

Revelation Chapter 20.**Title: The Last 1,000 years of history.**

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ 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 must be released for a little while. 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 worshiped 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. ⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. ⁶ 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 Him a thousand years. ⁷ Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ 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. ⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Introduction

We are now coming to a very important chapter in Revelation.

It is unlikely that you will ever hear anybody preach through the complete book of Revelation in the way that I have taught it.

The reason is that very few people believe it is a prophetic book, even though John clearly tells us this at the start of the book.

About 50 years ago most preachers believed in a Pre-Millennial view point concerning the second coming of Jesus.

Sadly, today I only know of a very few preachers who believe in a literal reign of Jesus Christ on this earth.

My understanding is based upon the whole teaching of the complete Bible.

At least 30 times in the old Testament many of God's prophets have foretold of a future time in history when God is going to abundantly bless the Jewish Nation with specific prophecies.

It is very difficult to dismiss these prophecies and explain them away.

Before we get into the text of Revelation Chapter 20 let us look at a few of these prophecies.

1. Isaiah 9: v.6-7.

⁶ For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of *His* government and peace
There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice

From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

We are told in this prophecy that the “Messiah”, that is Jesus Christ, will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom to order it and establish it with judgement and justice.
David’s throne was and earthly one, with an earthly past and an earthly future. We have yet to see a fulfilment of this prophecy.

2. Isaiah 11: v. 1-12.

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The Spirit of counsel and might,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight *is* in the fear of the LORD,
And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes,
Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;
⁴ But with righteousness He shall judge the poor,
And decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.
⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins,
And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

⁶ “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;
And a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
Their young ones shall lie down together;
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole,
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den.

⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
As the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse,
Who shall stand as a banner to the people;
For the Gentiles shall seek Him,
And His resting place shall be glorious.”

¹¹ It shall come to pass in that day
That the Lord shall set His hand again the second time
To recover the remnant of His people who are left,
From Assyria and Egypt,
From Pathros and Cush,
From Elam and Shinar,
From Hamath and the islands of the sea.

¹² He will set up a banner for the nations,
And will assemble the outcasts of Israel,
And gather together the dispersed of Judah
From the four corners of the earth.

It is clear in v.4 that Isaiah is talking about this earth. Therefore, we are yet to experience an earth where Jesus is physically reigning and the city of Jerusalem is respected and protected.

Verse 11 is quite compelling. We are told that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left.

We have not experienced a lifting of the curse on this earth where a wolf will dwell with the lamb and the nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole.

3. Zechariah 14: v. 1-9.

Behold, the day of the LORD is coming,
And your spoil will be divided in your midst.

² For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem;
The city shall be taken,
The houses rifled,
And the women ravished.
Half of the city shall go into captivity,
But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

³ Then the LORD will go forth
And fight against those nations,
As He fights in the day of battle.

⁴ And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,
Which faces Jerusalem on the east.
And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two,
From east to west,
Making a very large valley;
Half of the mountain shall move toward the north
And half of it toward the south.

⁵ Then you shall flee *through* My mountain valley,
For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal.
Yes, you shall flee
As you fled from the earthquake
In the days of Uzziah king of Judah.

Thus the LORD my God will come,
And all the saints with You.

⁶ It shall come to pass in that day
That there will be no light;
The lights will diminish.

⁷ It shall be one day
Which is known to the LORD—
Neither day nor night.
But at evening time it shall happen
That it will be light.

⁸ And in that day it shall be
That living waters shall flow from Jerusalem,
Half of them toward the eastern sea

And half of them toward the western sea;
In both summer and winter it shall occur.
⁹ And the LORD shall be King over all the earth.
In that day it shall be—
“The LORD *is* one,”
And His name one.

The Mount of Olives has yet to be split into two on the return of Jesus. There is too much unfulfilled prophecy in these passages which can only relate to some sort of earthly reign of Jesus Christ on this present earth.

We do not have time to read out the other 27 references, but what would be very clear to you and me as we meditate on these Old Testament prophecies is that the events described by these verses concerning the nation of Israel have **NOT YET** happened.

God always honours His word, so we do know that at some time in the future an amazing time of peace on this earth, involving the Jewish nation will happen.

I believe that the time described by these prophets is the 1,000 year reign by Jesus Christ on this earth.
Let us now go into the text to discover what God’s word teaches us today.

1. The Preparation for the Reign of Christ on this earth. V. 1-3.

In verses 1-3 of chapter 20 we are told about the preparation work needed for the 1,000 year reign of Jesus.

The New Testament describes satan as the god of this world.

He is a murderer, the father of lies, the deceiver, and the spirit that works in the sons of disobedience.
(2 Cor. 4:4, Eph. 2:2, John 8: v.44)

The main reason that our world has always had problems is that satan has been ruling this world, through the sons of disobedience.

