

## After the Tribulation

Revelation 20:4-15

11/11/07

### Intro

Much of the book of Revelation has to do with the seven year period of time when God's wrath will be poured out on the earth – the Great Tribulation. But as we come to the end of this book, we come to some fascinating verses that describe the events that come after the Tribulation.

First, as we studied last week, Satan is bound immediately after the Tribulation so that he deceives the nations no longer. But now let's understand other fascinating and wonderful truths regarding other events that also happen.

### **I. A Thousand Years of Peace**

- These verses tell us that there will be a 1,000 year period of time that comes after the Tribulation.
- Though there are not many verses here about the 1,000 years, there are other scriptures that are very helpful.

#### A. First, a bit of theology

- Not all bible teachers agree on how to interpret the verses we are studying today. No one will be disqualified from heaven by having an incorrect view, but it is important to understand how these verses have been interpreted and study these for ourselves.
- This would be a good time to emphasize the importance of diligent bible study. Paul wrote that the believers in Berea were more noble-minded than the believers in Thessalonica...

**Acts 17:10-11, The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.**

- Paul also was the one who wrote of the importance of rightly dividing the word of truth.

**II Timothy 2:15, Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. NKJV**

- There are generally three views on the millennium, Post-millennial, a-millennial, and pre-millennial.
- These views are each referenced to the question, *when will Christ return to the earth?*
- **Post-millennial view** – This view teaches that because of the influence of the church on the world, it will become a better and better place to the point that Jesus finally returns. He will then bring forth a new heaven and a new earth at that point. This view was popular in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century have made this view unpopular.
- **A-millennial view** – This view teaches that there is no specific 1,000 year period, that it is symbolic of the period we are living in now. They believe that Satan is currently bound by Christ's work on the cross. They believe that Christ will return when it is time to judge the

world and bring forth the new heaven and new earth.

- **Pre-millennial view** – This is the view that I hold and it teaches that the church will be raptured before the Tribulation period and after that, Christ will come physically to the earth to shepherd the nations with a rod of iron for a literal 1,000 year period of time.
- The reason I hold this view is because it is the one which takes the scriptures as they are. I believe we should read scripture literally when we can and symbolically when we can't.

#### B. We will reign with Christ

- The scripture teaches that when Christ returns He will bring the church with Him, therefore we will be here with Him to rule and reign during the 1,000 year period of time. (See also verse 6.)
- Verse 4 tells us that those who came to Christ in the Tribulation will come to life and also reign with Christ for a thousand years.
- It was God's intent from the beginning that we would have authority.

#### **Genesis 1:26-31 "Let them rule"**

- In the gospel of Luke, Jesus gives a parable that shows that the reward of faithfulness is to have greater authority in the Kingdom of God.

#### **Luke 19:11-27 The parable of minas.**

- The point is that how we live now matters!

#### C. The earth will change

- This earth is out of order. There are wars, deception, hatred, sickness, and on and on. Those in the world retreat into drugs, or parties, or the pursuit of material things, but one thing is important to remember... *for the non-believer, this is as good as it gets, but for the believer in Christ, this is as bad as it gets.*
- There is not much discussion here about what actually happens on the earth during this reign of Christ on the earth, but we do see this in other places.
- *There will be peace – among men.*

**Isaiah 65:21-22, They will build houses and inhabit them; they will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They will not build and another inhabit, they will not plant and another eat;**

- *There will be peace – even among animals.*

**Isaiah 65:25, "The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent's food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain," says the Lord.**

**Isaiah 11:6-9 The child will play with the viper.**

- *They will live long and prosper.*

**Isaiah 65:20, No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one**

**hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be thought accursed.**

- *There will be healing for the nations.*

**Isaiah 35:5-6, Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah.**

## II. Judgment Must Come

- John wrote that he saw thrones and judgment was given to those who sat upon them.
- Judgment is certainly part of the last days as we would expect, but there is confusion about who will be judged and when this will take place.
- We will see that there are essentially two major judgments of God.

### A. Christians are only judged in Christ

- First, we must remember that every believer is judged in Christ. In other words, the judgment which we deserved fell upon Him because of the great love He has for us.

**Isaiah 53:5, But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.**

**Colossians 2:13-14, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of**

**decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.**

- However, there is a judgment of believers, which is called the “Judgment Seat of Christ.”
- This is found in Paul’s letter to the church in Corinth...

**II Corinthians 5:9-10, Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.**

- However, this is not a judgment of punishment or payback of sins, but rather a judgment of rewards. We see this explained in another of Paul’s letters to Corinth.

**I Corinthians 3:10-15 How we live is remembered.**

**Illus – When we had the major earthquake in 1993, what I wanted most was my kids and my robe. The first thing is getting through it, the second is knowing what remains.**

### B. A great white throne judgment

- This is the famous judgment that must come to everyone who has rejected the offer of life in Christ.

**John 12:48, He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.**

- Vs 12-- Books are opened...apparently, everything that is done is recorded to be revealed at the Day of Judgment.

**Illus – I was a waiter at a high class restaurant while I was going to Bible College and worked with a man who said he was a homosexual. Knowing that I was a Christian, we got into an interesting discussion about hell. To him it didn't seem fair.**

**But God is completely righteous in His judgment and in that day, all who are judged will know that have been judged righteously.**

- There is a book of life and everyone who believes has his name written there. That is a great reason to rejoice!

**Luke 10:20, “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”**

- This seen should cause us to be very concerned for those who have not yet believed. Keep praying, keep sharing your faith!!