

24 – Evil in Chains



1

When the Devil Can Tempt No More



2

A group of Arctic explorers were stranded on a rocky, barren island. Their supplies were rapidly running out. They had eaten their last few morsels of food. Their fuel supply was low. The temperature was dropping fast and they were freezing. They prepared themselves for the worst. They knew that death would come soon.



3

Just when they were giving up hope, one of the dying explorers noticed a puff of smoke on the horizon. Someone had picked up their short-wave radio signal. Help was on the way! Deliverance was coming! The puff of smoke on the horizon was all they needed to encourage them to hang on. Soon the long nightmare of that horrible ordeal would be over. Soon they would be secure in the warmth of the rescue vessel, and then soon after they would be home. Home at last!



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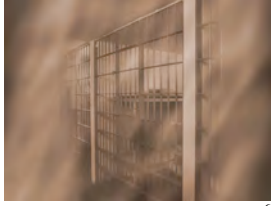
The last book of the Bible, Revelation, reveals that help is on the way. The long nightmare of sin will be over. Soon we, too, will be delivered. We will be delivered, and Satan will be imprisoned. We will be set free, and Satan will be bound. We will be caught up in the sky to meet Jesus, and Satan will be chained by circumstances to this earth. We will receive the sentence of eternal life, and Satan and his followers will receive the sentence of eternal destruction.



5

Especially long sentences are often handed down to express the outrageousness of a terrible crime. A sentence of three or four life sentences is handed down with no expectation that it could ever be served in full.

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6

The exceptionally long sentence expresses the outrage of society for particularly terrible crimes.



7

But soon the day is coming when a Judge will hand down a sentence of 1,000 years and the criminal will serve out every day of that sentence!

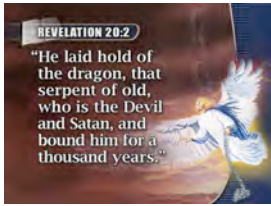
Listen to these words from the Bible:



8

(Text: Revelation 20:1-3)

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



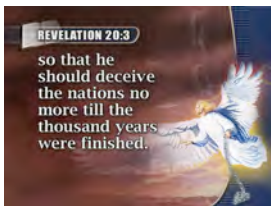
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He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;



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and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him,



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

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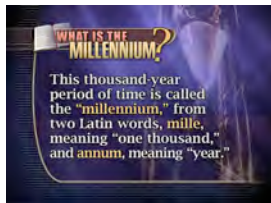


12

But after these things he must be released for a little while.”
Revelation 20:1-3.



Here we find that God has a plan to deal with the greatest criminal this universe has ever known: a criminal who’s been directly involved in every sin and crime ever committed on this earth. He will be imprisoned for 1,000 years!
Sometimes this time period is referred to as the Millennium.



14

What is the Millennium? This thousand-year period of time is called the “millennium,” from two Latin words, mille, meaning “one thousand,” and annum, meaning “year.”



15

To be able to understand this prophecy and fully understand its significance, we need to find out how it starts and ends and what happens during the period in between.
Let me make a statement now, and then I will proceed to prove that statement’s truthfulness from the Scriptures.



16

The millennium is marked on either end by a resurrection:

- 1) The resurrection of life at the beginning of that period,
and

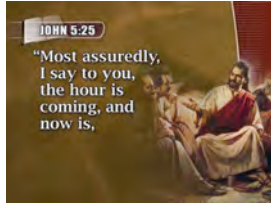


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- 2) the resurrection of damnation at the end of the time.

Let’s look at how the Bible describes these resurrections.

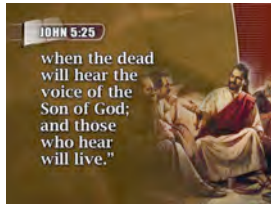
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(Text: John 5:25)

One day when Jesus was teaching His disciples about death, He said:

“Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming and now is,

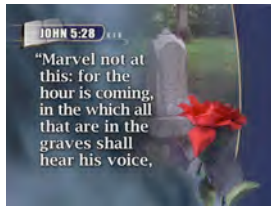


when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.”

