

“Final Deception and a Gathering unto Judgment”
The Last Battle, Take 2
Revelation 20:7-10

Revelation #47

Three stages of the “Last Battle,” which is the final judgment!

1. The Deception – Satan Loosed!

vv. 7-8b

(1) **The Completion of the “Thousand Years”** *“Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations...”*

- Satan released from his “prison”

- **Deception raised to a new level!**

- In concert with unbelief!

- **Gathered, drawn to the last battle by satanic deception!** cf. 16:13-14; 19:20

- Perpetrated through the beast and the false prophet.

(2) **A Conspiracy of Unbelief!** *the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.”*

- **Of a world-wide scale**
“From the four corners of the earth”

- **Fueled by a hatred for the people of God!**
“Gog and Magog” cf. Ezek. 38-39 Pagan archetypal enemies of the covenant nation

- **Multitudinous!** “whose number is as the sand of the sea”

2. The Gathering – The Church Surrounded!

vv. 8b-9a

(1) **The Nature of the “Last Battle”** *“They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city.”*

-1- **It is framed in military terms:**

- Enemy troops surrounding a camp of soldiers
- Enemy troops about to lay siege to a city

-2- **It is a description of final judgment**

- cf. 16:14-16 “the battle of that great day of God Almighty”
- The final “crescendo” of a long-standing spiritual war
“Armageddon” - The final “battlefield” is the whole earth

(2) The Church Described

-1- **As a company in the wilderness** *“the camp of the saints”*

-2- **As a place of refuge and safety** *“the beloved city”*

3. The End – All Unbelief Crushed!

vv. 9b-10

(1) **Immediate Destruction!** *“And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire where the beast and false prophet are.”*

- **The unbelieving put to death!**

cf. 19:21

They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

- **The devil dispatched to hell!**

- Cast into the lake of fire cf. 19:20

- Thus, the “satanic” trinity is judged

- All at the same time. The episodes of 19:17-21 and 20:7-10 are simultaneous

(2) **Endless Torment!** *“They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”*

-“**The lake of fire**” - Not literal fire (since Satan is a spiritual being)
- The “fire” is a punishment that is not physical but spiritual in nature

- **The “torment”**

- Conscious suffering – especially spiritual and psychological suffering

- **The judgment of all unbelievers** // 14:9-11

Further Application