

Bible Study on Revelation Chapters 20–22

Section 1 — Revelation 20:1–6

Satan Bound — The Thousand-Year Reign

Revelation 20:1-6 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.

Summary

John sees an angel bind Satan for a thousand years so he can no longer deceive the nations. During this millennium, the saints reign with Christ. Those who were faithful—even unto death—share in the “first resurrection,” over whom the second death has no power.

Themes & Commentary

The restraint of evil:

Satan’s binding shows that God limits evil’s influence according to His sovereign plan.

The vindication of the faithful:

Those who suffered for Christ now reign with Him. Their earthly losses become heavenly honor.

The first resurrection:

A resurrection of blessing, reward, and participation in Christ’s kingdom.

Supporting Scriptures:

- **2 Timothy 2:12** — “If we endure, we shall also reign with Him.”
- **Luke 22:29–30** — ²⁹ "And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed *one* upon Me, ³⁰ "that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, **and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**"
- **1 Corinthians 6:2** 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?

- **1 Thessalonians 5:1-3** But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² **For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.** ³ For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then **sudden destruction comes upon them**, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

Reflection Questions

- What does the millennium reveal about God's justice and patience?
 - How does the promise of reigning with Christ encourage believers facing hardship?
 - Why is the "first resurrection" a source of hope for the church?
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Section 2 — Revelation 20:7–15

The Final Rebellion — The Great White Throne Judgment

Revelation 20:7-15 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.

Summary

After the millennium, Satan is released and deceives the nations once more. They gather for battle, but God swiftly destroys them. Satan is cast into the lake of fire. Then comes the Great White Throne Judgment, where the dead are judged according to their works. Death and Hades are also cast into the lake of fire.

Themes & Commentary

Humanity's need for redemption:

Even after a thousand years of Christ's righteous rule, rebellion resurfaces—showing that sin is a heart issue, not merely environmental.

The final defeat of evil:

Satan's end is certain and eternal.

The Book of Life:

The decisive factor in judgment is whether one belongs to Christ.

Supporting Scriptures:

- **Hebrews 9:27** — “It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”
- **Romans 5:5-11** ⁵ But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath **and revelation of the righteous judgment of God**, ⁶ who **"will render to each one according to his deeds"**: ⁷ eternal life to those who by patient continuance **in doing** good **seek** for glory, honor, and immortality; ⁸ but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness-- indignation and wrath, ⁹ tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; ¹⁰ but **glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good**, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹¹ **For there is no partiality with God.**
- **Daniel 12:2-3** — ² **And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.** ³ Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.
- **John 5:28-29** — ²⁸ "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ "and come forth-- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Reflection Questions

- Why does God allow Satan one final season of deception?
- How does the Great White Throne Judgment shape our understanding of eternity?
- What does this passage teach about the seriousness of sin and the necessity of salvation?

Section 3 — Revelation 21:1-8

A New Heaven and a New Earth — God Dwells with His People

Revelation 21:1-8 ¹ Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city,

New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. ⁴ **"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."** ⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, **"Behold, I make all things new."** And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." ⁶ And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷ "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. ⁸ "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Summary

John sees the new heaven and new earth. The New Jerusalem descends from heaven as a bride adorned for her husband. God declares that He will dwell with His people, remove all sorrow, and make all things new. Overcomers inherit these promises, but the wicked face the second death.

Themes & Commentary

God's presence restored:

The central blessing of eternity is God dwelling with His people.

The end of suffering:

Tears, death, sorrow, and pain are permanently removed.

The inheritance of the faithful:

Those who overcome receive God Himself as their portion.

Supporting Scriptures:

- **Isaiah 65:17, 25** — ¹⁷ "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. ... ²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust *shall be* the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," says the LORD.
- **John 14:2–3** — ² "In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Reflection Questions

- How does the promise of "all things new" reshape our view of present suffering?
- What does it mean to be an "overcomer" in daily Christian life?
- Why is God's presence the ultimate blessing of eternity?

