

**UNEDITED MANUSCRIPT**  
**REVELATION 3: THE REVEAL**  
**#1: WOW! A Sneak Peek • Message**  
**SFC • 08.15.23**

**INTRODUCTION:** Today we start the conclusion of a three-year summer message series. 3-years ago we started a verse by verse series together called Revelation. We likened the book to a renovation project. Earth and humanity was the project, the architect was Jesus and the Builder was God. Message #1 was Start At the Throne & at Home. We saw some amazing worship scenes and then we learned about the seven churches of the end-time.

Last year In Revelation #2 Deconstruction Time we learned about the renovation part, the end-time tribulation period with it's seals, trumpets, and counterfeit worship, gods, and governments.

Remember I encouraged you to see this book differently than the televangelist and bookseller would have you believe.

God is in the wonderful process of renovating, recreating, renewing, recycling, and reclaiming his people and his creation in the book of Revelation.

If you are going to understand this last book of the Bible you have to throw out some of the old fireball destruction stuff you grew up with and remember that first and foremost the last book of the Bible is about worship. Revelation is about whom or what will you worship? The book is not about an antichrist, but about the Lamb of God once slaughtered and now King. The book is about letting the church know that we win.

As we look at Revelation 19 there's a single word that's repeated again and again and again. It's a sneak peek word. It's a word that says all the praise and the glory goes to God. **"Hallelujah!"**

Revelation 19 and 20 talk to us about four great end time events. These are end time events we all need to understand. We need to understand what they are and what they mean. The four events are:

**THE WEDDING SUPPER OF THE LAMB**

**THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS**

**THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF JESUS CHRIST, OR**

**THE 1000 YEAR REIGN OF JESUS CHRIST &**

**THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT**

Remember I said last year that to understand human history, what's happening in our lives right now, you have to understand that from the end to the beginning as well as from the beginning to the end.

If I want to understand human history I'd better understand the book of Genesis and what happened at the beginning because I can't understand human history if I can't understand what happened at the beginning.

If I want to understand human history I'd better also flip the book over and really understand the book of Revelation. There are these hallelujahs that are sung

in Revelation 19. Praise to God. What a relief. A multitude singing hallelujah. Twenty-four elders sing hallelujahs.

A voice from the throne says hallelujah. This one word, this praise to God word that says His renovation is the plan that's going to reign for all time.

## **1# THE WEDDING SUPPER OF THE LAMB**

Then right out of these first hallelujahs the Wedding Supper of the Lamb, Revelation 19:1-10,

*Then I heard the sound of massed choirs, the sound of a mighty cataract, the sound of strong thunder: Hallelujah! The Master reigns, our God, the Sovereign-Strong! Let us celebrate, let us rejoice, let us give him the glory! The Marriage of the Lamb has come; his Wife has made herself ready. She was given a bridal gown of bright and shining linen. The linen is the righteousness of the saints. The Angel said to me, "Write this: 'Blessed are those invited to the Wedding Supper of the Lamb.'" He added, "These are the true words of God!"* Revelation

## 19:1-9 (MSG)

Where else have we read in the Bible about brides and wedding gowns? Remember Ephesians 5 Paul helps us understand exactly what God's talking about here.

*"Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. Christ's love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her, dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness."* Ephesians 5:25-27 (MSG)

So when the Bible talks about this great Wedding Supper of the Lamb, the Lamb is Jesus. This bride that's presented to Jesus is the church. So there's this amazing wedding between Jesus and the church. The Bible tells us a couple of things that are going to happen at the end of time in this wedding in regard to the bride which is us. We're a part of the church. We're a part of those whom God is making ready for this great event at the end of time.

**1. THE BRIDE IS PREPARED.** It takes preparation for the bride to be ready for this event. It always takes preparation for a bride.

Men, we have no clue on this one of the preparation it takes for a bride to be ready. I go to a lot of weddings. The brides have been preparing weeks, months, even years in advance. The guys just sort of show up. Unless your name is James Heyward, and you've lost your mind by getting too involved in the planning of the wedding. Let me just say that didn't go as well as it could so fella's out there that are not married just show up and shut up—be on time with the right suit.

**Let's get practical.** Why is this wedding going to happen? The right reason for a wedding to happen is the reason this wedding is going to happen. Because somebody loves somebody. Because the groom loves the bride, the bride loves the groom. This wedding is going to happen because Jesus loves the church. He loves you and I as His church more than we can ever imagine.

He wants a relationship with us as His church, as His people deeper and better and fuller than we can even have an inkling of in this world today.

