

11/5/23

Revelation 20

The seven years of Tribulation and Great-Tribulation are over, and Babylon has been judged by God, both religious and commercial. Ch.17-18

The marriage of the Lamb has taken place in heaven, the Lord Jesus has returned with His bride and destroyed the kingdoms of this world in the war of Armageddon, the marriage supper of the Lamb has occurred on earth, and Jesus is ready to set up the Kingdom. Rev. 19:7-9. 11-21

Every Jew acknowledged the present age of man and sin, as well as the age to come, the Millennium, when the Messiah would set up His throne in Jerusalem.

1. This is why the disciples of Jesus had such a difficult time understanding and excepting the death and ascension of Jesus.
2. This is why James and John believed Jesus was going to fulfill this as He set His face toward Jerusalem, so in their own self-serving manner asked Jesus if they might have the right and left hand when He reigned. Mk. 10:35-45

That day takes place now, as Jesus is ready to set up the Golden Age, the Millennium. Rev. 20

* The stone cut out without hands strikes the image at the feet and destroys it and fills the whole earth, this is

the establishing of the Kingdom Age, the Millennium. Dan. 2:35, 43-45

There will be no more wars as the weapons of war are converted into implements of cultivating the land, “they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” Is. 2:1-4

* No more hospitals, mental institutions or psychologist and Jesus will rule from the capital city Jerusalem, the twelve apostles will sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel and all the nations of the world will come to worship Jesus, in the Millennial temple. Ezk. 40-48

But Jesus first reveals to John the need of handling some important details to begin the 1,000 year reign.

We have seen in our series on the Millennial that it is literal, lasting for one-thousand years “chiloi”.

* All the major and minor prophets prophesied about the Millennium, six times “one-thousand years is stated”, sometimes called Chiliasm. vs. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

1. The earth will go through a renovation bringing about abundant fruitfulness of the earth.
2. The ferocious nature of the animals will be reverted back to the pre-Adamic fall; a child will lead a lion and play with a serpent.
3. The nation of Israel will occupy the Kingdom Age in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies and

those who excepted Christ as their Savior and survived the Great-Tribulation.

4. Jesus will rule and reign as King, Priest and Prophet, with possibly the vice-regency of David and delegated authority to lesser ruling governors.

20:1-6 The binding of Satan is bound and the tribulation saints reign.

20:1-3 The heavenly angel to bind Satan for the duration of the Millennium.

1) The vision of John revealed the time is at the beginning of the Millennium, “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.” vs. 1

a) The phrase “I saw” appears thirty-nine times in the Revelation,.

1)) Eleven are found from chapter nineteen to twenty-two, taking us from His coming to the eternal state.

2)) This reveals to us a chronological unfolding, even though some deny it.

b) The angel coming down is not identified, it could be Michael, but he has the keys to the bottomless pit “abussos abyss”, the shaft in the earth leading where demons are bound. Rev. 9.1-2; 11:7; 17:8

c) Satan is bound with a great chain “halysis” by Divine authority, the word is

used for the demon poossed man, Peter and Paul. Mk. 5:3; Acts 12:7; 28:20

2) The vision of John revealed the specific time is temporary, “He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and **bound** him for a thousand years.” vs. 2

a) The four-fold identification, dragon the destroyer, serpent the deceiver, Devil the slanderer and accuser, Satan the adversary!

b) The thousand years are literal, appearing six times to spiritualize the Millennium or deny it is wrong! vs. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

c) The Amellennialist teach there is no 1,000 year Kingdom and spiritualize it, this was introduced in the 4th century by a Dontatist named Tyconius, who, taught that there is no such teaching about a literal millennium on the earth and spiritualize it, teaching that the reign of Christ is the age of the church, from the resurrection of Christ until his parousia.

d) Augustine took the 1,000 years to be figure and symbolic, it is the teaching of the Catholic Church.

