

The Little Season, an End Time Event

The phrase “**little season**” is found in the Book of **Revelation 20:3**.

Let’s read this verse.

Revelation 20:3 (NKJV) 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**.

This is the verse that many preachers today run to in an attempt to explain the nearness of the Return of Jesus. They are teaching their congregations that the reason for so much evil in our world today is because we are living in the time of the “**little season**”.

It is being said that the devil has been loosed out of his prison and is deceiving all the nations, which are in the four quarters of the Earth, to gather them together for the last great battle before the Lord Jesus returns and the judgment of God comes upon them.

Is this really what the Bible teaches or is this a manmade doctrine that church tradition has been saying for hundreds of years?

It is only after all Scripture has been examined that true Bible doctrine can be established. Let's read **Revelation 20:8**.

Revelation 20:8 *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.*

All of the nation's spoken of here are not all of the countries of our modern world, but the Roman armies which consisted of the nations of the Empire of Rome which existed back in the first century.

The Prophet Ezekiel speaks of this same event in **Ezekiel 7:2-3,6,15**. He says very clearly that the end is come unto the land of Israel.

Ezekiel 7:2-3 (NKJV) 2 *“And you, son of man, thus says the Lord God **to the land of Israel**: ‘An end! The end has come upon the four corners of **the land**. 3 Now the end has come upon you, And I will send My anger against you; I will judge you according to your ways, And I will repay you for all your abominations.*

6 *An end has come, The end has come; It has dawned for you; Behold, it has come!*

15 *The sword is outside, And the pestilence and famine within. Whoever is in the field Will die by the sword; And whoever is in the city, Famine and pestilence will devour him.*

This is the time of the end for Israel.

Ezekiel gives a clear description of this Judgment against Israel at the hands of Gog and Magog (Roman armies) in **Ezekiel 38:14-19, 22-23**.

*¹⁴ “Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “On that day when **My people Israel** dwell safely, will you not know it?*

*¹⁵ Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army. ¹⁶ **You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land**, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes.” ¹⁷ Thus says the Lord God: “Are you he of whom I have spoken in former days by My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied for years in those days that I would bring you against them? ¹⁸ “And it will come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against **the land of Israel**,” says the Lord God, “that My fury will show in My face. ¹⁹ For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: ‘Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel,*

Notice the timetable given in **verse 16**; it says this event shall happen in the latter days.

Let’s examine the end-time events that were happening in the first century.

First of all, the only end the Bible ever spoke of was, not the end of the physical planet Earth, but was the end of the Covenant that God made with the Nation of Israel at Mt. Sinai.

There is no phrase “**end of time**” found anywhere in the Bible, however; the phrase “**the time of the end**” is found in the Scriptures. **Daniel 12:4,9.**

*Daniel 12:4 “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until **the time of the end**; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”*

*9 And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till **the time of the end**.”*

This was the end of the Old Covenant that God had with Israel.

In **Matthew 24**, in **Mark 13**, and in **Luke 21**, Jesus spoke about the events to take place in the generation to whom He was speaking. He said in each chapter that “**this generation would not pass**” until all the events He mentioned happened and were fulfilled. (**Matthew 24:34, Mark 13:30, Luke 21:32**)

In **Matthew 24:3**, the Apostles asked Jesus about His coming again and the end of the world. What most church people don’t understand is that the word “**world**” used here is not referring to the planet Earth but comes from the Greek word “**aion**” which means “**age**”.

The New King James Version along with many other translations have rendered the word correctly as ‘**AGE**’ and Not **WORLD**’

Matthew 24:3 (NKJV) 3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

There are two ages in the Bible, the one that they were living in at that time in the first century which ended in AD 70. The other age is the one that began in AD 70 and is eternal and everlasting, which means that it has no end.

The Scriptures tell us that Satan’s power was limited when Jesus began His Earthly ministry in the first century.

This is recorded in **Luke 10:18** when Jesus said that He beheld Satan fall as lightning from heaven. Here, heaven does not mean a geographical location called heaven, but Satan fell from his place of authority and influence.

Luke 10:18 And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven”.

Malachi 3:1 tells that Jesus was the messenger of a new eternal everlasting covenant. (**Jeremiah 32:40, Ezekiel 37:26-27**)

Malachi 3:1 “Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the Lord of hosts.

Jeremiah 32:40 And ***I will make an everlasting covenant with them***, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me.

Ezekial 37:26-27, 26 Moreover ***I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them***; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. **27** My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

We read about this event again in **Revelation 20:1**. The angel that came from heaven was Jesus who was, the messenger of the New Covenant.

Revelation 20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, ***having the key to the bottomless pit*** and a great chain in his hand.

The key was the authority Jesus had, and the chain was the power to bind or limit Satan for a **“little season”** until the time of redemption was fulfilled in AD 70.

Now, let's take a closer look at the phrase “little season”.

To get a clear understanding of the true Biblical meaning of the phrase **“little season”**, let's look at some other examples where the Bible uses the word **“season”**.

As we take a closer look at the word **“season”**, we can clearly see that the meaning is **“a short time”**.

For example, **John 5:35** refers to the public ministry of John the Baptist which only lasted around one year culminating at the baptism of Jesus.

