

## REVELATION CHAPTER TWENTY

We saw in the nineteenth chapter of this book where the Battle of Armageddon took place and Christ came back to the earth. He put down all rule and authority. **The twentieth chapter shows a thousand year period where the devil is bound, and then he is loosed again after the thousand years are over.**

Verse 1: *"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in His hand."*

Verse 2: *"And He laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, and satan, and bound him a thousand years,"*

Verse 3: *"And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season."*

First, John saw the Lord coming to earth at the end of this age, to end all wars. We saw the beast and the false prophet cast into the lake of fire, but satan himself is cast into the bottomless pit. John saw it in a visionary form, as a mighty angel coming down with a big chain, and bound satan for a thousand years. The earth changes rulership here. Jesus Christ begins His rule, and there's a different order brought in. This is the beginning of the millennial reign.

Verse 4: *"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."*

**Even the Gentile foolish virgins, and the tribulation saints, and the Jewish saints that's killed for the Word of God are going to be raised from the dead at the beginning of the millennial reign.** The Bride saints will help determine what authority they will rule in. *"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them."* It was given into their hands to judge as the wife of Christ. That's the Bride saints as she takes her position.

Yes, this number that is raised and given eternal life at the beginning of the millennium is that group of people that was faithful to the Word of God, faithful to Jesus Christ, but was not raised from the dead until the beginning of the millennium. These saints are faithful to God and refused to bow to the antichrist.

The ones that are sitting on the thrones are not judged, but it is given unto them to judge. What are they to judge? First, they are to help judge those that gave their lives for the cause of God after the Rapture. Then, they help to judge the mortal people that are to live in the millennium. Also, it is given to them to help keep this thing straight throughout this thousand year period.

Remember in the third chapter of Revelation, verse 21, Jesus said, *"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne."* Let me explain it like this. It's not like you

would walk up and say to Jesus, *"Move over, Jesus. I want to sit down with you."* No, the throne is a position of authority. So the Bride will share in the position of authority; and as the Bible says, He will make some ruler of five cities, some ruler of two cities, etc. It depends on how faithful you've been to the Word of God in this present life. Your position in the millennium will be determined by how faithful you've been to what God has called you to do. He that's faithful over little is faithful over much. He that is unfaithful over little is unfaithful over much. God is going to determine it like that.

**There are three phases of the first resurrection.** We want to get all the saints out of the grave at the beginning of the millennium. There will nothing stay in the earth dead that has eternal life through the millennial reign. Let me say that again, and I want you to be sure and catch this. There is nothing that has eternal life that will stay dead through the thousand year millennial reign. **There is nothing that comes up in the second resurrection that is given eternal life. Everything that has eternal life comes up in the first resurrection.** Notice here, that there's a thousand years between the first and second resurrection.

When did the first phase of this resurrection take place? It took place when Jesus Christ was crucified and rose again. He died and descended down into the heart of the earth, preached to the spirits in prison, led captivity captive, and brought forth all the Old Testament saints that were waiting for the coming of the Messiah. This included Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all those Old Testament saints.

I want to read Matthew 27:51-53 and show you this. *"And behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after His resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many."* Do you see the resurrection of the Old Testament saints? Jesus went down into the prison house of satan, and the first thing he did was rip the keys from the side of satan. He unlocked the prison and let Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the Old Testament saints out. What happened to them? They were seen alive. They went into the city of Jerusalem and appeared unto many. When He ascended into paradise, He took them into a place of rest, peace, and joy waiting for the time when all the saints come back to earth again. So you see one resurrection has already passed. There is only one "first resurrection," but there are three phases of it.

Notice that one phase of the first resurrection is past. In Paul's day, people got so troubled that they began to ask Paul about these things. He wrote a letter one time and told them not to be troubled about those things, for he would tell them the right answer from God.

In I Thessalonians 4:13-16, Paul tells about the resurrection of the Bride saints. *"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this*

*we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first."* Here is something that wasn't even written before this time that St. Paul was speaking. Can you imagine a mortal man standing up and saying something like this? **It's the apostle's office that speaks.** I Thessalonians 4:17-18--*"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."*

Let's read some more on this in I Corinthians 15:51-52. In the mouth of two or three witnesses let every word be established. *"Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye; at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."* Paul said, *"Behold, I shew you a mystery."* Then he tells about living people being changed, and about dead people being resurrected. **That's the second phase of the first resurrection.** When does this take place? It takes place at the time the Lord comes back to get the living saints. Notice, that the dead are raised first. Then we which are alive and remain are caught up to meet the Lord in the air; this is at the rapture. That makes up the Bride saints. That's the second phase of the first resurrection.