1)) They cross reference Second Peter when he says that with the Lord a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years as a day. 2Pet. 3:8

- 2)) Peter is using the phrase figurative to emphasize the patience of God to save sinners, but to interpret Revelation as figurative by Peter is bad exposition.
- d) Post-Millennist teach that after 1,000 years from the ascension Christ would return and now believe the Church will convert the world and usher in the Kingdom, known as Kingdom Theology.
- e) Pre-Millennialist believe in a literal 1,000 year Kingdom on earth, after the Second Coming, we at Calvary Chapel Pasadena are Pre-Tribulation, Pre-Millennialists.
Is. 2:2-4; 11:4-9; Ps. 72
- * Every one of the church fathers held to the teaching of an earthly, historical reign of peace that was to follow the defeat of the Antichrist, the physical resurrection of the saints, the judgment of the unbeliever and the eternal state, until Augustine, who took it figurative as the church age.
- 3) The vision of John revealed it is a time to remove Satan's evil influence, "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." vs. 3a-d
- a) Satan will no not control nations. Rev. 12:3, 4, 7 (2x's), 9, 13, 16, 17

- b) Satan will not deceive nations. Rev. 12:9, 14, 15; 20:2
 - c) Satan will not accuse or oppose nations. Rev. 12:9; 20:2, 7
 - d) All nations are deceived by Satan today, He is the god of this world and the prince and power of the air. 2Cor. 4:4; Eph 2:2
 - 4) The vision of John revealed the time Satan will be released, "But after these things he must be released for a little while." vs. 3e
 - a) This is at the end of the Millennial.
 - b) This is only for a short time.
- 20:4-5** The judgments and first resurrection.
- 1) The vision of John revealed various judgments that will take place first, "And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them." vs. 4a
 - a) Paul told the Corinthians believers will judge angels on these thrones. 1Cor. 6:3
 - b) Jesus told the 12 apostles that in the regeneration, the Kingdom Age, when He sat on His throne in glory they would sit on 12 thrones and judge the 12 tribes of Israel. Matt. 19:28
 - c) Jesus will judge the nations, separating the sheep from the goats, for how they treated the Jews during the 7 year tribulation. Matt. 25:32

- d) God will judge and reconcile the Remnant of Israel, passing under His rod. Ezk. 20:33-37; Dan. 7:9-10, 22
- e) Angel are not the ones on the thrones because God has not put in subjection the world to come to them. Heb. 2:5
- 2) The vision of John revealed the raising and position of the martyres of the Great-Tribulation in the Millenium, “Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.” vs. 4
 - a) The Tribulation saints beheaded are under the fifth seal. Rev. 6:9-11; 13:12-16
 - b) The terms means beheaded with an ax.
- 3) The vision of John revealed when the unblievers are raised, “But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished.” vs. 5a
 - * This is called the White Throne Judgment. vs. 11-15
- 4) The vision of John revealed the event of the raising of the tribulation saints. vs. 5b-6
 - a) John revealed the interpretation, “This is the first resurrection.” vs. 5b
 - 1)) Jesus is the first fruit, then those in their own order, those in Jerusalem

- when Jesus rose, the believer of the church, then the tribulation saints, all are in the First resurrection. 1Cor. 15:20-23
 - * When believer die now, they are instantly present with Jesus, but their glorified bodies take place at the Rapture. 2Cor. 5:1-7; 1Thess. 4:16-17
- 2)) The Old Testament saints are raised before the Millennium, as part of the First resurrection. Dan. 12:2-3
- b) John revealed the commendation, “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power.” vs. 6a-b
 - a) The word blessed “makarios”, is oh how happy, like the Beatitudes of the Kingdom. This is the fifth of seven Beatitudes in the book of Revelation. Rev. 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14
 - b) The second death does not affect those of the first resurrection, but refers to unbelievers after they are judged at the White Throne Judgment to be cast into the Lake of Fire, eternally separated from God. vs. 11-14
- c) John revealed the role and function of the tribulation martyres in the Millennium, “but they shall be priests of God and of

Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.” vs. 6c-d

20:7-9 **The final rebellion of Satan.**

20:7 The vision of John revealed the exact time, “Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison.”