John 5:35 (KJV) *He was the burning and a shining light, and you were willing for **a season** to rejoice in his light.*

This was considered a short amount of time or season.

In **Acts 13:11**, we see another example where the word “**season**” denotes a short amount of time.

Here Saul of Tarsus was blind for only 3 days.

Acts 13:11 *And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun **for a season**. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.*

In **Acts 19:22**, we see the word “**season**” used here to denote a two-year period when Paul stayed in Asia preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Acts 19:22 *So he sent into Macedonia two of them that ministered unto him, Timotheus and Erastus; but he himself stayed in Asia for **a season**.*

2 Corinthians 7:8, we see another example of the word “**season**” denoting a short period of time.

2 Corinthians 7:8 *For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but **for a season**.*

The word “**season**” is also used in **1 Peter 1:6** to denote a temporary short amount of time. There are many other similar examples that can be found in the Scriptures of this same denotation of the word “**season**”. It always meant a “**short amount of time**”.

1 Peter 1:6 *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now **for a season**, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*

Now, let's look at the two examples that we have in the Bible of the use of the phrase “**long season**”.

The first example is found in **Luke 23:8**. Here we read how Herod Antipas wanted to meet Jesus for “a long season”.

Luke 23:8 *And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of **a long season**, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.*

Herod Antipas took overruling the region of Galilee when his father, Herod the Great, died. No doubt, Herod began hearing about Jesus and his ministry because he was hoping to see some miracles done by him.

This means that the meaning of “**a long season**” used here could only mean a period of approximately 3 ½ years.

The only other Biblical example of the phrase “**a long season**” is found in **Joshua 24:7**.

Joshua 24:7 *And when they cried unto the Lord, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea upon them, and covered them; and your eyes have seen what I have done in Egypt: and ye dwelt in the wilderness **a long season**.*

Here the forty years that Israel wandered in the wilderness was called “**a long season**”. This is important because now we have a definite time parameter or reference point as to what is considered to be “**a long season**” and what is considered to be “**a short season**”.

According to the Scriptures, forty years was considered “**a long season**”. This means that the “**little season**” of Satan being loosed should not exceed 40 years.

Notice that our study of the Biblical use of the word “**season**” meant a short amount of time. Adding the word “**little**” in front of the word “**season**”, makes this short amount of time **even shorter**.

The thousand years mentioned in **Revelation 20:2-3** was **NOT** a literal thousand-year time period but was an “uncertain affinity or similarity” which is used figuratively here.

The English word “**thousand**” comes from the Greek word “**chiloi**” which can figuratively mean “a time of wholeness or completion”.

From AD 30 – AD 70, the Old Covenant was transitioning to the New Everlasting Covenant.

Hebrews 13:8 *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

The one-thousand-year Millennial Reign of Christ is **NOT in the Scriptures.**

Jesus never spoke of it, nor did the Apostles. **1 Corinthians 13:10** said, when perfection arrived, that which was unnecessary would be done away with. When Jesus returned in AD 70, that Last Day's generation had come to an end.

1 Corinthians 13:10 *But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.*

The “**little season**” was a short period of time after the thousand-year time of completion that Satan was loosed out of his prison of bondage.

He then went out to deceive the nations to gather them together in a place called Armageddon. (**Revelation 16:16**) Here they prepared for battle against the Holy City.

In **Revelation 20:9-10**, the Bible said that fire came down from God and destroyed them. In **verse 10**, we read how the devil also was destroyed.

This fulfilled the Scriptures in **Genesis 3:15**, in **Romans 16:20** and in **Hebrews 2:14**.

Genesis 3:15 *And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”*

Romans 16:20 *And the God of peace **will crush Satan under your feet shortly**. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.*

Hebrews 2:14 *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death **He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil**,*

The devil knew that he had a short time.

Revelation 12:12 *Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that **he has a short time**.*”

Matthew 8:29 *And suddenly they cried out, saying, “What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us **before the time**?”*

Their time had come to an end.

The devil and all of his demons were all destroyed.

Matthew 25:41 *“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire **prepared for the devil and his angels**:’*

Conclusion

When we examine the Scripture in the light of audience relevance and in the light of all other Scriptural passages, the Bible is very clear about the end of a covenantal relationship that God had with the Nation of Israel and that all written prophecies have been fulfilled.

Luke 21:22 *For **these are the days of vengeance**, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.*

The destruction of the devil occurred almost 2,000 years ago. There is no **“little season”** that exist today. Wickedness and evil that are here today is **NOT** because we are in Satan’s **“little season”**.

The extreme wickedness and evil that we see in our world today is because the carnal sinful nature of humanity is still here and has been here since the Garden of Eden.

Jeremiah 17:9 *“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?”*

Romans 7:20-24, 20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. **21** I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. **22** For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. **23** But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. **24** O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

There is no doubt that outside the Kingdom of God there exist all manner of sin and wickedness.

Revelation 22:14-15, 14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. **15** **But outside are** dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

As we look back through history, we can see extreme evil and sin that has been in our world throughout every passing generation.

It was not Satan's "**little season**" back then and it is not Satan's "**little season**" now because Satan has been destroyed.

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