

2/11/04

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 supper of the Lamb has occurred, the Lord Jesus has returned with His bride to destroyed the kingdoms of this world in the battle of Armageddon and He is ready to set up the Kingdom Age.

Every Jew acknowledged the present age and the age to come when the Messiah would destroy the worlds empires and set up His throne in Jerusalem.

This is why the disciples of Jesus had such a difficult time understanding and excepting the death and ascension of Jesus.

James and John believed Jesus was going to fulfill this as He set His face toward Jerusalem, so in their own self-serving manner they asked Jesus if they might have the right and left hand when He reigned. Mk. 10:35-45

That day is now about to happen in chapter twenty of Revelation as Jesus is ready to set up the Golden Age, the Millennium.

There will be no more wars as the weapons of war are converted into implements of cultivating the land, no 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.

But first Jesus reveals to John the need of handling some important details in order for the thousand year reign to begin.

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

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

- 1) There time is at the beginning of the Millennium. vs. 1
 - a) Thirty-nine times the phrase “I saw” appears 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 from heaven could be Michael, we are not told?
 - c) The angel has the keys, representing the authority to incarcerate Satan to the bottomless pit “abuzo” , which is a shaft in the earth where demons are bound. Rev. 9.1-2; 11:7; 17:8
 - d) He is bound by a temporary judgment with a great chain in the very place he released demons on the earth to torment mankind. Rev. 9:1-2
 - * The dragon, Serpent, Devil and Satan.
- 2) The time is specific. vs. 2
bound him for a thousand years. vs. 2
- a) The thousand years are literal, appearing six times between verse one and seven.
 - b) To spiritualize the Millennium or deny it is wrong, as A-millennialist!
 - 1)) Some attempt to explain the number as figurative.
 - 2)) The a millennial view was introduced in the 4th century, by a Donatist 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. Augustine took the figure of 1,000 years to be symbolic being carried out by the Catholic Church.

- 3)) 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
 - 4)) Certainly Peter is using the phrase figuratively to emphasize the patience of God to save sinners but to interpret Revelation as figurative by Peter is bad exposition.
- c) Post-millennial teaches that after 1,000 from the ascension, Christ would return.
 - d) Pre-millennial teaches a literal 1,000 years reign earth with Christ on the earth.
 - * 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 Anti-christ, 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 time is to remove his evil influence. vs. 3a-d

- a) Satan the dragon will not control nations. Rev. 12:3, 4, 7 (2x's), 9, 13, 16, 17
 - b) Satan the old serpent will not deceive nations. Rev. 12:9, 14, 15; 20:2
 - c) Satan the adversary will not oppose nations. Rev. 12:9; 20:2. 7
 - * Paul told the Romans that God would bruise Satan under their feet shortly. Rom. 16:20
4. The time being completed, results in his release for a little while. vs. 3e
- a) This is at the end of the thousand years.
 - b) This is only for a short time.
 - c) All nations are deceived by Satan today, He being the god of this world and the prince and power of the air. 2Cor 4:4; Eph 2:2
5. The judgment of the nations could possibly fit right after Satan is bound. Matt. 25:32

20:4-6 The tribulation saints have their part in the Millennium.

- 1) John saw in this same vision thrones and the judgment of the tribulation saints. vs. 4
 - a) The connection is clear, they live and reign with Christ for a thousand years.

- b) They have been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who refused to worship the beast or his image or received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. vs. 4
 - 1)) The Tribulation saints beheaded are under the fifth seal. Rev. 6:9-11; 13:12-16
 - 2)) The terms means to be beheaded with an ax.
 - c) The thrones probably the church saints. 1Cor. 6:2-3; Dan. 7:9-10, 22; Rev. 1: 5:10
 - d) Angel are not the ones on the thrones because God has not put in subjection the world to come. Heb. 2:5
- 2) The rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished, identifying the first resurrection. vs. 5
- a) The first resurrection includes all who have trusted in God and been redeemed, O.T. saints, N.T. saints and Tribulation saints. Dan 12:1-2
 - b) Christ first, everyone else in their own order. 1Cor 15:20-23
 - c) It is a continuous event. 2Cor. 5:1-7
 - d) The lost are not raised till the end of the 1,000 years.

- 3) These are Blessed and holy, they are happy and pure, having part in the first resurrection, three blessings. vs. 6
- a) The fact that the second death has no power over them. vs. 14
- b) The fact that they will be priests of God and of Christ. 1Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10
- c) The fact that they shall reign with Him a thousand years. vs. 6
- * This is the 5th Beatitude because the 2nd death doesn't affect the believer, eternal spiritual death.

