

Revelation: The Time is Near

## Heaven Opened

Revelation 19:11-21

### Revelation Review:

- John on Patmos, **revealed** Jesus in glory, in heaven
- Letters to **Seven churches**
- **The end of the world (as we know it) - The Great Tribulation** most of earth, cities, climate, oceans, peoples destroyed - great earthquake at end levels everything
- **Judgment on the nations and those who follow satan (it's clear)**
- **A last ditch effort to get the world to repent**
  
- **The past, present and future revealed**
- **The END revealed**
- **The CHURCH revealed**
- **HEAVEN revealed**
- **JESUS revealed**
- **THE FUTURE REVEALED** after these things, after the tribulation, after this universe

### Previously:

- A world in allegiance with a world leader, with a mark, must worship (remember Shad/Mes/Abed)
- Many judgments, plagues, disasters, war, famine, death
- Martyrs - Tribulation Saints, beheaded for faith
- A sexually and spiritually and financially corrupt and immoral world system
- **Ch 19:1-10**
  - Babylon destroyed, songs in heaven
  - Praise to God, a call to the marriage of Jesus and his bride
  - We're all equal at the cross - no one deserves worship (worth-ship) but Jesus.
  - He alone IS worthy

### [Pray]

**This is the moment, in a sense, we've been waiting for.**

**This is the moment, for sure, the Tribulation Saints have been waiting for.**

### 19:11-16

**John, seeing from earth's perspective in a sense**

#### Heaven opened

Heaven hasn't been open.

There's been no way in for us on our own

**Why?**

Garden, Creation

Walking with God in the cool of the day

Freely seeing God, spending time with him, hearing his audible voice

Sin

The covering, cast out - **Eden Guarded that we might not eat from the tree of life.**

To be eternally stuck in sin, separated from God

*Chuck Missler, 10 dimensions, thought exercise*

Genesis - Tower of Babel - in a sense, an attempt at reaching heaven in their own strength

Modern space travel - I'm almost positive God has nothing against tall buildings or space travel, but what's the heart of it? To show oneself great? To be like "the sons of God" and travel through interstellar heaven? Don't you think, if the world scientifically believed heaven was real they'd try to get in?

*In a sense, I think they are - playing God, gain of function research, test-tube babies, drugs and chambers to try and open spiritual eye and gain insights, artificial intelligence to unlock knowledge outside our mental grasp*

**The Tabernacle and temple, veil between earth worship and God's presence**

Something separated that shouldn't have been but had to be.

God gracious enough to make a way when there really was no way

**Jesus revealing the father**

"If you've seen Me, You've seen the Father"

**The Cross, Jesus revealing our true need and his true love**

The veil torn - top to bottom - in the temple

Open access to God and his Holy Spirit now

**The rapture, the church brought to heaven**

The pillars of creation begin to be destroyed by God - not by man's overuse of cars - but because of man's sin and continual rejection of him, to the point of no return

**But now, Heaven is open - and what do we see? Rainbows, and flowers?**

**No, another rider**

**One coming to make war**

**This is why God delayed (in our minds). Do we really want him to come back at this moment? Yes, for us. But what about the people we love or even hate that don't know Him?** This is why God made time for people to repent.

Because when Heaven truly opened back up to earth...it would be a war earth could never win. *All of these sci-fi, comic book movies about heavenly portals opening and hordes coming from another world and the world uniting to fight them...*

**This Rider: Jesus.**

- **White horse**

- **Remember Rev 6**, four horsemen?

First rider was one on a white horse - who was it?

The Antichrist. Coming in place of Jesus. Imitating him.

Claiming to be of peace but being of war, conquering, controlling, tyranny

- **Rider Called Faithful & True**

Not just an attribute, or adjective...HE IS these things. Great I AM.

