

Eschatology

There are few things as fascinating as prophecy or as problematic

People like to know the future – fortune tellers – medium, wizards – Harry Potter is wicked and ungodly and nobody should be reading his books or going to the movies (Deut. 18)

As we study the messages of Matthew, we need to remember (the tie to the book of Revelation) the main purpose of the book of Revelation.

It is found in the first five words of the first verse of the first chapter.

It is **The Revelation of Jesus Christ.**

Revelation: apocalypse, revealing, unveiling of Jesus Christ

Matthew 24 – Jesus' Sermon on the Mount of Olives – called the Olivet Discourse

The book of Matthew was written to a Jewish audience

Our world is shrinking – by plane, Internet, television

United Nations – European countries – Euro financial system – Euro Dollar

– Mediterranean countries – headway into America

Europe attempts to displace the USA as a superpower.

The setting up for a one-world government and its leaders would not be a surprise to anyone today

Through this Satan will bring on the scene his man – Satan's superman

“The Man of Sin Will Come” – and He will perform the abomination of desolation

And this “abomination of desolation” will start “the Great Tribulation” – vs. 21 – the last half of the Tribulation period, consisting of 3 ½ years

That could not arrive till certain other events have taken place.

Let's look at God's timetable

There is first the Rapture of the Church – we hold to a Pre-Tribulation view – which means we believe that the Lord will return and catch up His own to meet Him in the air

This is “the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together unto Him.”

One great event that will occur suddenly and without warning

God has promised believers deliverance from this tribulation (I Thess. 1:10 and 5:9)

The Church will be taken out sometime before the Tribulation Period (I Thess. 4:13-18)

I Corinthians 15:51-53, “Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

Are we ready for the Lord to return at any minute?

Jesus Christ is going to return!

Christ must come for His saints before He returns with His saints

Once the church is out of the world, Satan and his forces will unfold their program.

Rapture has taken place

Satan opposes Christ – he's against him and he sets up a man in His place.

Antichrist is the name we use to identify the last great world dictator whom Paul designated as “that man of sin,” “the son of perdition,” and “that lawless one.”

Second Thessalonians 2:1-12 indicates that the Antichrist cannot be revealed until:

#1 The church is gone – vs. 1

#2 The apostasy has taken place (the abandoning of the Bible, churches departures from the truth);

#3 The *restrainer* is taken out of the way. That restrainer is the Holy Spirit in the church.

This restrainer is now at work in the world and will continue to work till it is “taken out of the way” (v. 7b).

Lot was not a dedicated man, but his presence in Sodom held back the wrath of God. Once the restraining ministry of the Spirit of God has ended, the next event can take place.

The Antichrist, after three-and-one-half years will break that agreement. He will then move into the Jewish temple himself and proclaim that he is God (2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13).”

This is the abomination of desolation.

Abomination of desolation – greatest observable sign – by setting up in the temple an image of himself to be worshiped.

Matthew 24:15, *“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand.)”*

Let’s look at Daniel

He is a peace-breaker (Dan. 9:26-27)

Daniel 9:26 tells us that a prince will come, of the same people who destroyed Jerusalem before.

There will rise a prince, a dictator, Antichrist, Man of Sin, who will have a treaty purporting to be for seven years with the Jews, and a remnant of Jews in Jerusalem will again have their sacrifices in some kind of temple at Jerusalem.

Those sacrifices will not long continue.

However, “in the midst of the week,” that is, after the first three and a half years of the seven are past, the Man of Sin will commit the “abomination of desolation” which Jesus mentioned in Matthew 24:15, the very thing foretold by Daniel the prophet in Daniel 9:27 will take place!

The Jews will be given into the hand of the Antichrist “until a time and times and the dividing of time,” that is, three and a half years (Dan. 7:25).

The period is called “a time, and times, and half a time” (Rev. 12:14).

It is called “forty and two months” (Rev. 11:2).

It is called “a thousand two hundred and threescore days” (Rev. 11:3; 12:6).

After three and one-half years, Antichrist will break his covenant with the Jews *and take over their temple* for the next 3½ years

Statue of Revelation

Revelation 11:3 – first ½ of Tribulation – *“And I will give power unto My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.”*

Revelation 11:7, *“And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.”*

Revelation 13 – explains the abomination in detail (vs. 3-5)

Revelation 13:11 – the false prophet – *“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.”*

666 – the number of Antichrist

Turn back to Matthew 24:15

“There was to be a warning sign of *this* calamity: when ‘you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel’

Now an abomination of this sort had happened before in the temple by Antiochus Epiphanes in 168 B.C.