John 5:25.

I know that will come as a surprise to some of you, because you thought that only the righteous dead would be raised. But here Jesus teaches that all the dead will be resurrected!

Notice how Christ elaborates on this in the 28th and 29th verses of this same chapter:



(Text: John 5:28, 29)

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,



“and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life;



and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”

John 5:28, 29 KJV

Notice the two resurrections.

First, the resurrection of those who have done good, and the second one—the resurrection of damnation.



(Text: Revelation 20:5, 6)

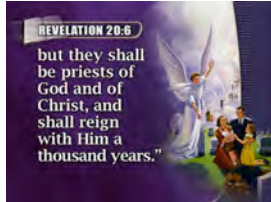
The book of Revelation is very clear about what distinguishes these resurrections: “This is the first resurrection.

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24

Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power,



25

but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years." Revelation 20:5, 6.



This is in harmony with what Paul told the Thessalonians. Notice how He describes the second coming of Christ.



27

(Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17)
"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel,



28

and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.



29

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

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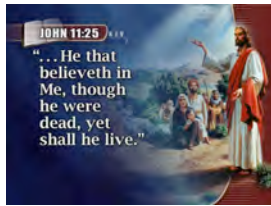
30

And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” Verses 16, 17.



31

What a glorious description of the resurrection. You will notice that the dead in Christ will be raised first, and then the followers of Christ who are alive will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air!



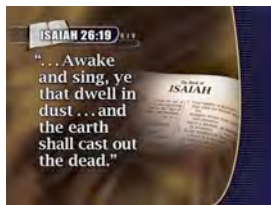
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(Text: John 11:25)
On that day will be fulfilled the promise made by Jesus, “He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.”
John 11:25.



33

Yes, the righteous dead will be raised from their graves when Christ returns.



34

(Text: Isaiah 26:19)
Isaiah describes this joyous event: “Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: . . . and the earth shall cast out the dead.”
Isaiah 26:19.
What a glorious day that will be!



35

Mothers being reunited with their babies who died.
Husbands and wives reunited.
Sons and daughter reunited with Mom and Dad!
Could the scene be any more moving?

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(Text: John 14:2, 3)

Then the wonderful promise Christ made so long ago will be fulfilled: "I go to prepare a place for you.



And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself,



that where I am, there you may be also.”

John 14:2, 3

This is where the saved will spend the millennium!



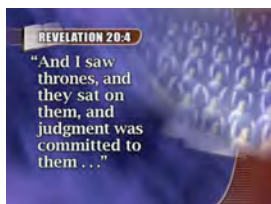
(Text: Revelation 20:6)

What will we be doing? John tells us: "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.” Revelation 20:6.

Aside from the unspeakable joy of fellowship with Christ and His followers, John gives more insight as to what they will be doing during the millennium:



(Text: Revelation 20:4)

“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them.”

Revelation 20:4.

The all-wise, all-powerful God of the universe has included feeble men and women in the solemn task of judging fallen angels and the unsaved.

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(Text: 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3)

Paul states: "Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?..."



43

Do you not know that we shall judge angels?"

1 Corinthians 6:2, 3.



44

Everyone will have the opportunity to see that God is just and loving and fair.

For thousands of years Satan has leveled the accusation that God is unfair, unloving, and unjust.

But why would we need to judge the evil angels and the wicked sinners?

Haven't they been judged before Christ comes?



45

True, but have you ever wondered what your reaction might be if you looked for someone in heaven whom you expected to find there – only to discover he or she is lost forever?

You might question the fairness of God's justice.



46

During the millennium, the records of the lost will be opened.

The most guarded secrets and purposes harbored in each mind will be exposed.

God's love and justice will be affirmed.



47

(Text: Revelation 16:7)

Those inspecting the records will be left with only one response:

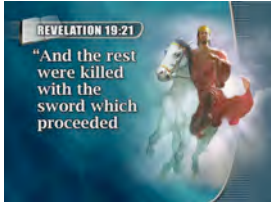
"Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments." Revelation 16:7.

