

## ***Revelation: A Study of End-Time Events***

### **Lesson Eleven: Chapters 19 & 20**

#### **Overview:**

Chapter 19 is full of rejoicing in heaven, since the satanic world system of Babylon is finally judged for its wickedness and for shedding the blood of the saints. God is praised, and the Church as the Bride of Christ is prepared for the wedding supper of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. The scene transitions to earth, as Christ returns with His Bride and His holy angels. We can also anticipate that included in this great army are the souls of the Old Testament and Tribulation saints, who will be physically resurrected on earth (Daniel 12:1-3; Rev. 20:4-6). We saw this pattern established at the Rapture, when the souls of deceased church age believers returned with Christ to be physically resurrected (I Thess. 4:14-17).

At His Second Coming, Christ will not be a suffering servant, but the Righteous Judge who slays the wicked, and no longer tolerates sin or rebellion against His authority. The Antichrist and the False Prophet will be no match for Him, and they will be thrown alive into the lake of burning sulfur. Satan will be bound in the Abyss (the abode of demons) for a thousand years.

When Christ sets up His earthly kingdom, the deceased Old Testament and Tribulation saints will be resurrected. No unsaved person will enter His thousand year reign on earth. In keeping with God's plan that man freely choose Christ as Savior, Satan will be released to test those born during the Millennium. There will be a final battle where all those in rebellion will perish. Then, the unsaved from all ages will be resurrected to face the White Throne Judgment of God. Chapter 20 ends with the wicked, whose names were not found in the Book of Life, being thrown into the lake of fire.

#### **Chapter 19: Christ returns to the earth with His Bride!**

##### **19:1-3**

- 1) After the destruction of "Babylon," the Satanic world religious, economic, and political system in Chapter 18, John heard the great multitude in heaven shouting.
- 2) The "Great Multitude" was first seen in Chapter 7 as "they who have come out of the great tribulation." They are seen as a group distinct from the Lamb and His Bride.

### **19:4-8**

- 1) The Church, previously represented by the 24 elders, makes herself ready as the Bride. The judgment seat of Christ and the rewarding of Church saints will follow the Rapture (Rev. 22:12), and will already have taken place before the Tribulation period begins, as shown by the 24 elders seated on thrones (Rev. 4:4), laying their crowns before the throne of God in Rev. 4:10.
- 2) Here, the Church is corporately provided with a glorious gown in preparation for the wedding. These righteous acts were prepared in advance by God, and done through the power of the Holy Spirit, so that it is God's work from beginning to end, and God gets the glory!!

Read Ephesians 2:10.

- 3) This appears to place the timing of the wedding supper of the Lamb after the Great Tribulation on earth, when Christ returns to set up His earthly kingdom.

C.I. Scofield:

“The marriage supper of the Lamb is the consummation of the marriage of Christ and the Church as His bride. The figure is according to the oriental pattern of marriage covering three stages: (1) the betrothal, legally binding when the individual members of the body of Christ are saved; (2) the coming of the Bridegroom for His bride at the Rapture of the Church; and (3) the marriage supper of the Lamb, occurring in connection with the second coming of Christ to establish His millennial kingdom.”<sup>1</sup>

### **19:9-10**

- 1) Who is invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb? The O.T. and Tribulation saints who are not part of the Bride/Church.

John the Baptist (not the writer of the book of Revelation) was an Old Testament saint since he died before the Church was birthed at Pentecost. He considered himself a friend of the Bridegroom, not part of the Bride. Read John 3:26-30

- 2) “The testimony of Jesus...” Read 1 John 5:11-12

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<sup>1</sup> Scofield, C.I. (Ed.), *The New Scofield Reference Bible: Authorized King James Version* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1967), footnotes on Revelation 19:7, p. 1371.

### **19:11-13**

- 1) Jesus Christ, contrasted with the First Horseman of Apocalypse (Antichrist), also riding a white horse (Rev. 6:2).
- 2) Christ will destroy the Antichrist with the “breath of his mouth.”

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:8 and John 1:1,14.

### **19:14-16**

- 1) The Bride of Christ (“dressed in fine linen, bright and clean”) is with Him. Also, the holy angels (Matt. 25:31) and the souls of Old Testament (Ephesians 4:8-10) and Tribulation saints (Rev. 7:9, 14; Rev.19:9).
- 2) “He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.”  
Read Rev.14:19-20; Rev. 17:14.

### **19:17-18**

“The great supper of God” in contrast to the wedding supper of the Lamb!  
This supper speaks of judgment.

