

Revelation

(A Chapter-by-Chapter Overview of God's Picture Book)

Lesson #19: Revelation Chapter 20

Review

Act I: Understanding the Relationship with Christ (Revelation 1-3)

A glorified Jesus who is "standing among the lampstands" (in the midst of the church), sends letters of encouragement, exhortation, and correction to seven in Asia Minor.

Act II: Understanding the Judgment from God (Revelation 4-11)

Chapters 4 & 5 - Heaven, the Scroll, the Lamb

Chapter 6 – Opening of the First Six Seals

Chapter 7 – An Interlude

Chapters 8 & 9 -Opening of Seventh Seal, The First Six Trumpets

Chapters 10 & 11 -Interlude, Seventh Trumpet

Act III: Understanding Why There is Opposition (Revelation 12-14)

Featured in Chapter 12:

The Woman and the Dragon

The Background of Opposition

Featured in Chapter 13:

The Beast of the Sea

The Beast of the Land (666)

Featured in Chapter 14:

The victory experienced by those who overcome

The judgment experienced by those who oppose God

Act IV: Understanding God's Wrath and God's Righteousness (Revelation 15-22)

Chapters 15 & 16 - The Sevenfold Wrath of God

God's wrath is pictured as seven bowls being poured out by angels on the wicked. The wrath of God is sure. The wrath of God is terrible. The wrath of God is only for the wicked.

Chapter 17 & 18 – The Doom of 'Babylon'

Babylon is described figuratively as a 'great prostitute', worthy of judgment.

Those who were seduced by and benefited from the 'great prostitute' mourn her demise.

Featured in Chapter 19:

A series of 'hallelujah hymns' celebrating God's judgment of the wicked and His blessing of the faithful.

A picture of Jesus as a heavenly warrior defeating the beast.

Revelation 20:1-15 Thousand Years/Judgment of Satan

Drawing from What We've Observed So Far

Revelation is not _____.

Numbers in Revelation are not to be viewed _____.

Doom for the Dragon and All Oppressors

Verses 1-3

angel, Abyss, dragon - We've been introduced to these 'characters' before in chapters 9, 12, 13, 19, etc.

great chain - The tool of the angel is a 'great chain' to bind the work of the enemy.

locked and sealed (1,000 Years) - The enemy is the 'locked and sealed for 1,000 years' kind.

after that - This is to be seen as a picture and not in a chronological sense.

set free for a short time - The enemy is the 'set free for a short time' kind.

About the Millennium

The Millennium is Now (Revelation 20:1-3)

The Devil is Bound Now (John 3:8; Hebrews 2:14-15; Matthew 12:28-29; John 12:31)

The chains that bind Satan is the _____.

Christians Reign with Christ Now (Revelation 20:4)

When we are in Christ, we reign with Christ. We share in His authority. (Ephesians 2:5-6)

We Receive our First Resurrection Now (Revelation 20:5-6)

See Ephesians 2:1-5; Romans 1:17

Jesus clearly described the two resurrections.

First Resurrection (John 5:24-27)

Second Resurrection (John 5:28-30)

The first resurrection is our _____.

The second resurrection is God's _____.

The Reality of Opposition: But God's People Win

Verses 7-10

when the thousand years are over - "The visions of John are not to be understood as indicating a sequence of times. They are largely repetitious and parallel. The same scene is thrown up upon the screen a second or third time, that all the light of prophetic revelation may be focused on a single event." -Charles R. Erdman (The Revelation of John)

deceive the nations - The aim of the opposition is deceitful and destructive.

Gog and Magog - Taken from Ezekiel 38, Gog was the prince of Magog and a strong opponent of Israel.

surrounded the camp of God's people - This is another picture of the people of God facing opposition.

fire came down from heaven and devoured them - A repeating image of the enemies of God attempting to wage battle only to be destroyed.

Devil...thrown into the lake of fire - God reminds the reader that the devil is the 'doomed kind'.

God's Eternal Judgment Upon the Wicked

Verses 11-15

great white throne - This is both a judgment and a victory scene.

earth and heaven fled from his presence - The ultimate authority is from God, not from the deceiver.

gave up their dead - This is the second resurrection Jesus spoke of in John 5.

books opened - This image makes it clear that those who receive judgment are the ones who deserve it.

The good news for the Christian is that we are not judged according to what we have done, but according to what Christ has done for us. (Romans 3:23-24)