**trusty, faithful**

of persons who show themselves faithful in the transaction of business, the execution of commands, or the discharge of official duties

one who kept his plighted faith, worthy of trust

that can be relied on

**true**

that which has not only the name and resemblance, but the real nature corresponding to the name, in every respect corresponding to the idea signified by the name, real, true genuine

**opposite to what is fictitious, counterfeit, imaginary, simulated or pretended**

it contrasts realities with their semblances

opposite to what is imperfect defective, frail, uncertain

true, veracious, sincere

- **In righteousness he judges and wages war**

If God is declaring war...a God of mercy, peace, grace...you know he's doing it because there's no other way. It must be done.

*What a contrast to when we wage war most of the time*

*Because we were slighted, we want something, an excuse to do what we want*

*WW2 - an amazing time, a valiant era*

*But we could have gone in earlier. We didn't join until we had to - Pearl Harbor. Might*

*have even let that happen, who knows. Yes, we freed Europe, stopped Hitler, most*

*importantly freed the Jews and God used it to fulfill prophecy and create Israel in a day*

*But we went in because we had no choice. Because we saw Europe falling and knew*

*we'd be next.*

**Eyes like a flame of fire** - who John saw talking with him, between the lampstands

- **Many crowns** - Jesus doesn't just wear one crown, he's the King of Kings. He's victor and in control of many (all) things. The firstborn over creation.
- *Crown of thorns (commentary)*

- **Name written no one knows but Him**  
There are things about God that only God knows. Sometimes the why's in life. While we know him, are known by him, we can't possibly ever try to think we'll be able to totally understand him. If we could, would he be an omnipotent, omniscient God?
- **Clothed with a robe Dipped in Blood**  
Do you remember the robe put on him by the Romans? Purple. Meant to signify royalty (royal purple)  
His robe is bloody red and purple. It is the sign of his royalty.  
BEHOLD THE SIGHT
- **Name The Word of God**  
John 1  
God spoke. Words do have power. Do have meaning. But no word has power or meaning like God's word. Jesus is not just God's voice, but his very word. Being.
- **Armies in heaven**  
The saints. Those we saw earlier in Revelation 4. Us.

**[Jude 1:14-15 KJV] And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard [speeches] which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.**

- Always thought it was “funny” that we go as God's army, but He's the one who destroys everyone. There's this great show of force but all it really takes is the Sword of the Word coming out of Jesus' mouth and every enemy is leveled in an instant. Blood up the bridle.

Commentary - no weapon mentioned, only linen clothes

- **Rule them with an Iron scepter**

## **Psalm 2**

Iron curtain, no getting through, no seeing behind. A wall for communism.  
Ruled by force, by tyranny.

**When Jesus comes back he will rule for 1,000 years** (next chapter)

- **This rule will be absolute**
- **Jesus finally coming as King, ruling out of Jerusalem (remember triumphal entry?)**
- **Free will be on hold for a season** we'll see an opportunity at the end for those during this time both living and born to rebel at the end.
- **God still doesn't force the heart. He never forces worship like the world does.**
- **He will show the world what a true utopia is all about**

- **The Tribulation Martyrs** will rule with him, in a sense, as governors around the world
- **Probably an agrarian society** - world destroyed, infrastructure down, starting at square one in a sense
- **But 1,000 years is a long time.** A lot of innovation can happen. But what innovation will it be? It won't be built on the back of slave labor, concentration camps, evil experiments, sweat shops, or greed.
- God didn't want us in human-designed cities piled on top of each other, will things be the same?
- Interesting time to think about

**“He treads the winepress of the fury and wrath of God Almighty”**

He is God's warrior

**[Psalm 144:1-2 NKJV] [A Psalm] of David. Blessed [be] the LORD my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, [And] my fingers for battle-- My lovingkindness and my fortress, My high tower and my deliverer, My shield and [the One] in whom I take refuge, Who subdues my people under me.**

**Let us not forget Jesus is a warrior of righteousness and God's executor of judgment and wrath.**

This God we worship is perfect and holy in all ways and in all HIS ways.

**On his robe and thigh a name written**

Awesome picture!

