

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 7/4-5/2022 *Revelation Chapter 20*

THIS WE WILL NOT BE MEETING IN THE CLASSROOM, MONDAY NIGHT, JULY 4! ZOOM ONLY!

ON TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 5, WE WILL MEET IN THE CLASSROOM AND ZOOM ONLINE, AS WELL

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7th PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

One tap mobile

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies - www.ptwente.com

OPENING PRAYER

BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC *Julia Ward Howe, 1861 - First Dallas Choir & Orchestra - (5:19)*

1 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord. He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored, He has loosed the fateful lightening of His terrible swift sword. His truth is marching on.

(Chorus) Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

2 I have seen him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps. They have builded him an altar in the evening dews and damps I have read his righteous sentence in the dim and flaring lamps. His day is marching on. (Chorus)

3 In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea, With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me: As He died to make men holy, let us live to make men free, While God is marching on.

(Chorus) (2 x) Amen. Amen.

- Two wonderful things happen in chapters 19 & 20! Chapter 19 - Christ puts an end to war! Chapter 20 – Christ sets up His Kingdom on Earth, ruling and reigning as King of kings and Lord of lords on the Throne of David for a thousand years.

REVELATION CHAPTER 20:

- *Satan Bound 1000 Years – (vs. 1-3);*
- *The Tribulation Saints are Resurrected and Reign with Christ 1000 Years – (vs. 4-6); Christ sets up His Kingdom of Righteousness and peace; Earth’s curse will be removed; Earth restored; (Rom. 8:22; Is 35:1-2; Is 11:6-7)*
- *Satanic Rebellion at end of Millennial reign is Crushed – (vs. 7-10);*
- *The Great White Throne Judgment – (vs. 11-15)*

The Thousand Years

Rev 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.

- *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven.* The conquest of Satan and his powers does not come by any human efforts. The enemy is not overthrown by the work of Gospel preaching, but he is put down by the lighting coming of the Lord in glory. From the apex of his might on earth he falls to the bottomless pit (the abussu) in a moment, even as light always puts out darkness. It is all done suddenly.
- *A great chain.* The “great chain,” with which to bind that adversary, Satan! This is no doubt a spiritual chain to restrain the spirit being called Satan, but it will serve the purpose, whatever it is.

Rev 20:2 He laid hold of the dragon (monster), that serpent of old (deceiver of Eve), who is the Devil (false accuser, slanderer) and Satan (adversary), and bound him for a thousand years;

- **The enemy is named by four different names.** God, who announced that no one could lay anything to the charge of His elect, since He had justified the believer, vindicates His Word, silencing the accuser forever. This was the one who dogged the steps of the Son of God when He was on earth, tempting Him, working against Him, seeking to destroy Him before His time and ultimately bringing his mad rage in the frenzied climax of the crucifixion of the Savior. Now he is to realize that in virtue of that very death, he is to go into eternal death.
- **A thousand years.** The “*thousand years*” or millennium (Greek *chiliai*) should be taken literally. It is mentioned six times in (Rev 20:2-7), as though the Lord would make it emphatically and abundantly clear that Satan will be restrained for literally a thousand years. He is certainly not “bound” in this present age! (*IPe 5:8*) *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

Rev 20:3 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. (Isa 14:12) How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!