In Revelation 20:4, John saw those that were beheaded for the Word and for the witness of Jesus, which didn't receive the mark of the beast or worship his image; it had to be tribulation saints. The only time that the beast will speak and force people to worship the beast or his image, is in that last half of the 70th week of Daniel.

The Bible says in the last part of verse 4 that *"they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years,"* which made the third phase of the first resurrection. That brought out of the earth everything that would ever have eternal life that was dead. There'll be nobody resurrected at the end of the millennial reign and given eternal life. All that has eternal life are brought up right here in Revelation 20:4.

**Notice, please, these three parts of the first resurrection.** The Old Testament saints came forth when Jesus did. (Matthew 27:51-53) The Bride saints will come forth before the living saints are translated and the Rapture takes place. (I Corinthians 15:51-55, and I Thessalonians 4:17-18) The tribulation saints and any other dead that is ordained to eternal life will come forth after the tribulation is over, and along with the Bride saints they live and reign with Christ for a thousand years, although with less authority. I pray you can see this.

Verse 5: *"But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection."*

Now watch this first resurrection. When the Old Testament saints rose from the dead after Jesus rose, that was *part one* of the first resurrection. *Part two* is when the Bride saints are being resurrected. *Part three* is when the tribulation

saints are resurrected, and any others that has life. That finishes up the first resurrection. Can you see it? Paul said all the dead shall be raised, but every man in his own order.

Verse 6: *"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."*

Notice this says, *"Blessed is he that hath part in the first resurrection,"* or that has a place in it; regardless whether it was Old Testament saints, Bride saints, tribulation saints, or the Jews that were killed for the Word of God. They are blessed if they have a part in the first resurrection for *"on such the second death hath no power."*

Now, what is the second death? We know what the first death is. It's when we quit breathing, when the heart quits pumping blood, and when there's no more life in this mortal flesh. You say, "That man or that woman is dead." Here it talks about the second death. **Those that are resurrected before the millennium, the second death has no power over them.** The second death is the death of the inward man. The inward man is made up of soul and spirit, and that, you can't see. The outward man is made up of flesh. When the outward man dies we can see it and we know what's taking place. They're buried. We put them in the ground and cover them up. When the inward man dies, it means that the spirit and soul of that person breaks up, and goes all the way back to where it was before it became a soul—after burning in the lake of fire. **The spirit goes back to God who gave it; only the part of God that caused the soul to have life, is the only thing that returns back to God who gave it.** (Ecclesiastes 12:7) But the sinful attribute that the spirit takes on as a human, is destroyed in the lake of fire. That's the soul of a person that is lost. This is what the Bible teaches, so that makes it right. There's where people get confused and think that hell is eternal. There's no such thing as an eternal hell. The second death destroys even the spiritual existence of a person. Do you see it? The first death is the death of the body. Then there's the second death, but if you've got a part in the first resurrection, you don't have to fear the second death. Death and hell are cast into the lake of fire, as we'll get to later in this chapter.

Before we leave this, I want to be sure that you clearly understand the twentieth chapter of the Book of Revelation down through verse 6. First, the Lord comes back, takes over His kingship, and binds the devil. Then, the Bride saints take their positions. The other saints are raised from the dead, every one that has eternal life. They're all on earth now, living and reigning here with Christ a thousand years with no fear of death at all. That's these resurrected people. Satan is bound during this thousand years, and everything runs smoothly for a thousand years.

Verse 7: *"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,"*

There are nations of people who will go into the millennial reign of Christ as

mortal people to repopulate the earth. By the time this thousand year period has expired, the earth will be repopulated with natural people. At the beginning of this time, there will be a new order. There will be a new kingdom. Everything is done differently then. Then after the thousand years, the world is like a Garden of Eden. Everybody is happy, but all of a sudden something begins to happen to the natural people. They begin to be tried. Satan is loosed out of his prison to try the mortal people after his thousand year period has expired.

People will begin to get edgy, or whatever will take place at that time. The devil is going to be loosed out of his prison to try them, to see who is going to respect God's authority in that hour. It won't be another false church system, and it won't be the Old Roman beast system. It will be a trial of the mortal people to see whether they'll be faithful to God, or whether they'll yield to the temptation of Satan.

