

**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 20:1-6 and when the clock struck 7:45 we were about to begin a study of Rev 20:7-9 where we see the Doom of Satan.
2. Before continuing I want to provide "1Jo 1:9 time" as may be necessary.
3. Let me first give you an expanded translation of Rev 20:1-6

### **Expanded Translation**

**Rev 20:1** And then I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, this angel was very similar to those earlier seen. This angel had a key to a large bottomless pit and in his hand, he held a large chain.

**Rev 20:2** The angel seized Satan and bound him with the great chain and **Rev 20:3** literally threw him into the terrible Abyss. The lid to the great pit was locked and sealed. In the Abyss he could no longer delude the nations anymore, at least until the thousand years were over. After the thousand years, however he will be set free but only for a short time.

**Rev 20:4** I saw thrones upon which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. On each throne sat the Old Testament saints and the Kingdom Age saints who died during the Age of the Hypostatic Union. Additionally, I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and their acceptance of the Word of God. They had not worshiped the Antichrist nor his image and they had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life, received a new body and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

**Rev 20:5** The rest of the dead, the unbelievers, are not removed from Sheol until the thousand years are over. This is properly called the first resurrection.

**Rev 20:6** Blessed, happy and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

4. The Doom of Satan:

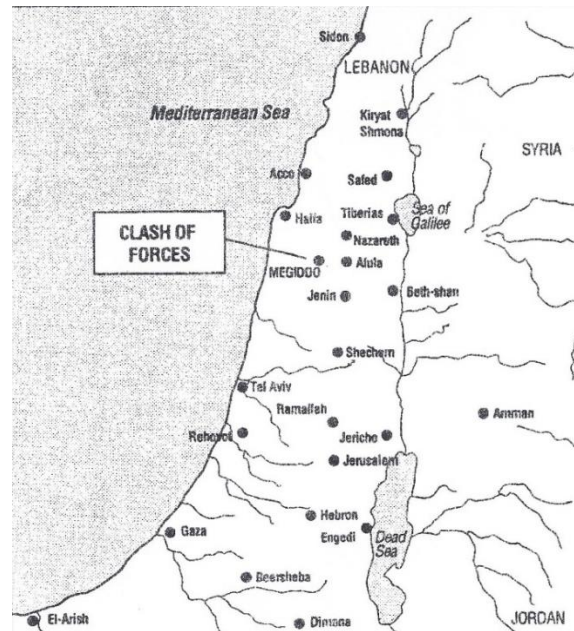
4.1 Let's begin with an expanded translation of Rev 20:7-9.

**Rev 20:7** Near the end of the thousand years I saw God release Satan from the Abyss;

**Rev 20:8 Satan immediately set out to deceive the leaders of the nations of the world. From the four corners of the earth he gathered the armies of the world to the valley of Megiddo. Several battalions formed in battle array outside of Jerusalem.**

**Rev 20:9 Backup forces from Russia, Arabia, Europe and the Far East could be seen advancing toward the Middle East intent on destroying all remnants of Christianity and Judaism. Before a shot could be fired, however, God sent fire down from heaven to devour Satan's forces.**

4.2 The last battle of the Armageddon campaign will take place in a place northeast of Jerusalem.



4.3 The Kings of the south, north, east and west converge in rapid fire succession.

4.4 This is the plan of Satan: to get the armies of the world in place for first the destruction of Israel and then the destruction of Christ at His second advent.

4.5 All of this has been predicted in Zechariah chapters 12, 13 and 14.

4.6. There is need of a horde of demons found in the Euphrates river to arise and convince the four kings of a need for a satanic coalition: first to attack Israel and then await the Lord Jesus.

4.7 What arrogance on the part of old Satan.

4.8 As we have earlier studied Israel will survive and Christ will destroy the armies of the world and the flesh-eating birds of planet earth will have a sumptuous meal.

5. Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 20:12-15

KJV

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Rev 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

NAME	DEBITS		CREDITS	BALANCE
	SINS	GOOD WORKS		
MICHAEL, R. (Believer)	+	+	None	Condemnation
Believer	+	+	+R	SALVATION
MICHAEL, J. (Believer)	+	+	None	Condemnation
Believer	+	+	+R	SALVATION

BOOK OF LIFE

NIV

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

Rev 20:13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.