- ***And he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal*** (sphragizo – keep secret, seal up, stop) ***on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished.*** The great enemy, *Satan*, also named the *Devil, dragon, that serpent of old* and apparently his hosts are not only put into the bottomless pit (the abusso), but they are sealed there! The word “sealed” is the same word as that used in (Eph 1:13) In Him you also trusted The word, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. In that the seal is placed there by the messenger of our Lord, we may be sure that the enemy will not come forth until he is loosed by the same power. Here, we see the certainty that during the thousand-year period, which follows, there be no sign of Satan and his work of deception in the world of men!
- **No punishment, but prevention from Satan deceiving nations!** It would seem the purpose of Satan’s confinement is that of preventing him from deceiving the nations. The rather elaborate measures taken to insure his custody, are being taken to completely prevent his influence on earth, rather than to just curb his activities. This point is crucial to one’s interpretation of the binding of Satan for one thousand years. Amillennial commentators try to say this is descriptive of the present age, holding that Satan is currently “bound” and his influence on earth is limited by the power of the gospel. But in order to think this, they must view the one thousand years as figurative of the entire Church Age.
- **There are many passages in the Bible, such as (Eph 2:2) in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.** These passages show clearly that Satan is anything but bound during the present age. Attempts to picture him otherwise seem rather ludicrous. Thus, the binding of Satan must be a future event that has not yet occurred, which would preclude a post-millennial position, where the church comes back after the Millennial reign, rather than before.
- **When we look at all** (used six times in this chapter), **that is said about this thousand-year period** at the beginning of Revelation 20, we realize that only a literal interpretation of the text makes sense. The Bible is to be taken literally unless there is a compelling reason not to do so. Notice that we are given the millennium a completion point, *until the thousand years were completed* (vs. 5). It assigns a specific length. *They will reign with Him, Christ, for a thousand years.* (vs.6) And it has a specific ending: *When the thousand years are completed* (vs. 7). This is not an unspecified time. There is no reason to interpret it allegorically. One cannot place another interpretation upon this word. It is self-explanatory!
- ***But after these things he must be released for a little while.*** We must remember that at the end of the Tribulation, all the surviving Tribulation saints will enter the kingdom in their natural bodies and produce “kingdom” children. These people will not have glorified bodies, which means they are still capable of sinning. As the children grow up, they will need to make a personal choice to trust Christ as their Savior, just people in the church age had to. But not everyone will choose Christ, and their true allegiance will be revealed when Satan is released at the end of the 1,000 years. There will be a large number of people who rebel against Christ at that time and Satan will deceive the nations and gather many people to bring about a final and ultimate rebellion. However, the insurrection will end quickly, as fire came down out of heaven and devoured them!

Rev 20:4a And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them.

- **Because John saw two companies here, those who hold to a post tribulation belief that the church goes through the Great Tribulation, view use this verse as one of the great proof texts of the post tribulation position.** But they do not make the correct distinction here. They lump it all as one where John is talking about two companies that he sees in heaven. Notice, ***I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them.*** Who are they? These people on their thrones are the church. To the Laodiceans in (Rev 3:21) *To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*

- **Jesus said to His disciples, (Mat 19:28) So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. The first group that John observes is the church, the overcomers, seated on their thrones, judgment is given unto them.**
- **Jesus Christ is going to return to the earth. We will be returning with Him.** Paul said, (Col 3:4) *When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.* He is returning to the earth to claim the earth as God's. He redeemed the world through His death upon the cross. He paid the price to redeem the world. He is coming back to claim that which He purchased on the cross. We will come back with Him, and He will reign over the earth for a thousand years, during which time, Satan will be bound. He will be in the abusso, and we will not have to be dealing with him during this thousand-year reign of Christ.

Rev 20:4b Then, I saw the souls of those (Tribulation saints) 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.

- **The second company! John is observing not one but two companies.** There is the second group, those that are martyred during the tribulation period by their refusal to take the mark of the beast or to worship him or his image. (Rev 6:9-11) *When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. [10] And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" [11] Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.*
- **Daniel speaking of the Antichrist said, (Dan 7:21-22) "I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the (Tribulation) saints, and prevailing against them, [22] until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.**
- **Both companies. The church sits with Jesus on His throne. These martyred saints from the tribulation stand before the throne of God.** They are in His holy temple, we are told in chapter seven, worshiping Him day and night continually. John tells that they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. Now, that's both companies.
- **Jesus will then begin the thousand-year reign, and we believers will be reigning with Him as kings and priests, or a kingdom of priests over the earth.** We are told that annually we will be going to Jerusalem to meet with Jesus—a great convocation, annually, as the church goes to Jerusalem to meet with the Lord.
- **With Jesus here, radical changes that will take place in nature and in the kingdom of our Lord, sickness and wars will be abolished.** Isaiah describes it in (Isa 65:17-18; 25) *"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. [18] But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, And her people a joy. [25] The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, The lion shall eat straw like the ox, And dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," Says the LORD.*
- **The earth will be restored to the Edenic glory as it was before the flood, as it was in the Garden of Eden.** The whole earth will be a paradise. **There will be a renewed longevity of life.** The earth will be a beautiful place. The whole earth will be filled with His glory! Righteousness will cover the earth as the waters cover the seas. We will be living with Christ and reigning with Christ over the earth!

