

Robert Jeffress 12-8-21

I. The Coming King

In January 1961, a few days before he was inaugurated as President of the United States, President Elect John F. Kennedy invited Billy Graham to join him for a round of golf in Florida.

On the way back from the golf course, President Kennedy asked Billy Graham this question. "Billy, do you believe that Jesus Christ is coming back to earth one day?"

Dr. Graham said, yes sir, I do!

Then The President Elect said, if that's true then why do I hear so little about it today?

The fact is you don't hear much about the return of Jesus Christ. Its a subject not even addressed in many pulpits across America today.

But even though it may not be talked about a lot, the fact is certain. Jesus Christ is returning to earth one day to reward the righteous and to punish the unrighteous. And it is our hope, (the only hope we have), and it is that certain visible, literal return of Jesus Christ that we have come to in our study of Revelation. Turn to Revelation 19 as we talk about the coming king.

I can't believe we've been in this book of Revelation for almost 1 year; and in a very real sense, everything we've studied for that time is simply a prelude to what we are going to look at today. Histories most important event!

Before we get into the text itself, let me answer the question why is a literal second coming of Christ important?

I want to mention 4 reasons that Christ must return to earth:

1. **Christ must return to fulfill promises made in the Bible.** If Christ doesn't return then it means hundreds and hundreds of prophecies will be left unfulfilled and therefore, the Bible is unreliable. But remember, the Old Testament itself had 1800 references, not to the first coming, but to the second coming of Christ. Did you know that? In fact for every 1 prophecy in the Old Testament about the first coming of Christ to Bethlehem, there are 8 prophecies about the second coming of Christ. In the 260 chapters of the New Testament there are over 300 references to the return of Jesus Christ. The second coming is not just incidental, it is the essential theme of the old and New Testament.
2. **Christ must return to judge unbelievers for sin.** If Jesus Christ doesn't return, sin and wickedness will only intensify in the world today.
3. **Christ must return to depose satan from his earthly dominion.** Remember, satan is the great easuper. He temporarily stole this world from God. And if Christ doesn't come back to reclaim this earth then satan has won. Do you think of God is going to allow satan to do this? Not on your life. Absolutely not!
4. **Finally, Christ must return to established his kingdom on the earth.** The promise over and over again is that the son of God is returning to rule this world in perfect justice and perfect righteousness. Don't we look forward to that day? When this earth will finally be what God intended it to be. That period of Christ rule on earth is the millennium. We will look at it next time. That's why Jesus must return to earth.

Remember last time we saw how Babylon, the empire of the antichrist, is destroyed by God. Both the city and the religious and economic aspect of that rebellious empire of the antichrist.

Now when we get to chapter 19, this chapter is divided into distinct parts.

II. THE SAINTS REJOICE IN HEAVEN - Revelation 19:1-10, The rejoicing in heaven over the fall of Babylon. In verses 11 - 21, the theme is the Triumphant Return of the King.

Let's look at the first 10 verses first, in which the saints are rejoicing over the fall of Babylon.

Remember last time we saw how Babylon, the empire of antichrist is destroyed. Both the city (capitol of the empire) as well as the religious and economic aspect of that rebellious empire of the antichrist.

The silence of the ruined Babylon gives way to the praise in heaven by the saints over the destruction of Babylon. And that praise comes in the form of 4 hallelujahs.

A. A 4-part harmony of Hallelujahs:

The book of revelation, the term hallelujah occurs 4 times and it all occurs in Revelation 19. *The Hebrew word Hallelujah means praise be to God.* Notice the 4 hallelujahs in these opening verses. Why are the people in heaven so excited when Babylon is destroyed? Let's look at verse 1-2.

-Hallelujah! The Great Harlot Is Fallen

1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia: Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore (harlot), which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

That great harlot is the false church during the tribulation that will assist antichrist in his rise to power in the first 3 1/2 years. Half way thru the tribulation, the antichrist and the 10 kings who rule with him, decide they no longer need the harlot, so they destroy her. When we come to the book of Revelation and chapter 19, The saints in heaven are rejoicing over the destruction of this false church.