Rev 20:14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

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

NAME	DEBITS		CREDITS	BALANCE
	SINS	GOOD WORKS		
Unbeliever	1,877,215	0	None	Condemnation
Unbeliever	1,275,324	0	None	Condemnation
Unbeliever	564,463	0	None	Condemnation
Unbeliever	2,395,449	0	None	Condemnation
Unbeliever	104,232	0	None	Condemnation
Unbeliever	1,452,873	0	None	Condemnation

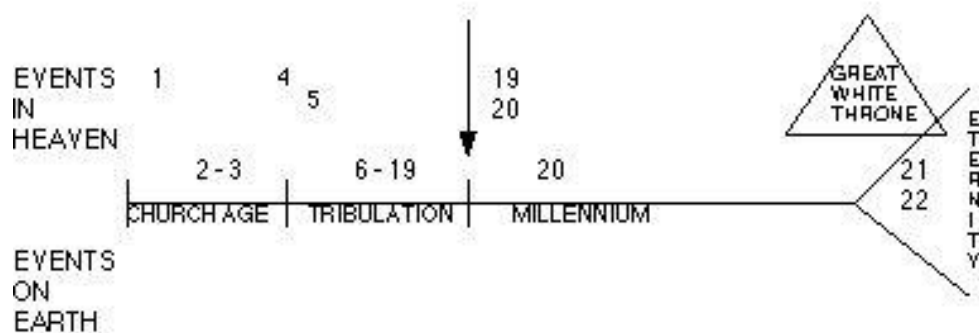
BOOK OF WORKS

## Principles

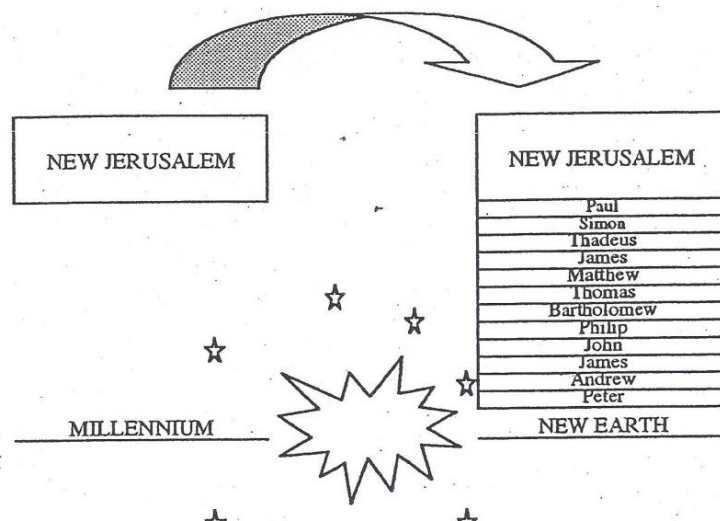
### 1. The Great White Throne

1.1 As the final climax to human history at the conclusion of the millennial kingdom, Scripture records the judgment of the Great White Throne. (Rev 20:11-15)

#### AN OVERVIEW OF REVELATION



2. In contrast with previous judgments of the righteous, and various judgments of God upon the Israelites and the Gentiles living in the world, this is the final judgment; in the context it is seen to refer only to the judgment of all unbelievers. As the old earth and heaven pass away the New Jerusalem moves over the New Earth.



2.1 Before the judgment of the Great White Throne takes place, it is declared in Rev 20:11, "the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them."

2.2 Human history having now run its course, the old creation is destroyed as expressed in Rev 21:1 ..."the first earth was passed away; and there was no more sea."

2.3 In 2Pe 3:10-12 we find a description of the dramatic destruction of the earth and heavens: "The heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." (verse 10)

2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

2Pe 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

2Pe 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

2.4 Notice in 2Pe 3:11 "all these things shall be dissolved," and in verse 12 these concepts are combined when it says "the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat."

2.5 Because of the destruction of the present earth and heaven, the judgment of the Great White Throne apparently takes place in space.

### 3. The Resurrection of the wicked dead

3.1 According to Revelation 20:12, John "saw the dead, small and great, stand before God." Rev 20:13 adds, "The sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them."

3.2 All the wicked dead are here resurrected and stand before God to be judged. That the Judge is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself is clear from Joh 5:27, where it states that the Father "hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man."

### 4. The Books of Human Works Opened

4.1 Revelation 20:12 declares, "The books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

4.2 The next verse repeats this condemning fact: "They were judged every man according to their works." Here the result of grace spurned is stated in stark terms.

4.3 There is no forgiveness apart from Christ (Acts 4:12), and those who refuse His grace inevitably must be judged for their refusal to believe.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

4.4 In addition to consulting their works, the Book of Life is examined for their names. Whether, as some believe, that the Book of Life is simply the record of those who have eternal life or as others have held that it is the record of all living from which has been erased everyone who is unsaved, the result is the same.