20:7-10 The final rebellion by Satan

- 20:7** Satan will be released from his prison when the thousand years have expired.
- 1) The question of many is why?
- 2) The only one that makes any sense is to silence the sociologist and psychologist once and for all as they attempt to ascribe the evil of man to the environment of man, rather than the heart of man!
- 3) Even though Jesus ruled with a rod of iron, holiness permeated the Kingdom, all external temptations had been removed, the heart proves to be the evil!
Jer. 17:9

- 20:8** Satan will go out to deceive the nations.
- 1) They are described as being in the four corners of the earth, meaning the entire earth.
- * Not the church saints but all who went in to repopulate the Kingdom. Is. 11:6; 65:20
- 2) They are identified as Gog and Magog
- a) Gog and Magog are not the same as in Ezekiel, which occur at the beginning of the Tribulation and from the region of the north, Russia, when Israel is in a time of peace. Ezk. 38-39
- * The phrase represents rebellion and hatred of God!
- b) The Gog and Magog in Revelation takes place at the end of the thousand years and involves the entire earth.
- 3) The purpose is to gather them together to battle, whose army numbers as the sand of the sea.
- * Magog was one of the sons of Japheth. Gen. 10:2
- 20:9** Satan and his rebellious army make their attack.
- 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 out of heaven and devours them.
- 3) As God often. Gen. 19:14; Ezk. 38:22; 39:6; 2Kings 1:9-12

20:10 Satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire.

- 1) The place is the final abode of this rebellious angel for deceiving the nations. vs. 10a-b
 - a) The Lake of Fire is describes with fire and brimstone.”
 - b) Jesus said the Lake of Fire was created for Satan and his angels. Matt. 25:41
 - c) The tense indicates it was and is already in existence, ready to be occupied.
- 2) The place is also the final abode of the Anti-christ and false prophet. vs. 10b
 - a. The Beast is the Anti-christ.
 - b. The False prophet was his P.R. man.
 - c. They both have been there for one-thousand years already.
- 3) The place is one of final retribution for evil, being punished for all eternity. vs. 10c
 - a) The purpose is punitive by the word tormented.

- b) The period is for ever “aion” the ages of the ages, perpetually.
- c) The personal choice has separated them from God eternally.

20:11-15 The Great White Throne judgment

20:11 The throne is described.

- 1) John see the White Throne Judgment is for the unbeliever, distinct from the Bema-Seat of Christ. vs. 11a
 - a) The one on the White Throne is Jesus, the judge of all unbelieving mankind.
 - * All judgment is given to the Son. Jn. 5:22
 - b) The Bema-Seat of Christ is for the believer at the rapture of the church, to reward them for their works, as they are tried by fire to reveal the motive of the heart. 1Cor. 3:12-15
 - c) The White Throne Judgment is at the end of the thousand years reign of Christ to recompense them for their sins. vs. 12
- 2) The White Throne Judgment is the prelude before establishing of the eternal state of the new heaven and earth as they fled away, no place found for them. vs. 11b-c
 - a) The Millennial Kingdom was a renovation only, removing the curse

of the ground and the fierceness of the animals. Is. 65:25

- b) Sin nature and sin was present in man and death still occurred, a child dying at one-hundred. Is. 65:20

20:12 The people involves are all who have ever rejected salvation.

- 1) The persons are the dead small and great. vs. 12a-b
 - a) Small and great in economics or social statues, important or unimportant.
 - b) God can not respect people.
- 2) The position of the people is standing before God. vs. 12c
 - a) People today don't believe this will happen.
 - b) People think they just merely cease to exist.
- 3) The permanent recording of their lives are in books that were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. vs. 12d-f
 - a) The books, most likely of their works, deeds and sins. Dan. 7:10
 - b) The motives and secret of their hearts, etc. Rom. 2:16
 - c) The Book of Life, those saved.
 - * Phil. 4:3; Rev. 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27; 22:19

4. The people are held accountable, the dead are judged according to their works, the facts written in the books. vs. 12g-h
 - * The phrase appear four times in Revelation. Rev. 2:23; 18:6; 20:12, 13

20:13 The places that give up the dead are for judgment are identified.

