

Scott A. Wood 4-21-2024
REVELATION STUDY: OUR FUTURE: GOD'S HANDS
PART 38C: VICTORY THROUGH CHRIST

Good morning, loved family. Welcome back home to each one of you who is gathered with us onsite and to each one of you who has joined us online. I am excited for today because we will finish chapter 20 with just two chapters left in what I believe is the most important book of the Bible. One of the reasons this is true is that the book of Revelation integrates from Genesis chapter 1 throughout the entire O.T. and the N.T. that God's plan has always been to have a family that rules and reigns with Him throughout eternity. He has carefully sculptured and designed a plan that through the life, death, burial, resurrection, and the ascension of Jesus to overturn the evil destruction that satan accomplished through his manipulative and lying temptation of Eve and the abdication by Adam of the dominion God has given to him and Eve. Through their failure and rebellion, death and destruction entered into the human family and our planet. God has ushered in the beginning of the new creation through His redeeming and restorative work through Jesus Christ. 1 John 3:2-10 says, **² DEAR FRIENDS, WE ARE ALREADY GOD'S CHILDREN, BUT HE HAS NOT YET SHOWN US WHAT WE WILL BE LIKE WHEN CHRIST APPEARS. BUT WE DO KNOW THAT WE WILL BE LIKE HIM, FOR WE WILL SEE HIM AS HE REALLY IS. ³ AND ALL WHO HAVE THIS EAGER EXPECTATION WILL KEEP THEMSELVES PURE, JUST AS HE IS PURE. ⁴ EVERYONE WHO SINS IS BREAKING GOD'S LAW, FOR ALL SIN IS CONTRARY TO THE LAW OF GOD. ⁵ AND YOU KNOW THAT JESUS CAME TO TAKE AWAY OUR SINS, AND THERE IS NO SIN IN HIM. ⁶ ANYONE WHO CONTINUES TO LIVE IN HIM WILL NOT SIN. BUT ANYONE WHO KEEPS ON SINNING DOES NOT KNOW HIM OR UNDERSTAND WHO HE IS. ⁷ DEAR CHILDREN, DON'T LET ANYONE DECEIVE YOU ABOUT THIS: WHEN PEOPLE DO WHAT IS RIGHT, IT SHOWS THAT THEY ARE RIGHTEOUS, EVEN AS CHRIST IS RIGHTEOUS. ⁸ BUT WHEN PEOPLE KEEP ON SINNING, IT SHOWS THAT THEY BELONG TO THE DEVIL, WHO HAS BEEN SINNING SINCE THE BEGINNING. BUT THE SON OF GOD CAME TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL. ⁹ THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN BORN INTO GOD'S FAMILY DO NOT MAKE A PRACTICE OF SINNING, BECAUSE GOD'S LIFE IS IN THEM. SO THEY CAN'T KEEP ON SINNING, BECAUSE THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD. ¹⁰ SO NOW WE CAN TELL WHO ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WHO ARE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL. ANYONE WHO DOES NOT LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY AND DOES NOT LOVE OTHER BELIEVERS DOES NOT BELONG TO GOD."**

This passage is incredibly eschatological (meaning end time) focused. You see the new creation emphasis when John states, though we are already God's children in this old age, the millennium, but it is not shown what we will be like when we see Him for who He really is. In other words, when Jesus Christ comes back for the 2nd resurrection, then we will have resurrected bodies just like Jesus. John boldly states because Jesus has no sin, which points back to His victory over the 3 temptations of the devil in the wilderness, and also He didn't sin all the way to the cross. Because of Christ's victory over sin and satan, John argues that, as you continue to live out of the

new life, the new creation empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will stop sinning. John tells us Jesus came to bind the strong man who is satan. Why? Because Jesus came to destroy satan's work, and those who have been born again do not make sinning a practice. This is incredible. This chapter that we will finish today is about how we are to take the victory that Jesus has purchased for us by the shedding of His blood and live out of His victory until we see Him at His 2nd coming.

If you look at your notes, over the last two weeks, we have looked at Pt I. **Discern what satan being bound and the millennium means.** We also have looked at Pt II. **Discover the rule of the saints.** Today I want to finish Points III. & IV.

Pt. III. DISTINGUISH THE FINAL CONFLICT. Revelation 20:7-10, “⁷ WHEN THE THOUSAND YEARS COME TO AN END, SATAN WILL BE LET OUT OF HIS PRISON. ⁸ HE WILL GO OUT TO DECEIVE THE NATIONS—CALLED GOG AND MAGOG—IN EVERY CORNER OF THE EARTH. HE WILL GATHER THEM TOGETHER FOR BATTLE—A MIGHTY ARMY, AS NUMBERLESS AS SAND ALONG THE SEASHORE. ⁹ AND I SAW THEM AS THEY WENT UP ON THE BROAD PLAIN OF THE EARTH AND SURROUNDED GOD’S PEOPLE AND THE BELOVED CITY. BUT FIRE FROM HEAVEN CAME DOWN ON THE ATTACKING ARMIES AND CONSUMED THEM. ¹⁰ THEN THE DEVIL, WHO HAD DECEIVED THEM, WAS THROWN INTO THE FIERY LAKE OF BURNING SULFUR, JOINING THE BEAST AND THE FALSE PROPHET. THERE THEY WILL BE TORMENTED DAY AND NIGHT FOREVER AND EVER.”