4.5 If their names are not found, they have not received eternal life. Their doom is then pronounced, and in Rev 20:14-15 it is recorded:

Rev 20:14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

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

4.6 Although some of those judged here may have been relatively good in comparison with others who were relatively bad, the lack of eternal life is the damning fact.

4.7 All who do not have eternal life are judged on the basis of their trying to work their way to heaven as opposed to faith alone in Christ alone. Their works are determined unacceptable and they are cast into the lake of fire.

4.8 The tragedy is that, according to Scripture, Christ died for them as well as for those who are saved.

4.9 According to 2Co 5:19, "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them."

4.10 In 1Jo 2:2 Christ is declared to be "the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

4.11 These cast into eternal punishment could have been saved if they had simply turned to Christ. Their hopeless estate is due, not to a lack of divine love nor to any unavailability of the grace of God, but rather their refusal to believe.

4.12 Those who are negative at God consciousness will never hear the Gospel; these folks are condemned by their rejection of the testimony of God in the natural world. (Rom 1:18-20)

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Rom 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

Rom 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

4.13 They are justly condemned for their unbelief. The judgment of the Great White Throne is the sad ending for all who will not have Christ as their Savior and Lord.

5. Let's see how Rev 20:10-15 looks by way of an expanded translation.

#### **Expanded Translation**

**Rev 20:10 After the defeat of the military coalition, the Devil who had deceived them was again thrown into the lake of fire where he joined his demon minions, the Antichrist and the False Prophet. It is there they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**

**Rev 20:11 I, John then saw a Great White Throne upon which the Lord Jesus Christ sat. Suddenly planet earth and the first and second heaven that surround the earth exploded and disappeared and all those lined up in front of the Great White Throne could see there was no place for them to go.**

**Rev 20:12 I then saw the unbelieving dead, great and small, standing before Christ's throne. It was clear that there were two sets of books being used in the judgment. There was first the Book of Life in which remained the names of God's elect; this Book was used to make sure only unbelievers were being judged. I could not help but be impressed by the size of the second set of books, called the Books of Works. The unbelievers were judged according to what they had done to make themselves right with God; every item of human good was found listed in the Books of Works. Beside each unbeliever's name were listed the things done in the flesh to impress our Lord. Needless to say, none of these things impressed the Christ.**

**Rev 20:13 Every unbeliever regardless of the manner or place of his death was given up; all who had died without Christ were required to stand before the King of kings and the Lord of lords, each was judged according to their works.**

**Rev 20:14 Both death and Hades were then cast into the lake of fire. This is called the second death or second resurrection to differentiate it from the first and blessed resurrection.**

**Rev 20:15 Those whose names were not found written in the Book of Life, were thrown into the lake of fire to join Satan, his minions, the Antichrist and the False Prophet.**

6. We are now ready for an analysis of Revelation Chapter 21.

## Introduction

1. Many are convinced that chapters twenty-one and twenty-two describe events in heaven. Then there are those who believe what is described in chapters twenty-one and twenty-two describe the Millennium. Others believe certain portions of these last two chapters describe the New Jerusalem and other parts describe the new heaven and the new earth.

2. Then there are also those who believe that John sees the new heaven and the new earth in verse one of chapter twenty-one while the rest of chapters twenty-one and twenty-two describe the New Jerusalem. This is the view of men like John Walford, Wycliffe, Col. R. B. Thieme, Lewis Chafer, Charles Ryrie and J. Vernon McGee. I too am convinced the new heaven and the new earth are described in verse one of chapter twenty-one while the rest of chapters twenty-one and twenty-two describe the New Jerusalem.

3. For example Lewis Sperry Chafer writes:

"In Revelation 21:1 ... John writes, 'I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away.' The new heaven is not described at all, and all that is stated about the new earth is, 'There was no more sea' (Rev 21:1). The strange silence of Scripture on the appearance of both the new earth and the new heaven is nowhere explained. Instead our attention is directed immediately to the holy city of the New Jerusalem."

4. Tim LaHaye writes in his book *Revelation Unveiled*, "The last chapter of Revelation contains a final description of that heaven-like earth that God has prepared for those who love him." Earlier LaHaye makes clear chapter twenty-one with the exception of Rev 21:1 describes the New Jerusalem.

5. I am convinced, along with many conservative scholars that the New Jerusalem described in these last two chapters of the book of the Revelation is also the same New Jerusalem in which church age saints will live; a city located above planet earth during the Millennium.

6. The earth and heaven of the Millennium recall "flees away" but not the New Jerusalem, it remains. The Bride has a permanent home not made with hands which does not fade away.

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