Not long ago, I was interviewed on television about the declining church attendance in America and the fact that many churches are declining and many are closing. The interviewer asked me, what do you think of that? I said, I think, that is absolutely fantastic for some churches to die! There are churches that need to die! We ought to applaud when they die. You can imagine the headline that came out 'Jeffress praises dying churches'. Well there are some churches that we should celebrate their death. They are the false churches that are all around us. False churches that proclaim there are many ways to God. That all the different religions are simply paths to the same mountain that leads to God. That is heresy. That is the teaching of the false church and we need to rejoice when those churches close.

That is exactly what is going to happen in the last days when the final false church of Babylon is destroyed. The great harlot of Babylon is destroyed!

Secondly, there is a hallelujah from

The saints in heaven rejoice for THE GREAT CITY IS CONSUMED!

3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.

That city continues to smolder after it is destroyed, symbolizing that its desolation is complete. But her punishment is forever and ever. That is just a hint of what we are going to see in a few moments about the lake of fire, the eternal torment of those who die apart from Jesus Christ.

The third Hallelujah, for God has vanquished evil forever and ever

4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

And finally, Hallelujah, The Lord Almighty Reigns

That phrase almighty is the Greek word, 'pantocrater'. It literally means the God who controls all things. Even in the midst of the chaos of the tribulation, we are reminded of the promise of God, that he is in control of Everything that is happening. Don't we need to be reminded of that today, regardless of the racial unrest, the pandemic, the economic uncertainty. Regardless of the chaos in the world in general or in your specific world, no matter what happens, don't forget "THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY REIGNS". Nothing that is happening in your life this week is taking God by surprise. He uses all of it to

accomplish things in your life. That's why Paul could say in confidence that WE KNOW THAT GOD CAUSES ALL THINGS TO WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THOSE WHO LOVE HIM AND TO THOSE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.

5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Don't we need to be reminded regardless of the racial unrest, the pandemic, the uncertainty, regardless of the things happening in this world in general right now, don't forget, **THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY REINS!** Nothing that's happening in your life this week is taking God by surprise. He uses all of it to accomplish his purpose in your life. We know God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God and are called to His purpose. Now, this 4 hallelujahs chorus gives way to the final hymn in the book of Revelation. It's a hymn/a song for the Lamb and his bride.

Look at verse 7.

7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

The reason we can praise God at this point in the tribulation is because a marriage has already taken place. That phrase denotes an action that's already been completed. We can rejoice because a wedding has already taken place. Wedding? Was there a wedding that I wasn't invited to? What do you mean? Who is this wedding for? It's the marriage of the lamb (Jesus Christ). Behold the lamb of God (John the Baptist said) who takes away the sin of the world. The Lamb (Christ) has gotten married. Well, who did the lamb marry? His bride. Who is the bride? Some say it's the Old Testament saints. No. Some say it's those who were alive in the days of Jesus, like John the Baptist and Simeon. No. They are not the bride. Some say it's the tribulation martyrs. Those that gave their life in the tribulation. They were saved and martyred during the tribulation. No. They are not the bride. The bride of Christ is you and me - the church of Jesus Christ. Those that were saved between Pentecost and the rapture of the church is the bride of Christ.

So when did the wedding take place? How does it take place? How has it already happened at this point?

None of this will make sense to you unless you understand **the 3 phrases of the Jewish wedding:**

1-A marriage contract was drawn up and a dowry was paid. When 2 sets of parents decided they wanted their children to be married, they entered into a contract when they were just kids. At that point a dowry was paid by the bride's father to the groom's parents.

2-The marriage ceremony took place in the groom's house. Once the children were of suitable age to marry, the groom to be, and some of his friends, would go to his prospective bride's house unexpectedly and they would take the bride to be back to the groom's house and the marriage would take place; and be consummated.

3- It was a great party, not a two hour dinner, but a multi-day affair in which people were invited to come and celebrate the marriage of the groom and bride.

Now do you see the picture here? In our relationship to Christ, phase 1 - marriage contract was entered into. When did God decide that you and I were going to become the bride of Christ? BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD that was determined. That contract was entered into. God chose me and you. Not because of anything we did. We weren't even born yet, but it was all because of His grace and plan. We were chosen before the foundation of the world, but the dowry was paid, not by the bride's father, but by the groom himself, JESUS CHRIST!