**Remember that the Bride will be the one that's got authority. Satan has always wanted authority, and he has always tried to throw down God's authority, wherever God's authority is.** Remember God invested in him that authority in the prehistoric age, but he wouldn't respect it. All the way through, satan has tried to pull down God's authority, God's order, etc. When he is loosed again, he won't change his tricks. He'll just use a different tactic. It will be the same thing, trying to pull down what God has set up. After the thousand years, he will go out and begin to try the mortal people.

Verse 8: *"And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea."*

There's one word in verse eight that I want you to catch and hold to, because in the next two chapters you'll see how important it is. That word is "nations." There's going to be nations that go into the great eternal age as a realm of saints.

This says that *"the number of whom is as the sand of the sea."* Where did all these people come from? Were they resurrected or something? No. There were children born to the mortal people that went into the millennial reign as they grew up, they just kept multiplying like they did after the flood until there will be, no doubt, millions of people upon the earth. There will be enough people to be called "nations." The Bride will be ruling and satan will be loosed out of his prison. He will go out to deceive these nations, and he'll succeed in deceiving a number like the sand of the sea, and gather them together to battle against God's authority. Where's God's authority going to be? Centered in Jerusalem, but in the saints all over the earth. The saints shall possess the kingdom.

Verse 9: *"And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them."*

The saints won't ever have to fight another battle once they go into the millennium. Notice that. The Battle of Armageddon will be the last battle mankind ever fights. Then what will take place at the end of the millennium

when the devil gathers these people together to battle the saints? Just as soon as they get the battle set, just as soon as they get ready to make war upon God's saints, just as soon as satan gets ready to make his final push against God's order, do you know what will happen? Fire will come down from heaven and devour the mortal people. They'll just consume away while they stand on their feet. That's what will happen to these people. That's at the end of the millennium. That leaves on earth, nations of people that would not bow down to the devil. It leaves on earth people, an order of saints. You'll see how important this will be in the next two chapters. It's not an Old Testament order of saints. **It's not a New Testament order of saints, but it's an order that is called nations.** These nations will bring their glory and honor into the city. God wanted an order in the early days when He created Him a son and called him Adam. He wanted an order, nations of people that could live and have eternal life in a natural realm. After the millennium, He will have them. Then time will stop, everything will go into perfection, and that eternal age will begin to roll on. Do you see the nations in the millennium? These same nations that are in the millennium will go into the eternal age as natural people, but fire falls down from heaven and devours those that the devil deceived, and fought against God's order.

Verse 10: *"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."* (Satan will be tormented where the beast and the false prophet are, and finally destroyed.)

Verse 11: *"And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them."*

John is seeing all of these things, seeing the resurrection, seeing the millennium, seeing the devil bound, seeing the fire fall, and **then all of a sudden everything is blurred out of John's vision except a great white throne.** He was looking at the earth and seeing everything, and all of them just seemed to move back, and there he was staring at a great white throne and One sitting upon the great white throne.

Did the heaven and earth pass away? Did everything pass away and there wasn't anything left but a throne? No. In John's vision everything just went away, and all he could *see* was a great white throne. It was putting emphasis on what was taking place, because later in this chapter, the sea gave up the dead. The earth is still here, the sea is still here, John is still here, the Bride is still here, the saints are still here, the nations are still here, and the world goes into eternity.

This One, that sits on the throne here as Judge is Jesus Christ. This is the last thing He'll do. Then He'll commit the authority back to God, according to I Corinthians 15:24 when He puts down all rule and all authority, and then the Son Himself will be subjected back to the Father, and God will be God, all in all. Yes, Jesus Christ sits there in the judgeship with the authority of the Eternal God invested in Him; **because in actuality God hasn't moved His headquarters to**

**earth yet.** This is the vision John had, and when John saw it, he knew that the man that sat there had all the authority of God behind Him when He passed judgment. He had all the authority of the Eternal Spirit.

Verse 12: *"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."*

Verse 13: *"And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works."*

Verse 14: *"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."*

Verse 15: *"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."*

This book of life is opened for the sake of the natural people that's living on earth.

Let us note the importance of the book of life being opened, as John's vision conveyed God's thought to us. **It shows to those that are saved, that their names were in the book of life before the foundation of the world, and that they are part of God's family.** They were foreknown of God and predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. (Romans 8:28-30) This includes the natural people that go into the millennium as natural people, and also the people that are born during the millennium that will remain in a natural state. These saints (natural people) are referred to as, "the nations" or "the nations of them that are saved" in Revelation chapters 21 and 22. Their names will be right there on the book. These saints will never receive glorified bodies; they forever remain in a natural state, but have eternal life.

