

Session Twenty-one: Revelation 20:1-15 “On Earth As It Is In Heaven”

I) Introduction

- A) In **Genesis 3** through the fall of Adam and Eve the unthinkable took place; the leadership that God gave to Adam (mankind) was forfeited through sin and given to satan. From that day forward satan’s foothold throughout life in this age has only increased. At best the people of God have held satan at bay partially, but never permanently (**Matthew 4:1-11**).
- B) The children of Israel attempted throughout history to establish God’s kingdom, but knew they would forever struggle until the Greater David, that great Davidic Messiah came and established His Kingdom “*On Earth As It Is In Heaven.*”
- C) The Old Testament saints and the New Testament saints had one primary common denominator; they were both looking for the Son of David to come and set up His kingdom “*On Earth As It Is In Heaven.*”
- 1) **2nd Samuel 7:12-13** “*When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish his kingdom forever.*”
- 2) **Luke 1:31-33** “*And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His Father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.*”
- 3) **Luke 24:20-21** “*...how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel.*”
- D) Through the incarnation (God taking on flesh) God finally had a Man on the earth who could rightly challenge satan and take back the authority and leadership of life in this fallen age.
- E) As Jesus was crucified, buried and resurrected from physical death He rightly stripped satan of his monopoly of authority. Jesus, who’s now seated at the right hand of the Father gives His authority on earth to those that call upon His name for salvation in this age.
- F) As of right now, the Kingdom of God is here and still yet coming. It’s been inaugurated but not consummated. We have received the down-payment of that which is yet to come.
- G) **Revelation 19 and 20** make up the fifth and final chronological/storyline section within the Revelation.
- H) **Revelation 19** details the events after the fall of Babylon which include; the ascent of the saints in the rapture/resurrection to meet Jesus in the air and our descent with Him back to this physical earth as He establishes His Kingdom “*On Earth As It Is In Heaven.*”

II) Satan's Bound For One Thousand Years (Revelation 20:1-3)

- A) **Revelation 20:1-2** *"Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 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 (the devil) must be released for a little while."*
- 1) It's here, after the antichrist and the false prophet have been thrown into the lake of fire and all those that received the mark of the beast are slain (**Rev. 19:20-21**), that an unnamed angel binds satan with a great chain into the bottomless pit for 1,000 years.
 - 2) This is the last great insult for satan as the one who has reeked so much havoc within God's creation is thrown into the pit by an unnamed angel.
 - 3) The pit mentioned here is the same pit, the bottomless pit from which the demonic locust ascended from and it's also the home of the beast (**Revelation 9:1-6;11:7**). The pit is not the same thing as the lake of fire (the final destination of the unrighteous) or the grave (the intermediate place of the unrighteous dead).
 - 4) This pit is later titled a prison (**Rev. 20:7**) and it's not the ultimate destination of satan, but rather a temporary one as God set's up His millennial kingdom "On Earth As It Is In Heaven" for a thousand years.

III) Reigning, Ruling And Resurrections (Revelation 20:4-6)

- A) **Revelation 20:4** *"And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the Word of God, who had not worshipped 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."*
- 1) The Church throughout history has held to 3 primary schools of thought regarding this 1,000 year time period mentioned throughout **Revelation 20**.
 1. **Amillennialist** (No Millennium) = This school of thought sees our world as too far gone for it to be reclaimed. They don't see that our earth will ever be recreated only destroyed.
 - (a) This group tends to be far too *Pessimistic*.
 2. **Postmillennialist** = This school of thought believes that our entire world will be Christianized through the work of the Church. They say that the devil was already bound at Calvary and after we have converted the earth, then Jesus will return.
 - (a) With all of the cultural and global numbers, at our current rate we seem to be a long ways from this reality. This group tends to be far too *Optimistic*.
 3. **Premillennialist** = This school of thought is hopeful of Jesus' return, but not apart from the full growth of the tares (**Matt. 13:24-30,36-43**). They see the tares and wheat growing together and Christ returning to overthrow the reigning antichrist to establish His kingdom.

- (a) Premillennialism believes that our earth will only look like Eden again after Jesus returns, destroys the false prophet, the antichrist and locks up the devil in prison. This school of thought believes that we do in part now what Jesus will do in fullness at His return.
 - (b) During the first 3 centuries of Church History (1 A.D.-300 A.D) there is no mention of anything but premillennialism. And among those that believed it were Barnabas, Hermas, Ignatius, Polycarp, Irenaeus, Justin Martyr, Tertullian and Hippolytus.
 - (c) Premillennialism takes the 1,000 years to be literal because it's mentioned 6 times in **Revelation 20** alone (**Rev. 20:2,3,4,5,6,7**).
 - (d) "Historic premillennialism believes that the world will get much worse before it gets better, but it will get much better after it gets worse." –David Pawson.
 - (e) This group tends to be far more *Realistic*.
- 2) It's here throughout **Revelation 20:4-6** that the kingdoms of this world which were formerly ruled and overseen by the antichrist are returned to their rightful owners. He has transferred the Kingdom from one hand (antichrist) into the hands of many (his Bride).
 - 3) John mentions two groups of people that have been resurrected and are now ruling and reigning with Christ on the earth.
 1. **Revelation 20:4a** "And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them..." This first group of people mentioned represent all those throughout world history that have loved His appearing (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob..) and have partaken in the general resurrection of the righteous at end of the tribulation when He appears.
 2. **Revelation 20:4b** "Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshipped 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." This second smaller group of saints also participated in the general resurrection of the righteous but are being singled out by God so that their sacrifice for the Lamb isn't forgotten.
 - 4) It's here, under the leadership of Jesus that heaven and earth come together while the saints rule and reign with Christ on the earth.
 1. **Ephesians 1:9-10** "...having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him."
 2. **Revelation 2:26;5:10;11:15** "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—he shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like potters vessels...and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth...and there were loud voices in heaven saying, the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

