

## **Revelation Lesson #8**

## **Snapshot: 7**

The seventh snapshot covers the actual battle of Armegeddon.

# Rev. 19: 1-6 – Rejoicing in heaven and on earth over the fall of Babylon.

So long as Babylon stands, the Kingdom of God cannot be established, for her corrupting influence affects the whole earth, but her removal makes way for the coming of God's Kingdom.

## The Marriage of the Lamb:

Verses 7 − 9 John now proclaims the final triumph of the Kingdom of God and the consummation of God's redemptive purpose. Actually this event does not occur until the return of Christ − an event portrayed in 19:11. It was a fast forward to the end. This announcement of the marriage supper of the lamb is the same. It is a fast forward to the coming of Christ when He united with His church on earth.

## The Coming of Christ

### Verses 11 -21

Verse 14: Armies in white linen: The saints coming with Him. We are sharing in Christ's victory. We wear no armour and carry no weapon. The only person who does any offensive fighting is Jesus, and He uses only the words of His mouth.

The victory over Antichrist necessarily includes a victory over the kings and nations of the earth who have given their support and allegiance to Antichrist. This is the battle of Armageddon, which has already been announced at the sounding of the sixth trumpet.

In sharp contrast to the feast of the lamb, which we saw earlier, here we see another feast.

Verse 17: At this feast, the birds eat the flesh of the people that Christ kills in the battle of Armageddon. The prophet Ezekiel [Ezek. 39: 17-20] talked about this battle where the final victory of God over the pagan nations, particularly Gog, Meshech and Tubal, is described in terms of a sacrificial feast which God is preparing for the birds of the air and the beasts of the field.

Luke 17: **34**"I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left.**35**"There will be two women grinding at the same place; one will be taken and the other will be left.**36** ["Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left."] **37** And answering they said to Him, "Where, Lord?" And He said to them, "Where the body is, there also the vultures will be gathered."

This says that the ones "taken" will be taken to a place where the corpse is, or where vultures gather. So here in Revelation 19, in a sense, we have that scene described again. These people, who war against Christ, will be taken out, and the birds [vultures] will eat their flesh.

In verse 20, the dictator beast in the prophet beast are put into the lake of fire. Satan is not thrown in at this time but is chained or bound, as we will see in Revelation 20. This completes the seventh snapshot.

## **The Messianic Triumph**

There are three basic interpretations concerning the 1000 year period, commonly called the millennium. They are pre-millennial, postmillennial and amillennial.

Postmillennial: Christ is going to return at the end of the millennium and that we are going to "bring in the kingdom" prior

to His return. This view maintains that the earth is going to get better and better by the efforts of Christians. More Christians are going to witness, more people will come to know the Lord, and so forth. Eventually, as we work our way up by our bootstraps, we will achieve a heaven on earth. We will reign 1000 years, and then Christ will return.

Amillennial: There isn't going to be a 1000 year reign, but at some point Christ will take the Christians off of the earth and will wipe out the non-Christians.

Premillennial: Christ is going to return prior to the millennium and will then reign with His saints here on earth.

I believe the Bible teaches the premillennialist view: that Christ is going to return prior to the thousand years, and we will reign with Him.

Verses four, five and six are basically all that we know about the millennium from the New Testament ... just three verses.

Most of what we know about the millennium is found in the Old Testament.

#### The millennium in the Old Testament:

Psalm 90: **4** For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it passes by, Or as a watch in the night.

We find frequently when Scriptures in the Old Testament refer to the day of the Lord, they are also referring to the millennium.

2 Peter 3: **8** But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

Isa. 11: **6** -10

Ezekiel 36: **33** – 36

This describes the earth becoming like the garden of Eden again.

Isaiah 2: **4** And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.

#### Zechariah 14: 9

The following passages talks about the physical bodies that we will have when we see Jesus.

Philippians 3: 20 - 21

1 Corinthians 15: 35 - 44 The Bible tells us that we will have a glorious body in which to rule and reign with Christ!

#### The first resurrection:

Rev. 20: 4 -6

Rev. 5: 9

In order to rule and reign all believers will need to be a part of the first resurrection.

Question: Who are we going to be reigning over?

