

## ***The Return of Jesus, & Millennial Reign***

### **I. Review & Introduction**

- a. In the previous two sessions, we began looking at the return of Jesus, rapture of the saints, and the rise and fall of the Harlot Babylon, and the 7 bowls of wrath that dismantle the Antichrist and his empire. **Revelation 19** adds a few more details related to the return of Jesus and the events that take place right after His return.
- b. We'll begin by looking at **Revelation 19:1-3**, which explains the fall of the Harlot Babylon. The Harlot Babylon is a literal "megacity" and "consumer city" located in the desert and close to the coast. It will be a global system with international influence, which will touch the political, economic, and religious spheres and ultimately prepare the earth for Antichrist. Harlot Babylon is dynamically related to the ancient city of Babylon, and will function as a primary eschatological opponent to the city and people of Jerusalem as well as the worldwide body of Christ. The fall of this Harlot city takes place in two stages, Stage 1) At the beginning of the Great Tribulation the beast & ten horns will overthrow and burn the capital city. Stage 2) the 7 bowls of wrath complete the destruction of this city. At the fall of this city, a wild worship and prayer meeting breaks out in all of heaven.

**(Revelation 19:1-3 NASB)** "...Hallelujah! Salvation, glory, and power belong to our God, 2 because His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great prostitute who was corrupting the earth with her sexual immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her." 3 And a second time they said, "Hallelujah! Her smoke rises forever and ever."

- c. It's important to remember that the return of Jesus takes place over several days in a 3-stage procession:

**(Revelation 10:7 NASB)** "***But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He announced to His servants the prophets.***"

1. Stage 1 - Jesus travels across the sky on the clouds to rapture the saints at the sound of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet.
  2. Stage 2 - Jesus, along with the armies of heaven and glorified saints, touch down on the earth and march up through the Middle East delivering captives.
  3. Stage 3 - Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem, from the Mount of Olives.
- d. It's important to get the timing of the events that follow the return of Jesus right in order to help frame our understanding of **Revelation 19 and 20**. The book of Daniel helps bring clarity to the timeline of events:
    - i. One "week (of years)" – In **Daniel 9:27**, The angel Gabriel explains to Daniel that the Antichrist will confirm a covenant (This will enable Jewish sacrifices in a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem) for a period of one week (7 years) which will begin the final 7 years of this age.

**(Daniel 9:27 NASB)** "***And he will confirm a covenant with the many for one week [7 years], but in the middle of the week [3 ½ years] he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come the one who makes desolate, until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, gushes forth on the one who makes desolate.***"

- ii. The Great Tribulation – **Daniel 9:27** goes on to say that in the middle of that week of years (3 ½ years), the Antichrist will cut off the sacrifices in the rebuilt Jewish temple and institute the abomination of desolation, which will begin the final 3 ½ years of this age which is called, The Great Tribulation (42 months, 1260 days).

- iii. 30 Days – **Daniel 12** explains that the abomination of desolation will be set up for a total of 1290 days. This adds an additional 30 days that immediately follow the Great Tribulation. During these 30 days, the 3-fold return of Jesus takes place, as the 7 bowls of wrath are poured out to annihilate the Antichrist Empire.

**(Daniel 12:11 NASB)** “*And from the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.*”

- iv. 45 Days – **Daniel 12** also explains that the official millennial reign of Christ (which lasts 1,000 years) doesn’t begin until a total of 1335 days takes place from the setting up of the abomination of desolation. This means after the 1290 days, there’s an additional 45 days where some the events recorded **Revelation 19** and **20** take place.

**(Daniel 12:12 NASB)** “*Blessed is the one who is patient and attains to the 1,335 days!*”

## II. The Coming of Jesus

**(Revelation 19:11-16 NASB)** “*And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many crowns; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written: “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”*

- a. A white horse, He who sat on it is called Faithful & True, in righteousness He judges and wages war – The coming of Jesus is the coming of a warrior king coming to wage a violent yet righteous war unto His wedding day and redemption of the planet (**Isaiah 42:13; Psalm 45; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10**).
- b. His eyes are a flame of fire – The fire in His eyes is His redemptive gaze. His perspective is perfect, He’s returning to make every wrong thing right according to how He sees. He will come in flaming fire to redeem the righteous and deal out retribution to the reprobate.