### **19:19-21**

- 1) The armies and all those who had “received the mark of the beast and worshiped his name” will be killed. These will not enter Christ’s earthly kingdom, but will await the resurrection of the wicked before the great throne judgment (20:11-15).
- 2) What about those still living at the time of Christ’s return?  
Read: Matt. 25:31-46. Evidence of saving faith will be the love demonstrated towards others (1 John 4:20), specifically the Jewish people (“these brothers of mine”).
- 3) No unbeliever will enter the Millennium. Read Psalm 21:8-10.

## **Chapter 20: The Thousand Years; The Final Judgment**

### **20:1-3**

- 1) In Rev. 9:1, Satan will be given the key to the Abyss so that he can release the plague of demonic locusts. Here, a single angel will be able to cast Satan into the Abyss, locking him in.

- 2) Satan will be released to test those mortals born during the thousand years, that they would have an opportunity to choose Christ for themselves (Rev. 20:7-8).

### **20:4-6**

- 1) Those sitting on thrones will be given authority to judge:
  - a) The church age saints (elders sitting on thrones in Rev. 4:4) will judge the world. Read 1 Cor. 6:1-2.
  - b) The 12 apostles (part of the church, sitting on thrones) will judge 12 tribes of Israel. Read Luke 22:28-30 and Matthew 19:28.
- 2) The “first resurrection” is the resurrection to eternal life as opposed to the resurrection of the damned (Rev. 20:11-15). ALL believers will partake in the “first resurrection,” which occurs prior to the millennial reign of Christ:
  - a) At the Rapture: All Church Age believers. The dead in Christ rise first (2 Thess. 4:16). Included are the living believers taken up in the Rapture, who will be “changed” (given “resurrection” bodies: 1 Cor. 15:51-55).
  - b) The Two Witnesses (Rev.11:7-12)
  - c) At the Second Coming of Christ:
    - Old Testament Saints (Daniel12:1-3, 13)
    - Also, deceased Tribulation Saints & Martyrs (Rev.20:4-6).
- 3) A thousand years is a Millennium.
  - a) Christ’s Kingdom on Earth: Read Daniel 2:44
  - b) Read Isaiah 65:19-25. These will be the conditions on earth.
- 4) That only leaves the unsaved to be resurrected at the “great white throne judgment” after the millennium. We will look at that resurrection in Rev. 20:11-12. Recall our study of Hades, which tells us the souls of all the lost are still in torment until that time when their bodies will be resurrected.

Note: It appears that the living believers of the Millennium period, those who enter at the start or those born during that period, will not die since there is no resurrection for believers after that point. It appears that they will enter into eternity just as God had planned for Adam and Eve and all of humanity from the beginning. God's plans will not be thwarted. We will see more on this in Chapter 21.

### **20:7-10**

- 1) The vast number of unbelievers gathered for battle speaks of the increased world population during the thousand year reign of Christ. The earth will continue to be populated throughout the millennium.
- 2) "Gog and Magog" is symbolic of a ruler and the land of the ruler, similar to the yet-future war prophesied in Ezekiel 38 and 39, where a Russian/Arab alliance will seek to invade Israel, only to be destroyed by God. In this passage, there is also an attack against Jerusalem, but it will come from all over the world and is led by Satan himself. Read Ezekiel 38:1-1
- 3) The lake of burning sulfur (hell) is a place of eternal torment.

### **20:11-12**

- 1) The old earth will pass away, but will be followed by the creation of the new heaven and new earth (Rev. 21:1). The White Throne judgment of the lost seems to take place in the heavens.
- 2) We saw in Rev. 20:6 that the First Resurrection was the resurrection to eternal life.
- 3) All those not included in the First Resurrection: these would be the unsaved throughout history, and those who died in rebellion following the Millennium (Rev. 20:7-9).
- 4) The unsaved will receive JUSTICE. Believers receive MERCY, through the shed blood of Jesus Christ!

### **20:13-15**

- 1) "Death and Hades gave up their dead."  
Hades is now the location where the souls of the lost await final judgment.
- 2) Those who reject Christ will have their names blotted of the Book of Life.

Read Psalms 9:5 and 69:28.

- 3) After physical death and resurrection, this is eternal death. The unsaved dead will be physically resurrected to face judgment. They are not annihilated; they will not cease to exist. They will be “tormented day and night forever and ever,” along with Satan, the Antichrist and the False Prophet (Rev. 20:10, 15). “They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved” (2 Thess. 2:10).

*Now what?*

*How will this lesson change the way you live?*

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