Rev 20:5a But the rest of the dead (all unbelievers) did not live again until the thousand years were finished.

- **When Jesus returns to establish His kingdom, the first order of business will be to gather the nations together for judgment** to determine which of those who survive the Great Tribulation will be allowed the privilege to continue living into the kingdom age.
- **Now, if a person has taken the mark of the beast, he immediately will be eliminated.** He will not be allowed to enter into the kingdom age. If they have been a part of his program, they will not be

allowed to enter the kingdom age. It is at that time that the Lord will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and to those on His right hand, He will say, (*Mat 25:34*) *Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.* But to those on His left, (*Mat 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.*

- ***But the rest (the unsaved) of the dead did not live again.*** This phrase clearly indicates bodily resurrection after bodily death. The unsaved dead obviously will not live again spiritually, for they are in Hades and will ultimately be in the lake of fire. In fact, the term “resurrection” itself occurs over forty times in the New Testament, and always refers to the resurrection of the body. Also, we read in (*Rev 20:12*) *And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God,* which seems to indicate having a resurrected body.
- ***Until the thousand years were finished.*** Jesus had referred to *the resurrection of life* and the *resurrection of condemnation* (*Joh 5:28-29*) *Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice. [29] and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.* Also, in (*Dan 12:2*) *And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.* But here it is revealed for **the first time that the first resurrection will be completed a thousand years before the second death, also referred to as the resurrection of condemnation.**

Rev 20:5b This is the first resurrection (which refers to the end of vs. 4 - *And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*)

- ***This (is) the first resurrection. There will be two general resurrections.*** The first resurrection began with Jesus Christ. It will end when the last of the martyred saints is brought on into glory. The first resurrection has covered a long period of time. The sense probably is that, this completes *the first resurrection.* (*1Co 15:22-23*) *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. [23] But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. (Mat 27:52-53) and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; [53] and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. This is the first resurrection.*

Rev 20:6 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.

- ***Blessed and holy!*** Here is the fifth blessing promised in the Book of Revelation. There will be two more in chapter 22.
- ***The second death.*** The second death must be a bodily death, imposed after the second death (resurrection) on all those who still are spiritually dead in their sins and trespasses. (*Eph 2:1*) *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, (Rev 20:13-14) The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. [14] Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. priests of God.*
- ***The resurrected saints will be both kings and priests*** (*Rev 1:6*), exercising both judicial rule, judging the world and angels, (*1Co 6:2*) and religious ministries in relation to the growing human populations on earth. They may be ministering to those who had died or been raptured while still “babes in Christ,” either infants physically or spiritually. These somehow must be brought to full maturity in Christ, both physically and spiritually, and the already-matured saints could conceivably be participants in their further growth.

The Defeat of Satan

Rev 20:7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison

- ***The events described in (Rev 20:7-9) take place only after there have been a thousand years of enforced peace and righteousness.*** In (*Rev 20:3*), it was said that Satan must be loosed a little season, evidently to give men an opportunity to reveal the basic rebellion still simmering in their human

natures, and in order to see openly whether they will choose Satan over God, as their ancestors had done a thousand years before.

- **Those entering the millennial period, of course, will be genuine believers,** but their descendants will evidently drift away from the faith of their fathers as the generations accumulate and the population grows. Open rebellion, as well as crime and warfare, will be impossible. Satan and his hosts will all be bound in Hades, but men and women will still be born with sinful natures and will need to receive Christ as personal Savior by faith, just as was always true! If they do not, they will still be vulnerable to Satanic deception when Satan is released to tempt them.

Rev 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.

- **Gog and Magog.** Despite the duplication of names, this Gog-and-Magog (son of Japeth in Gen. 10) incursion after the thousand years does not seem to be the same as the invasion of Israel by Gog and Magog, which occurred before the beginning of the Millennial reign, as described in (*Eze 38:1-23 and Eze 39:1-29*). The combatants in the two battles are quite different from each other and the outcomes are drastically different, as is obvious from even a casual reading of the two accounts, there is at least a thousand years' time difference. It may be that the names are the same because the new leaders of the rebellion (human leaders, that is) come from the same northern regions of Eurasia as the leaders of that earlier invasion of Israel. They may even have deliberately appropriated these Biblical names as a statement of their intent to avenge the defeat and death of their ancestors when they invaded Israel.
- **Whose number is as the sand of the sea.** The world population, with the benefit of increased longevity, as well as an almost perfect environment and societal conditions, will grow so much as actually to fulfill God's ancient command to "*fill the earth*" (*Gen 9:1,7*).
- **When Satan is released again for a short time, it will be a demonstration throughout all of eternity of the desperate wickedness in the hearts of men!** The amazing thing is that Satan is able to gather an army so large that it is as the sands of the sea! Innumerable! That seems so difficult to comprehend how people who have been living under this ideal reign of Christ will be deceived by Satan to rebel against the reign of Christ

