



A Study of Revelation

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Week Nine – The Judgement Seat of Christ, Marriage Supper of the Lamb, Return of Christ, and Millennial Reign (Revelation 19-20)

I. The Judgment Seat of Christ: Judgment for the Redeemedⁱ

- *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. 2 Corinthians 5:10*
- *But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Romans 14:10*

In 2 Corinthians 5, the pronoun “we” occurs 26 times, and in every instance, it means the _____ . The epistle itself is addressed to church and saints which are in Corinth (2 Corinthians 1:2), Therefore, the judgment addressed in 5:10 is concluded to be for only the redeemed. The “judgement seat” comes from the Greek term _____ (literally a “step”), referring to a platform on which a civil magistrate sat during judicial proceedings or award ceremonies. This platform could be found in both public (John 19:13) and private (Acts 25:23) locations.ⁱⁱ Though the term can be translated a “tribunal,” Scriptures indicate that the Judgement Seat of Christ will not be a judgment in the sense of a trial to see whether the judged are innocent or guilty, for that kind of judgment has already occurred for the redeemed at Calvary. Rather, this judgment is like the judges’ stand at a competition, where rewards are distributed to the successful contestants. Paul describes such a scene in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.

- *²⁴Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. ²⁵And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. ²⁶Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27*

This judgment is described in 1 Corinthians 3:10-15.

- *¹⁰According 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. ¹¹For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³each 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. ¹⁴If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15*

The result of this judgment is “_____” or “_____.” All our bad and dead works, represented by wood, hay, and stubble, will be consumed, and only our “good works” shall remain. There is much which passes for Christian service which is merely human and secular, and does not count in our eternal reward. For those who deserve a true reward it will be crowning day!

The Crowns of the Redeemed

After the Greek games were all over, the runners, wrestlers, and successful contestants assembled before the Bema, or judges’ stand, which was an elevated seat on which the official sat, and the winners received a “corruptible crown” (*stephanos*) of laurel leaves. Some had no reward for their efforts; but while there was no reward, there was also no punishment.

The New Testament speaks of five crowns that are available to the redeemed. These crowns are rewarded to the faithful who diligently labor for the cause of Christ.

- 1) The Crown _____ – Sometimes called the Victor’s Crown, it is for those who “keep under their body,” who do not yield to fleshly lusts, who do not permit themselves to be diverted from the Master’s work by worldly amusements and pleasure. (1 Corinthians 9:25-27)
- 2) The Crown of _____ – It is given to those who have “loved His appearing,” who were faithful to the end of their lives, finishing the course God has laid for them. (2 Timothy 4:6-8)
- 3) The Crown of _____ – Sometimes called the Martyr’s Crown, it is rewarded to those who were faithful unto death. (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10)
- 4) The Crown of _____ – Sometimes called the Elder’s or Pastor’s Crown, it is given by the Chief Shepherd when He appears. It is not for those who serve for “filthy lucre” or “lord it over God’s heritage.” (1 Peter 5:2-4)
- 5) The Crown of _____ – Sometimes called the Soul-winner’s Crown, it represents those whom the Lord Jesus Christ saved through our witness. (Philippians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20)

II. Fall of Satan’s Military: Armageddon & 2nd Coming of Christ (Chapter 19:11-21)ⁱⁱⁱ

At this point, the religious, political, and economic systems of the beast have been destroyed. All that remains is for Jesus to return from heaven and personally defeat the beast and his armies. This He will do, and then establish His righteous kingdom on earth. But before He does, the command to praise must first be fulfilled.

◆ **Heaven Rejoices (19:1-10)**

When Babylon fell on the earth, the command was sent out that all who worship the Lord are to rejoice (Rev. 18:20). This is heaven's response to that command.

The word _____ is the Greek form of the Hebrew word hallelujah, which means "_____." Though it is a common command in the Old Testament (especially the Psalms), this word is only found in the New Testament here in Revelation 19, where it is found _____ times. This is heaven's worshipful fulfillment of the Old Testament call to praise – it is heaven's "Hallelujah Chorus"—and it is sung for three reasons.