He gives us a picture at the end of time of what this is going to be like. It's the greatest picture you and I can come across of intimacy in a relationship with one another at this wedding that's going to happen and the bride is preparing herself for this incredible event.

**2. THE BRIDE IS ALSO HONORED.** The Bible says, "*bridal gown of bright and shining linen.*" Revelation 1 says not to miss the picture on this one. A lot of pictures you've seen you don't know what it means. Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.

I'm at more weddings than most of you and I get a different view of a wedding than most of you. I get to stand up in front and see what happens. There is a moment in every wedding. You know what it is. You stand when that moment comes. That's how important this moment is.

The guy has sort of sneak in front the side, hardly nobody noticed as they stand up front. The bridesmaids walk in and then the music stops and then it starts again – grand music – and the doors at the back swing open and the bride is standing there.

Everyone stands up, turns around. It's like the world stops for a minute for that one person, that one moment to honor her.

There's going to be a moment, there will be a moment when all of a creation will stop – all of heaven and earth. And all of creation will stand – all the angels, and the Son of God Himself will all stand to honor what God has done in and through His church, to honor the righteous acts of the saints.

This righteous not so much about what we have done as it is about what the Lamb has done in us, through us and for us. The righteous acts are the dress that the bride wears. Think about that a minute. That means every time you choose to do what God asks you, by and through His power (*that's a righteous act*).



Every time you choose to do that, the bride gets a little more beautiful. Every time. Every time you choose to say no to that temptation by God's power. Every single time you choose to say no, the dress of that bride gets more beautiful. Every single time you choose to reach out to somebody that's unlovable, overlooked, and left out.

Maybe it's somebody in your office. Maybe somebody out in the street. Maybe it's someone in your own family. Every time you choose to do that because of the motivation of God's Spirit in you, that bride gets a little bit more beautiful. And at the end of time, all of those choices that you're making, every week, every day combine together to be this dress the bride wears that is glorified in all eternity.

Never think that the choices that you make to love Jesus Christ and to serve Jesus Christ go unnoticed. It might in this world but in eternity there is that moment when the doors swing open and the whole world gets to see and glory in what God has done.

This is one of the end time events. This is one of the things God is going to do at the end of time. Remember this week when you make the right choice, the bride is being made a little more beautiful. Even guys can understand what it's like to have a beautiful bride.

## **2# THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**

The second great event is The Second Coming of Christ. When you hear the term "The Second Coming of Christ" it can mean two things. We use the term to mean all the end time events together (*the rapture, the coming of Christ when the world sees Him, even the tribulation time and the millennial reign*). That's sometimes referred to as the Second Coming of Christ. But there are times when "The Second Coming of Christ" is used to refer to the specific time when He comes and all the world sees Him. That specific moment in time when He comes not just for the church and believers see Him but for the whole world to see who He is.

As you start to read the rest of Revelation 19 you see in 19:11-21 the second half of the chapter a picture of this Second Coming of Christ where the world sees Him.

Of all the questions about the Second Coming of Christ and there's a reference of even Jesus talking about it in Matthew 24

*Then, the Arrival of the Son of Man! It will fill the skies—no one will miss it. Unready people all over the world, outsiders to the splendor and power, will raise a huge lament as they watch the Son of Man blazing out of heaven. At that same moment, he'll dispatch his angels with a trumpet-blast summons, pulling in God's chosen from the four winds, from pole to pole.” Matthew 24:30-31 (MSG)*

Of all the questions about the Second Coming, which are the most important? **THE MOST COMMON QUESTIONS – THE WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHY, WHERE AND HOW QUESTIONS.**

I think many times **WHEN WE** talk about the Second Coming the questions that are the most important is the Where? And the When? People want to know exactly when. Jesus said, *"I don't know when,"* but we want to know when.

If you read the Bible, an important questions is Why? Why is Jesus coming again, which we've seen answered throughout the book of Revelation, to bring His people back to Himself and to judge those who haven't followed Him? But the most important question when you look at the Second Coming is the question of Who? More than anything the Bible talks about who it is that is coming again. We see these great pictures in Revelation 19 of who it is.

