

Lesson 24
Revelation 20

The Coming Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ

Memory verse: "Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of His holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." (Jude 1:14-15)

Chapter 20 is one of the most significant chapters in the Bible. It is in every sense of the word a climactic chapter, bringing us to the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth in His coming glory in His Kingdom. His Kingdom is the culmination of redemptive history, as it unfolds in this world. And so we're really reaching the climax, the culmination of all of human history. This is a day that was described by the prophet Jeremiah in chapter 23 and verses 5 and 6 with these words, "Behold the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I shall raise up for David a righteous branch and He will reign as King and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved and Israel will dwell securely and this is His name by which He will be called, the Lord our righteousness. Behold the days are coming."

All of God's redemptive purpose since the fall of man culminates in the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ as it has been called, paradise regained. This glorious paradise regained, this Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, this one-thousand year millennial reign of the Saviour over the earth is the fulfilment and the climax of all redemptive promise and the realization of the hope of all the saints of all the ages. This is because at that particular time, God will bring salvation and righteousness and peace to the very center of the universe. It is at that time that Jesus Christ will reign fully as King of Kings and Lord of Lords over all creation. This thousand-year Kingdom is the end of human history, the end of the present universe as we know it. And after the thousand-year Kingdom is completed, is over, everything as we know it now in the created order will be completely destroyed because it has all been tainted by sin, even though Christ is reigning, He is reigning over a renewed and regenerated and restored earth and universe, but not a recreated one. And so it still bears the marks of sin. And after the thousand years is over, the Lord will destroy completely the universe and create a new heaven and a new earth in eternal perfection, unstained by sin. It will become the everlasting kingdom and is the fullness of God's eternal paradise.

Now it is this thousand-year Kingdom known as the Millennial Kingdom that is the theme of the chapter that we look at, chapter 20 in the book of Revelation. The final reign of the Lord Jesus Christ during the thousand years is in the city of Jerusalem on the throne of David over Israel as a nation and over the whole world.

First of all, that foundational to any understanding of the Kingdom is to capture the chronological order of the book of Revelation. The passage fits into the chronology of the book. If you go into chapter 19 and verse 11, you have the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and at the end of chapter 19, the Lord comes is described in great detail, He arrives in verse 16 as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. There is an immense battle that ensues. He is the conqueror and the victor. The holocaust of that battle is described at the end of chapter 19 as the carnage lays all over the place and is devoured by birds. And then we read about the beast and the false prophet in verse 20 being thrown into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone and all the rest were killed with a sword which came from the mouth of the Lord who returned. All the birds were filled with their flesh. So there you have the devastating judgment at the return of Jesus Christ.

Over in chapter 21 and verse 1, "I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth passed away." Here you have the eternal state at the end of the Kingdom. So you have the Lord Jesus Christ returning in chapter 19. You have the creation of a new heaven and a new earth in chapter 21. And in the middle you have chapter 20. Chapter 20 describes the thousand-year Kingdom, the chronology is very simple, you have a period of time called the Tribulation, it started in Revelation 6, it ended in Revelation 19. It ends with the return of Christ and His total judgment of the ungodly. After that judgment, chapter 20, He sets up His Kingdom. At the end of His Kingdom He creates the new heavens and the new earth.

Things to learn: 1) Events in the Millennium 2) Millennium views 3) Judgement of the Great White Throne

Discussion questions:

1) What will happen during the millennium? (Refer other references about this millennium: Israel's power and earth's submission - Isaiah 2:1-5, Ezekiel 17:22-24, Isaiah 11:6-9, King David rules - Isaiah 55:3-5, Jeremiah 30:4-11, Ezekiel 34:23-31, Ezekiel 37:21-28, Hosea 3:5. Israel's blessings - Amos 9:11-15. Purity & devotion - Zechariah 13:1-9. Temple Restore - Ezekiel 40-48, Ezekiel 20:39-44. Saints Responsibilities - Luke 19:11-27, Revelation 2:26-28; 3:12,22, 1 Corinthians 6:2-3)

Q2. Do you believe that the one-thousand year millennial reign of Jesus Christ on earth is literal or otherwise? (Do read the views on Premillennialism, Amillennialism and Postmillennialism as posted on WordPress.com for your discussion)

Q3. What is the Judgement of the Great White Throne?