When He shed his blood on Calvary for our sins, that was the payment that was made to secure us as His bride.

That was when the dowry was paid.

Step 2 - when will the groom come and snatch us away unexpectedly to be with Him? That's the rapture of the church. We don't know when its going to happen. It could happen today. Unexpectedly, the Lord is going to take us up to be with Him in the Father's House. That is the rapture of the church that is yet to come.

And after that rapture of the church, at a future day will be the great wedding feast after the marriage is consummated. We are united with Christ at the rapture and then at a time to be designated, 7 years later, He and His bride (Jesus and the church) will return to earth for the great marriage ceremony. The wedding supper of the Lamb!

Notice in verse 8-

8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness (Acts) of saints.

The bride is getting ready. We the bride are getting ready to come back to earth for this great celebration - the marriage feast of the Lamb. And how are we going to cloth ourselves? White linen. That is, if you don't know what that is, the righteous acts of the saints.

A lot of people get confused about this. They think our righteous acts don't matter. That we are saved. Its true of good works are meaningless. They are worthless to God before we are saved. We can never earn Gods forgiveness. It is a gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8-9 says 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Ephesians 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Works have nothing to do with being secured in our salvation, but after we are saved, our good works mean a great deal to God. That's why verse ***10 of Ephesians 2 says 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.***

You see that? We're not saved by good works but we are saved for good works. God does care how you and I live after we are saved and the good things we do for God. Our obedience to God is like a white garment we put on - the righteous acts of the saints. So when the church returns the church will return clothed in her righteous acts.

Dr. Chris will make this point. In John's day you had 2 garments you wore. You wore the tunic, which was the undergarment. Its basic. Everybody had a tunic, but you didn't walk around in your underwear. There was an outer garment that people saw. He said in the same way when we all trust in Jesus Christ as savior, we all receive the same tunic (the undergarment) of righteousness. That means when God looks at us after we've trusted in Christ, he doesn't see our unholiness, he see's the righteousness of His son, Jesus Christ. That's what you call imputed righteousness. But we cloth our selves in our toga. In the outward acts, in the righteous acts that we perform. And so the church is adorning herself with those righteous acts to get ready for the feast of the Lamb.

Now look at this -

9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

It is a happy thing if you receive an invitation to the wedding feast of the lamb. Does the bride get an invitation? No, the bride doesn't get invited to her own wedding. The groom doesn't get invited to his own wedding. This is for guests of the bride and groom. What the angel is saying to John is 'how happy are those that get invited to the wedding supper of the lamb'.

Just imagine for a moment you go out to get the mail and when you get it you notice a slightly oversized envelope. Beautifully decorated, cream colored embossed. You notice immediately the return address - 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington DC. Immediately you open the envelope to see what it is and in beautiful calligraphy says the President and First Lady invite you to a steak dinner at the white house

honoring queen Elizabeth II. How would you feel about receiving that invitation? Would you throw it down in disgust and say if its not going to honor me, I'm not going to that dinner. Why would I go to a dinner for the queen. I would go if it's written for me. No, you wouldn't do that. You would be honored that the President and First Lady thought enough of you to invite you to come and honor Queen Elizabeth II. Now as wonderful as an occasion like that, and trust me, dinner at the White House is something to behold. They are elegance defined. A dinner at the White House is like eating a hot dog at a picnic table compared to what the wedding feast of the lamb is going to be like. Nobody is ever experienced anything like that. Whose going to be the honored guest? The groom, Jesus Christ. And you and I (the church) are going to be honored at that wedding feast. We are the ones who are being honored at this wedding feast. Who will be the guests? You will have the Old Testament saints there - David, Solomon, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Ruth, they will all be invited to be there. It will be the Old Testament saints and the New Testament characters who died before Pentecost. John the Baptist, Anna, and Simeon (who prophesied about Christ), the tribulation martyrs. Those saved after the rapture and during the tribulation. Those that gave their life for Christ after the rapture will be there. And you and I will be there. They are not going to be upset because they are not the honoree's; they are going to be absolutely thrilled to be at that wedding feast of the Lamb.