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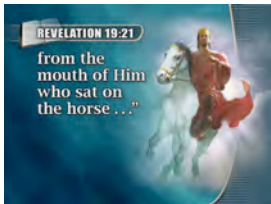
You may be wondering what happened to those who were living when Christ comes, but did not accept salvation. Revelation chapter 19 describes the second coming of Christ and the destruction of the unsaved in these words:



49

(Text: Revelation 19:21)

“And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded



50

from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse...” Revelation 19:21



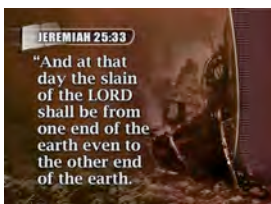
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There is no way that the lost will be able to stand before the glory of the coming Christ with all of His holy angels.



52

One angel came to the tomb of Jesus, and the Roman soldiers became as dead men.

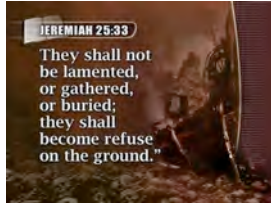


53

(Text: Jeremiah 25:33)

The Bible says, “And at that day the slain of the Lord shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth.

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54

They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground.” Jeremiah 25:33.



At the second coming of Christ, the righteous are resurrected and translated to meet Christ in the clouds,



and the unsaved will be slain by the brightness of His coming—by “the sword that goes out of His mouth.”

Someone is going to ask the question, “What about the unsaved who are still in their graves?”

The answer is given in the fifth verse of Revelation, chapter 20:



57

(Text: Revelation 20:5)

“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished...”

The pieces of the puzzle are starting to come together. We are starting to see the picture of the biblical millennium.



58

These are the events that take place at Christ’s coming

1. Jesus will return, with all of the holy angels (Matthew 25:31).



59

2. The dead in Christ will rise first (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

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60

3. The living saved are caught up to meet Jesus in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17).



61

4. The saved go home with Jesus and reign with Him for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:4, 6).



62

5. The unsaved are slain by the brightness of the coming of Christ (Jeremiah 25:33).



63

6. The wicked dead are not raised until after the 1,000 years. (Revelation 20:5).



64

7. Satan is bound for the 1,000 years by a chain of circumstances – no one to tempt or destroy!



65

The righteous are in heaven, and all the wicked are dead. Everyone is gone! Everywhere, there is ruin (Jeremiah 4:23-26).

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66

This earth becomes the devil's prison.
The Bible says that Satan was put into a bottomless pit for the millennium.
How is he chained?
By a chain of circumstances that make it impossible for him to tempt and destroy anyone for 1,000 years.



67

Those who are lost perish at Christ's coming, or they remain in the grave until the thousand years are over.



68

The saved are all with Christ for the thousand years.



69

The devil has only his evil angels to tempt and mislead, and they, after 6,000 years, are as bad as he is.



70

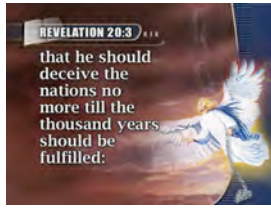
This earth becomes his prison.
He wanted to show how he would rule the world, so he took the dominion from Adam and Eve by deceit, but now everyone will be able to see what kind of a ruler he really is!



71

(Text: Revelation 20:3)
You will remember that Rev. 20:3 says:
“And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him,

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that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled:



and after that he must be loosed a little season.”

The Greek word translated “bottomless pit” is “abussos.” From this word we have the English word “abyss.”

“Abussos” is equivalent to the Hebrew word used in the Old Testament to describe the world in its chaotic state before creation.



(Text: Jeremiah 4:23)

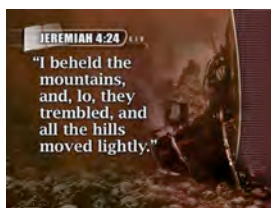
It is this same word used in the book of Jeremiah:

“I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form and void; and the heavens, and they had no light.”