G.K. Beale argues after John emphasizes that the initial judgment of satan in vv. 1-3 results in the blessing of life of God's people in vv. 4-6. **John now underscores in vv.7-15 the final judgment of the 2nd death for satan and all who are allied with him.** We have discussed that these verses allow us a glimpse into the age-long battle between God and the devil. Following the realized millennial approach to apocalyptic and symbolic language which John underscores in 1:1 that Revelation is a highly symbolic and figurative book, which means you do the Revelation a great disservice when you insist on interpreting symbolic language as literal. Again let me give you an example from the book itself. In Chapter 11 we're given the two prophets which are likened to two olive trees and two lampstands. They represent the two prophets of the O.T., Moses and Elijah. We know this to be true for the miracles these two witnesses perform represent Moses who called plagues down upon the nation of Egypt who was led by cruel Pharaoh. With fire from heaven, Elijah defeated the 450 Prophets of Baal by the evil queen Jezebel. My point is in vs. 8 John writes, “⁸ **AND THEIR BODIES WILL LIE IN THE MAIN STREET OF JERUSALEM, THE CITY THAT IS FIGURATIVELY CALLED ‘SODOM’ AND ‘EGYPT,’ THE CITY WHERE THEIR LORD WAS CRUCIFIED.**” Church, the terms olive trees, two lampstands, the main street of Jerusalem—John says is figurative language. The term figurative means the ability to make use of figures of speech such as symbolism and metaphor.

The phrase that “after the thousand years comes to an end, satan will be let out of prison which is the abyss”, which I interpret to mean that it is a spiritual realm that satan influences from. Again,

that he is bound simply means that in some significant manner, though not in every way, he is curtailed. He is still allowed to lie, deceive, and torment through demonic influence to war against God's purposes. It does not mean that he is completely bound, meaning that he is ineffective in working his evil plan. It means he cannot deceive the nations like he did in the O.T. to rebel against God. Jesus' birth, life, His casting satan out of people, and His death and resurrection—church, satan's ability to wreak havoc has been curtailed. This means we can respect his bent on being God's enemy and our enemy but he is not all powerful, and in Jesus' name we can bring to bear on his influence through the invoking of His name, His blood and God's word.

This passage of Scripture in vs. 8 says that satan "after the thousand years" is symbolic, meaning a completion of time. It is not meant to be interpreted as 1,000-year time span literally. The terms God and Magog are borrowed from the book of Ezekiel, chapters 38-39. According to William Hendriksen and many O.T. and N.T. scholars, these terms indicate the power of the Seleucids which represents the Macedonian Greek dynasty from 312-64 b.c., especially as it was revealed in the days of Antiochus Epiphanes, the bitter enemy of the Jews. He committed what was called the Abomination of Desolation when he desecrated the Temple by offering the sacrifice of a pig to a statute of Zeus on the altar of incense. Hendriksen argues that God was the prince of Magog, that is, Syria. So the oppression of God's people by 'God and Magog', refers, in Ezekiel, to the terrible persecution under Antiochus Epiphanes, ruler of Syria. The book of Revelation uses this period of affliction and woe as a symbol of the final attack of satan and his hordes upon the church. Several reasons that Hendriksen gives demonstrate the truth of what he is saying concerning the use of analogy, symbolism, and figurative language. 1) **We are to remember that the attack of God and Magog (Syria under Antiochus Epiphanes, was the last great oppression which the people of God had to endure in the period of the O.T. 2) God and Magog were used because their armies were vast. They could adequately symbolize world-wide opposition to the Church in the days just preceding Christ's second coming. 3) The fact that the tribulation under Antiochus, though very severe, was also very brief in duration. It was adapted to foreshadow the brief final tribulation that will occur at the close of our present age.** The people that are gathered are not specific nations to try to figure out but defines how the whole world will turn against God and His church.

What John is showing us is that this gospel age will not last forever. Jesus says in Matthew 24:14, **"And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come."** Loved ones, think of all of the countries that were considered Christian—from America, England, France, Germany, and others. Look at us now. All these nations and others that once claimed Jesus Christ have now renounced Him. Just look at Islamic countries like Turkey, Iran, Africa, and others. This doesn't mean that God is not working in these countries, because the Holy Spirit is working in every country, but you see the antichrist governmental systems in place that basically make it illegal at the threat of death for an individual to go public with their confession of Jesus Christ as Lord. We have people in our church family that testify to that, and we have a special guest coming next week. We played the video that represents the field in which he works. The final conflict is coming and it will consist of the entire world turning against Jesus, and they will persecute Him

by attacking His church. This is the purpose of us taking nearly three years to work through this marvelous book. The church will be present when this conflict takes place. In vs.10 while satan and his hordes are attacking the church, Jesus will come back and consume His and our enemies. It will be short but the most intense of all attacks against God's people of all time.