Antiochus erected an altar to Zeus over the altar of burnt offering and sacrificed a pig on it, sprinkling its blood in the Holy Place

This was the worst possible affront to Judaism, a true 'abomination.'

But Jesus was not referring to this past event in Matthew 24.

He was referring to something like it that would happen when Antichrist and his armies come to Jerusalem

Antichrist will proclaim himself as God – sitting in the Temple

He will be worshiped and he also will have a statue set up in the Temple to be worshiped

More about this later

In Revelation 13 we are going to see this abomination and

The Agenda of the Antichrist and his prophet

The Antichrist may be alive today, but even if he is not the Bible says he's coming

Out of the sea – the sea is understood to be the masses of the people

He is a man

The Antichrist is an individual that actually sits in the Temple

Vs. 1 – Revelation 17

10 kings ruling at the time – give power unto one man – the man of sin

1. He is a peacemaker

He is a leader – political ruler

Receives blessing from other leaders – given position – just like Hitler

Certainly, this man will be on the scene before the rapture of the church.

He will be a peaceful political leader who unites 10 nations into a strong power block

(see Rev. 17:10-13).

He will bring a brief time of peace to the world.

Daniel 11:21 – teaches us that he will come peaceably and obtain the kingdom by
flattery

Vs. 2 – three animals of Daniel

They represent the kingdoms of Babylon, Medeo-Persia and Greece

With strength, brutality, and swiftness

The Antichrist will have some of all these animal kingdoms in him

He is given power in verse 2 – also again in verse 4 – by the dragon, old serpent, the
Devil

Great as this man will be, he is actually only an agent or tool of Satan

So notice first of all

Satan's empowerment of this beast

The Beast/Antichrist is Satanically energized

He truly is Satan's superman

Since Antichrist will be energized by Satan, it is no surprise that he will seek worship; for

Satan has always wanted the worship of the world.

He wants to be worshiped and obeyed instead of Christ.

Satan has always wanted to be worshiped and served as God.

The devil said in Isaiah 14:14, *"I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High."*

Luke 4:5-8, *"And the devil, taking Him [Jesus] up into a high mountain, shewed unto Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto Him, 'All this power will I give Thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If Thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be Thine.' And Jesus answered and said unto him, 'Get thee behind Me, Satan: for it is written, 'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.'"*

And all of God's people say, "Amen"

Vs. 3 – notice he has some type of resurrection

The man of sin is the resurrected counterfeit christ that the devil will work through

The world wonders after him – the world will stand in awe

The world did not believe the resurrection of Jesus Christ but they will believe in the resurrection of the Antichrist

Now let us see the four activities of the Beast out of the sea – the Antichrist

The Bible gives us the details of his activities

1. The first activity of Antichrist is that he blasphemes God (vs. 4-6)

He was given the ability to speak (vs. 5)

This does not mean he was given a mouth but rather was given what to say

So the Antichrist is Satanically motivated

What is he to say?

First of all (vs. 5) – great, haughty things

As the world sees this man speak, they do not understand that he is but the machinery of Satan – the mouthpiece of the evil one

Secondly (vs. 5) – blasphemous things

This means he will be a big mouth fellow – big talker – like the roaring of a lion (vs. 2)

This is found in Daniel 11:36, *“And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that which is determined shall be done.”*

He shall speak marvelous things against our God

First, he is given the ability to speak

Second, he is given the authority to be active 42 months (3½ years) – vs. 5

This reflects the period of the Antichrist’s dominion

The only good news of this passage is that the Antichrist will only be reigning 42 months – and then his career will be done

Daniel 7:25, *“And he shall speak great words against the most High . . .”*

Vs. 6 – the use of the Greek phrase means that he is speaking in a formal and official manner (capacity) as a world leader

He blasphemes God’s name (vs. 6)

This is a clear violation of the third commandment

Exodus 20:7, *“Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.”*

His first activity is to blaspheme God

2. The second activity of Antichrist is his actions against God’s people (vs. 7a)

He is permitted to fight against and to conquer God’s people

Daniel 7:25, *“. . . and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.”* – 3 ½ years – 42 months

Daniel 7:21, *“I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them.”*

The Antichrist is allowed to persecute the people of God and many of these saints will be beheaded for their faith

Revelation 20:4, *“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”*

These saints are the Tribulation saints – many will suffer martyrdom for their faith

While Satan's superman is establishing his world empire, he must put down those who resist him

When God's people rise up and stand for the faith in defense of God, they will be the special object of Antichrist's wrath and hatred

Daniel tells us – he will wear out the saints of God

#1 – Blaspheme God

#2 – Kill God's people

3. The third activity of Antichrist is that he has worldwide authority (vs. 7b)

Over every tribe, people, language, nation except for those who have been redeemed in vs. 8

Man will believe him

They will believe his lies – they will follow him

II Thessalonians 2:9-12

The career of the Antichrist is described

He has worldwide authority

He will be the first man who is able to exercise rule over all people

Napoleon tried

Hitler, too

The Antichrist will have better success

Revelation 13:16, *“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right had, or in their foreheads.”*

Satan will vent his wrath against God's people.