Jeremiah 4:23.

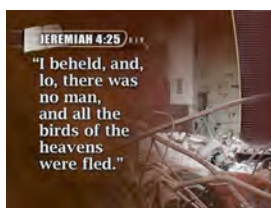


Yes, this world, devastated by the plagues and the destruction at the second coming is going to be an “abussos” or “bottomless pit.” It’s going to be a dark place! Now, notice what else Jeremiah has to say about the earth at this time:



(Text: Jeremiah 4:24, 25)

“I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly.



I beheld and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled.”

Jeremiah 4:24, 25.

You will notice that it said, “There was no man.”

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(Text: Jeremiah 4:26)
Again Jeremiah says, "I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness,



and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by His fierce anger." Verses 26, 27.



That certainly sounds like a grim place to be sentenced to for 1,000 years, wouldn't you say?
Satan and the wicked angels have nothing to do but wander to and fro on the dark, devastated, lonely planet and reflect on the results of their rebellion against God!



Now let us review the events that take place during the millennium:

1. The earth is desolate and devastated.

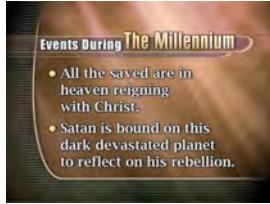


2. All the unsaved are dead, slain by the brightness of Jesus' coming.



3. All the saved are in heaven, reigning with Christ.

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4. Satan is bound on this dark, devastated planet to reflect on his rebellion.



85

Will Satan change?

What about the angels he led into rebellion?

Will they have a change of heart?

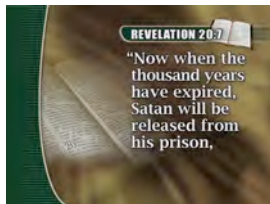
The millennium will demonstrate to the universe that if the devil, his angels, and those who have chosen to follow him on this earth were given another chance, they would make the same decision and choose the same master.



86

They would reject the plan of salvation even though they had a thousand chances to accept it.

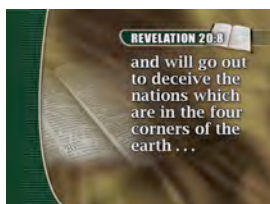
What does the Bible say about their choice?



87

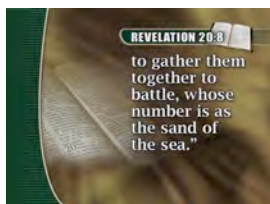
(Text: Revelation 20:7, 8)

The answer is given in Revelation 20:7, 8: “Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison



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and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth . . .



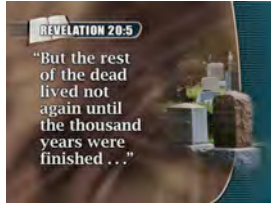
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to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.”

Revelation 20:7, 8.

Perhaps you are wondering where all these people will come from who are going to be in this battle.

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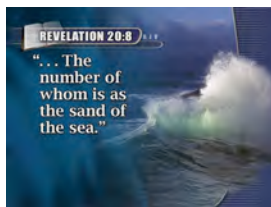
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(Text: Revelation 20:5)

Remember, we read in the 20th chapter of Revelation, verse 5:
"But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished."



Yes, the rest of the dead or the unsaved dead are raised in the resurrection of damnation at the end of the millennium.
What a sight it will be to see the wicked dead raised to life – a vast number of all the wicked from Adam's day to the second advent.



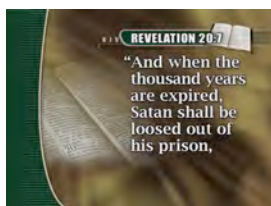
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(Text: Revelation 20:8)

John says, "The number of whom is as the sand of the sea."
Revelation 20:8.