The other books were books of deeds to show those that were cast into the lake of fire; why they were cast in, and to determine how long each one should burn. John saw this as though there were actual books there, but actually it's in God's mind.

All these dead that are raised here are judged according to their works. It mentions that *"the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life."* In actuality, there isn't a book on the place, you might say. Why? Because God is a Spirit and He hasn't got the heavens full of books and filing cabinets. If He wants to find out about any of us, He doesn't have to get the secretary to go through the files, look up our names, and see what we've done. He knew even before the world everything that we would ever do and every thought that we would ever think. So why should He need it written down in a book? So the people are raised and are judged according to their works. God knows. He measures out the sentence that's just for them. Then they are cast into the lake of fire. **There's nothing that has eternal life that is raised from the dead in this second resurrection.**

Verse 13 pulls all the dead bodies from the sea, all the dead bodies from the

earth, and all the spirits out of hell. Catch verse 13; it shows that death and hell will deliver up everything that is in them. Then death and hell is cast into the lake of fire.

Did you know that there are such beings today that are called “demon spirits” that are fallen angels? They are also judged, cast into the lake of fire, and destroyed; along with all fallen men. It says, “Death *and* hell gave up the dead.” Notice the distinction. When it signifies *death*, it is strictly referring to mankind that has lived upon the face of this earth. But when it says *hell*, it means all the demon spirits and all those foul spirits that are on the face of the earth now, that has been in existence all the way through. **Just the devil is cast into the lake of fire when the fire falls, but when hell gives up the dead, it also gives up every demon that’s locked in hell.** They’re going to come forth and stand before Jesus Christ the judge. Why? Because in the days when they were being tested, they had a choice. There was Michael, the great archangel, and Gabriel, another special angel, that stayed true to God even when Lucifer fell away. Two thirds of the angels of God stayed true and would not yield to satan. Those angels that fell away in the age before Adam will have to stand at this great white throne judgment, but not as a person, because they weren’t a person to begin with; but as fallen angels. The whole thing will be cast into the lake of fire and destroyed. Then what will God have done? He will have destroyed every fallen angel, and every fallen human. Verse 15 says, everyone whose name was not in the Lamb’s book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Verse 14 says, “*And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*” What did that do? It destroyed satan, all of his works, and all of humanity that had rebelled against God. Then what did God do? He pulled all the dead bodies from the sea, all the dead bodies from the earth, and cleansed the earth of all evil spirits. Together they will burn in the lake of fire until God is satisfied, as the world goes into eternity. At this time, in this transitional period, time stops and eternity begins as Jesus commits the kingdom back to the Eternal Spirit.

Let’s read in I Corinthians 15:24--“*Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.*” When this says, “*Then cometh the end,*” it’s talking about at the end of the millennium, or when time has run out. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:25--“*For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet.*” This is talking about Jesus. The man Christ Jesus has got to reign on earth till He puts all enemies down. Then what does He do? **He delivers the kingdom back to God, even the Father.** The “Jesus Only” people couldn’t understand this, could they?

I want you to see how this takes place. This is after the great white throne judgment. That is the last thing that’s committed unto the hand of Jesus. He sits there as a judge. He judges all those that have lived on the face of the earth. The earth and the sea give up their dead and they are cast into the lake of fire. He has put down all rule and all authority, and the death sentence is abolished. There will come a time when the death sentence will be done away with; that’s when



the last enemy will be destroyed, and that last enemy is death.

Let's read the rest of this in I Corinthians. The death sentence is done away with and Jesus reigns until He puts all enemies down. I Corinthians 15:26-28--  
*"The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For He hath put all things under His feet. But when He saith all things are put under Him, it is manifest that He is accepted, which did put all things under Him. And when all things shall be subdued unto Him then shall the son also Himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, that God may be all in all."* Do you see the transition that took place?

At the end of the millennium, when we go into this eternal age, Jesus Christ has finished bringing God's family in, and that is when we become heirs with Christ. The Bible says in Romans that we are *"heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ."* In other words, Jesus Christ is the first begotten of the Father, and this first begotten Son gets the inheritance of the Father. What does Jesus do when He gets the inheritance? He shares it with His redeemed ones. Yes, He shares all His inheritance with all God's family. **Then Jesus Christ Himself commits the power and authority that had been invested in Him back to God, the Father, and God becomes all in all.** Then God completely reshapes the surface of the planet. Then John saw the vision go into the eternal age and the new earth. Amen.