He will so control the world's economic system that citizens must bear “the mark of the beast” to be able to buy and sell (vs. 17)

In order to better control the activities of the people—of the world

Each person is required a brand which will identify him as a loyal citizen of the world kingdom

Registration is universal

Everyone must register, there are no exceptions

From the Greek word, we know that this mark will be something like an etching
or a tattoo which, once implanted, cannot be removed

There is a company listed on the American Stock Exchange – Digital Angel

Here is what their press releases say about the company:

“Digital Angel™ technology represents the first-ever combination of advanced sensors and Web-enabled wireless telecommunications linked to Global Positioning Systems (GPS). By utilizing advanced sensor capabilities, Digital Angel is able to monitor key functions—such as ambient temperature and physical movement—and transmit that data, along with accurate emergency location information, to a ground station or monitoring facility. The company also invented, manufactures and markets implantable identification microchips the size of a grain of rice for use in humans, companion pets, fish, and livestock. Digital Angel Corp. owns the patents for its inventions in all applications of the implantable microchip technology for humans and animals.”

The most important development in recent years from Digital Angel is one that is still in the development stages, but on the verge of introduction. It is a medical recording device for real-time monitoring of patients. It will integrate biosensors and envirosensors, wireless communication, and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) technology.

Inserted under your skin

Will be able to read your heart rate, temperature, blood pressure, pulse, and blood
chemistry

Is networked by the Internet and GPS, your information will be sent instantly to your
doctor wherever you are

VeriChip will be implanted beneath your skin

The chip has been approved by the FDA

VeriChip is a miniaturized, implantable radio frequency identification device (RFID) that has the potential to be used in a variety of security, financial, and other applications

About the size of a grain of rice

Unique verification number

The verification number is captured by briefly passing a proprietary scanner over the VeriChip.

Radio frequency energy passes from the scanner energizing the dormant VeriChip, which then emits a radio frequency signal transmitting the verification number

An instrument smaller than an insulin syringe will inject it under your skin

It will be extremely difficult to survive at all without the mark

No one will get employment, conduct any business

Won't be able to put gas into your car

No mark—no merchandise—no seal—no sale

People will be unable to use any money or possessions in Satan's market place
– only in the black market

No transactions of any kind will be legal without the mark

How will God's people survive? – secret communities
but it will be dangerous and hard

Antichrist activities:

1. Blasphemes God
2. Killing spree – God's people
3. Worldwide authority

4. The fourth activity of Antichrist is that he receives worship

He is worshipped (vs. 8)

This is the abomination of desolation

Worldwide worship

They believe that Satan's superman is greater than God

Adoration – this speaks of his international (fame) rule of the world

He is the one-world ruler

II Thessalonians 2:4, *“Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”*

Satan in Matthew 4 – offered Jesus the world – Jesus refused it

But not this man – Satan will get for him and give to him the worship of the world

Vs. 4 – who is like the beast? He is unique

He is mighty

Who is able to fight against him?

Men will have to worship the beast or suffer/die

This is the abomination of desolation

Daniel 9:27, *“And he (the Antichrist) shall confirm the covenant (treaty) with many for one week (seven years): and in the midst of the week (middle – 3 ½ years) he shall cause the (animal) sacrifice (of the Jews) and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate . . .”*

What is oblation? Daniel 9:27

Overspreading – wings

Hulking statue – overspread arms

Standing in the Holy Place

Vs. 11 – like a lamb – imitation of Christ, but he is a wolf in sheep’s clothing

Like a dragon – he is like his father, leader – Satan

The aim of this second person is to promote the worship of the first

This false prophet will wed together religion and business – vs. 12-15

Vs. 15

The (statue) image speaks convincingly, intelligibly, remarkably

Some kind of spirit is imparted by the false prophet – possibly a high-ranking demonic angel

As it was in Daniel’s book – you bow or you die

The fourth activity of Antichrist – he is to be worshiped

Revelation 13:18, *“Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is six hundred threescore and six.”*

