

# BROKEN HEARTED HAPPINESS

Part 2 of The Return of Christ. Revelation 20.  
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. July 16, 2023.

## WHAT'S THE POINT?

**The scholar studies Revelation 20 and asks what are the details and difficulties?**

**The preacher studies Revelation 20 and asks what is the point, what's the message, what's the application?**

## REVELATION 20

**Vision One: Satan is bound.** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. 2 And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 3 and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

**Vision Two: Christ and the Saints reign.** 4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

**Vision Three: Satan is released and rebels.** 7 And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. 9 And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, 10 and the devil who had deceived

them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

**Vision Four: The final judgment.** 11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. 13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. 14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

## **SOME DETAILS AND DIFFICULTIES**

### **The one thousand years.**

- Good, faithful, orthodox, biblical scholars disagree.
- Possibly, it is a symbolic number to represent the time between the resurrection and the return of Christ during which Christ and his people reign from heaven and Satan cannot prevent the gospel advancing around the world.

Matthew 16:18 (ESV) And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

### **The lake of fire.**

- Fire in the Bible is often a symbol of God's judgment resulting in exclusion from the community of God's people.
- Possibly, it represents not so much a place so much as a situation in which a person under God's judgment is excluded from the new creation.

## WHAT'S THE POINT?

**At the final judgment, there will be two groups of people**

- Those who are with Christ by faith.
- Those who are without Christ.

**Those without Christ are:**

- Deceived by Satan - verse 7.
- At war with God - verse 8.
- Consumed by fire from heaven - verse 9.
- Judged according to what they have done - verse 13.
- Not in the book of life - verse 15.
- Destined for the second death, the lake of fire - verse 15.

**Those with Christ are:**

- Faithful to Christ even under pressure - verse 4.
- Alive in heaven and reign with Christ - verse 4 (See Ephesians 2:4-7).
- Blessed and holy (acceptable to God) - verse 6.
- Priests of God and of Christ - verse 6
- Not going through the second death - verse 6.
- Are written in the book of life.

## BROKEN HEARTED

**The message of Revelation 20: Billions are without a Savior.**

- They are headed to the final judgment without Christ.
- We have a responsibility to advance the gospel. Disciples make disciples.

“Every saved person this side of heaven owes the gospel to every lost person this side of hell.” ... “We owe Christ to the world ... we are in debt to the nations” (David Platt, *Radical: Taking back Your faith from the American Dream*).

**People without a Savior should break our hearts and motivate us to action.**

# CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

## **Review Sunday's teaching on Revelation 20.**

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching most impacted your thinking?
- Summarize the main ideas in your own words.

## **Prayerfully apply the insights of the teaching.**

- How does the prospect of a final judgment affect you? How does it cause concern for family, friends, and nations who need the gospel message? What can you do to make the gospel available to more people? Check out the following resources:
  - Resource for praying for unreached people groups: [operationworld.org/](http://operationworld.org/)
  - Our Free Church mission agency: [reachglobal.ministries.efca.org/](http://reachglobal.ministries.efca.org/)
  - International Mission Board of the SBC: [www.imb.org/](http://www.imb.org/)
- Discuss the following: Revelation 20 describes two books - the book of deeds and the book of life. John Piper explains the relationship between faith and works at the final judgment: “The place of our works at the judgment is to serve as corroborating evidence that we did indeed put our trust in Christ.” He continues, “Therefore when we are acquitted and welcomed into the kingdom it will not be earned by works but it will be according to works. There will be an “accord” or an agreement between our salvation and our works.”
- It might help to read Piper’s online article: [www.desiringgod.org/articles/final-judgment-according-to-works](http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/final-judgment-according-to-works)

**Pray together.** Be bold in prayer for people without the Savior.

**Preparation for Next Sunday.** Read: Blessed, chapter 11.