

# God's Revelation of the Future

Community Baptist Church  
Lesson 12

Adult Bible Fellowship  
Fall, 2024

## The Return through the White Throne Judgment

### Establishing the Earthly Kingdom

Once Christ returns to earth and puts down the Beast and his armies, several events take place as Christ's earthly kingdom is established.

#### Binding of Satan

The binding of Satan is recorded in Revelation 20:1-3.

- God uses an angel to handle this task. (Revelation 20:1)
  - The angel possesses a key and a "great chain."
- The angel seizes Satan, binds him, places him in the "bottomless pit," and then locks him in it for 1000 years. (Revelation 21:2-3)
  - This action has the specific purpose of preventing Satan from deceiving the nations during this period.
  - After the lapse of the 1000 years, Satan will be released "for a little while."
  - The "1000 years" delimits the time of Christ's "uncontested reign" or the millennium.
  - The "little while" delimits the time of Christ's "contested reign" following the millennium.

#### Gathering of Israel

The Jewish people, who are scattered across the earth will be brought back to their promised land.

- There are many Old Testament prophecies regarding this restoration. They include ...
  - Isaiah 45:5-7 – "Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends from the earth."
  - Ezekiel 20:34, 42 – "I will bring you [Israel] out from the peoples and gather you."
  - Amos 9:14-15 – "I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel ... I will plant them on their land."
  - Zephaniah 3:19-20 – "I will bring you [Israel] in, at the time when I gather you together."

### Judgment of Israel

After Christ's return, there is a judgment of Israel that separates the saved from the lost. The entire nation, having been gathered to the Middle East, will be judged. God will eliminate any rebels. Only those who are saved will enter the land and the earthly kingdom.

- Ezekiel 20:35-38 – "I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face. ... I will make you pass under the rod ... I will purge out the rebels. ..."
- See also Zechariah 13:8-9 and Malachi 3:2-5.
- Recall the illustrations in the Olivet Discourse, which is addressed to and applies to Israel, where there is a separation of wise and foolish and faithful and unfaithful. See Matthew 24:45-51; 25:1-13; and 25:14-30.

### Judgment of the Nations

Apparently, following the judgment of Israel, there will be a judgment of Gentiles. This judgment, like that of Israel, has as its purpose that of separating those saved from those not saved. This judgment is recorded in the Olivet Discourse as recorded by Matthew (25:31-46) and is based on how Gentiles treated God's people. It is sometimes referred to as the Sheep-Goats Judgment.

- "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left." (Matthew 25:31-33)
  - "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" (Matthew 25:34)
  - "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'" (Matthew 25:41)

### Resurrection of Non-Church Saints

Another action that takes place as we move into the Christ's earthly reign is the resurrection of those believers who have died over the millennia. This resurrection is "needed," in part,

because some Old Testament saints, such as David, will participate in significant ways in the earthly kingdom. This resurrection includes all those who were saved before Pentecost and did not become part of the Church as well as all those who were saved after the Rapture and subsequently have died (including 70<sup>th</sup> week saints, cf. Revelation 20:4).

- Jesus distinguished two “kinds” of resurrection, “the resurrection of life” and “the resurrection of judgment” (John 5:28-29).
  - This resurrection of the non-Church saints is the final “phase” of the resurrection of life.
  - The resurrection of judgment occurs in conjunction with the future judgment known as the White Throne Judgment.
- In Daniel 12 we see references to a resurrection which some hold refers to the resurrection of Old Testament saints. See Daniel 12:1-3 [NASB] and 12:11-13.

### **Christ’s Earthly Reign**

(See also a summary in the supplement handout for this lesson.)

The book of Revelation has little to say about the reign of Christ on the present earth (Revelation 20:4-6). Perhaps this is the case because the Old Testament has so much to say about it. In these verses we see thrones, resurrections, and blessings.

- Population of the Earthly Kingdom
  - There will be those living in natural bodies and those living in resurrected bodies.
  - There will be three “ethnicities,” Jews, Gentiles, and Church.
- Government in the Earthly Kingdom
  - First, Christ rules as King of kings and Lord of lords.
  - Second, David rules as Regent over Israel.
  - Third, lesser authorities rule under Christ and, in the case of Israel, under David.
- Worship in the Earthly Kingdom
  - Ezekiel 40-46 is largely devoted to a description of the millennial temple and those things associated with it (i.e., structure, priesthood, and ritual).
  - See also: Ezekiel 20:40-41; Zechariah 14:16-17; and Isaiah 56:6-7.

### **Satan’s Final Defeat**

(See also a summary in the supplement handout for this lesson.)

After the 1000-year binding of Satan in the bottomless pit, he will be released. Upon release he will stir up a rebellion against the reign of Christ. (Revelation 20:7-10)

- Upon release Satan will deceive the nations (20:7-8).
- He will gather rebels to Jerusalem to battle the reigning Christ (20:8-9).
- These rebels will be destroyed by fire coming down from heaven (20:9).
- Satan will be cast forever into the lake of fire (20:10).

### **The White Throne Judgment**

John sees a vision of a “great white throne” with a person seated on the throne (Revelation 20:11).

- We get no indication that this throne is in the “throne room,” but appears to be in “empty space.”
- The one “who was seated on” the throne is the Son. This is consistent with John 5:22 as well as Acts 10:42.

As John sees this throne, he notes that the present earth is no longer there, having been destroyed (Revelation 20:11).

- The destruction or passing away of the present earth is stated in Revelation 21:1. See also 2 Peter 3:10 (Lit. “the earth and the works in it will not be found”).

John sees people, “small and great,” who had died and are now resurrected standing before this throne to be judged (Revelation 21:12-13).

- Those being resurrected and appearing there are all the unbelievers who have died over the ages of history.
- Books are opened and judgment will be rendered based on what is recorded in the books.
  - Punishment is assessed “according to what they had done,” i.e. based on works.
- Those appearing here will be consigned to “the lake of fire” (Revelation 21:14-15)
  - Destination is determined by not having one’s name in “the book of life.”
  - “Death and Hades” includes all those unbelievers who had been there. It is the place from which “the dead, great and small” have been resurrected.
  - The “second death” involves an everlasting existence in the lake of fire.