Is to help people identify the Antichrist – the man of sin

Two key teachings here:

1. Number of a man

This beast is not a kingdom – he’s a man

Count the number of the beast

This could mean count his name

Roman letters also have numbers – they represent V X L C and so does the Greek alphabet

In the Greek language, each letter has a number affixed to it as well

Alpha – I am the first

Beta –

The number 666 is significant

6 is one short of 7

7 is perfect number

The number 6 is associated with the number of a man because he is imperfect

This number is a clue by which to recognize him as he slinks onto the world

Stage

One in 10,000 people if you transfer their name into Greek letters and count it will add up to 666

Here is wisdom – for Christians to recognize the beast before the world does

It will cost dearly to trust Christ and live for Him during that time.

Believers will refuse to bow down to the beast’s image and will be slain.

They will refuse to wear his mark and thus be unable to get jobs or make purchases.

The Tribulation time will be the darkest hour in the history of the world – and the Church, thank God, will not be here for it

We will not be here under Antichrist – we will be in Heaven under Christ

We are not looking for the Antichrist – we are looking for Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ whipped Satan at the cross and on Easter Sunday

The angels of God whipped Satan and threw him out of Heaven (Revelation 12) and God is going to whoop him again later in Revelation

I'm not worried about what Satan can do

God tells us in this Bible of the future job description of Satan's superman, but I tell you that even today the devil and his demons are doing all they can to blaspheme God and His people; to oppose God and His people; to distract and deflect the worship of God

But in Revelation 19:19-20, Satan and his workers get their wings clipped

Revelation 20:10

And everyone who resists and stands in defiance of God will meet the same demise as Satan and his workers

You are either on God's side – Satan's side – no in-between

There is a greater war/battle – we best stand up and be counted for the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ

Turn to Matthew 24/Revelation 12

In Matthew 24, Jesus gives us 3 sections—the Tribulation, the Great Tribulation, and after the Tribulation

The majority of the book of Revelation is about the Tribulation Period

The main person of this tribulation period is the Antichrist—the Man of Sin—Satan's superman.

Matthew 24:15-28

Jesus tells all . . . who are living in Judea during the Tribulation what their response to the Antichrist should be when he comes into Jerusalem.

Vs. 16

Turn to Luke 21:20-24

We call this time period in the last half of the Tribulation, the Great Tribulation

The armies come down led by Antichrist and destroy Jerusalem

Zechariah 14:2, "For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city."

There shall be some left.

Rev. 11:1 – notice there is a temple and an altar

Vs. 2 – The outer court

Vs. 3

These two men witness and work for the Lord and are killed in the streets of Jerusalem.

The witnesses of God are dead – vs.7

Antichrist comes down to Jerusalem—defeats God's 2 witnesses—and sets himself up in the Temple to be worshipped

Rev. 12 – introduces us to one group of people and 3 personalities

Vs. 1 – reminds us of Joseph's dream – Gen. 37:9-11

Sun – was his father, Jacob

Moon – was his mother, Rachel

The 12 stars were Joseph and his 11 brothers

Vs. 2

Vs. 3 – Red – Satan

Vs. 4

Vs. 5 – helps us to identify what we are looking at

The man child – who will rule with a rod of iron – has to be who?

The Lord Jesus Christ!

This woman brought forth a man child

Now, I know who the child is – but who is the woman?

I have a hunch who the woman might be. If it is a specific individual – Mary

But if it is not Mary, who might it be?

Let's keep reading

Vs. 6 – unbelievable – same number of days – 3 ½ years

That makes me suspicious that woman is not Mary

Now God pauses here and gives us some information before returning to this woman

Vs. 7 – War between Michael and his angels and Satan and his angels. Michael's name means "who is like God," and he is the only angel called specifically an archangel in the Scriptures.

Vs. 8

Vs. 9 – Now we know who the dragon is

I have all three of the individuals identified now – Jesus Christ (male child), Satan (the dragon), and the third personality is Michael and he is specifically named

In verse 9 Satan has five titles:

“Dragon” indicates his fierce nature, “serpent” his crafty character.

“Devil” means accuser or slanderer and “Satan” means adversary.

He is also called “the deceiver of the whole world.”

Vs. 10 – That’s what the devil is doing now

The devil is not omnipresent – he’s quick, but he can only be in one place at a time

He is primarily revealed here and in the book of Job to be constantly, around the clock,
in heaven

The devil is cast down to the earth

The earth is his only sphere of operation.

