

Lesson 33  
The Kingdom in the Revelation  
Part III

**The final two chapters of Revelation inform us that there will be a New Heaven and a new earth. In what ways do you think that the new will differ from the old?**

**I. Introduction**

- a. When we left off this series we had established that the Book of Revelation is more than any other book of the Bible, a **description** of the Kingdom of God in conflict with the kingdom of Satan and his world system.
- b. We have seen that the correlation between OT prophecies (particularly Daniel) and the NT pronouncements of Jesus regarding **last things** connect seamlessly with the Revelation narrative and the sequence of events.
- c. Our previous survey of Revelation has taken us through the sequence of pre-Kingdom judgments over the nations of the earth. We now consider the final **four** chapters of the Revelation of John.

**II. Setting the Stage for The Messianic Kingdom (19:1-20:15)**

- a. The unmistakable, majestic, arrival of the King to establish His Kingdom is accomplished in precisely the **same manner** as He declared He would return to the earth. Matt 24:30 *30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. KJV*
- b. To set the stage for the return of Messiah, **Anti Christ** and his forces, gathered from among the kings of the earth, are arrayed against Israel for a show of earthly power. Rev 19:19 *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. KJV*
- c. At that point on earth, the only **open** resistance to the power of the beast is found in Israel among those who have been sealed for this day and time. It is to annihilate these people that the beast is come. Rev 7:4 *And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. KJV*
- d. The **two** great witnesses, at this point, will have been killed by the beast. Rev 11:7 *And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. KJV*
- e. The **apostate** church, even though she is apostate, will have been utterly destroyed. Rev 17:16 *And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. KJV*
- f. All others, whether Jew or Gentile who have refused the mark will have been **martyred**. Rev 13:15 *And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. KJV*

**III. Cleansing of the Kingdom**

- a. Included in the heavenly armies following Messiah, many suggest that we see the “glorified **saints**” of the Church. Today, Christ is with the church, but then the church shall be with Him. 1 Thess 3:13 *To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints. KJV*
- b. The first order of Kingdom cleansing business of the King of Kings is to rid the earth of the **beast** who was the agent of blasphemy and destruction on the earth. Rev 19:20 *And the beast 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. KJV*
- c. Having cast the beast and the false prophet into the lake of fire, then the Lord deals with **Satan**, who is ultimately responsible for the delusion of the nations. Rev 20:3 *And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. KJV*
- d. The binding and imprisonment of Satan is essential to the establishment of the earthly Kingdom of Christ. For in no other way would the full realization of the blessings of His reign be made **possible**.
  1. There will be no more **war**
  2. **Diseases** will no longer be inflicted upon humans by the agency of Satan or his demons
  3. The earth will be cleansed from its pollutions both moral and **environmental**
  4. Man will be **free** to live his life without the diabolical intrusion of the evil one
  5. Redeemed, **transformed** persons will be set free from weariness and worry
  6. These will be indwelt and responsive to the Holy Spirit **without** hindrance or limitation
- e. Because there are many issues requiring judicial action, **righteous** judgment will sweep the nations and cleanse the earth from the moral and ethical pollutions of sinful man. Amos 5:24 *But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream. KJV*
- f. **Some** of these righteous judgments include:
  1. What nations and what persons shall be allowed to **enter** this blessed age and enjoy its benefits
  2. The adjudication of ancient **wrongs**
  3. The solution of the immediate **problems** of a complex society that has undergone the Great Tribulation
  4. The assignment of **responsibilities** within the divine government as it will exist among men

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- g. During this period, though greatly restrained and controlled, unregenerate humans will continue to have the potential to commit sin and error. These persons will be in the Kingdom but **not of it**. 1 Cor 15:50 *I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. NIV*
- h. Dealing with the natural men and the issues they will present, will necessitate **infallible** judges who are without prejudice. 1 Cor 15:52-53 *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. KJV*
- i. At the commencement of the Millennial Kingdom, many are resurrected. The biblical record clearly identifies in many separate places those who participate in this **phase** which is called the “*first resurrection*”. For example:
  - 1. The **saints** beheaded for the witness of Christ Rev 20:4-5 *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand year. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. KJV*
  - 2. The **two** witnesses of chapter Rev 11:11 *And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. KJV*
  - 3. The **Church**, the bride of Christ has been resurrected Rev 19:7 *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. KJV*

#### IV. Summary of the Millennium

- a. God’s millennium works are seen **progressively** throughout human history. The first earth was cursed by the sin of the first man, but by the time of the culmination of the Kingdom era, the earth shall be fully redeemed by the second Adam. 1 Cor 15:47-49 *The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. KJV*
- b. The millennium is the age of **regeneration**, not annihilation. It is during this period under the reign of King Jesus that the earth shall ultimately be transformed in all of its characteristics.
- c. All the glorious purposes of God, ordained from the foundation of the world, will then have been attained. The rebellion of angels and mankind will have all been finally subdued, as the King of kings will assume his rightful **sovereignty**.
- d. By the end of His Mediatorial Kingdom, absolute and unchangeable holiness shall characterize all within it. Then, Christ will **present** the finished Kingdom work to the Father. 1 Cor 15:24-25 *Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. KJV*

#### V. Final Universal Kingdom of God 21:1-22:5

- a. The final two chapters of Revelation describe the eternal and consummated Kingdom of God on the **new earth**. This final age shall be wholly free from sin and death.
- b. The **redeemed**, made so by the blood of the Lamb, are in resurrection bodies with their eternal glory. Life is everywhere-and death will never intrude again.
- c. The earth and the heavens both are **renewed**. Light, beauty, holiness, joy, the presence of God, the worship of God, service to Christ, likeness to Christ-all are now abiding realities.
- d. No longer, are there separate kingdoms; one the Mediatorial and the second the Universal, but rather, there is only one. This is due to the fact that at that time God shall be **all in all** and His Kingdom shall be both universal and eternal. 1 Cor 15:28 *And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all. KJV*

#### VI. Application

- a. Paul tells us in 1 Cor 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. KJV*
- b. The end is certain and the story of the Kingdom is already complete, all that remains is for you to fill in the detail of your life and how you will live it.
- c. What word captures your own evaluation of your cooperation with what God is doing in you and through you?  
Slothful                  Detached                  On autopilot                  Interested                  Steadfast                  Abounding