

Acts 2 Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Ten: Jesus' Revelation to John, Part 3 – Revelation 19-22

Read Revelation 19.

- 1) Contrast Babylon and her lovers with the Lamb and His “bride” (the Church) by reviewing Revelation 18 with Revelation 19:1-10. **The church is seen from the perspective of Heaven. By contrast, the woman and her lovers are seen from the perspective of earth. The bride of the Lamb will rejoice over the defeat of the woman and her lovers. Far from rejoicing, the woman’s lovers mourn her destruction; they are “terrified at her torment” (18:10) and “throw dust on their heads,” weeping, mourning and crying out (18:19). The bride is clothed in fine linen, representing her righteous deeds. The woman’s lovers have been indulged by the woman’s wealth what they gained from her did not endure and is irrecoverable (18:14, 21-23.) The church and the Lamb have been vindicated by God’s judgment (18:20, 24; 19:2b.) The woman is not the Judge, but the accused, and she has been justly condemned (19:2.) While the woman “led astray” her lovers (18:23b), the God of the Lamb is “true and just” (19:2, 9).**
- 2) We have read of seven seals, seven trumpets and seven bowls. Some commentators suggest that Revelation 19:11-21 describes the first and second of seven “last things.”
 - a) Which long awaited event is described in Revelation 19:11-21 and the following passages: Matthew 24:3; Luke 11:2; Acts 1:11; Jude 14; Revelation 16:15? **The return (Second Coming) of Christ.**
 - b) What is foretold by Revelation 19:17-21 (the second of the seven “last things”)? **The destruction of the beast and his “false prophet”**
- 3) Review Revelation 12:17, 13:7, and 17:14 with 19:11-21. Then read Isaiah 24:21, the words of the angel in Daniel 10:12-14, 20-21, Romans 8:38-39, and Ephesians 6:10-18.
 - a) What do you learn about the spiritual war that, although unseen, is always going on around us? **In answer to prayer, the Lord sent an angel to Daniel, but an evil enemy (the “prince of Persia”) detained the angel. Satan and his demonic forces are the unseen but very real enemy of every believer. They are the “powers of this dark world” and the “spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12). The war is being waged in the “heavenly realms” between the servants of God and these forces of evil, but it is “our struggle” (Ephesians 6:12) as well. Our enemy “schemes” against us and we are admonished to “put on the full armor of God” (Ephesians 6:13) so that we will remain standing. These include the offensive and defensive weapons of prayer, truth, righteous living, readiness to share the gospel, faith, knowledge and assurance of our salvation, and the word of God.**
 - b) Prayerfully consider and record any spiritual battle(s) in which you seem to be engaged at present. **Personal sharing**
 - c) Using the Holy Spirit and the Ephesians 6 passage as your guide, what practical offensive or defensive steps do you need to take in the battle(s) you noted? **Personal sharing**
 - d) Which verses record the ultimate outcome of this war and what do they say will happen? **According to Isaiah 24:21, Revelation 17:14, and Revelation 19, Jesus Christ will personally lead a war against them and defeat them “because He is Lord of lords and King of kings.” God will punish His adversaries.**

Read Revelation 20.

- 4) The event described in Revelation 20:4-6 is often referred to as the Millennium, another of the seven last things. According to the following passages, what will characterize the reign of Christ: Isaiah 9:7, 11:3-9, 65:20-25; Jeremiah 23:5; Ezekiel 39:7; Daniel 7:13-14; Luke 1:32-33; Revelation 2:26 and 5:10 with 20:4-6? **The King will bring eternal justice, peace, and righteousness. He will rule with wisdom. He will make His name known among the nations and it will no longer be profaned. The earth will be filled with His knowledge. Long life and prosperity will be the norm. He will rule with authority, glory and sovereign power over all peoples, nations and men of every language, and will be worshipped by all. His kingdom will be indestructible and the Saints will reign with Him. (Some also believe that the nation of Israel will receive special privilege and blessing at this time.)**
- 5) Surrounding the verses in Revelation 20 that refer to the Millennium, two additional “last things” are described: the binding of Satan (verses 1-3) and the destruction of Satan (verses 7-11).
 - a) From verses 1-3 and 7-10, which phrase explains how Satan’s binding impacts the thousand-year reign of Christ and which phrase tells how Satan’s binding ends? **Satan is kept “from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended” (verse 3), and he is released to “go out to deceive the nations” (verse 7) at the end of the thousand years.**
 - b) After living under Christ’s marvelous reign, how is it possible that Satan could deceive any human being into gathering for battle against Christ? (This question has perplexed many! See Jeremiah 17:9 and Romans 1:28 for help.) **The passages referenced point out the greatness of man’s depravity. Apparently the wickedness of our own hearts is great enough that even some of those who have known the glory of living under Christ’s rule will still choose to reject Him. (Those who hold an amillennial position, in which Christ’s reign is present here and now in a spiritual sense, have difficulty explaining the evil in today’s world if Satan is currently bound. However, they have less trouble than premillennials explaining how things could become much worse on earth at the end of Christ’s reign once Satan is released again. Students taking the study will have varying degrees of Bible knowledge and are not expected to be able to discuss the Millennium or to come to any definite conclusion regarding this question.)**
- 6) Reread Revelation 20:11-15. The Final Judgment is the sixth of the seven “last things.”
 - a) How will the judgment of those whose names are written in the book of life differ from those whose names are not found there? See Matthew 16:27, Romans 2:6-11 and 8:1-2, 1 Corinthians 3:12-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Colossians 3:23-24, 2 John 8, and Revelation 2:7, 17, 26-28; 3:5, 12, 21; 22:12. **All people will be judged by their deeds. However, the purpose of judgment for those saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ is evaluation for reward. The purpose of judgment for anyone whose name is not found written in the book of life is punishment (some speculate degrees of everlasting punishment).**
 - b) In consideration of this most certain future evaluation, what should you consider changing in your attitude or activities this week? **Personal sharing**

Read Revelation 21-22. The eternal state is the seventh of the seven “last things.” (Commentators have different ideas about whether these chapters describe the eternal state only or whether some of the things might also pertain to the period of the Millennium [20:4-6]).