At this defeat of Satan (which occurs at the middle point of the Tribulation) brings him to
earth.

“The accuser of our brethren”

Ironside used to say, “Satan is the accuser of the brethren; let’s leave the dirty work to
him!”

Vs. 11 – Overcome him—but there is a way of victory over Satan—only one Way.

The blood of the Lamb – it is the only sufficient price for man’s sin.

Notice the complete self-sacrifice even to the point of being willing to die – genuine
believers.

They had an inward faith and outward testimony.

Vs.12 – There is great joy in Heaven, but the voice from Heaven announces woe on the
inhabitants of the earth because the devil has been barred from Heaven and will
wage his total warfare on the earth.

He knows he doesn’t have much time left.

Vs. 13 – cannot be Mary

The woman is the nation of Israel – vs. 1

Vs. 14 – Vs. 6 – she fled – 3 ½ years

Eagles' wings indicate rapid flight, which will be necessary for Israel to escape the attacks of the dragon through his agents

Apparently these fleeing people will find asylum in some place in the wilderness which will give them a certain amount of natural protection for time, times, and half a time, or three and one-half years →

Isaiah 26:20, *“Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.”*

Vs. 15-16 Satan will launch his attack with a flood, apparently in order to try to drown people out of their wilderness refuge.

God in turn will cause something to make the earth open in order to consume the water of the flood and thus save the persecuted people

Vs. 17 – A remnant will providentially protected in the wilderness.

Some flee into the wilderness asylum; some do not, and it is upon them that Satan unleashes his attack in verse 17

Satan brings his armies of the world and his great leader—the Antichrist—down on Jerusalem

The “man of sin” will harass Jews and murder them—try to finish what Hitler started. Hitler marked the Jews—gold Star of David.

And it will be the time to flee for Jerusalem residents

From Matthew 24 verse 16, it is clear that Jews would need to run for their lives from Jerusalem.

The Man of Sin, or Antichrist, as a second and greater Hitler, will hate Jews and will set out to exterminate them, because they will not agree to worship him as God.

A hidden and secret sanctuary will be found by Israelites who flee for their lives from Jerusalem (Rev. 12:14).

Since God first called . . . , Satan has sought to destroy God's chosen people, the Jews, and their God-ordained nation of Israel.

To have destroyed the Jews would have been to destroy God's redemptive plan for mankind, because "salvation is from the Jews" (John 4:22).

That statement in vs. 16 is a warning of the severity of the holocaust to come and an exhortation to **flee** from it.

Because of their proximity to the profaned Temple, **those who are in Judea** will be in the greatest and most immediate danger.

. . . *fugitive*, a person who takes flight in order to escape danger.

The only hope will be to run for safety . . . take refuge in the **mountains**.

From Zechariah we learn that not every Jew will be successful in the attempt to escape.

Zechariah 13:8-9a, "And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein [66% will die]. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried. . ."

The massacres of Jews by the Romans in A.D. 70 and by the Nazis during the World War II will pale by comparison.

Two out of every three Jews in the Holy Land will die under the fury of Satan and his Antichrist

Satan will make all-out war on the saints, butchering all he can find (Rev. 13:7) until his evil hosts are “drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus” (Rev. 17:6).

Some will succeed in their flight to **the mountains**, probably to the east and south of Jerusalem, perhaps to the cliff caves around the Dead Sea and in the hills of Moab and Edom and possibly to a place called Petra.

Matthew 24:17

Our Lord called for urgency, stressing the need for immediate flight by insisting that, for example, a person **who is on the housetop** should **not even go down to get the things out that are in his house.**

Most houses of Jesus’ day had outside stairways leading to **the housetop**, where the family often went in the evening to relax and cool off from the work and heat of the day.

Do not waste – even the small time to go back into the **house** to retrieve a few precious **things**

No material possession will be worth the risk of the slightest delay.

Nor should a person **turn back to get his clothes.**

He should leave it there and run. [Vs. 18]

Believers’ only sensible option will be flight

Vs. 19

It will be an especially tragic and burdensome time for pregnant women, **those who are with child**, and nursing mothers with small **babes.**

Women in such conditions [will] be at greater risk of being captured and killed.

Verse 19 does not mean that there is any plague upon childbearing, but only that the woman heavy with child or a woman carrying a baby would be handicapped in fleeing for her life.

Vs. 20

. . . even slightly inclement weather could be an hindrance

Likewise, Jews are to pray “that your flight be not in winter” because of the extra suffering entailed.

“Neither on the Sabbath day”

It appears that the remnant of Jews in Palestine will also observe again the Jewish Sabbath.

