

11/02/2025

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## REVELATION

### The Great White Throne

#### Revelation 20:7-15

- I. The Future Revealed
  - a. We should not apologize for the wrath of God
    - i. May it not be – God is glorified when He pours out His wrath on sin
    - ii. When He cleanses the world of unrighteousness
  - b. The desire for justice
    - i. Division in our nation
      1. Hate evil and those who hate hate
      2. Justice on our own terms – we are the arbiters of what is evil and what is hate – we are our own standard of justice
      3. Woman caught in adultery – we are all guilty
  - c. Jesus is going to deal fully and completely with evil – that is the story of Revelation
    - i. Fulfillment of John's words in 1 John 3:8 *"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."*
      1. Rev 19 - John sees heaven opened and Christ riding a white horse, called Faithful and True. He comes to judge and make war in righteousness. His name is The Word of God, and He leads the armies of heaven.
      2. The beast (Antichrist) and the kings of the earth gather their armies to make war against Him.
        - a. *The beast and the false prophet are captured and thrown alive into the lake of fire.*
    - ii. Still one member of the unholy trinity that remains
      1. Rev 20 - An angel descends from heaven, seizes the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and binds him for a thousand years in the abyss, preventing him from deceiving the nations.
      2. Christ reigns for a thousand years — a period of peace and righteousness on the earth.
    - iii. Who did God promise to give authority to rule and reign with Him? – all those who share in the first resurrection! They are called blessed and holy! So who are they?
      1. Old Testament believers for one – Daniel 7
        - a. His disciples, the apostles - ***Mat 19:28 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."***
      2. New Testament believers
        - a. ***1Co 6:2 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?***
        - b. 2 Tim 2 – Paul tells Timothy if we endure we will reign with Him

- c. And in Rev 5 the church sings a new song “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, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”

***Rev 20:7 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.***

## II. Satan Released

- a. Why would God do that?
  - i. Dr. Lewis Chafer answers that question like this: “If you will tell me why God let him loose in the first place, I’ll tell you why God let him loose in the second place.”
    - 1. I don’t fully understand why God allows evil to exist – but I know He is sovereign, and I know He is good and I know He has a tremendous purpose for doing what He does
    - 2. Just like in Joseph’s life I know what the enemy means for harm, God will use for good
  - b. Those who are on earth that are fed up by the current administration of leadership, those who look at all that Jesus has provided for them, peace, prosperity, and perfection – they will be deceived by the devil to attack the saints and Jerusalem (satan returns to his primary mission)
    - i. Now you may say, “Wait a minute? There will be men and women who live in perfect peace, in a literal utopia, and even more importantly in the presence of Jesus Christ and they will still be deceived by satan when he is released?”
    - ii. Consider the story of man’s relationship with God throughout human history
      - 1. The garden of Eden
      - 2. The nation of Israel
      - 3. The earthly ministry of Jesus
      - 4. The church age
      - 5. Christ’s Millennial Reign
        - a. Common thread – mankind’s rebellion
        - b. It wouldn’t be the first time. Really is that so hard to believe? Never underestimate the depths of our sinful nature
        - c. Truth means nothing to a man who is hellbent on sinning – throughout scripture God has made Himself known and mankind has continued to reject him
    - iii. But they are consumed by fire and satan is finally thrown into the lake of fire with the beast and the false prophet where they are tormented day and night forever and ever

## III. The Throne Room

- a. John is given 7 visions of the Throne Room of God throughout Revelation
  - i. First view of the throne room is in Rev 4-5
    1. Around the throne was a rainbow – a sign of God’s mercy
    2. 24 elders sitting on thrones
    3. Flashes of lightning and thunder – calling back to Mount Sinai and God’s righteousness revealed through the law
    4. Four living creatures who day and night sing “Holy, holy holy! Lord God almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”
    5. in the midst of the throne - and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders - in the center of it all - stood a Lamb as though it had been slain
      - a. Quite an introduction to this throne room
  - ii. Rev 7
    1. “a great multitude, which no one could count,” (7:9) “from every nation and tribe and people group, standing before the throne and the Lamb.” They cry out, “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb” (7:10). And they hear the wonderful promise: “For the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes”
  - iii. Rev 8
    1. Silence in heaven as the prayers of the saints rise up to throne like incense
  - iv. Rev 11
    1. More loud voices in heaven crying out – *“The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”*
  - v. Rev 16
    1. with a loud voice from the throne saying, “It is done”
    2. The wrath of God is finished.
  - vi. Rev 19
    1. Heaven exults over the fall of Babylon the Harlot, and the Mother of Harlots, singing, “Hallelujah! For the Lord God Almighty reigns
  - vii. Rev 20
    1. All the singing stops, no thunder or lightning, no incense, no creatures, no elders, no multitudes
    2. Just the Great White Throne of God

#### IV. God’s Justice

- a. The Great White Throne
  - i. ***Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away***
    1. White – symbolizing purity and perfection
- b. Rom 14 - For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.
  - i. That is who sits on the throne – God the Son – Jesus said in 5 - “For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to who he wishes. For not even the Father judges anyone, but he has given all judgment to the Son”
    1. ***Act 17:30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 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.”***

2. Those who just want the Jesus of the New Testament and reject the God of the Old Testament haven't finished the book
- c. There is nowhere in the universe the heavens and earth can flee – heavens and earth that have been defiled by sin
  - i. Just as Adam and Eve fled away when they realized they were exposed before the holy and righteous God
  - ii. God's good heaven and earth polluted by the sin of mankind
  - iii. If you were to die tonight, and find yourself standing before God....this would be the scene, this is what the future holds.

***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.***

#### V. The Books

##### a. The Books of Works

- i. The Saints are ruling with Christ – this is the judgement of the dead
- ii. A perfect God demands perfection – and the wages of sin is death
- iii. “but I was a good person” – will be drowned out by the reading of their offenses
  1. ***Gal 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.” 11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”***

##### b. The Book of Life

- i. ***Gal 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.***

#### VI. Pre-Mil Apathy

##### a. Pre-mil vs Post-mil

- i. Pre-mil – things will get worse before Christ returns
- ii. Post-mil - world will get progressively better and more Christian before Christ's return.

##### b. The danger of Pre-mil apathy

- i. The world is going to get worse – who am I to get in its way
- ii. No different than the Calvinist saying – God will save who He wants to save regardless of what I do
  1. The danger of the pre-trib – pre-mil view is escapism and apathy

##### c. Passive, Spectators

- i. ***2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade***

*men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.*

- ii. *Acts 20:24-27 NIV However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace. “Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.*
  - 1. We must never forget that Jesus saves lives, He transforms lives – things may not get better globally but He completely change the trajectory of a family
  - 2. If your eschatology leads you to apathy – you have missed the mission of Christ