You know I've often tried to picture what that wedding supper would be like. Just imagine what it would be like in a banquet hall surrounded by all the saints of the ages. Just imagine what it would be like for you to be there with your parents, your grandparents and anyone else who was instrumental in helping you know Jesus Christ as savior. Imagine all the chatter and conversations that will go on as people share with one another, their story of how they came to faith in Christ.

And then, at a moment in that ceremony, John the Baptist stands up and in his right hand he has a golden chalice filled with that new wine and he says, *'today, I want to propose a toast to the one who made all of this possible. The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the earth. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ'*. And with that, everyone rises to a sustained, unending ovation. That's what its going to be like at the marriage supper of the Lamb. Blessed is the one who is invited to that.

Now, that sets the stage for the return of Jesus Christ. Before that wedding supper can occur, Jesus and His bride must come back to earth. It begins at the beginning of His millennium - that wedding supper. They have to return to earth again but something has to happen before they get to earth. All the enemies of the groom and bride have to be extinguished. That's what we see happening at the return of Jesus Christ.

10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Again, let me set the stage what has been happening on earth. We've been thru the 7 years of tribulation. The antichrist rises to power. People frankly, are grateful for his leadership in brining order out of chaos in the world. After that 3 1/2 years the antichrist turns against Israel and he begins to persecute Israel and a group of believers who are on the earth. During this time God's judgment against the earth begin to intensify. And those over whom the antichrist is reigning are getting sick and tired of all the bad things that are happening in these last 3 1/2 years.

You know, there's an old ettag - he who calls the shots, takes the shots. Every leader understands that. If you happen to be in charge when pandemonium is taking place in your organization and the world, you get blamed for it, rightly or wrongly. Well the kings of all the earth are going to get tired of the dictatorship of the antichrist and they plot to overthrow him. And we see in these final days of the tribulation, the kings of the north and south attempt to overthrow the antichrist. What he's particularly disturbed about is that he gets word that a 200 million army from the east is marching toward Israel, the sight of the final world conflict. So all the forces of the world gather together in the Valley of Jezreel, the valley of Armageddon, the place that Napoleon says is the most natural battlefield in all of the earth. And why do they come to that place? Remember Revelation 16, it says the demons entice them to come. The demons operating under the authority of God bring all these world forces to this spot. Chapter 16 Says

the demons will entice all the nations of the earth to gather at Armageddon for the war of the great day, God The Almighty!

And so you've got this scene at Armageddon, where the forces of the earth are fighting to overthrow the antichrist. They are against one another when suddenly they look up into the sky and they see the Warrior King and his army; and suddenly, that divided human army unites together to fight against Christ.

That's where we pick up in verse 11 - a description of the coming King!

Verses 11-21 = the triumphant return of the king.

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Faithful means absolutely trustworthy.

True means genuine.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

Talks about His piercing judgment. It was this picture that caused Matthew Brides in 1822 to write that song, Crown Him with Many Crowns....the Lamb upon His Throne.

Are you curious about that name? Would you like to know? I don't have a clue. Nobody knows except Himself.

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

Not in His blood; Its in the blood of His adversaries on earth who are fighting Him. This is what was anticipated in

Zechariah 14:2-3 about Jesus returning to earth to the Mount of Olives, causing such a reaction that the mount of Olives will split in two. This is the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 2-3: 2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

And some more of the story in Zechariah:

4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

5 And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.

6 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark:

7 But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.

8 And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

This is the second coming of Jesus Christ. And notice in verse 14, the description of the kings army.

14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

Who is this army in heaven that follows Him? Some say it was the angels or the old saints. But its the church! You and I. How do I know that? They were clothed in fine linen. Remember, the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Look at the description of the Warrior King -

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

What is that sharp sword? Its the Word of God. Gods' word is what gives life to some and pronounces death on others.

Remember the Old Testament description? Gods Word is like a surgeons scalpel. It brings hurt as well as healing. So does this two edge sword - it brings life to those that believe it and death to those that reject it.