Rev 20:9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city (Jerusalem). And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

- **Here is an amazing thing, which reveals the heart of man!** Our sociologists today try to say there are no bad boys. It is the environment. If you can just change the environment, if the person just has the right opportunities, there is that innate spark of good within all of us and all we have to do is fan that spark, and everybody will be good.
- **That is exactly the opposite of what the Bible says! (*Jer 17:9*) "*The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?*"** The depravity of man, the social scientists like to deny that, but the Bible teaches that. When these people have lived on the earth for a thousand years under the ideal environment, the reign of Jesus Christ. During this reign they will be forced to live righteously. They will not have an opportunity to give vent to their evil desires. We will be there to see to that. We will be there with extraordinary powers in our glorified bodies. It will be a ruling, it says, with a rod of iron. The reign of Jesus will be an ironclad reign. Righteousness will be something that will be enforced upon all men. For the thousand years we will see how wonderful it is when people live in righteousness. There will be no prisons. There will be no judicial systems. There will be no police departments, no need for them. As Jesus reigns with an ironclad reign. People living righteously will see the benefits, the blessings, of living in harmony with God!
- **But throughout all of eternity, God's righteous judgment will be demonstrated.** No one can say, well, it was my environment that caused me to be evil, I was deprived. That whole argument will be put down forever because the desperate wickedness of man's heart will be revealed as they try again to overthrow Jesus! Once the demonstration is made, they gather together, then God destroys them with fire from heaven. It is all over in a moment! There is no battle. It will be over in a moment.
- **That is the thing that hurts me about the United States.** You go back to the founding of this nation, you go back to the founding fathers, you go back to the founding principles; and it was intended to be a nation that would honor God and respect God! A nation that would seek after and follow after God. Because of that, God blessed America. America became strong. America became

prosperous. But just like the nation of Israel, when they became prosperous, they forgot God, they forsook God. So, our nation has forsaken God. Just as the nation of Israel when they forsook God, God turned them over to their enemies. The time of judgment will come when God will turn the United States over to their enemies. You cannot escape it. It is hard to imagine that the very thing which made us strong, the very thing that made us great, men are rebelling against?

- **Look how they are trying to attribute the success and the greatness of America** to democracy or to the free enterprise system. What are we wanting to send to the world to change the world? Send to them the free enterprise system. Surely that will make everybody good. Send to them the ideals of freedom and democracy. But what freedom? They are taking away our freedom. More and more they are taking away your freedom. Yet, we are wanting to export freedom to the world. It is all mixed up! (*Isa 5:20*) *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil!*
- **Surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city.** The *saints*, here are probably not just the Israelites in Jerusalem but also the resurrected and raptured saints of the previous ages, all coming to rally around *the beloved city* as the hosts of darkness and their multitudes of human followers surround them for one last desperate attempt to defeat and dethrone the Lord Jesus Christ. This will be impossible, of course, for God, (not Satan!) is the Creator of all things, and this time His patience and longsuffering will finally reach an end.
- **And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.** In a foretaste of *the lake of fire*, which the rebels will all soon inhabit, God will send from heaven a vast ring of fire around the holy city which will quickly *devour the adversaries* (*Heb 10:27*), *for our God is a consuming fire* (*Heb 12:29*).

Rev 20:10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

- **And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone.** Last week we saw the beast and the false prophet were cast alive into the lake of fire and brimstone. That was a thousand years earlier than this Scripture. Notice, *The devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, not where they were destroyed, not where they were annihilated, but where they are after a thousand years!* That is where they **are!** *and they shall be tormented day and night forever and ever!*
- **You may say oh, you really do not believe that do you?** Can't you explain that away somehow, the idea of *forever and ever*, is a little difficult to swallow, isn't it? What do we read in chapter 22, regarding adding or taking away from this prophecy? In (*Rev 22:18-19*) *For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; [19] and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.* Do you think we should mess with it or modify it? It should be left just as it is.

