

**What follows represents the unedited lecture notes of Pastor Merritt's teaching of The Book of The Revelation. Please feel free to reproduce all or part for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

1. Last week I completed a study of Rev 19:20 and when the clock struck 7:45 we were about to begin an analysis of verse 21.
2. Before continuing I want to provide "1Jo 1:9 time" as may be necessary.
3. Before we analyze the last verse of chapter nineteen, let me give you an expanded translation of verse twenty:

### **Expanded Translation**

**Rev 19:20 And then the Antichrist was captured together with his sidekick the False Prophet who had performed so many miraculous signs and wonders designed to authenticate his mentor's claims of Messiahship. With these signs he had deluded the unbelievers. It is at this time the Antichrist and the False Prophet are thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur created originally for the devil and his angels.**

4. Let's review some of that learned and then begin new material on page two.

### Principles

1. The consummation of the battle is described in verse twenty.
2. The Antichrist and the False Prophet are both taken as prisoners of war.
3. The Antichrist is called the beast. He is so described in Rev 13:1-10.
4. The false prophet is identified as the one who wrought miracles and deceived them that received the mark of the image. (Rev 13:12-17)
5. The doom of the beast and the false prophet culminates in their being cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. The lake of fire thus introduced is mentioned again in Rev 20:15.

Rev 20:15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

6. By comparison with other scriptures, it seems that the beast and the false prophet are the first to inhabit the lake of fire.
7. Unsaved who die prior to this time are cast into Hades or Sheol, a place of torment, but not into the lake of fire, which is reserved for those who have been finally judged as unworthy of eternal life.

8. Alford observes: "These only, and not the Lord's human enemies yet, are cast into eternal punishment. The latter await the final judgment, Rev 20:11 ff. These who were Satan's masterpieces precede Satan himself to this final place of everlasting punishment into which he is cast a thousand years later. (Rev 20:10)"

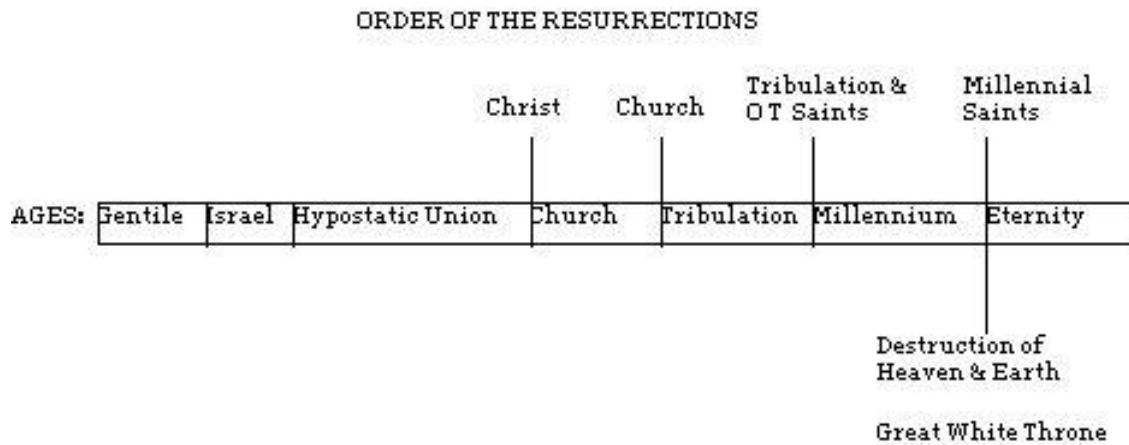
Rev 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

9. The rest of the wicked dead after being judged at the Great White Throne will follow the beast, the false prophet, and the devil into this eternal doom.

10. H.A. Ironside comments on the capture of the beast and the false prophet in these words:

"Two men, be it noted are taken alive. They are the two arch conspirators who have bulked so largely in this book the beast and the false prophet, the civil and religious leaders of the last league of nations, which will be Satan inspired in its origin and Satan directed until its doom. These two men are cast alive into the lake burning with fire and brimstone, where a thousand years later they are still said to be suffering the vengeance of eternal fire, thus incidentally proving that the lake of fire is not annihilation, and that it is not purgatorial either, for it neither annihilates nor purifies these two fallen foes of God and man after a thousand years under judgment."

11. In connection with the second coming of Jesus Christ there will be a judgment of both Israel and the nations. These judgments have to do with a determination of those counted worthy to enter the kingdom. Worthiness is always a product of faith alone in Christ alone. To prepare us for our study of the Second Advent judgments I think it would behoove us to review the Resurrections.



12. As you can see from our Chart there is a resurrection of believing Israel at the Second Advent of Christ and a resurrection of the believing gentile martyrs of the Tribulation. This does not mean these folks get their resurrection bodies. For their resurrection bodies they must wait for the end of the Millennium.

Job 19:25 I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

Job 19:26 And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;

Dan 12:2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life ...

Isa 26:19 But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who - dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead.

Isa 26:20 Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed by.

Isa 26:21 See, the LORD is coming out of his dwelling to punish the people of the earth for their sins. The earth will disclose the blood shed upon her; she will conceal her slain no longer.