**(2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 NASB)** “*To give relief to you who are afflicted, along with us, when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God, and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*”

- c. On His head are many crowns – Crowns speak of royal authority. He has many crowns because He is the premier governor of all creation and possesses all authority.
- d. A name which no one knows except Himself – He has the name that transcends every other name.
- e. Clothed in a robe dipped in blood – This speaks of the literal war blood that will stain the garments of Jesus as He marches up through the middle east.

**(Isaiah 63:1-4 NASB)** “*Who is this who comes from Edom, With garments of glowing colors from Bozrah, This One who is majestic in His apparel, Marching in the greatness of His strength? “It is I, the One who speaks in righteousness, mighty to save.” 2 Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the wine press? 3 “I have trodden the wine trough alone, And from the peoples there was no one with Me. I also trod them in My anger And trampled them in My wrath; And their lifeblood is sprinkled on My garments, And I stained all My clothes. 4 For the day of vengeance was in My heart, And My year of redemption has come.”*

- f. His name is called The Word of God – Jesus is forever called the Word of God.

***(John 1:1-2; 14 NASB) “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”***

- g. Armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen white and clean, were following Him on white horses – The armies of heaven, including angelic beings and resurrected saints, will follow Jesus as He descends to earth and marches up through the Middle East.
- h. From His mouth comes a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with a rod of iron – The way Jesus will rule the earth is through speaking. His words will function as a sharp sword and as a strict rod of iron. The way He rules is just, true, perfect, and strict.

***(Psalm 2:8-9 NASB) “Ask it of Me, and I will certainly give the nations as Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth as Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.”***

***(Isaiah 11:4-5 NASB) “But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the humble of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. 5 Also righteousness will be the belt around His hips, And faithfulness the belt around His waist.”***

- i. He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty – This is a direct reference to *Isaiah 63* (see above).
- j. On His robe & thigh He has a name written: King of Kings, And Lord of Lords – At His return, this reality will be seen and accepted by all people when they look upon Him.

### III. The “Great Feast of God” & Marriage Supper of the Lamb

- a. The Great Feast of God - When the 6<sup>th</sup> Bowl is poured out, The Antichrist & False Prophet will gather the armies of the earth to wage war against Jesus in the valley of Har-Magedon (***Revelation 16:12-16***). As the nations gather, an angel will gather birds to come prepare to partake in the “*Great Feast of God*” where they will feast on the bodies of the armies gathered against the Lord and their horses. *This feast takes place right at the end of the 30-day period following the Great Tribulation.*

***(Revelation 19:17-19 NASB) “Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in midheaven [the sky], “Come, assemble for the great feast of God, 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, both free and slaves, and small and great.” 19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse, and against His army.”***

***(Ezekiel 39:17-20 NASB) “Now as for you, son of man, this is what the Lord God says: ‘Say to every kind of bird and to every animal of the field: “Assemble and come, gather from every direction to My sacrifice, which I am going to sacrifice for you as a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel; and you will eat flesh and drink blood. 18 You will eat the flesh of warriors and drink the blood of the leaders of the earth, as though they were rams, lambs, goats, and bulls, all of them fattened livestock of Bashan. 19 So you will eat fat until you are full, and drink blood until you are drunk, from My sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. 20 You will eat your fill at My table with horses and charioteers, with warriors and all the men of war,” declares the Lord God.”***

- b. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb – To begin the 45 days before the start of the Millennial Kingdom (1,000 year reign of Christ on earth), The redeemed bride will partake in a huge wedding feast! This feast will include saints of all nations, tongues, and tribes from every generation.