- 7) What kind of images, feelings, and ideas do these two chapters bring to your mind about Heaven?
Individual sharing
- 8) “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them” (Revelation 21:3). Trace this concept through five different time periods in the Bible and write the manner in which God dwelt with mankind in each. (If the context of the verse is not immediately obvious to you, you may need to look at the verses surrounding it.)
 - a) **First Time Period: Genesis 3:8, 23 God walked with Adam in the Garden of Eden, but Adam was banished from the garden because of sin.**

- b) Second Time Period: Exodus 25:8-9 with 29:45-46 and 40:33-34; 1 Kings 6:11-14 and 8:10-11 **God dwelt among the Israelites symbolically by His presence in the portable Tabernacle and later the Temple in Jerusalem.**
 - c) Third Time Period: Luke 2:11 with John 1:14 **God physically dwelt with us in the person of Jesus Christ who took on human form.**
 - d) Fourth Time Period: John 14:16-18, 23; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16 **Jesus promised His Holy Spirit would indwell believers once He returned to Heaven.**
 - e) Fifth Time Period: Revelation 21:1-3 **God will once more be physically and permanently present among us in Heaven.**
- 9) Reread Revelation 21:3 and 22:4. What appeals to you about living in God's presence? (Consider Genesis 1:27a and Colossians 1:16b and the appeal to the various aspects of your person – physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual.) **Because we are made in God's image and made "for" Him, it seems that every good thing about in our nature corresponds to something that is complete in Him. We have minds with some knowledge; He knows all. We are creative; He is the Creator. We experience emotion; He is the Source of every positive emotion. We were made for eternity; He is eternal. One can only imagine the physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual satisfaction we will experience when we dwell with our Maker. For example, in light of scientific evidence that we currently only use a small part of our brain's capacity, imagine what it will be like to learn from God and be able to use our minds fully! Currently, sin clouds our emotional life. Imagine an emotional life in which joy, peace, satisfaction, and love are eternally unclouded and flow from complete enjoyment of the One who made us for Himself! Imagine a physical existence without any need. Imagine a worship experience that fills you with endless wonder and joy! No doubt, our imaginations can only scratch the surface of what we will experience by living with our Creator. Personal sharing**

From Revelation 21-22

- 10) Compare the eternal state in which God's people will dwell with the world prior to the fall of man into sin in Genesis 1-3:
- a) Genesis 1:1 and Revelation 21:1 **Creation and "new creation"**
 - b) Genesis 2:9 and Revelation 22:2, 14 **Tree of Life found in both**
 - c) Genesis 1:14-16 and Revelation 22:5 **Sun and moon, day and night versus no sun or moon needed, and no night**
 - d) Genesis 2:8-14 and Revelation 21:10-11, 19-21; and 22:1-3 **Garden with rivers, trees, precious metals and stones versus Holy City with river, trees and precious metals and stones**
 - e) Genesis 2:22-25 and Revelation 21:2, 9 **Marriage of Adam versus marriage supper of Lamb**
 - f) Genesis 3:1, 13 and Revelation 20:10; 21:27 **Appearance of Satan, the Deceiver, and entrance of sin versus final judgment of Satan and no impure or deceitful presence**
- 11) Revelation 21:7 echoes a promise which was found in each of the seven letters to the churches in Revelation 2-3.
- a) What is this promise? **It is a promise of reward and inheritance to all who "overcome."**
 - b) Who are these "overcomers"? See 1 John 5:4-5 and Romans 3:10, 20-22. **"Overcomers" are not super-saints but all true believers. While it is dangerous to assume that all church attenders are true believers, neither should we mistakenly view "overcoming" as dependent on our own righteousness. We overcome by placing our faith in Jesus for salvation. Each believer's "faith in Christ, by which he was regenerated, constitutes a victory over the world system which is satanically blinded to the gospel [see also 2 Cor. 4:3-4]... a believer is a world-conqueror by means of his faith in Christ."¹ Therefore, all true believers are "overcomers."**
- 12) To whom do we owe our position as "overcomers"? What would you like to say to Him about this? See John 16:33; Galatians 3:13-14; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 2:14-18; 1 Peter 1:18-19. **Jesus Christ suffered and died to redeem us and make us "overcomers." He overcame that we might share in His victory and inherit all that Revelation 21-22 describe! Personal sharing**

From Revelation

- 13)** The seven “beatitudes” (blessings) of Revelation are found in 1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7, 22:14.
- a) Who is blessed in each of these seven blessings? 1:3, those reading and taking to heart the book of Revelation; 14:13, those dying “in the Lord;” 16:15, those prepared for Jesus to come at any time; 19:9, those invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb; 20:6, those participating in the first resurrection; 22:7, those keeping the words of this book; 22:14, those who wash their robes so that they have the right to the Tree of Life and to enter the city.
 - b) How have you been blessed by reading the book of Revelation? **Personal sharing**
 - c) What exactly do you need to “take to heart” (1:3)? **Personal sharing**
- 14)** How is the emphasis in Revelation on God’s foreknowledge and control over human history influencing the way you view a particular circumstance in your own life? **Personal sharing**
- 15)** How has studying Revelation altered your prayer life? **Personal sharing**

ⁱ Hodges, Zane. (1983). *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (1 Jn 5:3). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.