

# THE REVELATION

OCTOBER 20, 2024

Chapter 19:17 – 20:6

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## K. The Procession from Heaven (19:17 – 20:10)

### 1. The Parade of the Guests (19:17-18)

*Rev 19:17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God, <sup>18</sup> so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great."*

John hears an angel cry out, inviting all the birds to be the guests. As we said in verse 19:9, John is not expecting this group to be the invited guests at this special *marriage supper*. The kings will be there as well as the commanders, mighty men, horses, a mass of humanity of both freeman and slave, small and Great, not to eat the meal, but to be the meal! With the birds on the way to the valley to dine, permission must have been given for the departure from heaven. As stated, this process will not be slow and drawn out by any means.

### 2. The Parade of the Sinners (19:19 -20:4)

*Rev 19:19 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.*

John's attention has been drawn away from the earth to see the presence of the LORD on His steed and the mighty host of armies behind Him. He now turns back to earth. There, in the valley of Megiddo, he sees all the LORD's enemies waiting for His arrival. They must have known the Scripture. This story is not hidden from them. It is written on the pages of the Revelation so they can know when the time is right for the *Second Coming of the LORD*. This vision we are studying is the final entry into the Holy Writ that will notify all the saints and all the sinners of the world concerning the last things of the plan of God, and that includes His return and the destruction of His enemies. Assembled in the valley, ready to make war against their Creator, they wait. But at this point in the story, the waiting is over.

#### a) Seizure of the Superior (19:20)

*Rev 19:20 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.*

In a flash, as fast as the speed of light, the LORD arrives at Megiddo. The *beast* and the *false prophet* are cast into the "*lake of fire which burns with brimstone.*" Oh no, the parade of sinners has lost its leaders. The *beast*, the *Revived Roman Empire*, has been cast into the *lake of fire*. The *prophet* of the religion of the *Revived Roman Empire* will also be cast into the *lake of fire*.

**b) Slaying of the Sinners (19:21a)**

*Rev 19:21a And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse,*

The LORD has dealt with the *beast* called the *Revived Roman Empire* and the *false prophet*. Still, He also needs to deal with all the *kings of the east* and all the people from all over the world who accepted the call from the *three frogs* to join the *beasts* in the valley to fight against the LORD; they are killed by the Word of the LORD, the sword from His mouth. Dead – immediately. They are then crushed in the press of the LORD's wrath in the valley, and their blood runs freely from their bodies. The supper for the guests is ready.

**c) Satisfaction of the Supper (19:21b)**

*Rev 19:21a and all the birds were filled with their flesh.*

The battle is over. The marriage supper had been prepared, and the guests began to dine until they were full. What happened to the conflict? Is there a conflict? Oh, yes there is! But it takes only a moment, and it is all over.

## Chapter 20

**d) Shackles for the Satanic (20:1)**

*Rev 20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.*

The dreaded Armageddon, which has been falsely taught throughout the ages, written in books, shown in films, and preached in the streets, is over in a flash. Where are the dead? They are alive in the valley of Megiddo, and then, in a heartbeat, their souls are in the *lake of fire*. They are slain by the sword of the Word of God spoken by *Jesus* and sent to burn in torment. That took care of them. But what about the evil angel who instigated the rebellion from the beginning? The LORD is not through with him yet. For him, an angel is sent with a key and a chain. The key fit the abyss, and the chain fit the *great red dragon*, *Satan*.

**e) Sentence of the Serpent (20:2-3)**

*Rev 20:2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;*

For all the power Satan evidently thought he had through the ages, it took only one angel to control him and bind him in the chain for 1,000 years. But that is not all of his temporary punishment. The LORD has another task for the angel to complete with the devil.

**(1) Bound for a Thousand (20:3a)**

*Rev 20:3a 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;*

Satan will find himself sealed away in the abyss for 1,000 years. We heard of this abyss before in the *fifth trumpet* in Revelation 9:1ff when the angel with the key to the bottomless abyss opened its door, and smoke belched through the water into the atmosphere and darkened the skies. Then, out

of the abyss burst forth the *locusts* that could sting humanity for five months. This same abyss that held these special *locusts* for that moment at that time is now going to be used once again for a *thousand years* as a prison for Satan. His earthly business is out of business for ten centuries to come. It will be a millennium without the devil! A millennium without the devil's herd of demons! A millennium free of hell's perverse demands!