***(Revelation 19:7-9 NASB) “Let’s rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself.” 8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.’” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”***

#### IV. The Judgment of the Beast & False Prophet

**(Revelation 19:20-21 NASB) “And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.”**

- a. During the final battle, the Antichrist and false prophet will be captured and be thrown alive into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is their eternal judgment.
- b. During the 45-day period, Jesus will execute those who are not killed during the final battle and who fight with the Antichrist. We’ve got to wrestle with this reality, though it can be difficult to stomach. Jesus is so zealous to have His bride and the restoration of all things, that He’s willing to remove EVERYTHING that hinders that.

#### V. Satan’s Eternal Two Fold Judgment

**(Revelation 20:1-3, 7-10 NASB) “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he took hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he threw him into the abyss and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, 8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are at the four corners of the earth..., to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. 9 And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. 10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”**

- a. Satan’s eternal judgment takes place in two phases:
  - i. Phase 1 - Satan will be imprisoned in the “abyss” during the millennial reign (1,000 years) of Christ on earth. This is only first part of his eternal sentence.
  - ii. Phase 2 – At the end of the millennium, Satan will be destroyed with fire and then thrown into the lake of fire for eternity
- b. While Satan is imprisoned, only two types of humans will be on the earth: 1) Glorified believers 2) the unsaved (*or newly saved*) resisters (*Those who didn’t get saved or take the mark of the beast before the return of Jesus*). At the end of the millennium, Satan will be released to try to deceive these non-glorified people who populate the millennial kingdom.
- c. God has orchestrated it this way because He’s not interested in “*forcing*” people to love Him. He is after authentic love not “*robotic/programed*” love. God desires that humanity make the decision to love Him despite the influence of the enemy. While Satan is imprisoned during the millennial reign, it will become INCREDIBLY easy for people to choose to love Jesus however, their love will be tested at the end of the millennial age when Satan is released from prison.

#### VI. The First Resurrection

**(Revelation 20:4-6 NASB) “Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their foreheads and on their hands; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part**

***in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him for a thousand years.”***

- a. This first resurrection takes place at the appearing of Jesus in the sky. John see’s a picture of the first resurrection that takes place at His second coming. He see’s thrones with believers sitting on them (*likely believers that died before the return of Christ that function in the governmental order of God in heaven*), and he sees the souls of those martyred during the Great Tribulation.
- b. **Verse 4** tells us what Paul had previous told us; that at the sounding of the trumpet of God (*7<sup>th</sup> trumpet*), all the dead in Christ will rise first followed by those who are alive at the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming to be glorified. John calls this the “*first resurrection*” and assures us that the “*second death (Eternal judgment at the end of the millennium)*” will have no power over us. We get to reign with Christ on earth for 1,000 years to restore the earth and prepare for the coming of the Father.

***(1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NASB) “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord”***

***(1 Corinthians 15:51-55 NASB) “Behold, I am telling you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 But when this perishable puts on the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written: “Death has been swallowed up in victory. 55 Where, O Death, is your victory? Where, O Death, is your sting?”***

- i. Reigning with Christ is knit to priesthood (*vv. 6*). Priesthood is centered on ministering to the Lord. Humanity was created and purchased for priesthood. Ministering to the Lord has eternal significance.

***(Revelation 5:9-10 NASB) “...You purchased people for God with Your blood from every tribe, language, people, and nation. 10 You have made them into a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign upon the earth.”***

## VII. The Great White Throne Judgment

***(Revelation 20:11-15 NASB) “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them; and they were judged, each one of them according to their deeds. 14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”***

- a. At the end of the millennium, the “great white throne” judgment takes place. During this judgment, all of the unsaved people throughout history will be judged and sentenced to the lake of fire for eternity.
- b. Remember, those who partook in the first resurrection will not have to worry about being sentenced to the lake of fire. We are judged either when we die, or when Christ returns. It’s likely, that at the time of the great white throne judgment, glorified believers, will be “*judged*” and receive eternal rank and roles that extend into the age following the millennium.