*"Then I saw Heaven open wide—and oh! a white horse and its Rider. The Rider, named Faithful and True, judges and makes war in pure righteousness. His eyes are a blaze of fire, on his head many crowns. He has a Name inscribed that's known only to himself. He is dressed in a robe soaked with blood, and he is addressed as "Word of God."*

*The armies of Heaven, mounted on white horses and dressed in dazzling white linen, follow him. A sharp sword comes out of his mouth so he can subdue the nations, then rule them with a rod of iron. He treads the winepress of the raging wrath of God, the Sovereign-Strong. On his robe and thigh is written, King of kings, Lord of lords."*

**Revelation 19:11-16 (MSG)**

**The rider on a white horse**, a very familiar picture for anyone who had read the book of Revelation when it was first written. Whenever a Roman general had a triumph he would ride up the main street of Rome after that triumph. From the Roman forum up to the Temple of Jupiter would be this procession. They always did it the same way. The spoils of war would go first and then the captives would go next. Then right in the middle, right before the army and the family of this general would come the general of the conquering victorious army. The general when he road this victory parade through the streets of Rome always road a white horse. They see this picture of a white horse, they know it's a picture of victory. Jesus Christ rides in victory.

***His name is Faithful and True. His eyes blaze of fire.***

***On His head were many crowns.*** How many? All of them. At the end of time Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords. He gets all the crowns.

Just think how many crowns there are in our world today. A crown is a symbol of leadership, someone who's in authority. Just think about how many crowns there are. Not only the super powers that we know about but the countries we've never heard of. And not only countries but businesses. Not only businesses, but families, schools, every one of the crowns get to be on His head at the end of time. He's the ruler of everything.

***"A name inscribed that's known only to himself."***

What I like about that is it reminds me that even in heaven, at the end of time there will always be more to Jesus Christ than I can understand. That's how great He is. So there's this name that only He can understand.

There's the clothing of a robe soaked in blood. We know what that means. It's a picture of what happened on the cross. And throughout human history and now throughout eternal history the blood of Christ is glorified because it brings us to Him, it brings our relationship with Him.

His title is ***"Word of God." "The Word of God," "The King of kings," "The Lord of lords."***

After you've read this description of who Jesus is there's another great battle at the end of Revelation 19. Somewhat like the battle of Armageddon that we read about earlier and has the same results. Obviously anytime anyone battles God you're going to lose. But human history is trying to learn it one more time.

***So you move in Revelation from a wedding to a war, from a bride to a battle.*** In this battle Jesus emerges victorious. Evil is defeated. It's not eliminated yet. We're going to find out in a moment it's not eliminated. At the end of this chapter Satan is locked up but he is not totally destroyed as yet.

Revelation 20 *"I saw an Angel descending out of Heaven. He carried the key to the Abyss and a chain—a huge chain. He grabbed the Dragon, that old Snake—the very Devil, Satan himself!—chained him up for a thousand years, dumped him into the Abyss, slammed it shut and sealed it tight.*

*No more trouble out of him, deceiving the nations—until the thousand years are up. After that he has to be let loose briefly. I saw thrones. Those put in charge of judgment sat on the thrones. I also saw the souls of those beheaded because of their witness to Jesus and the Word of God, who refused to worship either the Beast or his image, refused to take his mark on forehead or hand—they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years! The rest of the dead did not live until the thousand years were up. This is the first resurrection—and those involved most blessed, most holy. No second death for them! They're priests of God and Christ; they'll reign with him a thousand years."* **Revelation 20:1-6 (MSG)**



### **3# THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST**

What does that mean? This is the third great event—the Millennial Reign of Christ. Revelation 20:1-10. You see the picture immediately of the thousand years of Jesus Christ reigning on the earth, the idea of Him reigning, Him being king, Lord of all, He will govern everything.

Can you imagine the world that He governs? It would be a perfect world, a world where everything went right

But as you read through the chapter there are different views about what this means. In fact, over the years there have arisen three very strong views about what this thousand-year reign of Christ means. There's some questions also about the resurrection and the loosing and binding of Satan. Understanding what's going to happen at the end is crucial to understanding what God's doing in our world today and having a sense of peace even when things aren't going right.

The three main biblical views of this thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ. All of these views are held by good Bible believing Christians. It's not like one of these is people who don't believe the Bible believe 'this' and people who do believe the Bible believe 'this'. These are all views that down through the centuries, those who have trusted Christ have come to believe. One of the reasons there are different views is as you look at the facts here it's obvious that we don't know everything about this.

**One of the pre-millennial view.** This is the view that Jesus comes again before the thousand-year reign. He sets up an earthly kingdom and there's a thousand years of him reigning on this earth. This view has the sense that God is going to work in human history in an incredible way at the end of time and there will be this thousand years of an earthly reign of Christ. Why does there need to be a thousand-year reign?