These sons of disobedience are the non- believers in this world.

Before the reign of Jesus on this earth, we are told that satan is going to be bound for 1,000 years. (v. 2)

In v. 3 we are informed that satan will not be able to deceive the nations until the 1,000 years have finished.

During this 1,000 year period, satan will not be able to influence people in any way.

Praise God for that!!

This is a key factor in understanding the 1,000 year reign of Jesus on this earth.

Once satan has been removed and the curse of this earth is lifted, then all the Old testament prophecies could be a reality.

2. Q. Who will reign with Jesus Christ for 1,000 years? – v. 4-6.

First of all, I would like us to turn to Revelation Chapter 5: v.8-10. –

⁸ Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll,
And to open its seals;
For You were slain,
And have redeemed us to God by Your blood
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God;
And we shall reign on the earth.”

We need to realise that verse 10 describes a physical reign on this earth, by the saints who were singing this new song.

Let us now discover all the people who will reign with Jesus for this 1,000 year period.

- a) Turn to Daniel 7: v. 27 –

²⁷ Then the kingdom and dominion,
And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven,
Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.
His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom,
And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.’

The old Testament saints will reign with Jesus on this earth.

- b) Turn to Matthew 19: v. 28.

²⁸ So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

The Apostles will be reigning with Jesus.

We will discover in a moment the meaning of this word “regeneration”

- c) Turn to 1 Corinthians 6: v. 1-2.

Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? ² Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

The New Testament believers will reign with Jesus Christ.

That is us here today, if we know and love Jesus as our own personal saviour.

- d) Turn to revelation 2: v.26

²⁶ And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—

These are what the Bible describes as “overcomers”.

These are the faithful ones who stay true to God’s word.

These people are promised power over the “NATIONS”

This sounds like an earthly ministry, not a heavenly one.

- e) Turn to Rev. 20: v.4

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 worshiped 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.

It is clear here that those who had been martyred during the tribulation period will reign with Jesus for 1,000 years.

This is the clearest statement we have concerning the physical reigning on this earth with Jesus Christ for 1,000 years.

There is going to be a “Resurrection” of all these people who will rule and reign with Jesus Christ on this earth.

This is certainly going to be an interesting and blessed period of history.

We are not given too much information in the New Testament about this 1,000 year of Jesus Christ on this earth.

However, by studying the Old Testament prophecies, it is clear that it is going to be a very different world.

Matthew 19: v.28 here. (N.K.J.)

²⁸ So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

The word that is translated “**Regeneration**” is the Greek word “**paliggenesia**”.

This word literally means “ Genesis again”

That is very interesting, especially as JESUS said it.

We get a picture here of God giving the believers an opportunity to experience this present world on what it would have been like if satan had not caused Adam and Eve to disobey God.

I am not sure that everything in the world will be totally perfect, as it was in Genesis before satan influenced Adam and Eve to disobey God, but it will be a world without the influence of satan. That is very clear from the text.

3. Q.What happens after the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ?

In v. 7 we are told that satan will be released from his prison and go out to deceive the nations. There will be one last battle in which the devil will be defeated and cast into the lake of fire.

Satan will be in this place forever and will receive everlasting punishment.

Praise God for that day!!!

4. Then - The Great White Throne Judgement - v. 11-15.

Before we get into the text concerning the Great White Throne Judgement, I want to briefly introduce the subject of God’s judgement.

Psalm 96: v.13

¹³ For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth.

He shall judge the world with righteousness,

And the peoples with His truth.

Acts 17: v. 31. (N.K.J)

³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

It is the teaching of both the Old and New Testament that a day of judgement is appointed for the whole world.

The Bible teaches that there is not just one judgement. There are several judgements.

There are three specific types of judgement mentioned in the Bible.

1. A Judgement that has already past - This is the judgement at the cross

John 5: v. 24.

²⁴ “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

2. A present judgement – this is taking place daily in the life of every believer.

1 Cor.11: v. 31-32.

³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

3. There are future judgements

a) Christians will be judged according to their works, not concerning their Salvation. That issue has been dealt with by Jesus on the cross.

1 Cor. 3: v. 8-16.

⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, *you are* God’s building. ¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If anyone’s work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself

will be saved, yet so as through fire. ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

b) Israel, the Fallen Angels and the Living Nations will be judged.

c) Non -Christians will be judged -

Rev. 20: v. 11-15.

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

It is the judgement of Non-Christians that are before us today.

Q. Who is going to judge the non-Christians?

Ans – Jesus Christ. –

John 5: v. 22.

²² For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,

Q. How is Jesus going to judge these people?

Jesus will have a complete record written down in a book which will give details of all the sins committed and all the things done in each individual life.

