

## 1 **A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

### **LESSON 64**

## 2 **OPENING REMARKS**

- We continuing in chapter 20 of the Book of Revelation
- In our last lesson we were studying into the judgement of the living nations
- In this lesson we'll continue studying into the judgements that Scriptures bring out
- These judgements are not for our time right now rather they are after the time that takes place in a believer's life when they are judged and receive the Holy Ghost
- The next judgement after that will be at the Rapture when those judged to be ready will be in the catching away of God's church

## 3 **OPENING REMARKS cont.**

- The judgement following the Rapture is the judgement of the nations that takes place at the Battle of Armageddon when Jesus comes back with His saints and sets up the 1,000 years reign – the Millennium

## 4 **A TIME OF JUDGEMENT**

Revelation 20:4-6

4 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 years.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

## 5 **THE FIRST RESURRECTION**

- We see in these verses of Scripture the mention of the first Resurrection in verse 5
- The first Resurrection is a continuing process and is not a one-time instant event
- The beginning of the first Resurrection is the catching away of the bride of Jesus also known as the Rapture
- The first Resurrection continues through the Great Tribulation where grace is mixed with judgement
- It continues through the tribulation period when the tribulation saints are raised and God's grace is then taken away
- The earth and mankind then goes into the period of judgement only where no one is saved

## 6 **THE FIRST RESURRECTION cont.**

- Verse 4 tells us who will be included in the first Resurrection
- There will be no resurrection of saints at the Second Coming of Jesus
- The first Resurrection mentioned in verse 5 comprises those who will occupy the thrones or will be ruling with Him as stated in verse 4
- These are mentioned in Revelation chapter 4 should you need to refresh your memory (Lessons 15-18)
- These are those who have part in the Rapture and those who have given their lives during the 3-1/2 years Great Tribulation
- The tribulations saints meet the raptured bride in heaven

## 7 **THE FIRST RESURRECTION cont.**

- The thrones and the place of ruling has different degrees as we have already studied
- Some will be earthly thrones, some will be in the New Jerusalem and other heavenly places
- The first Resurrection saints: part are the raptured saints and part of them are the martyred saints
- There is no record or suggestion here that the earth is to be destroyed by fire at the end of the Millennium

- It is God's purpose to redeem the earth, not destroy it
- That which is redeemed is not destroyed

#### 8 **THE FIRST RESURRECTION cont.**

- The reign of Jesus Christ for the 1,000 years will not end in such failure that His kingdom has to be destroyed by fire
- Instead we are told that Jesus will deliver up to God a perfect work

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1 Corinthians 15:20-22

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

#### 9 **THE FIRST RESURRECTION cont.**

1 Corinthians 15:23-26

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

24 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.

26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

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- These Scriptures give us the same perfect picture we see in Revelation chapter 20

#### 10 **A TIME OF JUDGEMENT**

2 Peter 3:1-5

1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

2 that ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the

Lord and Saviour:

3 knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4 and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

11  **A TIME OF JUDGEMENT cont.**

2 Peter 3:6-9

6 whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

7 but the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

12  **A TIME OF JUDGEMENT cont.**

2 Peter 3:10-13

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

13  **A TIME OF JUDGEMENT cont.**

2 Peter 3:14

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

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- This is describing the same things we are seeing in the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation plus the plagues we have already studied
- First comes destruction in what is called that "Day of the Lord", the judgement period with the destruction of sin
- Next comes the restoration and redemption
- This is the work of Jesus and the saints during the kingdom reign

14  **A TIME OF JUDGEMENT cont.**

- During the reign of the kingdom, the 1,000 years or Millenium, the world will be ruled here on earth from the throne of David in Jerusalem (not the New Jerusalem)
- This will be the time when this earth will be brought under all the power, rule and authority of Almighty God
- After this restoration and redemption, when the 1,000 years come to a close, comes eternity
- The work of redemption will be complete and the kingdom will last forever
- It is the raptured saints that will dwell in the New Jerusalem
- The martyred saints will remain on earth to rule with David and those redeemed of the earth

15  **A TIME OF JUDGEMENT cont.**

- There will be a separation; each man according to his time and place
- Some will go and reign from the New Jerusalem where they go in and out
- Others will reign here on the earth

- It takes 1,000 years for the earth to be cleansed and totally brought under the perfection of God's ways
- There will be many people who have never been tempted by Satan and, as God is no respecter of persons, at the end of the 1,000 years those who have not yet tasted death will be tempted by Satan for a short while