**(2) Released for a Short Time (20:3b)**

*Rev 20:3b after these things he must be released for a short time.*

But in the LORD's normal way of communicating truth, He presents the past and present of this *great red dragon* and his future. The LORD reveals to John that Satan's prison is for only a millennium, and then he will be released from the abyss for a short time. How long, we do not know. For now, at this point in the story, Satan is secure for 1,000 years in the deep abyss away from humanity. The *seventh bowl of the wrath of God* is complete. His wrath has been poured out on the world, and He is the King of it all.

**f) Sovereignities of the State (20:4a)**

*Rev 20:4a Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them.*

In this verse, the whole religious and political organization of the LORD and its duty is summed up - thrones, rulers, and authority to rule! These thrones and these rulers will be a totally new administration for the world. The former ruling classes of the world from every country, nation, and tongue will be ousted once and for all. Isaiah prophesied the following.

*Isaiah 24:20-21 The earth reels to and fro like a drunkard, and it totters like a shack, For its transgression is heavy upon it, And it will fall, never to rise again. So it will happen in that day, that the LORD will punish the host of heaven, on high, and the kings of the earth, on earth.*

Satan's thrones are empty; these thrones are now filled with the triumphant believers of the Church. Paul said the following about this point.

*1 Corinthians 6:2-3 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, matters of this life?*

Angels will not sit on these thrones; Paul makes that clear. These thrones are reserved for the saints of the Church.

**g) Souls of the Saints (20:4b)**

*Rev 20:4b 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 forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

It is now time for the LORD to fulfill another one of His promises. Remember when the saints under the altar in *seal five* cried out to the LORD and said, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" The LORD's answer at that time was you need to "rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also." All who needed to die had died, and the altar was

full and complete with all the souls martyred for the LORD, including those who overcame the pressure from the *Revived Roman Empire*. It is now time for them to exit the altar and take their places in the administration of the LORD's kingdom.

The kingdom of the LORD is ready, and He is the King of kings and LORD of lords. It is not mentioned here, but the earthly Temple has been prepared for *Jesus* to enter its gates and formally take His place on its *Great White Throne*. Years ago, David wrote a Psalm for this occasion.

### Psalm 24

As the procession of the LORD with the saints and the martyred souls approached the gates of the city, the chorus could be heard singing.

*The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it. For He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the rivers. Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood, and has not sworn deceitfully. He shall receive a blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Thy face-- even Jacob. Selah.*

As the LORD approached the entrance to the Temple He said:

*Lift up your heads, O gates, and be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!*

In the customary ceremony, the guard at the gate asked the following question:

*Who is the King of glory?*

The saints of all the ages with the LORD roared out the answer in unison:

*The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.*

As the custom was, the LORD would ask a second time,

*Lift up your heads, O gates, and lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!*

The guard would reply to the request,

*Who is this King of glory?*

Once again, the saints of all the ages answered the guard,

The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah.

The guard lifted the gate, and the LORD entered the complex and took His seat on the *Great White Throne* for 1,000 years!

#### h) Sentence of the Sinners (20:5a)

*Rev 20:5a The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed.*

The saints of all ages have come to life to live with the LORD in His millennial kingdom, but the sinners have not! Their bodies still reside in the ground, and their souls are still reserved in Hades,

the place of torment. The saints have been resurrected, the sinners have not, but they will at the end of the thousand years of the LORD's reign on earth.

i) **Satisfaction of the Saved (20:5b-6a)**

*Rev 20:5b This is the first resurrection. <sup>6a</sup> Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, ...*

