

Steve Greenberg's Handout: October 29, 2025 (Wed p.m.)

Week 36: Rev 20:10-15end Unbelievers: Great White Throne Judgment

[Extra notes and charts at end](#)

Rev 20:7-10 Satan is Released and Leads Rebellion (cf. Eze. ch38-39) The Final Rebellion

Rev 20:7 Now when the thousand years (aka Millennium) have expired (finished, completed), Satan will be released from his prison (bottomless pit, the abyss)

Rev 20:4d ...And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years (the apostle John mentions a thousand year period (aka Millennium) six times in Rev 20)

Many people immediately quote or remember this verse

2Pet 3:8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is "as" (simile) a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

As is a simile a figure of speech that compares two different things using the words "like" or "as." It helps to illustrate an idea by showing similarity. It is not saying that one day literally equals a thousand years, but that there's a comparison explaining infinite God experiences time differently than finite humans do.

Psa 90:4 For a thousand years in Your sight Are "like" yesterday when it is past ("like" a day that has just gone by), And "like" a watch in the night.

Many people try to say Day One (Hebrew yom), in Genesis is a long period of time not to be taken literal? But when days are listed in consecutive order (for example, "day one, day two, day three..." as in Genesis 1, consecutive numbering defines a sequence of specific time periods (often a literal 24-hour days), not vague ages. One more detail in Genesis it is also marked by "evening and morning."

The phrase "The Day of the Lord" is not meant to describe a literal 24-hour day. It is a theological phrase a figure of speech that refers to a specific period when God emphasizes an acts in time, not the length of time itself, in judgment or deliverance.

Reminder Rev 20:4 previously we saw the first resurrection which included the tribulation saints right before the Millennium begins.

Rev 20:8 and will go out to deceive (mislead) the nations, which are in the four corners of the earth, (including) Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle (war), whose number is "as" the sand of the sea (numberless) (Lit: sea, not seashore) (these were unbelievers, children born from the survivors of the Tribulation, who were able to enter into the Millennium (Christ 1000 reign) because they we believers).

Many people will choose to follow Satan, though they will have lived on earth during the righteous reign of Christ. They will rebel against the "rod of iron"-and choice to disobey and attempt to go to war against God.

Gog and Magog: Don't get confused with battle at end of tribulation (Ezek 38-39), we are at end of Millennium. Here Gog and Magog is a general term for nations hostile to Christ.

Rev 20:9 They (**unbelievers who joined Satan**) went up on the breadth (**or broad plain**) of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints (**believers**) and the beloved city (**Jerusalem, the world's capital of which Christ reigned during the Millennial Kingdom**). And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them (**consumed them completely**).

Rev 20:10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast (**thrown, hurled**) into the lake of fire and brimstone (**burning sulfur**) where the beast (**aka the Antichrist appears in 1 & 2 John**) (**Biblically, they aren't given the same name but they describe the same figure in different terms, see chart, in notes below**) and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever (**or from the ages to the ages**).

Rev 19:20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two (**beast & false Prophet**) were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Rev 20:11-15 Great White Throne Judgment (The Final Judgment)

Rev 20:11 Then I (**John**) saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it (**the white throne**), from whose face (**presence**) the earth and the heaven fled away (**passing away**). And there was found no place for them (**to hide**).

Great White Throne Judgment, is not to be confused with other judgements.

This judgment is for all unsaved people throughout time at the end of the millennial kingdom. The Great White Throne Judgment is different than the Bema Seat Judgment (**believers works by fire, heart & sufficiency**) and Sheep and Goat judgment (**living people, believers and unbelievers**), these took place a thousand years before.

Him who sat on it (**the white throne**): many believe it is the Father, some believe Jesus, some believe both?

David Hocking in his Revelation commentary says this: The word "throne" appears forty-five times in Revelation but only sixteen times in the rest of the New Testament. The one who sits on the throne in Revelation 4 is God the Father but the throne that God the Father is on is never called The Great White Throne. He suggest Jesus Christ is sitting on The Great White Throne.