16  **A TIME OF JUDGEMENT cont.**

- We live today with Satan continuously on our backs, as does all the world
- Those who live during the 1,000 years who live so long were never tempted so for a short while Satan is loosed so they might be tempted
- Those that follow him, and there will be some who do, will all be destroyed and sent to the lake of fire eternally
- We do not learn this Word of God all at once: it is line upon line and precept upon precept (Isaiah 28:9-10)
- Our main objective is that as we learn we do what we learn, that we be not just a hearer of the Word but a doer of the Word (James 1:22)

17  **A TIME OF JUDGEMENT cont.**

- As we learn the Scriptures we must apply them to our lives
- These prophecies are very important to us as they give us a clear understanding of time even though what we are studying is ahead of our time
- Where we are in this study of Revelation is the finishing up of the program of redemption that started all the way back, mainly at the time that Jesus Christ died on that cross and was resurrected
- The redemption started back when Jesus was born into this world and even when God gave the promise to Eve that from her seed would come the Savior of the world

18  **A TIME OF JUDGEMENT cont.**

- God has always had redemption on His mind, to redeem mankind back to Himself

- Revelation mentions a first Resurrection and a second death
- It does not mention a second resurrection
- A resurrection is a resurrection to life in an immortal body
- When the dead come forth for judgement, it is not called a resurrection
- There is a first resurrection and there is a second death....period, there is no second resurrection
- The Rapture is the beginning of the first Resurrection

19  **A TIME OF JUDGEMENT cont.**

- The first Resurrection then progresses to the resurrection of the Tribulation Saints
- All that have immortal bodies are called resurrected
- The rest of the dead are not "resurrected" to be judged, they "come forth" for judgement
- Jesus does mention a resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29)
- When Revelation says the dead lived not again until the 1,000 years were finished it is connected with the 2<sup>nd</sup> death mentioned in the next verse
- The great white throne judgement is recorded at the end of the 1,000 years but it may have been going on all through that time

20  **A TIME OF JUDGEMENT cont.**

- Even though 2 events were happening at the same time, they would have to be recorded one after the other (the Millennium and the white throne judgement)
- A judgement on so a vast scale as the great white throne judgement would take considerable time
- The new heaven and the new earth must follow the Millennium immediately
- There is no Scripture that specifically states this but the white throne judgement could start with the return of Jesus and end at the same time the Millennium does
- The following Scripture alludes to this

21  **A TIME OF JUDGEMENT cont.**

Revelation 11:18

18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

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- Here it is all lumped together; the same time period, one right after another
- While Jesus Christ is coming back with His rewards and going into the Battle of Armageddon and then into the Millennium, the judgement of the dead also is taking place

22  **A TIME OF JUDGEMENT cont.**

- The great white throne judgement would include all the dead
- All those who are not raised to immortality are in the great white throne judgement: from Adam to the last person at the end of the Millennium
- However there will be death during the Millennium
- Life will be long but death will not be done away with until after the 1,000 years
- Those that go into the 1,000 years will, most likely, all die
- Isaiah tells of the new heaven and new earth in the 65<sup>th</sup> chapter
- Isaiah saw the Millennium not in its perfection but in its process

23  **NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH**

- The reign of Jesus Christ and His saints is the process by which the earth is made new

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Isaiah 65:17-19

17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

18 But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for,

behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

24  **NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH cont.**

Isaiah 65:20-23

20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die a hundred years old; but the sinner being a hundred years old shall be accursed.

21 And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

22 They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

23 They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them.

25  **NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH cont.**

Isaiah 65:24-25

24 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.

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- This is the entire picture, as Isaiah saw it, of the redemption of the earth
- The earth has been made totally free from sin eternally
- All of those who are alive and go into the Millennium have already tasted of sin

26  **NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH cont.**

- It is very doubtful these will be perfected during this time so when they die they will probably die in their sins
- There is no Scripture that says if they will or not but death is still there

during the 1,000 years

- All that are born during the Millennium will be tempted at the end of the that time
- There will be the new heavens, the new earth and the New Jerusalem for each one according to what we know
- The bride will inherit the New Jerusalem so the others with immortal bodies will inherit the other places
- Everyone will be judged out of the book and books

27  **NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH cont.**

- God will give everyone a chance to see their life at the judgement
- They will not be able to answer Him; they will stand there with no excuse
- God shows them their life, they are judged by that and then they are cast into the lake of fire
- God's mercy and His justice is so far beyond what mankind can only begin to understand
- God does not have to give answer to anybody but He does
- The story of the sheep and the goats is the judgement of nations
- The white throne judgement is the second death