Thus orthodox Jews, trying to observe their rules, would, on the Sabbath day, be caught and slaughtered by the raging persecution of the Man of Sin.

. . . to flee **on the Sabbath** . . . legalistic Jews who are not fleeing might try to stone or otherwise impede those whom they believe to be profaning **the Sabbath**

This will usher in a period of intense persecution and tribulation.

Jesus said, “For then shall be great tribulation” (vs. 21)

Vs. 21

God’s message for Israel is that things are going to get immeasurably worse before they become better.

That nation and its people will suffer treachery, desecration of the rebuilt Temple, indescribable persecution, and brutal slaughter that will be totally unparalleled in history.

Verse 21 plainly says, “For then shall be great tribulation.”

Not an ordinary time of trouble, but the one specially prophesied event “such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.”

World conditions will be so terrible that men will wonder if any relief will come . . .

Vs. 22 - "Except those days should be shortened" (vs. 22).

Do not think that the tribulation will be less than the prophesied period, but that it will be suddenly, and miraculously ended.

Otherwise, "there should be no flesh saved," that is, Jews would all be literally killed.

. . . stopping instantly . . . God will also supernaturally shorten the daylight hours in order to give His fleeing people the added protection of more darkness.

Revelation 8:12

During the Great Tribulation the heavenly bodies that give light to the earth will be radically altered in ways that will progressively reduce the daylight . . .

Vs. 23

Those who heed Jesus' advice to flee into the mountains and are protected by God from harm will also be especially vulnerable to false teaching and promises. Having left their homes with only the clothes on their backs, they will not have the least security of material possessions.

Many of them will have left families and friends behind and will be strangers to each other.

It seems evident from Jesus' warning here that false teachers will infiltrate the company of those who flee.

Those false teachers . . . hope to entice Jews and believers away from their refuge and into the hands of Antichrist.

Remember, when God's people left Egypt, there were leaders in that crowd that tried to lead the people back to Egypt.

Vs. 24-26

The refugees will hear such claims as, “**Behold, here is the Christ,**” or “**There He is.**”

The **false christs and false prophets** will even perform **great signs and wonders**, giving evidence to support their claims.

They would **mislead, if possible, even the elect.**

If told that the Messiah has come in the desert, don't go

If told He is in a secret place, don't go

Because when He comes, it will be visible – as lightning flashing across the sky

Behold, I have told you in advance . . . Jesus said.

Until the Lord appears in that predicted and unquestionable way, those who are hiding should remain where they are.

The Man of Sin will come, but so will Jesus Christ.

The Olivet Discourse

This is probably the most important single passage of prophecy in all the Bible.

It is given by Jesus Himself and it provides the master outline of end-time events.

The Man of Sin (Antichrist) will come, and he will be on the scene, then the Son of Man (Jesus Christ) will come.

Matthew 24:27

When Christ returns with the saints and angels, He will come so boldly, so visibly, so publicly, like lightning, that everybody will know it.

So Jews in that day need not expect to find Him in some secret hideout “in the desert” or “in the secret chambers” (vs. 26).

His rapture of the Church is not the same as His return to the earth.

The first event is private and quick, as the church is caught up to meet Him in the air.

The second event is public; every eye shall see Him when He returns to defeat Satan and his hosts.

Matthew 24:28

Verse 28 refers to the battle of Armageddon following which the fowls of the air will all be called together to “the supper of the great God,” that is, to feast on the bodies of the men in the army of the Antichrist who will be killed.

Let’s go look at how this come about – Revelation 19

We will look at three things about the return of Jesus that we discover from Revelation 19.

#1 Jesus Is Coming Visibly

Vs. 11

#1 Jesus Is Coming Visibly

Emerging in the heavens appeared a great white horse and a majestic Rider

It will be a real event in history. Jesus ascended into heaven literally and visibly.

And He is coming back literally and visibly.

What a thrilling scene this is! It is the coming of Christ to the earth.

A lowly donkey . . .

But when He comes the second time, He will be riding a white charger, which is a symbol of victory, honor, and conquest.

Acts 1:9-11, *“And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, ‘Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.’”*

Revelation 1:7 says, *“Behold! He cometh with clouds, and every eye will see Him.”*

This is certain. . . . every soul on earth, on that day, will see Him.

Revelation 19

In vs. 11, He is called “Faithful” because He has come to execute the long-time program of God.

He is the only One you and I can trust and rest upon.

He is called “True” . . . He is not one who just tells the truth, although He does that; He is the bureau of standards of truth.