**The postmillennial view** which is probably held by the least number of people today. It was held by more people in the past.

This is the view that the world is going to get better and better and then Jesus will come again. Do you know why hardly anyone holds this today? So as we look at the world today we say how is that going to happen? You have to leave out an awful lot of the book of Revelation or symbolize it rather than seeing it as actual things that are going to happen at the end of time.

**The third view is the a-millennial view.** No millenium. The a-millennial is the view that these are spiritual symbols and the idea of the millennial in this view is what happened between the first coming of Christ and the second coming of Christ. They would say the millennium is how God is working in the people of His church between His first coming and the Second Coming. You have to spiritualize and symbolize a lot of the Second Coming prophecies in this.

So these three views are really asking does this millennium represent the present experience of Christians (the a-millennial view) or does it represent an earthy historical reign of righteousness? That's pre-millennial and post-millennial view.

Why does this happen? What is God telling us is going to happen at the end of time through any of these views? Why is there a thousand-year reign? Whatever view you have, why is God going to do that? Why is there this first resurrection and second resurrection and how do they all tie together? Before I answer why the thousand-year reign you have to understand about this first and second resurrection.?

In John 5 Jesus taught about this. He said,

***"Don't act so surprised at all this. The time is coming when everyone dead [Believers and Non-believers] and buried will hear his voice. Those who have lived the right way will walk out into a resurrection Life; those who have lived the wrong way, into a resurrection Judgment." John 5:28-29 (MSG)***

- The Bible teaches that everyone is resurrected at the end of time. There's a resurrection to life and a resurrection to judgment.
- The Bible talks about a first resurrection and a second resurrection.

- When you read what Jesus taught about it, it clearly means the first resurrection is when believers rise.
- The spirits of those who don't know Christ are still in a holding tank-a place where they await the final judgment that happens at the end of this thousand-year reign of Christ.
- *This reminds us of is that death is not the great leveler of humankind. It's the great divider of humankind.*

In 1 Thessalonians 4 the Bible teaches that when the rapture happens we're resurrected. So if you believe the rapture happens earlier than there's the time of tribulation and then the thousand-year reign of Christ then that will mean that this scripture is teaching that only those who became Christians during the tribulation period are resurrected at this time.

Some question are where do the raptured and resurrected hang out for 7 and then one thousands years? What I think about these questions is they remind us that we understand some things about what's going to happen. But God hasn't given us details for a reason. We don't need all the details yet.

The fact that I don't have all the details tells me that there are some surprises in store.

When the Bible talks about those who sat with Him on thrones to judge, the Bible teaches that Jesus told His disciples ***"You're going to set with Me on twelve thrones to judge this world."***

The Bible also says that you and I as Christians judge angels and the world. God is going to have responsibilities for us as we reign with Him, jobs for us to do, significant things we do to impact eternity that you and I can't even imagine. There are surprises in store. There is an eternity in store that we can't imagine. That's why there's a first and second resurrection because there's a resurrection to life and a resurrection to judgment.

**The second question is why is there a millennium? Why a thousand year reign of Christ? However you picture it...**

Whether you picture it happening now or you picture it happening then, whether you're a-millennial, pre-millennial or post-millennial, or a pan-millennial, *(it will all pan out in the end)* Whatever view you take, **why is God doing this?**

## **TWO REASONS THAT THIS IS GOING TO HAPPEN.**

**1. So that God can fulfill His promises to His people on this earth.** There are some who say that these promises have to be fulfilled to the Jewish nation. There are others who say they can be fulfilled to all Christians. But whatever camp you happen to be in the point is God made some promises throughout the Bible that He will have the opportunity to fulfill toward His people on this earth before the end of time. One of the promises that He's going to fulfill is a prayer that all of you have prayed ***"Father God, I pray that Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."*** This millennial reign is a time when that prayer is literally answered for a thousand years. What an incredible thing! God is fulfilling His promises.

**2. So that God can show the real terrible nature of our sin.** What it's really like. There's a thousand years of peace, a thousand years of blessing, a thousand years of Christ rule, a thousand years of Satan being shut up in prison where he doesn't have any influence in this world. Then at the end of that 1000 years Satan is let free and there are still many on this earth who follow him. What happened? How could that happen? Don't miss the picture of the fact that what happens at the end of the millennium is probably the most important thing about the millennium.

Why would God have there be 1000 years of Christ's reign and then let Satan free at the end of that thousand years?

Remember He's trying to show us at the end of history what we need to know even now in history.