- 1) The sea gave up the dead who were in it. vs. 13a
- 2) And Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them." vs. 13b
 - a. Death, the last enemy to be destroyed. 1Cor. 15:26
 - a) Hades is the Greek word which means the temporary **place** of the unseen or departed, appearing eleven times in the New Testament.
 - 1) Ten are translated "Hell" in the KJV and all are identified with Jesus.
 - 2) One translated "grave". 1Cor. 15:55
 - b) The Old Testament equivalent of "Hades" is the word "Sheol" is the Hebrew word which means the temporary world of the dead and used to describe the place of the departed souls and spirits of the righteous and wicked who had died and continued in a **state** of conscience existence.

- 1) The word appears 65 times and in the Old Testament, translated in the KJV “grave” 31 times, “hell” 31 times and “pit” 3 times.
- 2) The word is used prophetic of Christ the Psalms, “You will not leave My soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see or undergo corruption”. Ps. 16:10
- 3) The patriarch Jacob mourning for Joseph said, “For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning.” Gen. 37:35
- 3) The people are judge justly, each one according to his works. vs. 13c
 - a) No one is compared to anyone else.
 - b) No one is held responsible for the sins of anyone else.

20:14 The last two things cast into the Lake of Fire.

- 1) Death is cast into the lake of fire. vs. 14a
 - a) Death is 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) The prohibition communicates a clear consequence, literally dying you shall die. Gen. 2:17b

- 2) The reference to “dying” was spiritual death that would take place immediately. Gen. 3:9-11
- 3) The reference to “you shall die” was to physical death. Gen. 3:19
- b) The first recordings about death is personal and historical, in the death of Abel by Cain. Gen. 4:8
 - a) Cain slew his brother Abel in the field.
 - b) Cain must of been astonished as his brother who was just able to move and express himself and was all of a sudden a lifeless form, a shell.
 - c) Cain had seen animals die, through sacrifice.
 - d) Cain had for the first time seen the reality of God’s proclamation on his own brother.
- 2) Hades is next cast into the Lake of Fire. vs. 14a
 - a) As we explained earlier, Hades is the Greek word which means the temporary **place** of the unseen or departed, appearing eleven times in the New Testament.
 - b) The Old Testament equivalent of “Hades” is the word “Sheol” is the Hebrew word which means the temporary world of the dead and used

- to describe the place of the departed souls and spirits of the righteous and wicked who had died and continued in a **state** of conscience existence.
- c) 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.
- d) The Lake of Fire is where rebellious man and rebellious angels will be separated to for all eternity.
- 1)) Gehenna and the Lake of Fire are one and the same place, used synonymously.
 - 2)) Gehenna is equivalent to the Valley of Tophet which signified “the place of burning” which was 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 and the Valley of Gehinnom or Tophet became the site of the city dump.
 - 4)) Jesus referred to Gehenna often in the Scriptures, appears 12x’s N.T., 11 times uttered by Jesus!

- 3) Death is identified and qualified for us, “This is the second death.” vs. 14b
- a) The second death is the result of the resurrection of the wicked, eternal separation from God, cast into the Lake of Fire.
 - * Thought there is never stated a “second resurrection” in Scripture speak of one for the righteous and one for the unrighteous, with one-thousand year between them!
 - b) The first resurrection includes all who have trusted in God and been redeemed, the Old, New Testament saints and Tribulation saints. Rev. 20:5-6
 - * “Christ first, everyone else in their own order”, being a continuous ongoing event. 1Cor 15:20-23; 2Cor. 5:1-8
 - c) That is why there is a blessing, the 5th Beatitude in Revelation, because the second death doesn’t affect the believer, eternal spiritual death. Rev. 20:6
 - * The last enemy to be destroyed 1Cor. 15:26

20:15 The summary statement of the White Throne judgment is pronounced.

- 1) The confirmation of who these individuals are that are separated, “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” vs. 15
 - a) Anyone not found written in the Book of Life.
 - 1)) Anyone refers to all who have rejected the gospel.
 - 2)) Anyone refers to all who have refused to repent of their sins.
 - b) All were cast into the Lake of Fire, without exception.
 - 1)) The way is Jesus.
 - 2)) The manner is grace and faith.
- 2) The Book of Life is the register of the saved, who have trusted Jesus for their salvation.
 - a) Those have allowed the word of God to transform them.
 - b) Those who proved to be disciples of Jesus by obeying His word.
 - c) They abided and continued in their passionate love relationship with Jesus Christ.