

THINGS WHICH MUST SHORTLY COME TO PASS

A STUDY OF REVELATION—PART 33

In Revelation 19, the Lord intervened publicly and openly in history. The beast and false prophet led the forces of the world to indescribable bloodshed at Armageddon under the power of Satan. Now the time prophesied throughout the Bible is about to begin.

I. DESTINIES ARE DESCRIBED

A. Five destinies are seen:

1. The destiny of the beast in the lake of fire is seen. (*Rev. 19:20*)
2. The destiny of the false prophet in the lake of fire is seen. (*Rev. 19:20*)
3. The destiny of the devil is seen in the bottomless pit. (*Rev. 20:1, 2*)
4. The destiny of the unbelievers is seen in Hell. 20:11-15
5. The destiny of the believers is seen in heaven. Rev; 21-22

B. The last two destinies are the choices of the human race.

1. Heaven is a narrow way, but it is a choice—Matthew 7:14:
“Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”
2. Hell is a broad way, but it is a choice—Matthew 7:13: *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:”*

II. JESUS COMES DOWN AND THE DEVIL IS THROWN DOWN **(REVELATION 20:1-3)**

A. There could not be peace on earth with the Devil present!

B. An Angel is dispatched. (*Rev. 20:1*)

1. He has the key of the bottomless pit. (*v.1*)
 - a. The word for “bottomless pit” is “abyss”.
 - b. It is a place of temporary incarceration for certain demons.
 - c. The abyss is a place where demons fear to be sent. (*Luke 8:31*)
 - d. It is not the “Lake of Fire”. (*Rev. 19:20*)
2. He has a great chain in his hand. (*v.1*)

C. The sinister being is described. (*Rev. 20:2*)

1. He is called “The dragon” (*Rev. 20:2*)
 - a. This title is given to the Devil 12 times in Revelation.
 - b. This title speaks to his ferociousness and cruelty.
 - c. This title describes his bestial leadership of the beast governments of the world.
2. He is called “The old serpent” (*Rev. 20:2*)
 - a. This title returns us to the Garden of Eden.
 - b. Here we are reminded that he is a tempter.
3. He is called “The Devil.” (*Rev. 20:2*)

- a. This is his personal name.
 - b. There are many demons but one Devil.
 - c. The word “Devil” means “slanderer”.
 - d. The word refers to his character as a liar.
4. He is called “Satan.” (*Rev. 20:2*)
- a. “Satan” means “adversary”.
 - b. Peter names him as such in I Peter 5:8: “*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.*”
- D. What the Angel did. (*Rev. 20:2, 3*)
1. He put him in a place. (*v. 3—“Bottomless pit.”*)
 2. He put him there for a purpose. (*v. 3—“That he should deceive the nations no more.”*)
 3. He put him there for a period of time. (*v. 2,3—“Thousand years.”*)
- E. What the world enjoys:
1. The influence of Satan is nil.
 2. The power of Satan is zero.
 3. Satan has been totally disarmed.

III. A RESURRECTION IS SEEN (*REVELATION 20:4-6*)

- A. This event is called by different names.
1. It is also called the judgment of the nations. (*Matthew 25:31-46*)
 2. It is called “The first resurrection.” (*Rev. 20:5*)
- B. Not all of the dead are raised at the same time.
1. There is not a “General resurrection and judgment.”
 2. Here we are told of two different resurrections.
 - a. Some are raised at the end of the Tribulation and live and reign with Christ a thousand years. (*Rev. 20:4*)
 - b. The rest of the dead are raised after the thousand years. (*Rev. 20:5*)
- C. Illustrations must be given to illustrate the first resurrection (*v. 5*)
1. The raising of Gods’ people is a succession. (*I Corinthians 15:23, 24*)
 - a. “Every man in his own order”.
 - i. “Order” is a military term.
 - ii. It means a troop or a company.
 - b. In I Corinthians 15:23-34, there are four orders raised in their own succession:
 - i. “Christ” (*v. 23*)
 - ii. “Firstfruits” (*v. 23*)
 - iii. “They that are Christ’s at His coming.” (*v. 23*)
 - iv. Those at the end. (*v. 24*)
 2. The Resurrection is compared to the “Feast of Firstfruits.” (*Leviticus 23*)

FOR THE TIME IS AT HAND

A 52-Week Study of the Book of Revelation

Week 33

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- a. A handful of grain was taken from the field and presented to the priest.
 - i. This was a thanks offering for the grain yet to be harvested.
 - ii. This signified that a larger harvest was coming.
 - b. The actual harvest itself.
 - c. Gleanings.
- D. Let's look at the "first resurrection". (*Revelation 20:5*)
1. Again this resurrection is a succession.
 - a. Jesus Christ was the first in the series.
 - b. Some got up with Christ at His resurrection. (*Firstfruits; Matthew 27:51-53*)
 - c. The Rapture (Those that are His at His coming)
 - d. Gleanings—Those at the end.
- E. The gleanings are identified.
1. The "Souls of them that were beheaded" (*v. 4*)
 2. These are Tribulation saints.
 3. They "Had not worshipped the beast." (*v. 4*)
 4. They had not worshipped "His image." (*v. 4*)
 5. They had not "Received his mark." (*v. 4*)
- F. The gleanings are rewarded.
1. "They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." (*v. 4*)
 2. "The second death will have no power over them. (*v. 6*)
 3. They shall be "Blessed" (*v. 6—happy in their estate*)
 4. They shall be "Holy" (*v. 6—identifies as God's special people*)
 5. "They shall be priests of God and of Christ." (*v. 6*)
 - a. Priests do not need go-betweens to relate to God.
 - b. They have direct access to God.
 6. They shall "Reign" with Him a thousand years. (*v. 6*)