He is the yardstick of truth. He is the Truth.

How wonderful it is to have Someone in whom to trust in this day when everything we hear is slanted and used as propaganda.

Vs. 12

Not only is Jesus coming visibly, **Jesus Is Coming Victoriously**

Vs. 13

Most Bible scholars think this is the blood from His enemies and Isaiah 63 refers to it and it may be that.

Instead, I think this is a reminder of His precious blood spilled at Calvary because He has not tread the enemies yet.

He will wear this blood stain forever as an remembrance of His sacrifice.

Vs. 14

Like a mighty general, the victorious Rider is followed by a tremendous stream of warriors, all in gleaming white uniforms and all on beautiful white horses.

Who are these armies? They are the saints who make up the bride of Christ. He is coming with His church.

White linen represents the righteousness of the saints (vs. 8).

Revelation 19

Vs. 15

Isaiah 11:4 teaches that Jesus will come and judge in righteousness.

He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth and with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked.

When Jesus Christ returns, He will judge Antichrist by “the spirit of His mouth . . . and the brightness (lightening) of His coming” (II Thessalonians 2:8)

The Lord Jesus will overthrow Antichrist with the breath of His mouth, and bring an end to his operations by the outshining of His presence.

Antichrist may control mankind, but he will be no match for Messiah.

Jesus is Lord indeed.

Vs. 15 – The “sword” is a long, broad cutlass here, of course, it refers to the fiery words of judgment from the Lord.

“The sword which came forth out of his mouth.”

What is that sword? . . . (Heb. 4:12 – For the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword).

Ephesians 6:17 says to take the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.

Do you notice how clearly this symbol is explained by Scripture?

The “sword” that comes from the mouth of Jesus is His Word.

It was His Word that created this universe. It is the Word of God that will save us.

And it will be the Word of God that will destroy the wicked at the end of the age.

Here is the scene that will prevail at the battle of Armageddon.

Suddenly, there will be an invasion from outer space.

Here comes Jesus riding a snow-white horse.

He is followed by wave after wave of armies—not dressed in battle fatigues or carrying weapons, but robed in white.

In His mouth will be a sharp two-edged sword (the Word of God) to strike the nations.

All Jesus has to do is speak, and the battle is won.

Have you ever thought of the power of the voice of our Lord?

He spoke, and the universe came into existence.

Hebrews 11:3 says the worlds were framed by the Word of God.

Now, notice vs. 15 again

The winepress depicts the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

The word here for “wrath” is also rendered “anger,” “indignation” and ‘vengeance.’”

Thus these words express with doubled intensity the unleashed ferocity of a long-suffering God.

Vs. 16

This is His return to the earth in glory and judgment.

He has come to judge and make war.

And His rulership is going to be a dictatorship—a chicken won’t peep, a rooster won’t crow, and a man will not move without His permission.

He is the King of kings and He is the Lord of lords.

Jesus Christ will be the Pastor.

It will be a dictatorship of love, but a dictatorship nonetheless.

Vs. 17

Now an invitation is issued to a feast, the supper of the great God.

Those invited are the birds of prey and the carrion-eating fowl from all over the world,
and their dinner is to be the flesh and blood of the slain multitudes at
Armageddon.

The call is to a great gathering-together of the birds of the air.

Vs. 18

Vs. 19

The Antichrist persuaded all the kings of the earth to send their armies.

Where did they gather? In the valley of Armageddon.

Revelation 16:16 – this is the only occurrence of the word “Armageddon” in all of
Scripture.

Armageddon, which literally means “Mount of Megiddo,” includes a valley called the
Valley of Jezreel and three mountains called Mount Carmel, Mount Tabor, and
Mount Gilboa.

Many leaders have fought battles here, including Napoleon, who said. “This is the
world’s greatest natural battlefield.”

Other leaders who have fought here include Titus, Pompey, Richard the Lionheart,
Nebuchadnezzar, and Rameses.

The hill of Megiddo . . . ten miles south of Nazareth, fifteen miles – Mediterranean seacoast – many of Israel's battle had been fought

Gideon triumphed over the Midianites (Judges 7).

Saul was slain in the battle with the Philistines (I Sam. 31:8).

The Mount of Megiddo was an ancient crossroads where trade caravans traveled back and forth.

Whoever controlled Megiddo controlled the land, the trade, and the commerce of that day.

The Bible says that the last great war will be fought there.

And this war will end all wars.

This is the last time the beast and the kings of the earth will be seen together (vs. 20).