Judgment Before the Great White Throne

Rev 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

- **There is going to be a new universe.** Peter talks about how this whole thing is going to be dissolved,
- **The earth and heaven fled away.** When the fire from heaven falls on the hosts of Gog and Magog, it will apparently burn up the earth and its atmospheric heaven as well, fulfilling the prophecy of (*2Pe 3:10*) *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.* It will purge from the earth all the age-long effects of God's curse. In their place will appear God's awful throne of final judgment.
- (*Mat 24:35*) *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.* Literally, this phrase means, *are passing away*, under the decay law established by the primeval curse on the ground because of sin (*Gen 3:17b*) *Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.*

- ***But My words will by no means pass away.*** The only physical entity in this physical universe that is not subject to the law of disintegration is the written Word of God! This affirmation by Christ is a tremendous assurance of its infallible and permanent authority!

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

- ***And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life.*** Now, God keeps accurate, precise, and complete records. Everything you have ever done, or thought has been recorded. The book will be open, they will be judged out of the things that is are written in the book.
- ***Now there is this mention of the Book of Life.*** This term is mentioned eight times in the New Testament. In the Old Testament, what may be the same Book, is mentioned as “My book,” Your book, “the book of the living.” In a number of passages, where the “Book” is mentioned, there are the references to people being blotted out of the Book. When Moses asked the Lord to forgive the people and if not, then blot his name out of Your book, (***Exo 32:33***) *And the LORD said to Moses, Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book. whosoever has sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My book.*
- ***David, speaking for the Messiah, the prayer of the Messiah, (Psa 69:28) Let them be of the book of the living, And not be written with the righteous.***
- ***Jesus, in His message to the church of Sardis in, (Rev 3:5) He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.*** What a promise by Jesus!
- ***Then, as we just read in (Rev 22:19) and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*** God will take away his part out of the Book of Life.
- ***The dead were judged. The dead here are the unsaved dead,*** their bodies having been raised in the second resurrection in order to stand before God in judgment. Whether those believers who are still living in the millennial earth at this time will also be raised—along with any believers who may have died during the thousand years—is not stated, but this would be a reasonable assumption, since they also would have perished in the final holocaust if not before. In any case, their names would indeed have been “written in the Book of Life,” so they would not be judged with the others *according to their works.*
- ***According to their works.*** When the dead are judged according to their works, they must all be sent to Hades, for (***Rom 3:10b, 20a***) *there is none righteous, no, not one [20a] by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight. Since they have rejected or ignored God’s infinite grace and Christ’s infinite love in dying for their sins, (Heb 10:26-27) For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, [27] but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.* Even though God is not willing that any should perish, His justice demands it when they have steadfastly refused throughout their lives to come to repentance (***2Pe 3:9***) and to personal faith in Christ, they will be judged..

Rev 20:13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

- ***Death and Hades.*** Death is often taken as synonymous with “the grave”, where dead bodies are confined, whereas Hades, often called hell, is the place where the souls of the dead, (unbelievers), are confined. Read ***Luke 16! (1Co 15:55) “O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING? O HADES, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY?”*** Multitudes of dead bodies are in the sea, rather than in the earth, of course, especially the great numbers of people who perished in the Flood of Noah. The ashes of those bodies that have been cremated have found their way either to the earth or to the sea, and so are also included among either the dead in the sea or those in the ground. In any case, the dead bodies of the unsaved will all be raised, presumably in their old natural condition, and reunited with their souls from Hades, to go before God in judgment.