I hear so many times (critics say) why can't you folks at Dallas Baptist be a little more flexible in your beliefs? Why are you so rigid in your beliefs? Don't you realize culture is changing and the church needs to change with the culture? NO, we don't change with the culture. The Bible says 'Thy Word is established in heaven forever'. Gods Word is like a rod of iron - it is completely inflexible. That's what we see here. God is going to rule by the rod of iron and he treads the wine press of the fierce God Almighty!

We saw that imagery in chapter 14. He will tread the wine press of the fierce God Almighty!

Revelation 14:14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

In Jesus time, the people gathered the grapes and placed them in a wine press and with their bare feet, trample all the juice out of the grapes.

This scripture talks about those who reject Jesus (sinners) being in a winepress, trodden, and blood coming out of the winepress as high as a horses bridle for miles and miles.

Judgement is going to be brought forth to those sinners and their blood will splatter forth. This is the picture we have here.

Its a fulfillment of **Jude 1:14&15-**

14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

We see the victory of the King over His enemies. Jesus prophesied over this in ***Matthew 23:30 And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.***

There are 3 aspects to the victory of the King:

-Supper of God.

Listen to me. ***In Revelation 19, 2 suppers are described. The Wedding Supper of the Lamb*** - John says blessed are those that get an invitation to this supper.

The second one is a different supper. ***Its called the Supper of God.*** And that is an invitation you never want to receive in the mail.

The first invitation is one to be coveted The second invitation is an invitation to be dreaded.

The first - The Lamb of Gods supper is an invitation to come and eat.

The second - is an invitation to come and be eaten. Let's see verse 17 & 18.

17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

The single day of the Civil War in which the most lives were lost was September 18, 1862. Over 3,600 soldiers were killed in this civil war battle. As devastating as that was, it is a drop in the bucket of whats going to happen in the battle of Armageddon. There are going to be millions upon millions slaughtered that day. Do you remember the pictures of New York City during the early days of the corona virus pandemic? There were so many bodies the funeral homes couldn't take care of them. They were in trucks, being stored.

In Armageddon, bodies will be left in the field for the birds to eat.

We know there are millions of predatory birds that migrate in the spring from Africa to Europe; and their migration path takes them over the land of Israel, so its easy to see how these birds could pick and gorge themselves with the flesh of this great battle.....The Great Supper of God!

18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

Notice secondly, the judgment of the beast and false prophet.

19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

20 And the beast (antichrist) was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

This is the first mention of the lake of fire in the Book of Revelation. Its the eternal place of torment for those who die apart from Jesus Christ.

Luke 16 talks about a place called Hades, which is the place people go to when they die, if they don't accept Jesus as their Savior. Its an awful place, a place of suffering, but its a temporary place as well. Every unbeliever is waiting for their final judgment to be thrown into the lake of fire; to be tormented day ad night forever and ever. The first two occupants will be the false prophet and the beast.

We will find that at the end of the 1000 millennium, the antichrist(beast) will be thrown into the lake of fire where the beast and false prophet are.

Revelation 20:10 says 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.

That's fascinating - satan doesn't get cast into the lake of fire until the end of the millennium, but the false prophet and the beast are still there when satan gets cast there. That means they are still alive. And that is the awful truth about hell.

A person who goes to hell isn't just destroyed. They continue to suffer and be tormented day and night forever and ever.

If you don't like that, if you think that is wrong or unfair, your problem is with the Word of God. That is exactly what God says.

God never meant for human beings to occupy the lake of fire. It was designed for satan, and his angels. For the false prophet, and the beast.

But those who reject the grace and forgiveness of God will spend eternity there as well.

And then we see this final warning, verse 21 -

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.

This is the future that awaits those that die apart from Jesus.

What about the here and now?

I close with this — perhaps the most well known verse in the Bible.

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

People misinterpret this - Jesus isn't a judge. He didn't come the first time to judge - he came to save. But the second time He comes, He comes to judge.

John 3 goes on to explain:

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

You see, a lot of people think when we are born in this world, we are born Spiritually neutral and when we die its a crap shoot whether we go to heaven or hell, dependent upon how nice we are on planet earth. NO, when we enter this world we enter alienated from God. We are like prisoners on death row, awaiting our final execution. Jesus Christ came that first time to be our Savior, to offer a pardon for our sins if we accept His forgiveness. He came the first time to be our Savior.