We know from the life of Jesus is that He doesn't just judge by works but He also judges by motives.

People can do good works with the wrong motives and Jesus is the only person who understands the motives of people's hearts.

What is clear is that anybody who is not found written in the "**book of life**", sometimes it is called **the "Lambs Book of Life"**, was cast into the lake of fire.

This is Hell, the place of torment and punishment.

There is no escape from Hell once Jesus has placed you there after the Great White Throne Judgement.

Applications for all of us today

1. Christians can be encouraged about God's plan to bless His chosen people and include us in that blessing.

If we study carefully the prophecies concerning the 1,000 year reign on this earth then we can't fail to notice that it will be a time of blessing for the Jewish Nation.

Most Christians today feel that the promises made to the Jewish Nation have now been replaced to apply only to the Church.

Although the Church does comprise of Jews and Gentiles, God will always honour His word concerning His chosen nation.

So somehow God is going to work things out for His chosen people.

Therefore, for us Gentiles, there needs to be a respect towards God's chosen people and pray for them that they will come to know Jesus personally as their own personal saviour.

If a Jewish person reads Matthew's Gospel, they will tell you that it is **a Jewish book.**

The hard part is getting them to read it.

Understanding Jewish culture and the Jewish Prophets is a key to understanding the New Testament.

The great Apostle Paul was a supporter of Israel's future Salvation.

Let us read Romans Chapter 11: v. 11-27 (N.L.T.)

¹¹ Did God's people stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not! They were disobedient, so God made salvation available to the Gentiles. But he wanted his own people to become jealous and claim it for themselves. ¹² Now if the Gentiles were enriched because the people of Israel turned down God's offer of salvation, think how much greater a blessing the world will share when they finally accept it. ¹³ I am saying all this especially for you Gentiles. God has appointed me as the apostle to the Gentiles. I stress this, ¹⁴ for I want somehow to make the people of Israel jealous of what you Gentiles have, so I might save some of them. ¹⁵ For since their rejection meant that God offered salvation to the rest of the world, their acceptance will be even more wonderful. It will be life for those who were dead! ¹⁶ And since Abraham and the other patriarchs were holy, their descendants will also be holy—just as the entire batch of dough is holy because the portion given as an offering is holy. For if the roots of the tree are holy, the branches will be, too. ¹⁷ But some of these branches from Abraham's tree—some of the people of Israel—have been broken off. And you Gentiles, who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been grafted in. So now you also receive the blessing God has promised Abraham and his children, sharing in the rich nourishment from the root of God's special olive tree. ¹⁸ But you must not brag about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. You are just a branch, not the root. ¹⁹ "Well," you may say, "those branches were broken off to make room for me." ²⁰ Yes, but remember—those branches were broken off because they didn't believe in Christ, and you are there because you do believe. So don't think highly of yourself, but fear what could happen. ²¹ For if God did not spare the original branches, he won't spare you either. ²² Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe toward those who disobeyed, but kind to you if you continue to trust in his kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off. ²³ And if the people of Israel turn from their unbelief, they will be grafted in again, for God has the power to graft them back into the tree. ²⁴ You, by nature, were a branch cut from a wild olive tree. So if God was willing to do something contrary to nature by grafting you into his cultivated tree, he will be far more eager to graft the original branches back into the tree where they belong. ²⁵ I want you to understand this mystery, dear brothers and sisters, so that you will not feel proud about yourselves. Some of the people of Israel have hard hearts, but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles comes to Christ. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved. As the Scriptures say, "The one who rescues will come from Jerusalem

and he will turn Israel away from ungodliness.

²⁷ And this is my covenant with them,
that I will take away their sins."

You don't need to be a Bible Scholar to realise that God has a master plan to save his people in the future.

Be careful who influences your thinking about the second coming of Jesus. Is it a book written by somebody who would like you to think the same as them or is it the Holy Spirit teaching you truth from the Bible?

There is a big difference.

2. People who are not Christians will one day be raised from the dead and judged by Jesus Christ for their life.

The Great White Throne Judgement by Jesus Christ is a warning to all No- Christians that they face a "Judgement" by Jesus for their lives.

The warning is that eternal punishment awaits them in hell if their names are not written in the "lambs book of life."

If you are not a Christian today, I would urge you to come to Jesus Christ.

Come as you are, willing to repent of your sin, humble yourself and admit that before a Holy God, you have gone your own way in life and as a result your sins separate you from your creator God.

God still loves you and calls you to come to Jesus today.

Will you come? Or do you want to face judgement for your many sins?

The choice is YOURS.

You will never regret taking a step of faith and sincerely coming to Jesus in repentance and faith.

Q. Why not come to Jesus today?