Rev. 20: 7 - 10

Reason for the Millennium:

Gog and Magog are biblical names for the nations who are rebellious against God and hostile to his people. [Ezek 38:1]. Ezekiel 36-39 speaks of the millennial period and Gog and Magog.

The great white throne judgment is for the unbelievers and occurs sometime between the destruction of the old heaven and earth and the creation of the new heaven and earth. At this judgment, two books are opened: the book of life and the book of deeds.

All of the unrighteous dead will be judged according to their deeds.

Revelation 20:14 Death is banished from the universe. However, the Christians must stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

**2 Cor. 5:10** 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.

1 Cor.3: 11 - 17 – Christians at the judgment seat of Christ.

Revelations 21 and 22: The New Heaven and the new Earth
These last two chapters describe in detail what the new earth - our
eternal home will be like. They also deal with the new Jerusalem
[the heavenly Jerusalem], which will be a part of this new earth.

#### 2 Peter 3:10-12.

Verse one: Throughout the entire Bible, the ultimate destiny of God's people is an earthly destiny, not in a heavenly realm removed from earthly existence.

Verse two: Heaven is not our ultimate destiny, but only the temporary abode of the saints between death and resurrection [Rev. 6: 9-11; 2Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23]. After the resurrection the heavenly Jerusalem will descend from heaven to take up its permanent location in the new earth.

Verse three: God indwells us by His Spirit which can only be apprehended by faith, not by sight. But here faith will be changed to sight and "we will see his face" [22:4]. This is a reality which we cannot visualize! Direct, unmarred fellowship between God and his people is the goal of all redemption.

Verse four: Anything negative - crying, pain, and death - will have passed away. The evils of the old order are left far behind.

Verse five: When He says "all things new," I don't think we have any concept of what that means.

Verse six: We will be given the water of life without cost. Every thirst will be satisfied.

Verse seven: Only the overcomers will inherit these things. This is why we need to be overcomers. God will be their God, and they shall be His sons. We are going to be God's sons in a fuller and more complete way then we could ever imagine.

Verse eight: The glory of the overcomers is contrasted with the fate of the non-Christians The non-Christians will be thrown into the lake of fire instead of inheriting the new earth and spending eternity with the Lord.

Mark 8: 38 – the cowardly

Rev. 21: 9 -21 This passage describes the new Jerusalem.

The new Jerusalem is made up of Christians who comprise the bride of Christ. There are two Scriptures that imply that Christians might be the bride of Christ.

Ephesians 5: 28 - 32 This is referring to Christ and the church in a husband and wife relationship.

2Cor.11: 2

#### The New Jerusalem

Verse 16: Tells us that the city is laid out as a cube, 1500 miles on a side. On each gate is written the names of the 12 tribes of Israel. We know from this that the Old Testament saints will be included in the new Jerusalem. Verse 14 says that the wall of new Jerusalem has 12 foundation stones and on them are written the names of the

12 apostles of Christ. The 12 apostles represent the New Testament saints.

With regard to measurements John is trying to use human language to describe the indescribable and the unimaginable. I believe the numbers are symbolic and not literal.

Verse 18: The building materials of the city are like no human city. For example transparent gold is not a natural substance. The new city will reflect the glory of God which human language cannot describe.

# The light of the new Jerusalem:

Rev. 21: **22** – 27

There are "nations" that live on the new earth and walk by the light of the new Jerusalem and "kings of the earth" who evidently come into the new Jerusalem. This is not talking about two companies of people: the redeemed who inhabit the new Jerusalem and unregenerate nations of earth who live outside the city but who are influenced by its presence. This is simply John using conventional human language to describe the universality of the knowledge of God in the eternal order. The redeemed will consist of peoples from every nation and tribe and people and tongue [7:9] who will not lose their national identity.

Isa. 2: 3

Isa. 60: 1-3

Rev. 22: Description of the River and Tree of Life.

Rev. 22: 6-21

John's prophecy is now complete. Now he appends an epilogue whose primary purpose is to affirm the authority of his book. The epilogue consists of a group of exhortations and affirmations loosely strung together which authenticate the prophecy, assert the certainty of the Lord's coming, and bid his readers to heed the words of this prophecy.