

## FINAL JUDGMENT AFTER THE MILLENNIAL CHURCH AGE

***Revelation 19:11-20:15***

Let us Pray: “Praise our God, all you His servants; you who fear Him, both great and small, for our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory, in Jesus’ majestic Name.” AMEN.

How would you prepare and dress for a battle? Would you put on your best clothes and leave your weapons behind? Can you imagine an army dressed in nice shoes and clean garments as if they were preparing to head off to a wedding banquet rather than a battle? As crazy as it seems, this is part of the wonderful picture that is painted for us today in Revelation 19-20. Come with me to Revelation 19 verses 11-16 where Jesus, as the Divine Judge, is figuratively depicted. We have looked at this passage briefly before, but let’s look at **verse 14 (READ)**. Just like Believers in Christ are described as His Bride in fine linen in verse 8, so are Believers described here in verse 14 as soldiers, warriors, in the army of our Lord and King Jesus. Why are we dressed so nicely if we make up Christ’s army? Because, when Christ Returns, we don’t have to fight. Rather, we get to enjoy a wedding feast. Actually, there will be a lot of feasting when Jesus Comes Again; however, one of these feasts, you do NOT want to be a part of. **READ chapter 19 verses 17-18, 21**. This “great supper of God” is NOT “the wedding supper of the Lamb” that Christians are invited to in verse 9. This is not the feast we are dressed up for. This feast of carnage is an aspect of the...

**1. ...Judgment of The Beast & The False Prophet 19:19-20**

- a. This Judgment will occur at some point in the Future when Jesus Comes Again.
- b. What we have in these chapters is a continued elaboration, a more detailed picture, of God’s judgment upon the Beast, the False Prophet, and (as we’ll see) the Dragon which were already announced with the Fifth and Sixth Bowls in 16:12-21.
- c. The Judgment of The Beast and False Prophet as depicted here are final and total, and this will occur at the End of...

**2. ...The Millennial Church Age 20:1-6**

- a. *Satan is Bound from Deceiving the Nations (verses 1-3)*

- i. Verse 1 – “key to the Abyss” = “the key of death and Hades” which Christ holds in 1:18. This is all under Christ’s control and authority.
- ii. Verses 2-3 – Understanding the “binding of Satan”
  1. Satan no longer has authority over the realm of the dead; “death and Hades” because of Christ’s resurrection from the dead. Jesus holds those keys. Jesus actually transformed Hades into a Paradise for Believers (Ref. Luke 23:43)
  2. KEY – “keep him from deceiving the nations” (Ref. 12:9 where he “leads the whole world astray”) This is a restraint on the Devil’s “deceiving activities.” This does NOT mean Satan’s binding restricts his activity to deceive and persecute God’s People in every way. Instead, this binding keeps Satan from preventing “all people” throughout the world (Gentiles) from entering into the inaugurated Kingdom of God through believing loyalty to Jesus. The Devil can NOT stop the spread of the Gospel to all nations throughout the world. Satan and his evil hordes can only deceive those “with the mark of the beast”; not those sealed by the Holy Spirit. However, when the full number of True Israel has been gathered into Christ’s Kingdom of Heaven now growing on the earth, then Satan will be unbound for a brief period to deceive the majority of those living near the end of history.
    - a. In the OT, when God disinherited the nations after the Tower of Babel rebellion, “sons of God” unjustly ruled over the nations and were worshipped by humanity as national deities. However, the Most High God, Yahweh, made a special nation out of Abraham for Himself through whom He would, eventually, bless all the “people of the earth”. Yahweh promised back then to reclaim international dominion over His Creation through His messiah, also later known as the Son of Man. At Christ’s first coming, He bound Satan and began to reclaim all the nations of the earth; bringing Gentiles, those who had formerly served lesser created national gods in ignorance, into His End-Time New Creational Kingdom on earth (Ref. Luke 10:1-20). The

rebellious dominions, principalities and powers who geographically ruled over various peoples and nations were under the authority of the Prince of this world, Satan. But now, the Devil has been bound by Jesus who is the Strong Man. Jesus is currently pillaging Satan's house; the Devil's domain; because, he was bound by Jesus at His First Coming (Ref. Mark 3:23-29). While Satan is bound...