- **God has _____ His Enemies (1-4).** The "great harlot" of Revelation 17 was destroyed by the beast and his fellow rulers (Rev. 17:16) during the middle of the Tribulation period. Comparing Revelation 17:2 with 18:3 and 9, the connection between the apostate religious system and the demonic political-economic system becomes obvious. All are called "Babylon" and all are guilty of persecuting and murdering God's people.
- **The song highlights God's _____, a proper way to praise Him.** We do not rejoice over Babylon's sin and fall or Satan's defeat; rather, we rejoice that God is "true and righteous" (Rev. 15:3; 16:7; 17:6; see also Luke 10:17-20). As discovered in Revelation 8:1-6, God's throne and altar are related to His judgments. In addition, Revelation 19:3 should be compared to 14:10-11 and Revelation 19:4 should be compared to 5:6-10.
- **Our God _____ (5-6).** Interestingly, "The Lord God omnipotent reigns," literally translated, is "The Lord God omnipotent has begun to reign." This isn't to suggest that heaven's throne has been empty or inactive. Indeed, the Book of Revelation is all about the activities of the throne to accomplish God's purposes on earth.
- **The _____ is Ready: The Marriage Supper of the Lamb (7-10).** The bride, of course, is the Church (Eph. 5:22-33; 2 Cor. 11:2); and Jesus Christ (the Lamb) is the bridegroom (John 3:29). At a typical wedding, it is customary for all of the attention and focus be given to the bride; but in this case, it is the _____ who receives the honor! "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come" (vs. 7).
 - The bride is dressed in fine linen of "the righteous acts of the saints."
 - Today, the Church is betrothed to Jesus, and we love Him even though we have not seen Him (1 Peter 1:8). One day, He will return and take his bride to heaven (John 14:1-6; 1 Thess. 4:13-18). In heaven, she will be glorified all her spots and blemishes will be removed. This being completed, the Church will be ready to return to earth with her Bridegroom at the close of the Tribulation to reign with Him in glory (see Luke 13:29; Matt. 8:11). Some scholars suggest that the entire seven years of the Tribulation will be the "marriage supper," though this seems unlikely, given Revelation 19:7.

- Revelation 9:9 contains the fourth of the seven _____ (“blessed are those”) in the Book of Revelation (see 1:3), which is an invitation to the wedding. The question is, “Who is invited?” Certainly, it’s not the bride to her own wedding! Rather, this invitation are to the guests, believers from the Old Testament era and the Tribulation.

◆ ***The Lord Jesus Returns (19:11-20:21)***

Among the most magnificent descriptions in Revelation is the conquering return of Christ to bring to an end the reign of the beast and establish His kingdom on the earth.

• **Christ the _____ (11-16).**

- *The _____ of Christ.*
 - He is “_____ and _____” (see Rev. 3:14), in contrast to the beast who was unfaithful (breaking the covenant with Israel) and false (ruling by deception and idolatry).
 - Perhaps His name “_____” is the same as the new name (Rev. 3:12).
 - The “_____ of _____” is one of the familiar names of the Lord in Scripture (John 1:1-14). Just as we reveal our thoughts and feelings by our words, God reveals Himself to us by His Son (Rev. 14:7-11; Heb. 1:1-5). The Word of God is “living and powerful” (Heb. 4:12), fulfilling God’s purposes on earth (Rev. 17:17; see Jer. 1:12). Just as the Word was the Father’s agent in creation (John 1:1-3), so here the Word is His agent for judgment.
 - Christ’s most important name is “_____ of kings, and _____ of lords” (Rev. 19:16). This is his victorious name (Rev. 17:14), bringing to mind references such as Daniel 2:47 and Deuteronomy 10:17. Paul used this same title for Jesus in 1 Timothy 6:15. The title speaks of absolute sovereignty, for all kings and lords must submit to Him (see Phil. 2:9-12).
- *The _____ of Christ.*
 - He comes on a _____ horse (vs. 11). He is not coming in the air to take His people home (1 Thess. 4:13-18), but to the earth which His people, to conquer His enemies and establish His kingdom.
 - His _____ are “as a flame of fire” (vs. 12), His searching judgment that sees all.
 - His many _____ (vs. 12; *diademata*, “kingly crowns”) indicate His magnificent rule and sovereignty.
 - His _____ dipped in blood speaks of judgment, probably referring to Isaiah 63:1-6 and Revelation 14:20, the conquest of His enemies. It’s not Christ’s blood, but his foes’.

- The _____ is a symbol of God’s Word (v. 21; see Hab. 4:12; Eph. 6:17; Rev. 1:16). This is consistent with the fact that Christ will consume the enemy “with the spirit of His mouth” (2 Thess. 2:8; see Isa. 11:4).
- The “_____ of _____” represents His justice as He rules over the earth.
- *The _____ of Christ. Who are they?*
 - The angels (Matt. 25:31; 2 Thess. 1:7)
 - The saints (1 Thess. 3:13; 2 Thess. 1:10; Jude 13-15)
- **The _____ of Christ (17-21).**

It won’t be necessary for the army to fight; Christ Himself will defeat the enemy.

 - *He will defeat the Armies of the _____ of the _____. These warriors have assembled to fight against the Lord and His anointed” (Ps. 2:1-3), but the battle turns out to be a slaughter—a “supper” for the scavenger birds! The word “flesh” appears six times in this passage.*
 - *He will defeat the _____ and _____. Satan’s henchmen, the leaders of the revolt, are the first to be cast into the lake of fire. Satan will follow about 1000 years later along with those whose names are not written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.*
 - *He will defeat _____. Satan will be cast into the “bottomless pit” for 1,000 years.*

III. The Millennial Kingdom: The Savior & Saints Reign (20:1-10)

Millennium means “thousand years” (Latin, *mille* means “thousand;” *annum* means “years”), and often refers to the period near the end of time when Christ reigns bodily on the earth with His saints (See Isa. 2:1-5; 4:1-6; 11:1-9; 12:1-6; 30:18-26; 35:1-10).