13. The Resurrection of Israel is also seen in connection with her restoration as a nation at the time of the Second Coming.

13.1 In Ezekiel 37 in the vision of the valley of dry bones, we learn that the restoration of the dry bones to a living body is symbolic of the restoration of the nation Israel; it is also the time when Israel will be brought out of their graves.

Eze 37:1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.

Eze 37:2 He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry.

Eze 37:3 He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "O Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

Eze 37:4 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!'"

Eze 37:5 This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life.

Eze 37:6 I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

Eze 37:7 So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone.

Eze 37:8 I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

Eze 37:9 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'"

Eze 37:10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet-- a vast army,

Eze 37:11 Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.'

Eze 37:12 Therefore prophesy and say to them: "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel.

Eze 37:13 Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them.

Eze 37:14 I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD."

13.2 In the same chapter David is pictured as a resurrected person serving as a king over Israel under Christ.

Eze 37:24 "My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees.

Eze 37:25 They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children's children will live there forever, and David my servant will be their prince forever.

13.3 In general, the Old Testament clearly teaches a resurrection of the Jewish dead but in two steps; first will come the believing dead and then the unbelieving dead.

Dan 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

14. In Revelation 20 the resurrection of the martyred dead (both Jew and Gentile) of the Tribulation is said to take place in connection with the second coming of Christ. It is combined with the resurrection of the Old Testament saints.

14.1 Those resurrected are said to reign with Christ 1000 years and are apparently rewarded much like the church is rewarded at the Bema.

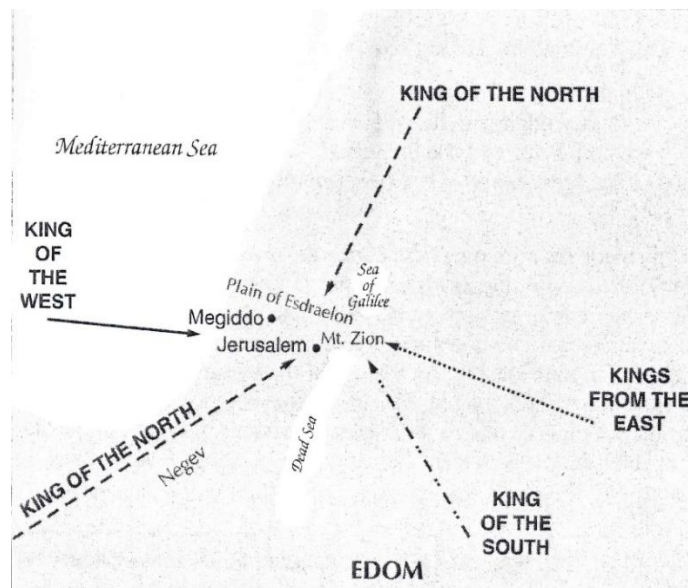
Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

14.2 With reference to the martyrs of the Tribulation, Lewis Sperry Chafer writes:

"Their faithfulness to God even unto death and their service rendered are recognized in their sharing in the reign of Christ upon earth. Some confusion has arisen because of the fact that the church is also said to reign with Christ. Scripture seems to indicate that all the righteous raised before the Millennium will share in some way in the millennial reign, each in his own order and according to the sovereign purpose of God. The church will reign as the Bride of Christ; the resurrected saints will reign in their respective capacities as saved Israelites or saved Gentiles."

15. Now we are ready to study the final doom of the armies who fought against Israel and the Lord Jesus Christ: Kings of the North, South, West and East.

16. The armies of Armageddon arrive in the Valley of Megiddo.



KJV

Rev 19:21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

NIV

Rev 19:21 The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

### Principles

1. In bringing to conclusion the battle of the great day of God Almighty, those not killed in the first stage of the conflict are now put to death.

2. The evidence seems to be that the entire army of the wicked are killed. According to verse 21 the remnant, that is, the rest, are slain by the sword of Christ, the one mentioned as proceeding out of His mouth. (Rev 19:15)

Rev 19:15 In His mouth the Lord had a large executioner's sword with which to strike down the nations. He ruled them with an iron grip and He began slaughtering the armies of the nations and so flowed their blood. It was like a man treading a winepress. He treaded the winepress with the fury and wrath of God Almighty Himself.

3. This act of judgment seems to be exercised by the immediate power of Christ rather than by the armies which accompany Him.

4. There is no evidence that the armies of earth prevail in any sense against the armies of heaven, but here is total defeat of man at the height of his satanic power in conflict with the omnipotence of God.

5. The chapter concludes with a graphic note that all the fowls were filled with their flesh. Such is the abundance of the dead that the fowls are satiated as they consume the fruits of the battle.

6. The Word of God makes plain that God so loved the world that He gave His Son, and all who avail themselves of the grace of God are immeasurably blessed in time and eternity.

7. On the other hand, the same Word of God states plainly that those who spurn God's mercy must experience His judgment without mercy. How foolish it is to rest in the portions of the Word of God that speak of the love of God and reject the portions that deal with His righteous judgment.