- b.** ...*Deceased Saints Reign and Judge as Priests of God (verses 4-6)*...
- i.** ..for this millennium, or 1,000 years, which I believe is figurative. Due to the figurative use of numbers throughout The Revelation and the figurative nature of this passage, I have difficulty seeing this as a literal chronological 1,000 years. Therefore, I see this as another symbolic way of depicting the present Church Age yet with more of a view to the invisible heavenly realm.
  - ii.** 1,000 is the third power of 10 and likely represents a long era, an ideal epoch or age. In 2:10, the suffering saints endure suffering for 10 days, but they will receive the reward of a millennial reign even in their death. The Church Age, for the suffering saints on earth, is a mere '10 days' in comparison to the beginning of our heavenly reign when we physically die; like a '1,000 year reign' that will continue on forever when we are raised from the dead at Christ's Return. As Beale states, "present momentary affliction results in greater glory even in the intermediate state [of death] prior to eternal glory" (p. 995). This appears to be the meaning of verse 4 (READ).
    - 1.** Recall in 4:4 the 24 elders, the heavenly princes/rulers, seated on thrones? Here, the Divine Council is convened, and the exalted souls of Believers who had been beheaded are included. (Ref. 1 Corinthians 6:3-4).
    - 2.** Beale, "When saints are translated into heaven at death they join Christ on his judicial throne to rule over the enemy in inaugural fulfillment of the promise given to 'overcomers', [even]...though these promises will also reach complete fulfillment at the final resurrection of the saints."
  - iii.** So, the "first resurrection", here, I think, means the physical death of Believers. Those Believers who reign with Christ in death do

not need to fear the “second death” reserved for the unrighteous, which involves eternal conscious torment in “the lake of fire.”

### 3. Judgment of Satan 20:7-10

- a. This looks to the future, after the present figurative Millennial Church Age, to the same timeframe as the events leading up to the Judgment of the Beast and the False Prophet with which we began.
- b. *Satan is Released to Deceive the Nations and gather “Gog and Magog” (to fulfill Ezekiel 38-39) to attack God’s People (verses 7-9a)*
  - i. The end of the Devil’s binding (when Satan will be **unbound**) happens immediately before Christ’s Final Coming as Judge.
  - ii. While Ezekiel distinguishes Gog and Magog from the other nations of the earth, they are figuratively equated with all the nations here.
  - iii. This appears to be a future multitude of rebellious human beings from throughout the earth who are deceived by Satan into destroying God’s People.
- c. *“But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.” No Contest. The Devil’s Damned Destiny is Already Determined (verses 9b-10)*
  - i. The Devil is thrown into the lake of fire either at the same time as the Beast and False Prophet or immediately after.
  - ii. Just as the Devil attacked Christ at His First Coming and thought he defeated the Messiah by having him crucified on the Cross, so Satan will mount this End-time attack on the Body of Christ, His Church. However, just as Christ proved to be victorious over the Devil by His Resurrection from the dead, so too will He be victorious over this last ditch effort by the Devil; because, it’s all under Christ’s divine sovereign control anyway. **Revelation 20:7-10** reveals to us a different perspective of the End-time Career of the Church figuratively depicted as the Two Witnesses in **Revelation 11:1-14** (Esp. verses 7-13). At the End of Time when the Dragon, Beast and False Prophet are Judged, we also have the...