KING OF KINGS, LORD OF LORDS

Greater than medals or stars on a general's uniform

**Make no mistake, Jesus is in charge - then, now and forever**

**:17-18**

**An angel standing in the sun**

*Commentary - brighter than the sun, God's glory, still can be seen*

He's in front of the light source that gave light and life to all of creation in a physical sense

Declaring a new rule

Calls to the birds - remember the dreams Joseph interpreted, the birds came and ate the one guy who betrayed Pharaoh?

Birds in scripture? Clean and unclean? Sinful and Holy Spirit?

*“Armageddon presented in a picture of almost repellent realism.” (Erdman)*

### **There's a feast for us, but there's also a supper for creation to revel in**

Eat the flesh that's down here, dead - wiped out by the Sword of God's mouth

These folks were everybody - every class. Every nationality. In a sense, the opposite of every tribe, tongue and nation in heaven, there will also be those from every tribe, nation and tongue devoured by God's command.

*The repetition of flesh (5 times) is revealing. "The race has walked in carnal enmity against God, living after the flesh, and now the day of His patience is at an end." (Barnhouse)*

*i. It also shows that men of all stations are judged. The high and the low together, if they remain hardened in their rejection of Jesus, will be judged. "The divine judgment upon the wicked is no respecter of persons or station, and is the great equalizer of all." (Walvoord)*

## **:19-21**

### **Beast and kings of the earth and armies**

I think it's hilarious that anyone would think they could fight God at all, let alone win Even if they still had nuclear weapons...he invented the atom.

**Beast was captured** - I like the visual imagery here of him being grabbed by God's angels, handcuffed, resisting as they drag him off

*The one who made many captives is now captive himself  
Remember Saddam hiding out in a pit?*

### **Beast and false prophet thrown into the fire**

The antichrist and false prophet, human instruments of satan, thrown into the Lake of Fire

### **Lake of Fire**

Final judgment place - actual hell

### **Three types of hell in scripture**

OT Gehena and Abraham's Bosom, pictured in Luke 16

A place for those who didn't believe to await final judgment in some level of torment

A place for God's people awaiting the salvation of the Messiah to be comforted

Jesus preaches liberty to the captives

Only the holding tank of torment until judgment remains today

### **Bible makes it sound like it's in the belly of the earth (like Jonah in the belly of the whale)**

**Is it physically there, a spiritual realm, if could be plotted on earth, there**

We don't really know what's in the earth. - we do know it's basically...a lake of fire on which all of the continents float, for lack of a scientific study

But - there is a final judgment - a lake of fire

**[Mark 9:42-48 NKJV]** "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched-- "where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.' "And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched-- "where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.' "And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire-- "where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'

**Remember, Hell not created for man but for fallen angels!**

**Thrown ALIVE into there, burning with sulfur - the first two cast in**

Remember, no matter what anyone says, hell is not satan's kingdom, it's not his playground, it's not a hellish party. It is absolute and utter torment for all inside.

**Many people deceived of all nations**

We'll see in ch 20 that not everyone went along with it

Several classes of society - Mark for sure, worship and mark or just worship (not sure why they'd worship but not get mark), those who went along as second-class citizens perhaps maybe rebellious, and Tribulation Saints

The remnant being the rest of the army and those with the mark and who worshipped the beast  
**Killed by God and Devoured by His Creation**

Even creation has a role in judgment - both in God using it, the sun, earthquakes, etc., but also the animals (Rev 6:8 shows wild animals killing people unlike anytime before)

**[Romans 8:19-22 NKJV]** For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected [it] in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

**Heaven Opened**

**Lake of Fire opened**

**Why do we have Revelation? Because God wants us to know him and know what's coming - judgment. And he wants us to avoid it all costs - even giving away his final battle plan in a way - is worth it to him. He won't lost anyway.**

**Jesus took our judgment, became our sin at the cross.**

**Revelation should not scare us as believers.**

**It should sober us**

**[1 Peter 1:13-16 NKJV] Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest [your] hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, [as] in your ignorance; but as He who called you [is] holy, you also be holy in all [your] conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."**

**[1 Peter 1:24-25 NKJV] because "All flesh [is] as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.**