

Revelation
Chapter 20:7-15
“He Shall Reign Part II”

All scripture references are from the NASU unless otherwise noted

Calvary Chapel Fellowship of Enid
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September 2017

Teaching: If you were with us last week, then you’ll remember that we looked at the first half of **Revelation 20** ... dealing with what’s known as the Thousand Year Millennial Reign or the One Thousand Years of Peace.

It’s the period of time that follows the Seven Year Tribulation and the Battle of Armageddon. One Thousand Years here on earth where Christ Himself will rule with a rod of iron.

From the perspective of man, it will be something close to what mankind knew before the fall ... in the Garden of Eden. Peace on Earth!

But the Millennial Reign isn’t Heaven ... it’s temporary peace on earth and as we move into the second half of **chapter 20** ... that becomes clear.

This morning, we look at the close of the Millennial Reign and then The Great White Throne Judgment.

But before we move into that study, I wanna set the stage with truth, because on an emotional level, God’s judgment here can seem harsh, but on an intellectual and practical level, we know that in reality, it’s not harsh ... it’s righteous.

As it says in ...

Exodus 34:6 ... “The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; 7 who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished ...

The Father is indeed compassionate and gracious. It’s His core desire to forgive people and show the abundance of His lovingkindness. But for those who refuse that ... His righteous nature requires the punishment of their guilt.

But God is, was, and always will be ... a God of love. That can’t change, because as John tells us ... God IS love!

1st John 4:16 ... God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may

have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

In other words, if we have fear it's because we've NOT come to know God. And if we're not confident in our salvation we will live in fear God's punishment.

But central to the passage is the fact that God wants to shower us with His love. But again ... He will, in fact ... He must, punish those who individually refuse Him.

Now ... let's dig in ...

Verses 7-10:

Q. The most common question that arises here is where did these foolish rebels come from? I thought all the unbelieving rebels were destroyed at The Battle of Armageddon? – And ... yes ... you're right ... they were.

But think with me about those who survive the Tribulation period. Think of believers who come to Christ in the midst of that Seven years of Hell on earth.

Those who did not die a physical death during that period. The ones that manage to survive the onslaught of persecution that will be brought upon them for receiving Christ rather than receiving the Mark of the Beast.

Again ... they haven't died ... they've merely transitioned from the Tribulation Period to the Millennial Reign. Which means that they won't have glorified bodies going into the Millennial Reign. They'll have earthly bodies ... which ... among other things, that means ... babies.

And in this case, lots and lots of babies.

Q. Why do I say that? – Because in addition to all those other things that we've already learned about the Millennium, **Isaiah 65:20** says ...

"No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, Or an old man who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of one hundred ...

So people will still be having babies when their great, great, great, great grandchildren are having babies. The earth will populate very quickly! And they will have free will!

And what's amazing here ... is that we see such a large percentage of these true Millennial babies ... born during the Millennium Reign ... turning on God when Satan ... the source of ignition for man's sinful nature, is released.

Q. And why is he released? -- To test the people. Remember ... up to this point, they've all been living under the iron fist of Jesus Christ. So, it remains to be seen ... who will follow Him of their own free will.

Q. Who's a real follower of Christ and who's a fake?

And by their willingness to go to war against Christ we see that although they've been giving outward obedience to Jesus, they never actually gave Him their hearts.

And consider how this flies in the face of modern-day psychology which tells us that people are basically good. That people who do bad things are just a product of their unfavorable environments.

NOPE! God was right all along (**Jeremiah 17:9**)! We're rotten and do what we consciously choose to do.

Q. God provides the perfect environment for these people and what do they do? – Exactly what they wanna do ... rebel!

Q. Have you ever found yourself saying “The devil made me do it”? – Well God proves to us in this text that Satan doesn't make us do anything. He certainly seeks to deceive us and influence us, but at the end of the day, we do what we do because we want to!

Also note with me here that the Beast and the False Prophet are in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone. We studied that at the close of **chapter 19** and it speaks of literal Hell. So at this point ... they've been there 1,000 years ... and are just as alive as the day of their confinement.

Because Hell isn't about annihilation ... it isn't about correction ... Hell is about punishment.

Jesus said ...

John 15:6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

Perpetually "Burned", but never burned up.

And just for the sake of completeness ... let me mention Gog and Magog ... referenced in **verse 8** here. The primary prophecies with regard to the counties and people groups they represent are recorded in **Ezekiel 38-39**.

It's an interesting topic, but not vital to our study this morning, so beyond that ... I'm gonna leave it up to you hungry souls to check out.

But I will warn you that the timeline on this is very difficult ... at least it is to me and the trusted and honest scholars that I read.

It could be speaking of a contemporary event or it could be a flashback. And I'm not certain enough to commit to one over the other. So from there ... you're on your own.

Verses 11-15: Satan, The Antichrist and The False Prophet (The Unholy Trinity) ... have been cast eternally into the Lake of Fire.

And if you didn't know it ... the Lord says that He created Hell specifically for them. Jesus said in **Matthew 25:41** that Hell was never meant for mankind, but rather, it was prepared for Satan and the angels who followed and served him.

None the less ... we come to The Great White Throne Judgment. The judgment that everyone who does not receive Christ will face, but that believers will NOT.