- **What you and I need to know is that we have a fallen nature.**



- **What you and I need to know** is not that the devil made me do it. It's not even that it's the world around me made me do it.

If they did just didn't show those kind of television shows or have those kind of magazines or those kind of movies I'd be ok. In a perfect world with Jesus as the head everything's right in this world, there are still those who won't come to Christ. There are still those who won't follow Him. There are still those when Satan is released again they immediately join him because that's where their heart is.

God shows us the real and terrible nature. The world is perfect and still people don't follow Him. During the time of tribulation the world is falling apart and people won't follow God. They blame Him.

During the time of the millennial reign the world is perfect and people still won't follow God. You know the old argument, nature-versus-nurture? It's settled in the millennial reign of Christ. It's nature. It's not just our environment.

It's our heart and we need a new heart. That's why in the next chapter we're going to see why God

This final battle with Satan we see a couple nations mentioned here. The old enemies, Gog and Magog. They are described in Ezekiel 38 and 39. They are the old enemies of Israel, the reminder of the fact that there will always be people who will not say Jesus is Lord. Even to the end.

## **4# THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT**

*"I saw a Great White Throne and the One Enthroned. Nothing could stand before or against the Presence, nothing in Heaven, nothing on earth. And then I saw all the dead, great and small, standing there—before the Throne! And books were opened. Then another book was opened: the Book of Life. The dead were judged by what was written in the books, by the way they had lived."*

**Revelation 20:11-12 (MSG)**

The dead were judged according to what they had done. Aren't we supposed to be judged according to our faith? Aren't we supposed to be judged according to whether we've asked Christ into our lives or not?

Yet in the book of Revelation the Bible says the dead are going to be judged according to their deeds. Doesn't that give you the picture, the idea, that somehow we stand at the end of time all of us together before this Great White Throne and we're judged by our deeds, what we've done even as Christians and that somehow effects our eternity?

The Bible says, "The dead are judged by the way they lived." You, as a believer in Christ, you're not going to be there for this judgment. You know why? You're not the dead. You're the alive! God has made you alive in Jesus Christ. When the Bible talks about the dead it's talking about those who don't know Him.

Jesus talked about this in

*"It's urgent that you listen carefully to this: Anyone here who believes what I am saying right now and aligns himself with the Father, who has in fact put me in charge, has at this very moment the real, lasting life and is no longer condemned to be an outsider."* John 5:24 (MSG)

Already. You can settle this issue that's going to be talked about at the Great White Throne Judgement now or later. Right now you can settle the issue of passing from death into life by saying *"Jesus Christ, I want to enjoy Your life for the rest of eternity."*

You're not going to be in that line because you're the alive. You've already passed from death into life. And the truth is that's not only true of us who are believers, it's true for anyone in our lives that we can help to find Christ.

If I depend on what I have done, my works, I'm truly and eternally dead. I'll be there for this Great White Throne of Judgment.

It doesn't matter how many good works we've done, they're not good enough. They can't be good enough. Not to be allowed into a perfect heaven with a perfect God. The slate could be clean except for one sin in your whole life and it would be enough to judge you at this Great White Throne.

But if I depend instead on what He has done, I'm truly and eternally alive and my name is in the book of life because of God's grace. But as a believer we're already living the eternal life that He's given us. What great news!

## **CONCLUSION:**

**PICTURES OF JESUS:** Before we leave, look at these pictures. Jesus is the groom, Jesus is the Lord, Jesus is the King, Jesus is the judge.

**IN THE WEDDING SUPPER THE PICTURE OF JESUS IS THE GROOM.** He's the one who loves the church, that loves us.

A wedding, a picture of acceptance. Do you need that today? To realize that Jesus accepts and loves you?

**IN THE SECOND COMING THE PICTURE IS THAT JESUS IS THE LORD.** He is the one that you can depend on. He is the One who has all the power for all eternity. A Lord, a picture of victory. Do you need that today? To remember that no matter what happens, what's been done to you this week, Jesus is going to be victorious in the end?

**IN THE MILLENNIUM THE PICTURE IS JESUS IS THE KING.** He rules over the entire earth and He does it perfectly, of course. A thousand years, a picture of authority. Do you need to be reminded today? That no matter what, God's in control?

**AT THE GREAT WHITE THRONE, THE PICTURE IS JESUS IS THE JUDGE.** The Great White Throne, a picture of justice. As evil as this world is and as much as it looks like people get away with it, it's not true. There will be a day, at that Great White Throne where everything is made right and that's the last word.