Jhn 5:22 "For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,
Jhn 5:26 "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,
Jhn 5:27 "and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

Act 17:31 "because He(God) has appointed a day on which He will judge the world (Lit: the inhabited earth) in righteousness by the Man (Jesus Christ) whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Phl 2:9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

Phl 2:10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

Phl 2:11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Whose face (presence) the earth and the heaven fled away:

God on the throne is so powerful that heaven and earth itself are portrayed as fleeing from His very presence.

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Jer 23:24 Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says the LORD; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the LORD.

2Pet 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

2Pet 3:11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

2Pet 3:12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

2Pet 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

This removal of the first heaven and earth (Hag 2:6-7; Heb 12:26-28; and described in Rev 16:18-21) this prepares the way for the new heaven and earth (21:1, 4-5; Isa 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pet 3:10-13).

Rev 21:1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

God Reveals Nebuchadnezzar's Dream and Daniel Interprets

Dan 2:35 "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them

away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Dan 2:44 "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

Rev 20:12 And I (John) saw the dead, small and great, standing before God (God's throne), and books (or scrolls) were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written (recorded) in the books (everything done by each one, while on earth).

The dead are all the unbelievers throughout time which will stand before God.

The books that will be opened, Notice books plural more than one, this means God keeps track of our actions, deeds and there are different degrees of punishment.

Rev 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Rev 17:8 "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Rev 21:27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Rev 22:19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Rev 3:5 "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Phl 4:3 And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

The Seventy Disciples Return with Joy

Luk 10:17 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."

Luk 10:20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

1John 2:17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Jhn 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Jhn 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Jhn 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

1John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.

1John 5:5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

God's Righteous Judgment

Rom 2:2 But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth and against those who practice such things.

Rom 2:6 who "will render to each one according to his deeds":

Rom 2:7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;

Rom 2:8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness--indignation and wrath,

Vision of the Ancient of Days (correlation passage):

Dan 7:9 "I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire;

Dan 7:10 A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened.

Dan 7:11 "I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame.

Dan 7:13 "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.

Dan 7:14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

Rev 20:13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades (**holding area, the realm of the dead**) delivered (**gave**) up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works (**deeds**).

If a person is unsaved and dies they go into a place called Hades (Luke 16:23). The body and the soul separate; there is conscious torment awaiting their final resurrection.

So what is a resurrection? It's the opposite of death, it's where the two come back together. The body is resurrected and the immaterial part of a person re-enters that body. And that's what's being described here for all unbelievers. This is the resurrection for unbelievers and they're standing now before the Lord and the final judgement.

All the dead will be raised from the grave and the sea, to be judged by their deeds.

Isa 64:6 But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities (**wickedness**), like the wind, Have taken us away (**from God's favor, toward destruction**).

Rom 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

God will judge the secrets of men Gentiles & Jews by Jesus Christ and the gospel

Rom 2:12 For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law

Rom 2:13 (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;

Rom 2:14 for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,

Rom 2:15 who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)

Rom 2:16 in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

Eph 2:9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Rev 20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death (**means the complete person soul and body, the spirit is dead but all thrown into the lake of fire which burns forever and they are eternal separation from God**).

Death, the last enemy, will be destroyed by Christ, Jesus.

Rev 20:15 And anyone (**name**) not found written in the Book of Life was cast (**throne**) into the lake of fire (**Those that put their faith in Christ, Jesus as Lord (see Ps 69:28; Phil 4:3; Rev 3:5 were written in the Book of Life).**

Unbelievers will be rightly condemned for their sins

Rev 13:8 All who dwell on the earth (**unbelievers**) will worship him (**beast**), whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Believers, listed in the “book of life”, will enter into “a new heaven and a new earth” (Rev 21:1) because they are redeemed by “the Lamb who was slain” for their sins (1:5; 13:8). Their recorded deeds give evidence of their trust in Christ.

End

Notes:

Seven Beatitudes of Revelation: “Blessed” (*makarios*)

1. Blessing upon the reader & heeder of Revelation (1:3)
2. Blessing upon the Tribulation martyrs (14:13)
3. Blessing upon the spiritually prepared (16:15)
4. Blessing upon the Marriage Supper invitees (19:9)
5. **Blessing upon the First Resurrection’s participants (20:6)**
6. Blessing upon the heeder of Revelation (22:7)
7. Blessing upon the eternal city’s citizens (22:14)

Quote: John F. Walvoord, "Revelation," in Bible Knowledge Commentary, ed. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 1983), 929.