The resurrection of all the saints is called the “*first resurrection*.” As the verse states, “*Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection*.” It is a promise of everlasting life with the LORD for all the saints of all ages. However, a resurrection of the dead will occur also; it is called the “*second death*.” This death will be imposed on all who rejected the LORD as Savior and died. Their bodies lie in the ground; their souls live in torment in Hades, awaiting their resurrection. All bodies of all humans of all time will be granted a resurrection at some point in history. The bodies of the saints will be resurrected to live a glorious life with the LORD. The bodies of the sinners will be resurrected to live a terrible life in the *lake of fire* away from the presence of the LORD. The two resurrections will occur at different times in history. For those saints who have the blessing of being part of the first resurrection, the “*second death*” in the *lake of fire* will not affect them.

j) **Servants of the Savior (20:6b)**

*Rev 20:6b ... but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.*

These glorified saints, participants of the first resurrection, will not be relegated to mundane life on earth! The LORD has a plan for them – all of them. They will be “*priests*” and serve in that capacity for 1000 years. What does this mean? As far as what the LORD plans for the *Nation of Israel*, and human life on earth for it, Isaiah answered that question.

*Isa 61:1-9 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; ... To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD And the day of vengeance of our God; ... But you will be called the priests of the LORD; You will be spoken of as ministers of our God. You will eat the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast. Instead of your shame you will have a double portion, and instead of humiliation they will shout for joy over their portion. Therefore they will possess a double portion in their land, Everlasting joy will be theirs. ... Then their offspring will be known among the nations, And their descendants in the midst of the peoples. All who see them will recognize them because they are the offspring whom the LORD has blessed.*

If the LORD has a job planned for the Israelites, He has a job planned for you!

The REVELATION presented the entire record of the 1,000-year reign of the LORD in just three verses. Why? This vision was recorded to present the facts surrounding the *Second Coming of the LORD* and the *salvation of the Nation of Israel*. The specifics of the LORD's millennial reign and Israel's place and part in that reign have been covered in great detail in the rest of God's Word. Concerning the *Second Coming of the LORD*, the REVELATION focused on defeating all sin and evil, which has dominated the world and especially the *Nation of Israel* through the ages. The major instigator of that sin was the one who sinned first, the *great red dragon, the devil, whom we know as Satan*. He was the first to sin in heaven before he imported it to the earth in the *Garden of Eden* when disguised as a snake,

he lured Adam and Eve to commit the first transgression on earth, which started the whole trouble for humanity all these years since.

Before moving past the 1,000-year reign of the LORD, it might be appropriate to take one look at the design of the LORD's kingdom on earth. When the REVELATION says He will be the "King of kings and Lord of lords," (19:16) coupled with the reign of all the resurrected saints with Him on earth (20:6), it means that the millennial kingdom will be a *theonomy*. The term comes from the Greek word *theo* which means *god* and *nomy* which means *law*. Together, the two Greek words form the new word *theonomy* which means *God's Rule*.<sup>7</sup> The 1,000-year kingdom of the LORD will be organized, managed, and ruled under *God's Law* and no other law. The LORD's law given through Moses to the newly born *Nation of Israel* at Mount Sinai after leaving Egypt was meant to be a *theonomy*. However, as soon as the *Nation of Israel* demanded a king (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 8), the king known as King Saul began the process of turning the rule of Israel into a *heteronomy*. In so doing, the *Nation of Israel* became like all the rest of the world. The term *heteronomy* comes from the Greek word *hetero*, which means *other* and *nomy*, which means *law*. The new word means *others' rule*. In other words, a few leaders, but not God, determine the rights and laws that govern the majority of the people in each nation. We might note here that the founders of the *United States of America* attempted to form this nation as a *theonomy*, one nation under God, not to be ruled as a *heteronomy* like England, France, Spain, and all the rest. Sadly, the American government has slowly changed and chipped away at the original intent of the founding fathers by attempting to turn the country into a full-fledged *heteronomy* nation where the few attempt to press their rule on the majority of the people. However, our founding fathers did establish five roadblocks in the way that continue to thwart the total implementation of *Heteronomy* in this nation. One roadblock is the *autonomy of free speech*. The term *autonomy* comes from the Greek *auto* meaning *self* and *nomy* meaning *law*. Combined, the new definition is *self-rule*. In the past in America, we were allowed to *say-what-we-wanted-to-say* without the fear of government persecution or persecution from others. This concept in America is in jeopardy. Today, the *autonomy of free speech* is accepted only when the listener agrees with the speaker. Across political party lines, the *autonomy of free speech* is being attacked – one against the other. Court battles are ensuing to limit the *autonomy of free speech*. In Canada, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, it is already a criminal offense for preachers to read certain portions of the Bible in public. In Houston, Texas, a mayor collected messages from local pastors in an attempt to thwart the *autonomy of free speech* and stop the reading of certain passages of God's Word by claiming them to be hate speech. At the same time, the mayor used the *autonomy of free speech* to continue her own personal vitriol. Once she began to try to take away the *autonomy* of the preachers, she inadvertently moved from *autonomy* to *heteronomy* where a few govern the many. The millennial kingdom of the LORD will be free of *autonomy and heteronomy rule* – it will be His *Theonomy*. The