20:8 The vision of John revealed the purpose, “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”, the population of 1,000 years. vs. 8

- 1) Satan, “will go out to deceive the nations in his rebellion and hatred of God! vs. 8a
- 2) The “four corners of the earth” refers to the world’s population of the nations, after 1,000 years and longevity. vs. 8a
- 3) Gog and Magog are not the same as in Ezekiel 38-39, the attack of Russia on Isreal, that occur at the beginning of the Tribulation and the rapture. vs. 8b
* Magog was one of the sons of Japheth. Gen. 10:2
- 4) The purpose is clear, “to gather them together to battle”, those who repopulated the world and takes place at the end of the thousand years. vs. 8c

5) The number that follow Satan “whose number is as the sands of the sea.” vs. 8d

20:9 The vision of John revealed the aggression of Satan and people that will follow him, “And they went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

- 1) The place of attack is Jerusalem, the beloved city, “the camp of the saints.”
- 2) The plight of Satan and his followers is defeat, as fire comes down out of heaven and devours them.
- 3) This should silence the sociologist and psychologist once and for all as they ascribe the evil of man to environment, rather than the heart of man! Jer. 17:9
- 4) Though Jesus ruled with a rod of iron, holiness permeated the Kingdom, all external temptations had been removed, the heart of man still proves to be evil!

20:10 **The casting of Satan into the Lake of Fire.**

20:10a-c The vision of John revealed the place is the final abode of rebellious angels, “The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone.” vs. 10a-c

- 1) Jesus said the Lake of Fire was created for Satan and his angels. Matt. 25:41

* Called his own place for rebelling against God!

- 2) The tense indicates it was and is already in existence, ready to be occupied.
- 3) The Lake of Fire is describes with fire and brimstone, just as God said to Satan after his rebellion and threats, “Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.” Is. 14:15

20:10b The vision of John revealed it is the place of the final abode of the Antichrist and false prophet, “Where the beast and the false prophet are.” vs. 10b

- 1) The Beast is the Antichrist.
- 2) The false prophet is his P.R. man.
- 3) They both have been there for one-thousand years already.

20:10c The vision of John revealed the place to be the final retribution for their evil, “And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” vs. 10c

- 1) The reason is punitive, to punish them, the word tormented “basanismo”, is a future passive indicative, as if it already happened.
- 2) The period is for ever “aion”unbroken, the ages of the ages, perpetually!
- 3) Their personal choice has separated them from God eternally,.

4) Many people today do not believe in the God of the Bible, consequently they do not believe in a real Devil, the one follows the other.

- a) “The fool has said in his heart, there is no God.” Ps. 14:1a-b
- b) “The wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life”. Rom. 6:23
- c) Peter warned believers, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the **devil** walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” 1Pet. 5:8

20:11-15 **The judgment of the unbeliever.**

20:11 The particular event is called the White Throne Judgment.

- 1) The vision of John is of the White Throne Judgment for the unbelievers, “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it.” vs. 11a
 - a) The White Throne Judgment is for every unbeliever at the end of the thousand years reign of Christ to recompense them in punishment for their unrepentant sins.
 - b) The one sitting on the White Throne is Jesus, the judge of all mankind. vs. 11a

* Jesus said, “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son.” Jn. 5:22

- c) The believer goes to the Bema-Seat of Christ at the rapture to be rewarded for their works tried by fire, based on the motive of the heart. Rom. 14:10; 1Cor. 3:12-15; 2Cor. 5:10
- 2) The vision of John revealed as the White Throne Judgment is the prelude before establishing the new heaven and earth, "From whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them." vs. 11b-c
 - a) The Millennial is a renovation only, removing the curse of the ground and the ferocity of the animals, the wolf and ox will feed together. Is. 65:25
 - b) Sin-nature and sin will still be present and death for those permitted to enter in to the Millennium in their natural bodies.
 - c) Longevity will be renewed and if a child dies at 100 they died young. Is. 65:20

20:12-13 The particular event of the White Throne Judgment involves all who have ever rejected salvation. Rev. 20:12-13

- 1) The vision of John revealed the persons, "And I saw the dead, small and great." vs. 12a-b
 - a) Small and great in economics or social statues, no one will escape.
 - b) God cannot be a respecter of people.