Most biblical scholars believe these three names point to the same final figure, viewed through different lenses:

<u>Term</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Emphasis</u>	<u>Theme</u>
Antichrist:	1 & 2 Jn	Spiritual deception, denying Christ	End-times false messiah and false teacher & teachers
Beast:	Rev 13–20	Political/military power, by Satan	Final world ruler + empire/system
Man of Sin:	2 Thes 2	Religious deception, self-exaltation	Final blasphemous leader under Satan’s power

Reasons for Understanding 1000 years, being literal years

Numbers taken literally

Two witnesses (11:3), 7000 people (11:13), 4 Angels (7:1) 7 Angels (8:6), 144,000 Jews (7:4), 42 months (11:2), 1260 days (11:3)

Look for the scripture to interpret scripture. Look for OT passages which show a literal comparison and explanation

In Revelation's we have Symbols and Figures of Speech

“Spiritually” (11:8) symbolic interpretation

“Sign” (12:1)

“Like” or “as” (8:8)

OT correspondence, consistency (Rev 13:2; Dan 7)

Contextual interpretations (Rev 17:18)

Seen as an Absurdity (Rev 12:1)

Robert Thomas observes that, "no number in Revelation is verifiably a symbolic number." **Robert Thomas. Revelation chs 8 to 22: An Exegetical Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1992), 408.**

OT Scriptures which describe the Millennium

The Reign of the Branch (Messiah) (Isa 11:1–10)

The Righteous Branch of David (Jer 23:5–6)

Established by God (Dan. 2:44)

Eternal (Dan. 7:27)

Christ's direct rule (Zech. 9:9-10)

Earthly (Zech. 14:9)

Land promises realized (Gen. 15:18-21)

Israel's preeminence (Isa. 49:22-23)

Millennial Temple (Ezek. 40–46)

Millennial David (Jer. 30:9)

Righteousness (Isa. 9:6-7)

Curse curtailed (Isa. 65:20, 22)

Peace (Isa. 2:1-4)

Prosperity (Amos 9:13-14; Isa 65:22)

Topographical changes (Ezek. 47:1-12)

Immediate answers to prayer (Isa. 65:24)

David Hocking Quote

The Book of Revelation: Understanding the Future

(Tustin, CA: Hope For Today Publications, 2014), 530

God demonstrates by this one final event that even under the best conditions, mankind's problem is the heart. God demonstrates that Satan's depravity cannot be cured. God demonstrates that He is fully justified in exacting eternal punishment."

Millennial Comparison: from Pentecost, Things To Come, 349-50

EZEK. 38-39

Northern invasion

Invasion leads to Millennium (Eze 40-)

Invasion leads to Millennium (Eze 40-)

7 months dispose of the dead (39:12)

Satan not bound prior to invasion

REV. 20:7-9

All nation invade

Invasion at end Millennium

Invasion leads to Eternal State (Rev 21-22)

Dead disposed, instantly (20:9)

Satan bound prior to invasion(Rev 20:2)

Event

The Rapture
Second Coming

Description

Christ comes for His Church (air)
Christ comes with His Church to earth

Where Christ Appears

In the air (not to the earth)
To the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4)

Purpose

Gather believers before Tribulation
Judge Nations, establish Kingdom

Judgements

Scripture

Place

Audience

When

Purpose

Evaluation

Sheep and Goat

Matt 25:31-46

Earth, Jerusalem

Tribulation survivors

After Tribulation

Saved believers enter .

Treatment of brethren

Bema Seat

1 Cor 3:10-15

Heaven

Church Age believers

After rapture

Reward believers

Works through fire

Great White Throne

Rev 20:11-15

Earth

All unsaved

After Millennium

Degree; punishment in hell

Name not in book; judged

Acts 17:24-27, Romans 1:18-20, Ephesians 5:6, Matthew 11:20-24