IV. DECLARE, THERE WILL BE A GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT.

Revelation 20:11-15 ¹¹ **AND I SAW A GREAT WHITE THRONE AND THE ONE SITTING ON IT. THE EARTH AND SKY FLED FROM HIS PRESENCE, BUT THEY FOUND NO PLACE TO HIDE. ¹² I SAW THE DEAD, BOTH GREAT AND SMALL, STANDING BEFORE GOD'S THRONE. AND THE BOOKS WERE OPENED, INCLUDING THE BOOK OF LIFE. AND THE DEAD WERE JUDGED ACCORDING TO WHAT THEY HAD DONE, AS RECORDED IN THE BOOKS. ¹³ THE SEA GAVE UP ITS DEAD, AND DEATH AND THE GRAVE GAVE UP THEIR DEAD. AND ALL WERE JUDGED ACCORDING TO THEIR DEEDS. ¹⁴ THEN DEATH AND THE GRAVE WERE THROWN INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE. THIS LAKE OF FIRE IS THE SECOND DEATH. ¹⁵ AND ANYONE WHOSE NAME WAS NOT FOUND RECORDED IN THE BOOK OF LIFE WAS THROWN INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE."** John's vision of seeing a great white throne takes us back to similar visions, 4:2 and 5:7, of God on His throne, which alludes primarily to Daniel 7:9 and Ezekiel 1:26-28. The white throne signifies the holiness of God. G.K. Beale writes, "The judgment about to proceed from the throne is from the holy God, who judges not only to punish sin but also vindicate His persecuted people. The one seated on the throne throughout Revelation is God, e.g., chs. 4-5; 19:4; 21:5; Romans 14:10. And in Matthew 25:31 and Revelation 14:14 it is Jesus that is on the throne and the white cloud. Matthew 25:31-33, Jesus states, ³¹ **"BUT WHEN THE SON OF MAN COMES IN HIS GLORY, AND ALL THE ANGELS WITH HIM, THEN HE WILL SIT UPON HIS GLORIOUS THRONE. ³² ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE GATHERED IN HIS PRESENCE, AND HE WILL SEPARATE THE PEOPLE AS A SHEPHERD SEPARATES THE SHEEP FROM THE GOATS. ³³ HE WILL PLACE THE SHEEP AT HIS RIGHT HAND AND THE GOATS AT HIS LEFT."** Based upon the above scriptures G.K. Beale writes, **"Regardless of who is sitting on the throne both God and Christ execute the last judgment."** Hendriksen sums up this passage when he writes, **"From His face the earth and the heaven flee away. Not the destruction or annihilation but the renovation of the universe is indicated here. It will be a dissolution of the elements with great heat. 2 Peter 3:10-13 states, 'But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away, with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment. 11 Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, 12 looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, He will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. 13 But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth He has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness.'" No longer will this world be subjected to 'vanity'. Hendriksen writes, "John sees the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne. All individuals who have ever lived on earth are seen before the throne. The books are opened and the records of the life of every person consulted in Daniel 7:10. Also the book of life, containing the names of all believers is opened in Revelation 3:5; 13:8. The dead are judged in accordance with their works as in Matthew 25:31 and Romans 14:10. The sea gives up its dead; so do Death and Hades. Here**

is the one, general resurrection of all the dead. The entire Bible teaches but one, general resurrection. John 5:28-29 **'DON'T BE SO SURPRISED! INDEED, THE TIME IS COMING WHEN ALL THE DEAD IN THEIR GRAVES WILL HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD'S SON,²⁹ AND THEY WILL RISE AGAIN. THOSE WHO HAVE DONE GOOD WILL RISE TO EXPERIENCE ETERNAL LIFE, AND THOSE WHO HAVE CONTINUED IN EVIL WILL RISE TO EXPERIENCE JUDGMENT.'** This one and only and general resurrection takes place at the last day. Nowhere in the entire Bible do we read of a resurrection of the bodies of believers, followed, after a thousand years, by a resurrection of the bodies of the unbelievers. All arise at the same time. Death, the separation of soul and body, and Hades, the state of separation, now cease. Neither in the new heaven nor upon the new earth nor even in hell will there ever be a separation between body and soul after Christ's second coming for judgment. Therefore, symbolically speaking, Death and Hades—now personified—are hurled into the lake of fire. And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was also flung into the fiery lake.”

P. Scott will close with an invitation to surrender your life to Christ and if you have been living a loose life spiritually, morally or ethically will give people a chance to get right with Father God.