- c) These are those who entered the Millennium, married and renpopulated and died without repenting from their sins and trusting Jesus as their Savior.
- 2) The vision of John revealed the position of the people, "standing before God." vs. 12c
 - a) People today do not believe this.
 - b) People think they cease to exist at death.
- 3) The vision of John revealed the permanent record of their lives in books. "And the books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life." vs. 12d-f
 - a) The books contain their works, deeds and sins, nothing will be omitted, not that God needs books. Dan. 7:10
 - b) The Book of Life refers to the recorded names of those saved. Heb. 9:27
* Phil. 4:3; Rev. 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27; 22:19
- 4) The vision of John revealed people are held accountable for their lives, "And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books." vs. 12g-h
 - a) No victims, blaming others!
 - b) No excuses or justifications!
 - c) The secrets of the heart. Rom. 2:16
- 5) The vision of John revealed the places that give up the dead, "The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades

delivered up the dead who were in them.”
vs. 13a-b

- a) Again these are those that occupied the Millennium out of the Great-Tribulation, they marry, repopulate the earth, but did not repent to trust Jesus as their Savior.
- b) Hades is the Greek word for the underworld, the temporary place of the departed, appearing eleven times in the New Testament. Lk. 16
 - 1)) Ten are translated “Hell” in the KJV and all are identified with Jesus.
 - 2)) One is translated “grave”. 1Cor. 15:55
- c) The Old Testament equivalent of “Hades” is the Hebrew word “Sheol”, the temporary world of the dead and used to describe the place of the unseen or departed souls, the spirits of the dead righteous and wicked that continued to exist in a state of conscience existence.
 - 1)) The word Sheol appears 65 times and in the Old Testament and translated in the KJV “grave” 31 times, “hell” 31 times and “pit” 3 times.
 - 2)) The word is used prophetic of Christ, “You will not leave My soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see or undergo corruption.” Ps. 16:10

- 6) The people are said to be judged justly again, “And they were judged, each one according to his works.” vs. 13c-d
 - a) No one is compared to anyone else.
 - b) No one is held responsible for the sins of anyone else.

20:14-15 The particular event of the White Throne Judgment results in casting three last things into the Lake of Fire.

- 1) The vision of John revealed the first thing to be cast in is death, “Then death”. vs. 14a
 - a) Death was first mentioned by God as He warned Adam not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Gen. 2:16-17
 - 1)) Death is the last enemy to be destroyed. 1Cor. 15:26
 - 2)) The prohibition to not eat communicated a clear consequence, literally dying you shall die. Gen. 2:17b
 - 3)) The reference to “dying” was spiritual death that would take place immediately. Gen. 3:9-11
 - 4)) The reference to “you shall die” was to physical death. Gen. 3:19
 - 5)) The first recordings about death is personal and historical in the death of Abel by Cain. Gen. 4:8
 - a)) Cain slew Abel in the field.

- b)) Cain must have been astonished, as his brother who just seconds before was able to move and express himself, all of a sudden, he was a lifeless shell.
 - c)) Cain had seen animals die by sacrifice, now for the first time he saw the reality of God's proclamation in his own brother.
- b) Hades is the second thing to be cast into the Lake of Fire, "and Hades."
 - 1)) As explained earlier, Hades is the Greek word identifying the temporary place of the unseen and departed people in the New Testament.
 - 2)) The Old Testament equivalence of "Hades" is the word "Sheol" is the Hebrew word which means the temporary world of the dead, the place of the unseen and departed souls, the spirits of the righteous and wicked who had died and continued in a **state of conscience existence**.
 - 3)) The combined phrase "Death and Hades" also represent all that it is the result of rebellion to God, sin brought death and death leads to eternal separation from God.
- c) The Lake of Fire is where rebellious man and angels will be separated from God for all eternity.