The phrase “thousand years” occurs _____ times in the first seven verses of Revelation 20.

◆ *The Purpose of the Millennium*

- **It will be the fulfillment of God’s _____ to Israel and to Christ (Ps. 2; Lk. 1:30-33).** Christ reaffirmed these promises to His disciples (Lk. 22:29-30).
- **It will be a worldwide display of Christ’s _____,** when all of nature will be set free from the bondage of sin (Rom. 8:19-22).

- **It will be the answer to the _____ of the saints**, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10; Lk. 11:2).
- **It is God’s final _____ of the wickedness of sin and the sinfulness of the human heart apart from God’s grace.**

◆ *The Events of the Millennium*

- _____ **is bound and thrown into the abyss (“bottomless pit;” vs. 1-3).**
- **The first _____ is complete.**
 - The Old Testament saints (24 elders) have been resurrected at _____ Resurrection (Dan. 12:1-4; Matt. 27:50-53).
 - The New Testament saints (24 elders) have been resurrected at the _____ (1 Cor. 15:50-55; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).
 - The Tribulation _____ are resurrected (Rev. 20:4-6).
- **The resurrected saints _____ with Christ for 1,000 years.**
 - Though most had experienced the first death (physical), none of them will ever experience the “second death,” eternal separation from God in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:14).
 - They will reign as priests of God and Christ.
- **The Judgement of the _____ and the _____ – Gentiles in the Millennium (Matt. 24:30; 25:31-46).**

Matthew 25:31-46 is commonly called the Judgment (or separation) of the Sheep and the Goats. This judgement is to determine who will enter and repopulate the Millennial age. The basis of the judgement is the relationship of Gentiles to Christ as demonstrated by their treatment of Israel during the Great Tribulation (25:34-46). Christ will condemn the unrighteous Gentiles (goats) to be cast into eternal punishment. Therefore, no unbelieving Gentile will survive to live on into the Millennial kingdom. But He will affirm the righteous Gentiles (sheep) by welcoming them into the kingdom. These will give birth to children and will populate the Earth. However, these are not the only ones who will be producing children during the Millennial kingdom.

- **The Redemption of _____ – Jews in the Millennium (Matt. 24:31; Zech. 12:10-14).**

In Zechariah 12:10, the impression is given that when Christ returns, all Israel will trust in Him. They also will reproduce children during the Millennial kingdom.

- **The curse of sin on the earth is _____, ushering in a “_____” of the Garden of Eden (Isa. 2:1-5; 11:1-9; Jer. 31:31-34; Joel 3:17-21; Amos 9:11-15; Mic. 4:1-5; Lk. 1:31-33; 1 Cor. 15:24-28).**
 - Because of the earth’s perfect conditions, people will live long lives (Isa. 65:17-25, especially vs. 20).
 - They will marry and have children who will (at least outwardly) conform to the Lord’s righteous rule. Children born during the Millennial kingdom, though, will have the same responsibility to place their faith in Christ as all people of past ages have (Gen. 15:2-6; Hab. 2:4; Rom. 3:20). Sadly, not all of the children that are born during the Millennial kingdom will come to faith in Christ. Those that do not will be led away by Satan into rebellion against God at the end of the Millennial kingdom when Satan is let loose for a short time (Revelation 20:7-10).^{iv}

- **Satan is release from the abyss for one final _____ (Rev. 20:7-8).**
 - The reference to “Gog and Magog” relates this battle to Ezekiel’s prophecy in chapters 38-39. The difference, however, is that the armies in Ezekiel come from the north (like Armageddon), whereas this army gathers from the “four corners of the earth”.
 - In both battles, however, Israel is the focal point. In this case, Jerusalem (the “beloved city;” Psa. 78:68; 87:2) will be the target.

- **Satan’s army is _____ and Satan is eternally _____ (Rev. 20:9-10).**
 - Fire from heaven ends the rebellion.
 - Satan is cast into the lake of fire to join the beast and false prophet.

In one sense, the Millennial reign of Christ will “sum up” all that God has said about the heart of humankind during the various periods of history. It will be a reign of law, and yet law will not change man’s sinful heart. Man will still revolt against God. The Millennium will be a period of peace and perfect environment, a time when disobedience will be judged swiftly and with justice; and yet in the end the subjects of the King will follow Satan and rebel against the Lord. The lesson to learn here: *A perfect environment cannot produce a perfect heart.*

ⁱ Larkin, Clarence. *Dispensational Truth*. Glenside, Penn.: Clarence Larkin, Est. 1918. 92-96; 108-109.

ⁱⁱ Elwell, Walter E., Ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, 2nd Ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001. 640.

ⁱⁱⁱ Notes for this section have been taken and adapted from excerpts of Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Victorious* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985).

^{iv} <https://www.gotquestions.org/millennial-kingdom.html>.