Main Thought: To begin the Millennium, PUNISHMENTS (SATAN – 1-3) and REWARDS (SAINTS – 4-6) are given. The Millennial REIGN (6b). To end the Millennium, Satan (the final rebellion – 7-10) and the WICKED are judged (Great White Throned Judgment – 11-15).

The Final Rebellion

The Perpetrator (7). At the end of the millennium, Satan is released for a short time from the ABBSS (GK = a [neg.] buthos [deep]) – the bottomless pit (lit.) that contained demons (9:1-3; Luke 8:30-31); an angel was given the KEY and a GREAT CHAIN (Peter – Acts 12:6; Paul – 2 Tim. 1:16).

The Purpose (8).
• Satan is given one last chance to deceive the nations (Rev. 12:9; 13:14; 19:20).
• The deceived were those born in the millennium who never accepted Christ for they had original sin that needed redemption.
• In spite of Satan’s absence and Christ reigning (Isa. 11:9), they were born sinners in need of salvation. Soul winning is ongoing.
• It is astounding to realize the hardness of man’s heart after experiencing “heaven on earth” (Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 1:21).
• Equally astounding is the sheer numbers of those deceived!
• They prepared for battle against Christ. It was similar to the Battle of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38-39), but not the fulfillment of it. There is no consensus as to it’s timing but likely at the beginning of the tribulation.

The Provocation (9a).
• This rebellion marched from the four corners of the earth to make war against Jerusalem (Rev. 16:14; 17:14; 19:19).
• They completely encircled Jerusalem (Psa. 22:16). Satan will not quit.
• Jerusalem was the city of God’s people that he loves (Psa. 78:68; 87:2).

The Punishment (9b-10).
• But in a instant, in a moment, like Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:24), the sons of Korah (Num. 16:35), and Gog and Magog (Ezek. 38:22), God will rain down fire from heaven upon them and consume them (Psa. 11:6).
• The devil has been tossed around. He was (1) cast out of heaven (12:9); (2) thrown into the abyss (20:3); (3) and now finally thrown into the lake of burning sulfur day and night forever and ever.
• The beast (antichrist) and the false prophet were still there in hell – its first occupants (19:20). Now they are joined by the devil.
• It is (1) the eternal FIRE prepared for the devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41); (2) eternal PUNISHMENT (Jude 7); (3) place of TORMENT (14:10); (4) OUTER DARKNESS with weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 8:12; 22:13; 25:30).