3. **Matthew 5:5** *"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."*
 4. **2nd Timothy 2:11-12** *"For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him."*
 - 5) The millennial reign of Christ is the great reversal where the earth will see the One whom they rejected and hated was the One that God had chosen and loved. And the saints who were also hated and murdered are alive ruling and reigning over the nations, while those who hated them have perished.
 - 6) Jesus suffered on this earth for 3 years but is now being honored as the rightful Ruler over the kings of the earth for a 1,000 years.
- B) **Revelation 20:5** *"But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 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 a thousand years. "*
- 1) The Bible refers to the resurrection of the righteous as the first resurrection and the resurrection of the unrighteous as the second death (it's the death of body and soul).
 - 2) It's here that we can see clearly that there are only two general resurrections in the Bible. One for the righteous at the end of the tribulation and before the millennial (1,000 years) reign of Christ. And the second for the unrighteous at the end of the millennial (1,000 years) reign of Christ.

IV) The Devil's Last Deception And Destruction (Revelation 20:7-10)

- A) **Revelation 20:7-8** *"Now when the thousand years have expired, satan will be released from his prison 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."*
- 1) This verse alone gives us proof that the Bible is written under divine inspiration. If this book were merely human and not divine, this verse would have never been included.
 - 2) At the time of Jesus' return at the end of the great tribulation there will be three people groups alive on the earth.
 1. **The Redeemed** = This group of people includes the believers that are alive when Jesus appears in the sky to rapture His Church.
 2. **The Reprobate** = This group of people includes all those that have taken the mark of the beast and are slain when Jesus marches into Jerusalem in the valley of Armageddon (**Rev 19:21**).
 3. **The Resistors** = This group of people includes those who both resisted Jesus and the Antichrist and survived the great tribulation. It's this group of people that will populate the millennial earth during the 1,000 year reign of Christ.
 - 3) I believe that 1,000 years is the shortest time possible for Jesus, in partnership with the saints and the nations of the earth to be able to recreate the earth and put all things in order.

- 4) During the 1,000 year reign a portion of this group of resistors, who don't have resurrected bodies will not be able to openly reject Christ though they will reject him internally.
 - 5) Because God so loves the dignity of choice, He is going to release the serpent of old back into His global garden of Eden in the millennial earth forcing these resistors to choose either Christ or satan.
 - 6) We know that this group of resistors is large because they are referred to as being *as many as the sand of the sea*.
 - 7) Gog and Magog are used in **Ezekiel 38:1** to speak of hostile nations God and against His people. In **Ezekiel** Gog is the prince of Magog and he comes from the north to do battle with God's people.
 1. **Ezekiel's** prophecy has nearly the same structure as **Revelation 19-22**;
 - (a) **Ezekiel 36-37** picture the salvation of Israel as they are restored to their land and blessed with messianic salvation.
 - (b) **Ezekiel 38-39** picture the hope of this Messianic rule disrupted by the devil which is led by Gog and Magog.
 - (c) **Ezekiel 40-48** then picture a divine victory with eternal order in the form of a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem.
- B) **Revelation 20:9-10** *"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. 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."*
- 1) I believe that this moment will be the clearest indication of how dark the human heart is and without Christ how bent it is on doing evil. It's my personal belief that this moment will be the first time that even the saints with resurrected bodies will fully understand why all those that reject Jesus must be sentenced into the lake of fire eternally.
 - 2) It's here that God will send fire from heaven and kill all those human resistors that choose once again to follow the devil's rebellion. They must be destroyed because their unrepentant hearts will defile His eternal city.
 - 3) Once and for all the devil is thrown into the lake of fire to join the false prophet and the antichrist and never to surface again.
 - 4) This moment will also declare that the root of sin isn't poverty, social conditions, political climate, ethnic persuasion or the global economy but of sin and it's pervasive nature in the human race.
 - 5) It's unfathomable to think that people living "On Earth As It Is In Heaven", during this global garden of Eden with Jesus ruling and reigning will still openly reject Him and choose satan when given the chance. But it's not the first time that this has happened (**Genesis 3**).