Rev 20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

- ***Cast into the lake of fire.*** First of all, the beast and the false prophets became the first to inhabit this place. A thousand years later, they were joined by Satan, and now, after the great white throne

judgment of God, they will be joined by those whose names are not found written in the Book of Life. Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire, (*Mat 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: It says, *This is the second death.*"

- **If you have a part in the first resurrection, you will never face the second death!** Death from a scriptural definition is the separation of a man from God, the separation of a man's consciousness from God. If you live out a consciousness of God, if there is no place for God in your life, there is no communion, no fellowship with God, no thought of God; then according to the scriptures, you are dead already! You one day will die physically, but you are already spiritually dead! When you stand before God at this white throne judgment, if your name is not found written in the Book of Life, you will be cast into the lake of fire. *This is the second death.*
- **Now, we just read in verse six, "Blessed are they who have a part in the first resurrection over them the second death has no power." If you are born twice, you will die once!** Jesus said, "You have to be born again. That which is born of the flesh is flesh. That which is born of the spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I say you have to be born again." You have to have a second birth, a spiritual birth. **Born twice, you will die once. Born once, you will die twice.** You will die physically and then you will be cast into the lake burning with fire, *the second death*, that eternal separation from God!
- **The second death.** These will all have died physically, then have been resurrected. They will die again physically (or possibly will continue in an eternal state of dying physically, (*Mar 9:43-48*) where *'THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.'* This can appropriately be called "*the second death.*"

Rev 20:15 *And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*

- **That must be my top priority, to make sure that my name is and remains in the Book of Life!** How does that happen? By my confessing Jesus Christ as my Lord and my Savior and living my life for Him, surrendered to His Lordship.
- **Now, it is not just saying, well, Jesus is Lord.** Jesus said, "In that day, many will come saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. Didn't we prophecy in Your name? Cast out devils in Your name? Did marvelous works?" He will say, "Depart from Me, you workers of iniquity. I never knew you." Jesus said, "Why do you call Me Lord, Lord, and yet you don't do the things that I command you?" He is my Lord, which means I am His servant. I live my life to do His will. He wants a relationship with us!
- **The importance of knowing Jesus as Lord, surrendering your life to Him as Lord, confessing Him as Lord! (*Rom 10:9*)** *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. But it has to be a true confession! If so, your name will be written in the Book of Life.*
- **We know God's heart, (*2Pe 3:9*)** *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*
- **The Book of Life.** Assuming that the names of all who begin physical life are initially inscribed in the Book of Life, their retention there depends on whether they accept Christ as personal Savior, after they become conscious and accountable sinners and before they die. Otherwise their names will be blotted out of the Book of Life (*Rev 3:5; 22:19*).
- **The lake of fire.** The lake of fire is obviously not located on this present earth, for this present earth will have burned up and *fled away* (*Rev 20:11*) by this time; yet the lake of fire will have been burning continuously for more than a thousand years (*Rev 19:20*). Neither will it be on the new earth, for that will be the home of *the Lord God Almighty* (*Rev 21:22*), whereas "*those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ... These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power* (*2Th 1:8-9*).
- **The word "destruction" does not mean annihilation, but "ruin."** Thus, the unsaved will be moved far, far away from the presence of the Lord, and there they will remain forever! They may well be translated to a far distant dark star, for a star is itself a lake of fire, and the lost are said to be like *wandering stars, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever* (*Jud 1:13*). There they must continue in their sinful state, hating God, never resting, without light, without love, without peace, without anything that speaks of the presence or power of God, forever!

- **Unless anyone think this fate too severe, there are several factors to remember.** In the first place, those who have rejected God's presence in their lives while they were on earth will be less miserable in hell than if they were forced to be in His presence in heaven forever. Secondly, only infinite punishment is fitting for those who have rejected or ignored the infinite love and the infinite suffering of the Son of God for them. Finally, they must exist forever somewhere, since they had been created in God's image, which by definition is eternal.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN TOLD IN CHAPTER 20?

- **Satan Bound 1000 Years – (vs. 1-3);**
- **The Tribulation Saints are Resurrected and Reign with Christ 1000 Years – (vs. 4-6); Christ sets up His Kingdom of Righteousness and peace; Earth's curse will be removed; Earth restored; (Rom. 8:22; Is 35:1-2; Is 11:6-7)**
- **Satanic Rebellion at end of Millennial reign is Crushed – (vs. 7-10);**
- **The Great White Throne Judgment – (vs. 11-15)**

WHAT DOES THIS PROPHECY MEAN TO US, NOW?

- **We need to watch, pray and be ready, making sure our names are written in the Book of Life!**
- **Be the witness He wants us to be – to both believers and especially unbelievers, remembering the totally wonderful things ahead for the believer AND the horrible, eternal torment awaiting all who are unbelievers!**

CLOSING PRAYER:

For next week read and meditate over Chapter 21!