8. The present age in which we now live reveal the grace of God and His suspended judgment.

9. The Tribulation to come, while continuing to be a revelation of the grace of God, will give conclusive evidence that God brings every evil work into judgment and those who spurn His grace must experience His wrath.

10. Let me give you an expanded translation of verse twenty-one.

## **Expanded Translation**

**Rev 19:21 The rest of those who fought against the Lord at Jerusalem, Megiddo and Edom were killed by the Lord's executioner's sword and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh. The population of Sheol, or Hades as the Greeks called it, was greatly increased. It is here that all unbelievers must live in torment until their judgment before the Great White Throne. They are all given bodies capable of suffering just before they descend into the torment side of Sheol.**

11. Now let's see what we can learn from Revelation chapter twenty:

Introduction:

1. Chapter 20 is like a great calm after a force five hurricane. In the major outline of the book, this chapter is part of the third section. In fact, I think it is the second major section of the third part of the book. Let's rewind to the very beginning of our study where we reviewed an outline of the book.

1. The book of The Revelation has nine major chapters. They do not coincide with the chapters in the English Bible. There are nine major thoughts in the Book. Let's get these thoughts in outline form. The first is the most important: Jesus Christ is the key to history and prophecy. This is the central theme of Revelation chapter 1.

1.1 The introduction to the apocalypse-vss 1-8

1.2 The occasion of the apocalypse-vss 9-11

1.3 The person of the apocalypse-vss 12-20

2. Interlaced in the book are several historical trends to be experienced by the church on earth during the Church Age. Revelation chapters 2-3

2.1 Church at Ephesus-2:1-7

2.2 Church at Smyrna-2:8-11

2.3 Church at Pergamum-2:12-17

2.4 Church at Thyatira-2:18-29

2.5 Church at Sardis-3:1-6

2.6 Church at Philadelphia-3:7-13

2.7 Church at Laodicea-3:14-22

3. The Church in heaven-Revelation chapters 4 and 5

4. The Tribulation and Second Advent with emphasis on events-chapters 6-11

5. The Tribulation and Second Advent with emphasis on the characters-chapters 12-19

6. The Millennium and the last judgment-Revelation chapter 20

7. The eternal state-Revelation 21:1-8

8. The eternal Jerusalem-Revelation 21:9-22:5

9. The termination of the Canon-Rev 22:6-21

10. In Rev 1:19 the Lord provides a broad outline of His Apocalypse "Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter."

11. Charles Ryrie writes:

"The third section includes "the things which shall take place after these things." ... The first part of this section was the description of the tribulation period; this second part relates to the Millennium (chapter 20), and the third part describes the eternal state (Rev chapters 21 and 22)."

12. Millennium, simply means "one thousand years" and is understood as a time of peace and plenty on this earth. People hold three principal views concerning the Millennium.

12.1 Some believe that the church will bring in this period during this present time between the first and second comings of Christ. Then, when the earth has experienced this peace for a long time (it does not have to be exactly a thousand years), Christ will return in His second coming. Since His return is after (post) the Millennium, this view is a form of postmillennialism.

12.2 Others do not believe in a Millennium at all. When Christ returns there will be a general resurrection and a general judgment and eternity will begin. This is Amillennialism.

12.3 The third view is called premillennialism, since the second coming of Christ is before (pre) the Millennium. It is His return that ushers in the thousand years of peace on earth. Literal interpretation is the foundation for this view. As you know we in this church are Premillennial in our eschatology.

13. The Millennium will be a time of unprecedented and universal peace, prosperity, and justice under the rule of Christ.

14. In the same arena (this earth) where our Lord was seemingly defeated during His first coming, He will reign victoriously after His Second Advent.

15. During the Millennium Satan will be bound. It would seem his release will take place near the end of the 1000<sup>th</sup> year. The 1000 years is to be understood as literally as other numbers in the book.

16. Today Satan is alive and well on planet earth. (1Pe 5:8)



1Pe 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

17. The purpose of his being bound is "that he should not deceive the nations any longer" (verse 3). However, at the end of that period he will be loosed "for a short time."

18. Walvoord writes of the thousand years as follows:

"The most popular form of premillennialism in the twentieth century is supported by Premillenarians who consider the millennium an aspect of God's theocratic program, a fulfillment of the promise given to David that his kingdom and throne would continue forever over the house of Israel. Advocates of this position include many twentieth century premillennial scholars."

19. Such scholars include R. B. Thieme, Lewis Sperry Chafer, Charles Ryrie, Charles Feinberg, Merrill Unger, Dwight Pentecost, Chuck Missler, Hal Lindsey, Tim LaHaye and many writers and teachers like C. I. Scofield, A.C. Gaebelien and H.A. Ironside.

20. Since early in our study I spent some time discussing the various eschatological views I will not critique further the Pre, Post and Amillennial positions.

21. In verse two of Revelation twenty the angel is seen laying hold of Satan and binding him for 1,000 years after which such chaining, verse 3 tells us Satan is cast into the abyss and the door is shut.

21.1 All we know as a certainty is the abyss is a place where Satan is chained for 1000 years. It might be Hell, Sheol, Tartaros or a special place of confinement.

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