4-10

The “First Resurrection”

* Risen to sit and judge
  + Matthew 19:28
  + Revelation 3:1
  + Daniel 7:9, 22, 27
  + Romans 5;17
  + Those with Christ already rule
    - Matthew 28:19-20
    - Matthew 16:16-19
    - Office of the Keys
      * What is the Office of the Keys?
        + The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.
      * Where is this written?
        + This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” (John 20:22-23)
      * What do you believe according to these words?
        + I believe when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just and valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.
* The souls of the beheaded
  + Martyred or all Christians?
    - The specific verb suggests only those put to death in such a way
    - Yet, crucifixion and martyrdom represent the persecution and sufferings of all Christians
      * This serves as a violent reminder that all who live for Christ are going to suffer
        + The two witnesses of 11:3-7
    - A martyr of Jesus is a Christian who witnesses to the truth of Jesus and the Word of God
      * Why would a Christian be persecuted or martyred?
        + Go back to “Risen to sit and judge”
* Those who did not worship the beast
  + All Christians
  + The first beast from 13:1-10
    - Political beast

Two Resurrections and Two Deaths

* Spiritual
* Physical
  + Will see in 20:11-15
  + Two literary units
    - 20:1-10
    - 20:11-15
  + Nowhere else in all of scripture does it talk of two physical resurrections of the dead
    - Spiritual resurrection is discussed by Christ
      * John 5:25
        + So that the physical can occur, John 5:28-29
      * Ephesians 2:1-6
      * Romans 6:1-5

Gog and Magog 20:7-10

* Glimpse of this battle in 9:13-21 and 16:12-16
  + Final time
* Satan unleashed
  + Restrained at the ascension
  + Could not touch the church
  + The two beasts carried out his work
  + Now satan’s full wrath is against the church
* Gog
  + 1 Chronicles 5:4?
* Magog
  + Genesis 10:2 and 1 Chronicles 1:5?
* Gog and Magog
  + Whatever origin, now evil forces in full opposition to God
  + Ezekiel 38-39
    - Representation of the enemies of God’s people in warfare
    - Gog is the prince and leader
    - Magog is a land in the far north
    - God promises to deliver His people with fire from heaven
      * Ezekiel 39:12
      * Also the birds of prey will feast on them
  + Outside of the Biblical names earlier mentioned, Gog and Magog are used to represent evil hosts
    - Now attack the entire church throughout the world
    - The church on earth is devastated by the evil forces
    - Destroy the children of God
      * Mark 13:14-23 – the tribulation
  + But God intervenes
    - Ezekiel 39:6
    - Here the Lord rescues His people once again
* The devil
  + Cast into the lake of fire and brimstone
  + The beast and the harlot are already there
  + Punishment
  + Church is vindicated
* WHY is Satan unleashed?!?!