### 4. ...Judgment of the Dead 20:11-15

- a. *Again, this is all at The End of Time when Jesus Returns. Then, we will experience the General Resurrection of the Dead with this Final Judgment.*

- i. All people will be resurrected and judged according to our works. The guilty unrighteous who have not repented and whose sins have not been atoned for by the Blood of Jesus are destined to eternal punishment.
- ii. Verse 12 – “Books Opened” (Ref. Daniel 7:10) verses “Another book, The Book of Life” (Ref. Daniel 12:1-4).
  - 1. “Everyone whose name is found in this book will be delivered...to everlasting life...”
    - a. You are only in this “Book of Life” if, by grace through faith, you trust that Jesus died the ‘second death’ of hell you deserve in your place upon the Cross. Your name can only be written in this book by the shed Blood of Jesus as your substitute.
- iii. Verse 14 Whereas the intermediate state of the souls who physically/bodily die in Christ is a Paradise with *rest* and *reign*, it is a dark restlessness for those with the mark of the beast. At the General Resurrection from the Dead and the Final Judgment, unbelievers who are currently held in “death and Hades” will be permanently handed over, body and soul, into the eternal, hellish torment depicted by “the lake of fire.” This is the “second death” (verse 15).

Jesus, as the King of Kings and Lord of lords, is the Divine Judge. He will vindicate His Faithful People, His Bride, by judging those who persecute them. Nevertheless, God’s People can likely anticipate intensified persecution through a resurgent worldwide deception of the Devil prior to Christ’s Return; however, the End is certain, and evil will be defeated and judged by the Faithful and True Rider upon the White Horse.

Christ’s Kingdom in heaven is *already* present on earth in His Church, which is His Betrothed Bride, but the fullness of His Kingdom is *not yet* established. That will be accomplished when He Comes Again as Divine Judge.

While God’s People may appear to be defeated by physical death, the truth is “they come to life and reign with Christ for 1,000 years [as] priests of God and of Christ.” Those in Christ, when they die, are “blessed and holy” because we share in the “first resurrection”. Upon physical, bodily death, Hades, or Sheol, is a place of rest for those in Christ. It is Paradise where we rejoice and reign with Jesus until the General Resurrection. Then, at that Final Judgment, we celebrate the Great

Wedding Supper of the Lamb. The second death of the eternal conscious torment in hell represented as being thrown “into the lake of fire” has no power over us. That is the destiny of those who oppose us for our “testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God.”

Even now, in our present lives, we are seated with Christ at the right hand of God the Father (Ref. *Ephesians 2:4-7; Colossians 3:1-3*). We have the Holy Spirit as our down payment and guarantee of our future life as the Bride of Christ. The Holy Spirit is our engagement ring. He is our pledge to Jesus and His faithfulness. Therefore, we should be preparing ourselves, as His Bride, with righteous deeds, so that we may be adorned and ready for Him to consummate our current betrothal at the Great Wedding Supper of the Lamb when Jesus Returns.

When we are tempted to compromise to the seductive idolatry of the world, we must remember “the fine linen, bright and clean, that we’re given to wear” by God’s grace through the shed Blood of our Bridegroom. As His betrothed Bride, we should not want to soil the beautiful white and clean fine linen wedding garment with which Jesus has clothed us. We love Him and are devoted to Him. Rather than being unfaithful to our Bridegroom by succumbing to spiritual adultery, our righteous acts, by the power of the Holy Spirit, clothe us with the fine linen that reveals us to be God’s holy People; the Pure and Faithful Bride of Christ (*19:8*).

We are part of the "army." Those members of Christ’s army still alive when He Comes Again will be "caught up in the clouds to meet our Lord in the air" (Ref. *1 Thessalonians 4:16-17*) for, what the Devil thinks, is a final battle. But, this “army” of which we are a part is dressed, not for battle but, for a wedding feast! There's no great battle; because, that battle was already won by Christ on the Cross. When Jesus “comes down from heaven with a loud command, and the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God” the dead in Christ will rise first – but NOT having to fight. Instead, they, and those still alive, will celebrate the Great Wedding Feast, and be with our Lord forever. May we be encouraged with these words.

-AMEN.