If you're a follower of Jesus Christ ... your sins were judged on the cross of Calvary, but for all those who have refused to follow the Lord ... the Great White throne is where their sins will be judged.

And it says here that kings and servants will be judged and treated equally. Billionaires and beggars will face the same God and be judged by the same standard. There is no favoritism and there are no loopholes.

Q. And these books? The books of Deeds and Book of Life.

Well here's how it works ...

If you've given your life to Jesus Christ, your name has been eternally recorded in The Book of Life and your deeds (whether good or bad), have no bearing whatsoever on your eternal destiny.

Your evil deeds, we're told, have been blotted out in blood (**Psalm 103:12**), and your good deeds are rewarded at the Bema Seat (**1st Corinthians 3:14**). But they have no bearing on your eternal destiny.

On the other hand ... if your name is not written in the Book of Life, then your deeds have not been blotted out and they will condemn you, because as **Romans 3:23** tells us ...

... all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

And it says here that the dead from the sea, the dead from the grave and the dead from Hades are all judged because their names were not written in The Book of Life ... and they are cast into the Lake of Fire.

Two things quickly ... we don't have time to study them out this morning, but I want to throw them out there for you students ... although we will be taking a look at them again in a near-future study ...

1. Q. What's this "Hades" thing all about? Is it the same as Hell or the grave? – No ... it's not the same as either of those, but it is a truly fascinating study.

So for those of you who are interested ... **Luke 16:19-31 and Ephesians 4:8-12** will give you a strong leg up in your understanding of this.

2. And the second thing I wanna throw out there for thought is **Matthew 25:31-46**. Because that's the only place where we have reference to yet another judgment. Not the Bema Seat of Christ where believers are rewarded for their righteous works. And not the Great White Throne Judgment where unbelievers are sentenced to eternal damnation.

This is a judgment that most refer to as the Judgment of the Nations and it seems to be just that ... a judgment of the nations ... primarily for the way they've treated God's chosen ... the Jews. You can read more about that one on your own as well.

But from this morning's text ... finally ... Satan goes to Hell! But it's not as we often imagine. Satan's not going to Hell as some sort of evil king. He's not going there to get his jollies tormenting people ... he's going there to be tormented.

You know ... Satan's known as The Accuser of the Brethren. He accuses you before God and he's constantly accusing each of us to one another. He's also always reminding us of our past failures. So, I really liked one commentator's suggestion when he said ...

"The next time Satan reminds you of your past ... just remind him of his future."

Conclusion: You know ...

- As of September 6th, 71 people lost their lives in Hurricane Harvey.
- And on the 9th of September, an earthquake off the southern coast of Mexico killed 61 people.
- As of September 14th, Hurricane Irma had claimed another 81.
- So far this month 151 people have died in terror attacks and 107 have been murdered just in the United States.

Less than 4 weeks ago ... all those people were alive and well.

They were thinking about getting the oil changed in their car ...
Their child's birthday party ...
The stack of work they had waiting for them on Monday ...
Their upcoming anniversary and ...
Their lawn that needed to be mowed.

But in the blink of an eye ... none of that matters anymore.

Hebrews 9:27 ... it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment

Q. Let me ask ... are you afraid to die? – I don't know that any of us want to die, but ...

Q. Are you afraid to die? – If you are ...

Q. Why are you afraid? – Think about it ... someone who KNOWS they'll be in the arms of Jesus when they draw their last breath on earth isn't afraid to die. And the so-called atheist, has no reason to fear death. According to what they say they believe, death is the end of all awareness. Like an eternal nap.

Q. So why would they fear that? -- No ... in reality, those who fear death ... are afraid of what, in their heart of hearts they know to be true ... God's judgment.

For them ... the fear of Him hasn't been driven out by the certainty of His love.

Listen again to these words from the Apostle John ...

1st John 4:16 ... God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

Q. So the person who admits to being afraid to die ... what can they do about it? – Two choices ... get saved or don't die!

Q. But how many of those who've died already this month thought ... I'll think about that after I get the lawn done ... after this busy week is over ... after I'm done with this next project? -- None of us are promised the rest of this day, much less tomorrow.

Q. Is your name written in The Book of Life? -- Having your name on some church roll – won't matter at that moment! Having your name on the list of who's who ... who cares!

Q. Is your name written in The Book of Life? – Jesus, said in **Luke 10** ...

20 ... rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.

Rejoice ... live in a state of joy when you know that your name is in the Book of Life!

But if it's not ... then you'll be judged based on the written record of your deeds and the true motive behind every one of them.

I know what that would mean for me ... and it ain't pretty. Jesus said in **Matthew 5:48**

...

... be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect

Which explains what we read earlier in **Romans 3:23** ...

... all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

So it's simple ... either you're name is found written in The Book of Life or you ain't gonna make it! You will be cast into the lake of fire and you will never escape.

Man ... I'm so thankful for the blood of Jesus! A long time ago, He said to each of us "I would rather die than live without you!" And so He did! He took the punishing death that was due me and due you! He died so we'd never have to.

Unless the Rapture comes quickly ... we will die physically ... the first death, but the second death ... that one's optional! We must each make a free will choice!