■ Section 4 — Revelation 21:9–27

The New Jerusalem — The Bride, the Lamb's Wife

Revelation 21: 9-27 ⁹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God. Her light *was* like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. ¹² Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: ¹³ three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. ¹⁴ Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. ¹⁵ And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. ¹⁶ The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. ¹⁷ Then he measured its wall: one hundred *and* forty-four cubits, *according* to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. ¹⁸ The construction of its wall was *of* jasper; and the city *was* pure gold, like clear glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the wall of the city *were* adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation *was* jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. ²¹ The twelve gates *were* twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city *was* pure gold, like transparent glass. ²² But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb *is* its light. ²⁴ And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. ²⁵ Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). ²⁶ And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. ²⁷ But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Summary

An angel shows John the New Jerusalem, radiant with God's glory. Its walls, gates, and foundations are adorned with precious stones. There is no temple, for God and the Lamb are its temple. The nations walk in its light, and nothing defiled enters it.

Themes & Commentary

The beauty of holiness:

The city's splendor reflects God's character and the redeemed community.

God as the temple:

Worship is no longer mediated—God Himself is the dwelling place.

Purity and access:

Only those written in the Lamb's Book of Life enter.

Supporting Scriptures:

- **Isaiah 65:18-19** ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, And her people a joy. ¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem, And joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor the voice of crying.
- **Hebrews 11:9-10** — ⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.
- **Isaiah 60:18-21** — ¹⁸ Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; but you shall call your walls Salvation, And your gates Praise. ¹⁹ "The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; but the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, and your God your glory. ²⁰ Your sun shall no longer go down, nor shall your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning shall be ended. ²¹ Also your people *shall* all *be* righteous; they shall inherit the land forever, the branch of My planting, the work of My hands, that I may be glorified.

Reflection Questions

- How does the New Jerusalem reflect God's heart for His people?
- What does it mean that God Himself is the temple?
- How does this vision inspire holiness today?

Section 5 — Revelation 22:1-5

The River of Life — Eternal Fellowship with God

Revelation 22:1-5 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, *was* the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations. ³ And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. ⁴ They shall see

His face, and His name *shall be* on their foreheads. ⁵ There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

Summary

John sees the river of life flowing from God's throne and the tree of life bearing fruit for the healing of the nations. There is no more curse. God's servants see His face and reign forever.

Themes & Commentary

Restoration of Eden:

What was lost in Genesis is restored in Revelation.

Seeing God's face:

The ultimate fulfillment of human longing.

No more curse:

Sin's effects are fully reversed.

Supporting Scriptures:

- **Genesis 2:9-10** — ⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life *was* also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁰ Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads.

Reflection Questions

- What does the river of life symbolize for believers today?
- How does the promise of seeing God's face shape our spiritual priorities?
- What does it mean to live now as those who will reign with Christ?

Section 6 — Revelation 22:6–21

Final Exhortations — “Surely I Am Coming Quickly”

Revelation 22:6-21 ⁶ Then he said to me, "These words *are* faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. ⁷ "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed *is* he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." ⁸ Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. ⁹ Then he said to me, "See *that you do not do that*. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of

those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." ¹⁰ And he said to me, "**Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.**" ¹¹ "He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still." ¹² "And behold, **I am coming quickly**, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work." ¹³ "I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End, the First and the Last." ¹⁴ Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, **that they may have the right to the tree of life**, and may enter through the gates into the city. ¹⁵ **But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.** ¹⁶ "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, **the Bright and Morning Star.**" ¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. ¹⁸ For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: **If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;** ¹⁹ **and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.** ²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! ²¹ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

Summary

The book concludes with assurances of the prophecy's truthfulness and a call to readiness. Jesus declares that He is coming quickly. A blessing is given to those who keep the words of the prophecy. The invitation to salvation is extended: "Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely."

Themes & Commentary

Urgency and readiness:

Christ's return is imminent—believers must live watchfully.

The open invitation:

The gospel call extends to all who thirst.

The authority of Scripture:

No one may add to or take away from this prophecy.

Supporting Scriptures:

- **2 Peter 1: 17-19** For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, **until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.**

- **2 Corinthians 4:6-7** ⁶ For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

Reflection Questions

- How does the promise of Christ's return shape Christian living?
- Why is obedience emphasized in the closing of Revelation?
- How can the church echo the Spirit's cry: "Come"?