

He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which He is called is The Word of God. (Revelations 19:13)

I. Threw, Shut, and Sealed (vv.1-3)

- a. The symbols of rebellion and those who promote its worship are gone from the earth, but Satan, the ultimate evil power is still at large.
- b. The binding of Satan is a prelude to the Millennial and its own picture of the end.
- c. An angel binds the dragon (Satan), throws him into the bottomless pit and seals him for 1,000 years. Satan is not cast into hell immediately because God has one more task for him to do.
- d. What is the bottomless pit or abyss? It is not hell, but a temporary holding cell until final judgment.
 1. It is the dwelling place of demons. (Luke 8:31)
 2. Satan will temporarily be imprisoned there during the Lord's reign on the earth. (Rev. 20:1-3)
 3. It is part of an underworld under the authority of Jesus Christ. (Mat 28:18; Mk 1:23-27; Heb 1:1-2)

II. Christ and the Saints Will Reign (vv.4-6)

- a. The *Millennial Reign* is a literal 1,000-year period in which Christ and His Church will reign over the nations of the earth.
- b. Some believe there will not be a literal 1,000-year reign of Christ that it's just a symbol. This viewpoint is known as *amillennialism*, which means not millennial.
- c. *Pre-millennial* view suggests Christ returns to earth before the millennial.
- d. *Post-millennial* view says Christ returns after the final victory over Satan
- e. What then is the purpose of the millennial kingdom?
 1. The kingdom will be a worldwide display of Christ's glory – *thy kingdom come, they will be done.*
- f. Who will reign with Christ? Faithful and martyred Christians (vv.4-6)
- g. The Bible teaches two resurrections, they will be separated by 1,000 years (John 5:28-29):
 1. The first is of *the saved* and leads to blessing (v.6)[*they will not experience the 2nd death*]
 2. The second is of *the lost* and leads to their final judgment.
- h. Those living on the earth at that time will be the glorified saints and nations of people who bow in submission to Christ. (Matthew 25:31-40)
 - i. Because of the earth's perfect conditions people will live longer and have children who will outwardly conform to the Lord's righteous rule.
 1. It will be a time of peace and *nearly* perfect environment.
 2. The 1,000-year reign will be a reign of law, yet law will not change man's sinful heart.
 - j. All of the nations will not be truly born again, this explains why Satan will be able to gather a great army and rebel. (v.8)

III. Satan's Last Stand (vv.7-10)

- a. Why "must" Satan be released to lead one last revolt against the Lord?
- b. As a final proof that man's heart is desperately wicked and can only be changed by God's grace.
- c. The "last battle" is no battle at all. The City of God is surrounded by armies of Gog and Magog.
- d. Without any struggle, fire came from heaven and destroys the enemies of God's people.
 1. The saints do not fight. God is our avenger and He *delivers us from evil.*

IV. The Last Judgment (vv.11-15)

- a. The unsaved will be raised from the dead and stand before the Great White Throne. (v. 11)
- b. This is not the *Judgment Seat of Christ* (Romans 14:10-12; 1 Cor 3:10-15; 2 Cor 5:1-10), where believers will have their works judged and rewarded.
- c. Where do the dead come from? *Hades* (the realm of the spirits of the dead)

d. The sea will give up the dead, which means no sinner will escape judgment. The divine courtroom will not be open for debate.

1. Jesus will judge based on what was written in the books. What books?

e. It's all about the facts! God's Word will be there. (John 12:48) Every sinner will be held accountable for the truth he/she heard, believed and acted on in this life.

f. There will be a book containing the works of the sinners to determine the degree of punishment they will endure in hell.

g. There are degrees of punishment in hell. (Matt 11:20-24) This scene illustrates the power that Christ has over life and death.

h. The "Book of Life" (*Lamb's Book of Life*) will be there containing the names of God's redeemed people.

i. When the judgment is finished, all of the unsaved will be cast into hell – no if's, and's or but's.

V. We are Saved by Grace

a. Some people reject the idea of hell as being unchristian, because it does not reflect the love of God.

b. On the contrary, hell is a witness to the righteous character of God, because He must judge sin.

c. The unsaved cannot condemn God for casting them into hell, when God provided a way of escape through His only Son.

d. God does not send people to hell; they send themselves by rejecting the Savior.

e. We are saved only by grace. If you know Jesus today as your Lord and Savior; it is only by His grace working in your life.

f. If you are saved today, your name was written in the Lamb's book of life before the creation of the world. (Rev 13:8;17:8)

g. We are ultimately responsible for what we do, because it has eternal consequences, we are judged by what we do in this life.

h. Christ is ultimately responsible for our salvation, it is His work that saves, not ours – we are saved by grace.

i. If you believe in Christ tell someone, you may lead them away from burning in eternity. This is real!