But, if we leave this world without receiving that pardon from sin we will face Him one day as our judge, just as those in the end time will see him coming and riding on that great white horse. The second coming of Jesus Christ will be the worst day of your life if you have to face Him as your judge.

But the second coming of Jesus Christ will be the best day of your life if you receive His forgiveness now and when you see Him, know that is the first day of the future He has planned for you.

Remainder of John 3:

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

Sister Shelbia opened our Bible study with prayer:

Father God,

Please hear us. We are so thankful you are here with us; and we're thankful for this study. We don't know who all in on, but are asking that you please for me of my sins. I'm poor and needy. Help us understand what Dr. Jeffress is teaching and help us get ready for the rapture. Its going to come in the future- help us as we hear this message today. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Following our video, Sister Shelbia said, "Another wonderful message". Knowledge, experience, ability to interpret scripture are all so important for us.

There are two tings I want to emphasize today:

1. False prophets – deception that's so rampant today.

2. Deception – strong feeling that deception is the thing I've learned most during this study. Constantine made religion belong to the state. Jude warns against apostate!

II Peter – Talks about Christians qualities of faith, virtue, patience, Godliness.

1:5-8 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1:19-21 Will help believers who privately bog in heresy

19 *We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:*
20 *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.*

21 *For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

As you have time, read *II Peter and Jude* and see what God tells you. We need to be strong in our knowledge!

II Peter 1:

1 *Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:*

2 *Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,*

3 *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

4 *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

5 *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;*

6 *And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;*

7 *And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.*

8 *For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

9 *But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.*

10 *Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your*

calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;

14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

II Peter 2:

1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of

whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;

14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.

18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

II Peter 3:

1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God

the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

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.

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

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?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before,

beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Jude:

1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

2 Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

8 Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.

9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they

corrupt themselves.

11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with

exceeding joy,

25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

II John – addressed to elect lady and children. This teaching tells us that:

1 The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;

2 For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.

3 Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

4 I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.

6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

This should be avoided at all cost.

8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

12 Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with

paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.

13 The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.

These false teachers carry on a regular campaign to destroy basic Christianity. COMPLETE DISASSOCIATION IS THE ONLY ACTION FOR A TRUE BELIEVER!

The Bible has lots of warnings about FALSE TEACHERS.

ASK GOT TO PLEASE SHOW ME WHERE I'M DECEIVED!

This isn't about the difference between denominational opinions.....once saved, always saved.

The major thing is teachers who deny who Jesus is – and that he's the only way to God.

Shelbia wonders if we will be persecuted because we know Jesus is the only way to God!

ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BE OUR GUIDE. WE ARE IN THE END DAYS AND OUR GOD REIGNS!

Prayer list:

We have some praises today –

Steve is in the hospital due to blockage and infection. Another praise – the bowel obstruction is gone. He started on liquids and plans to send him home tomorrow.

Jerry Miller is cancer free.

My cousin Ron is home and doing well. His wife, Marilou is doing well too.

Summer Rose – Jackie sent an update on her. She's getting stronger. She needs strength for her upcoming surgery.

Larry Green – in the hospital.

Shawn – throat cancer.

Elsie

Bill Hill

Darla
Mark
Barb Hart
Karen
Lawrence & Shirley
Jackie
Mike & Sandy
Sarah – still on oxygen, but trusting God for a full recovery
Caroline
Sharon Wade – tests on Friday. MRI of head and ultra sound on arteries.
SShe's having migraine headaches too much. Please pray doctors will
find our how to get rid of them.
LaDonna
Rob
Ashly and Scott
Wayne
Lane
Lois
Lori
Betty
Sally and Teresa
Unspoken
Tornado victims
Pastors to preach the truth from God's Word
Christians worldwide – lots of hardships

Magge offered our closing prayer:

We thank you so much for media that allows us to hear your word. Thank you for the wonderful news of 3 men who have come back. Help us be a shining light. Help us give you praise. In Jesus name, Amen.

Shelbia shared that we might be a little shorter next week due to the showing of Messengers 'Chosen' Christmas that starts at 4:30.