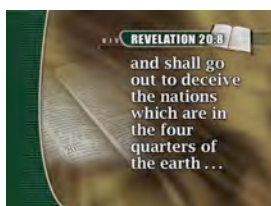
At this same time the Holy City, New Jerusalem, with Christ and the saved, comes to earth at the end of the millennium!
This City will become the target of Satan's wrath, for the Bible says,



94

(Text: Revelation 20:7, 8)

"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,



95

and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth . . .

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96

To gather them together to battle.”
Revelation 20:7, 8.



97

Now Satan and his evil angels go out to deceive the wicked again!
They haven't changed one bit!
Again the unsaved choose Satan as their leader.
The devil marshals them into one vast army bent on taking the New Jerusalem by force.
This is earth's last battle!
The mighty army, under the rebel angel's leadership, advances!



98

Let's read what the Bible says will happen:



99

(Text: Revelation 20:9)
“They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city.



100

And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.”
Revelation 20:9.



101

The battle is over! How sad when it could have been so different!
What happens to the devil? The Bible tells us:

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102

(Text: Revelation 20:10, 14, 15)

“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone....



103

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



104

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

Revelation 20:10, 14, 15.

Peter saw this fire in vision and wrote:



105

(Text: 2 Peter 3:10)

“...The heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat,

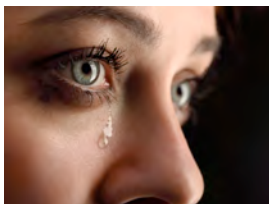


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the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”

2 Peter 3:10

Satan, his evil angels, and sinners will then be forever gone!



107

We may have relatives, friends, or acquaintances whom we love dearly who will be gone forever.

Of course, we will cry. How could it be otherwise?

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(Text: Revelation 21:4)

But, the good news is: “And God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, there shall be no more death,



nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

Revelation 21:4.



What a glorious eternity God promises the saved!

The human mind cannot comprehend the glory and beauty of the paradise that God is preparing for those who love and are willing to follow Him!

And to think that all of this, the wicked could have enjoyed, but the price seemed too high!

They were unwilling to choose Christ as their Savior and Lord.

Which group will you be in on that day, my friend?

When that day comes, it will be too late to change sides.

The only way to be absolutely sure that you are among the righteous at the end of the millennium is to give your heart and life entirely to Jesus now – TODAY!



Is there anything in this world worth missing heaven for? Is there anything in this world worth missing eternity for? Tonight is God speaking to your heart? Perhaps there is something in your heart, something in your life that has been holding you back from making a decision for Jesus. But tonight you see the beauties of heaven, and the glories of eternity, and you say, “God, I don’t want anything to hold me back. I want to surrender everything to Jesus. I just want to fully commit my life to you tonight.” If that is your desire tonight, I invite you to stand together with me tonight. Tonight I want to have a special prayer for those of you who are making decisions. Some of you are making decisions to dedicate your life to Jesus in baptism. I want to have prayer for you right here at the front. Some of you have wandered from Christ and now you want to rededicate your life to Him through rebaptism. If you’ve sensed God’s voice calling you to follow Him all the way

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in Bible baptism, just slip out from your rows wherever you are and make your way here to face me here in the front. Don't put off such an important decision. Now is the time to choose where we will be during the millennium.

When we make a decision to follow Christ, we're saying, "Jesus, I'm yours. Jesus I want to follow you. Jesus I love you with all my heart. I believe I've found the truth of your word. I want to be a part of your commandment-keeping, Sabbath-keeping people. I want to unite with those around the world who are making this decision. Lord this is my desire, this is my heart cry, this is my plea."

There are those tonight that are thinking about this decision. It's a decision you're struggling with. You sense God leading you, but it's hard to step out. If you want me to pray for you, if you're not quite ready to make that decision, but you want me to pray for you, just come forward. There are some of you who have a problem in your life, it's too big, you don't know how to deal with it. Perhaps you feel it stands between you and making the decision you know is the right decision. I want to pray for you tonight. Just come forward and join us as we pray.

[Join those who come forward in front for prayer, dedicating those who have made decisions to the Lord and praying for victory for those still struggling.]