- 1)) Gehenna and the Lake of Fire are one and the same place and synonymous.
- 2)) Gehenna is equivalent to the Valley of Tophet, south of the city and signified "the place of burning", the place of idolatrous worship of Molech by the sacrificing of their children, Jer. 7:31-32; 19:2-10; 32:35; 2Kings 23:10; 2Chron. 28:3.
- 3)) Josiah cleansed the land of such worship, then Valley of Ge-Himom or Tophet became the city dump-site.
- 4)) Jesus referred to Gehenna often appearing 12 times in the New Testament, 11 times uttered by Jesus!
- 2) The vision of John revealed death is identified and qualified for us, "This is the second death." vs. 14b
 - a) The second death is the result of the second resurrection, eternal separation from God to be cast into the Lake of Fire.
 - b) The first resurrection includes all who have trusted in God and redeemed, the Old, New Testament and Tribulation saints. Rev. 20:5-6
 - * Paul says Christ was raised first, after everyone else in their own order at His coming. 1Cor. 15:20-23
 - c) That is why there is a blessing, the fifth Beatitude because the second death

doesn't affect the believer, it is eternal spiritual death. Rev. 20:6

- 3) The summary statement of the White Throne Judgment as a confirmation of their separation is stated, "And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." vs. 15
 - a) Their names are not in the Book of Life.
 - 1)) The word anyone refers to all who rejected the gospel.
 - 2)) Anyone refers to all who have refused to repent of their sins and are cast into the Lake of Fire.
 - b) The Book of Life is the registry of the saved that repented, trusted Jesus for their salvation throughout their entire lives.
 - 1)) Those who have allowed the word of God to transform them. Rom. 12:1-2
 - 2)) Those proved to be disciples of Jesus by studying and obeying His word. Jn. 15:1-8
 - 3)) They abided continually in their passionate love relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - c) The condition of the dead before the cross of Jesus is explained in the Gospel of Luke. Lk. 16:19-31
 - 1)) Hades was divided into two places, the bosom of Abraham a place of comfort for those who died in faith

and the **place of torment** for those who died apart from faith. vs. 22-23, 25

- 2)) The dividing line was fixed, prohibiting a person from passing over to the other side. vs. 26
 - * Limbo and purgatory are fictitious, false doctrines invented by the Catholic Church!
- 3)) The plea for someone to return from "Hades" to warn the living was denied and also reveals there is consciousness and memory after death for those in Hades in torment. vs. 27-28
- 4)) The hardness of heart to believe is revealed by rejecting the Scriptures, "even if one returned from the dead they would not believe", Jesus said. vs. 29-31
 - a)) Hades can only be avoided by paying heed to the Scriptures and repenting. vs. 31
 - b)) Jesus returned from the dead, yet people don't believe.
- d) The dead who died in faith before and up to the cross were redeemed by Jesus.
 - 1)) Peter says Jesus went down to "Hades" and preached to the spirits in prison. 1Pet. 3:19

- 2)) Paul says Jesus led captivity captive as He ascended into heaven after He first descended into Hades. Eph. 4:8-9
- e) The believers who died after the cross go immediately before Christ at the moment death, they are never found naked, but they are not in their glorified bodies. 2Cor. 5:1-8
 - 1)) The believer goes to the third heaven where God dwells, also called Paradise that was transferred from Hades, in the bosom of Abraham, the place of comfort. 2Cor. 12:2-4
 - 2)) Jesus told the thief on the cross, “Today you will be with Me in Paradise”. Lk. 23:43
- d) The historical record of death is found in the genealogy of Adam, all die. Gen. 5
 - 1)) Eight times we read the phrase “and he died”, every person. Gen. 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 27, 31
 - 2)) The longest living person was Methuselah, 969 years. Gen. 5:27
 - 3)) The only exception regarding death was Enoch, for God took him. Gen. 5:24
- e) The wicked remained in Hades and will till the White throne judgment. Rev. 20:11-15
 - 1)) Gehenna is a place of fire. Matt. 5:22

- 2)) The whole body can end up there. Matt. 5:29
- 3)) Both body and soul can end there. Matt. 10:28
- 4)) It’s better to lose a hand, a foot, or an eye and enter heaven, than to be cast into Gehenna with all your members. Mk. 9:43
- f) Jesus only has the power to cast into Gehenna. Lk. 12:5
 - 1)) The Lake of Fire or Gehenna are described as the place of eternal torment before the holy angels and the presence of the Lamb. Rev. 14:10-11
 - 2)) “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” Heb. 9:27