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<sup>7</sup> Two fully functional and stand-alone Greek words are never used to form a new word with the same meaning as the original two words. For instance, *theo* = *god* and *nomy* = *law*. It is a common mistake to say the new word means *God's law*. Greek does not create a new word that has the same meaning that could have been adequately expressed in their original form. Neither does it create a new word with the same number of letters as the original words and keep the meaning of the two separate words. Therefore, the meaning of the new word must be discovered. In order to convey a new meaning used in the same context a new Greek word was formed. In this case, the new word does not just mean the *law of God*, it means *God's rule* with His *law* as the basis of His *rule*.

resurrected spiritual saints of all ages will serve with Him as priests throughout the world, making sure everyone abides by the will and rule of the LORD.

Who will the resurrected spiritual saints be ruling during the 1,000-year kingdom of the LORD? The misconception that the *Battle of Armageddon* will annihilate all humanity from the earth in one final *apocalypse* is blatantly false and misleading. First, the word *apocalypse* means the *revelation* or the *unveiling*. The title of the book is *The Apocalypse of Jesus Christ*, and it means the revealing of the details of His Second Coming. It has absolutely nothing to do with the total destruction of the world. Such destruction will never happen! Second, not everyone will join Satan in the valley of Megiddo to fight against the LORD. Zechariah tells us the following about those who do not join Satan in the valley.

*Zechariah 14:9-21 And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one. All the land will be changed into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin's Gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's wine presses. And people will live in it, and there will be no more curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security. Now this will be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples who have gone to war against Jerusalem; their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, and their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongue will rot in their mouth. And it will come about in that day that a great panic from the LORD will fall on them; and they will seize one another's hand, and the hand of one will be lifted against the hand of another. ... So also like this plague, will be the plague on the horse, the mule, the camel, the donkey, and all the cattle that will be in those camps. Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.*

Thus, after the *Battle of Armageddon*, humans, just like you and me, will still be alive on earth. Those humans will not have the *mark of the beast* on them. They will not go to the valley when the call is made to join Satan and fight against the LORD. Armageddon is not a worldwide battle; it happens in one valley fifty miles north of Jerusalem. All humans who are not in the valley will then transition to live in the 1,000-year kingdom under the rule of the LORD. Their lives will be guarded and protected by the resurrected and glorified saints who will come to earth with the LORD as the mighty host of heaven riding on white horses. No nation will have its own government any longer. No congress, senate, or president will be changing the laws. The law will be the *theonomy* – *God's Law*. It will be carried out and overseen by His priests and ministers. The saved people from the *Nation of Israel* will also be alive and transition into the LORD's kingdom. Every Jew in the world will return to Israel to live during the millennial reign on his tribal land in the Promised Land (Ezekiel 37, Dry Bones). All people, Jews, and Gentiles, will be ruled by Jesus and His *theonomy*. However, during the 1,000-year reign, the *Nation of Israel* will be the esteemed people of the world – the *Nation of nations*. Every Gentile in the world will revere every Jew in the world. However, all of this information is outside the text of the REVELATION. As noted, it comes from the Old Testament prophets. It is time to return to the story in this last book of the Bible.