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| **Grant Street Baptist Church** | **Sermon Notes** |
| **Jeremy Beck** | **October 6, 2021** |

Title: *“Love is Free Will”*

Scripture: Revelation 20:1-15

Eschatology = the study of end times

Premillennial = the belief that Christ’s second coming will occur prior to His millennial kingdom and that the millennial kingdom is a literal 1000-year reign  
Postmillennial = the belief that Christ will return after Christians, not Christ Himself, have established the kingdom on this earth  
Amillennial = the belief that there is no millennium at all. They just do not believe in a literal millennium—a literal 1000-year reign of Christ on earth. Instead, they believe that Christ is now sitting on the throne of David and that this present church age is the kingdom over which Christ reigns.  
Pretribulationism = the belief that the Rapture will occur before the Tribulation begins

Midtribulationism = the belief that the Rapture will occur at the midpoint of the Tribulation

Posttribulationism = the belief that the Rapture will occur at the end of the Tribulation

Message: **1. The Free Will of Satan** (vs’ 1-3, 10)

1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven (this angel is not identified, but some believe it is Michael as he is the protector of Israel), having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. 3He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time (one of the saddest statements in the book of the Revelation…Satan is allowed to deceive people once more).

10And the devil, who deceived them (from his beginning in Heaven to the end of the Revelation, Satan’s nature has remained the same…the master of deception), was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur (the final place of torment), where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever (eternity).

**2. The Free Will of Saints** (vs’ 4-6)

4I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge (the saints of God will rule this earth with Christ…the capital will be Jerusalem and will be greatly enlarged [Isaiah 2:24, Jeremiah 31:38-40]…will truly be a time of “world peace”…no more sickness or death…children will be born during this period [Jeremiah 30:20]…Christianity will be the universal religion). And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended (the lost have their spirits in Hades/Hell and their bodies are still in the grave). This is the first resurrection (first = resurrection of the bodies of the saints that have died…reference to vs 4). 6Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death (the judgment of the Lake of Fire for eternity for the lost) has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

**3. The Free Will of Sinners** (vs’ 7-9, 11-15)

7When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison 8and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore (Satan will deceive many of those born during the millennial reign…they lived in a perfect world with no sin, but still had the free will to choose to rebel against God). 9They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God’s people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them (fire rained down from Heaven and devoured them…there will be no sign of them left).

11Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. (The second resurrection = resurrection of the bodies of the lost that have died) 14Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire. (Great White throne judgment is the final judgment of the lost as they have been reunited with their bodies and then will be cast into the Lake of Fire…the place of eternal torment…after the Great White throne judgment, the present heavens and earth will be destroyed and replaced by the new heaven and earth)

Application:

* Love is Free Will
* The Free Will of Satan = from his beginning in Heaven, throughout the 1,000 year prison term, he still chooses to reject God and deceive as many people as possible before his ultimate punishment into the Lake of Fire for eternity
* The Free Will of Saints = for those that made the choice to choose to love God back we have an eternity in Heaven waiting for us, a kingdom to rule with Christ and a mercy gift to save us from the wrath of God
* The Free Will of Sinners = even in a perfect world with no sin, the free will of humanity will still choose self over the Savior due to pride that they will be deceived by

Sheol = the place of the dead (Old Testament term)

* Hades = temporary holding place of the lost (prison of darkness)
* Paradise (park of God) = temporary holding place of the saints (presence of God)
* Lake of Fire/Hell = place of burning sulfur, and those in it experience eternal, unspeakable agony of an unrelenting nature…final place of eternal torment

1. [Matthew 7:15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+7:15#en-NIV-23332) : [Eze 22:27; Ac 20:29](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezek%2022:27,%20Acts%2020:29&version=NIV)