They are all gathered together at Armageddon . . . extending in great multitudes down past the Dead Sea – awaiting the coming of Christ and His army of saints from heaven.

“Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision” (Joel 3:14).

This valley is also called the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:2).

In Isaiah 34 and 63, the Bible pictures the Lord coming from Edom, south of Jerusalem, when He returns for the judgment.

Jerusalem itself is seen to be the center of conflict.

Thus the campaign is pictured as extending from the plains of Esdraelon on the north, down through Jerusalem, extending out to the valley of Jehoshaphat on the east and to Edom on the south.

The answer to this world's problems, beyond a shadow of any doubt, is the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He is coming visibly. He is coming victoriously.

The Lord Jesus Is Coming Vengefully

Vs. 20

The apostle John sees all the nations being drawn like a magnet to the land of the chosen people, he must sense the enormity of the calamity.

How unspeakably terrifying, then, to see their great leaders suddenly and unceremoniously snatched from their midst!

These two mighty men, the most powerful and most feared men in all the world, were gone.

They were suddenly seized and translated at unimaginable speed to a vast fiery lake boiling with brimstone.

There, while still alive in their human bodies of flesh and blood, they were hurled into the flaming cauldron, where they would remain throughout eternity.

This is the first specific mention in Scripture of the lake of fire.

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself spoke of this place of “everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41) and it is also prepared for any of those who will not receive Christ.

Vs. 21

Thus the Lord destroys every hostile force that would challenge His right to rule as Messiah over the earth.

Ezekiel pictures this when he says the invaders will “cover the land” (Ezek. 38:9, 16) It will be nothing less than the sudden spilling of blood.

Revelation 14:14-20

The Book of Revelation says the blood will flow to the bits of the horse bridles (4 ½ feet in the center of its flow) and it has been pointed out the vat of blood flowing is 1,600 furlongs which covers the entire length of Israel – Armageddon – 180 miles.

The bloodshed is so massive and so quick that the only apt comparison is the spurting of the juice from tremendous clusters of ripe fruit beneath the feet of the grape-tramplers in a winepress.

Jesus is doing the pressing.

The bodies suddenly explode like bursting grapes,
The blood pours from a million fountains.

The bodies quickly are awash in their own blood, and will soon become carrion for the waiting flocks of vultures that darken the sky.

Thus shall be the unspeakable end of those who worship the beast and receive his mark.

A mighty cutting wind sweeps across their ranks
Like grapes trampled in a winepress, the blood bursts from their veins and death is instantaneous.

Soon the great trough is flowing with blood and He treads the winepress alone.

The spirits of the slain multitudes depart into Hades, there to await the judgment at the great white throne.

This is the great climactic battle of the ages.

Then will the great cloud of ravenous birds swoop down from the heavens, gorging themselves on the flesh and blood of the once high-and-mighty rebels against a longsuffering God.

The terrible scene of carnage and death depicted in these verses may at first offend the sensibilities of those who think God only as a loving and patronizing grandfather.

He is indeed a God of great mercy and forgiveness, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

His love for a lost world is so great that as the sacrificial Lamb of God He suffered and died on the cross to save men from their sins.

But when they adamantly refuse His salvation, denying His Word and blaspheming His name, there must one day come a time of reckoning.

God is a God of vengeance and justice.

Jesus is coming vengefully to make things right.

Keep in mind that God has a timetable.

Jesus Christ will return “in power and great glory” and take Antichrist and his associates prisoner—and also Satan—and cast them into the bottomless pit (Rev. 20:1-2).

This will be the climax of the great battle of Armageddon (Rev. 14:11).

Soon and very soon, 777 will take care of 666, and the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 24:29-35

The Son of Man is Coming

I. Vs. 29

The Lord’s coming to reign will take place at the conclusion – end – of this time of **tribulation**.

Mark carefully the teaching of verse 29.

The return of Christ will bring to an end the Great Tribulation.

II. Vs. 30

“Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man . . .”

Here, at last, is the direct answer to the question in Matthew 24:3.

The sign is not just His glory; it is Christ Himself, **the Son of Man**, who **will appear in the sky**.

The sun goes dark, the moon is out, stars are flying, the universe is shaking, and Jesus rips open that which we see and comes in on that white horse.

[it] will indeed *be* **the Son of Man**.

“Son of God” – refers to Divinity; “Son of man” – humanity

This is the same Jesus of the Communion

He is coming in *majesty*?

This is the revelation – the revealing of Jesus – when He comes *with His bride* in power and great glory.

He will come with clouds (Rev. 1:7), accompanied by angels (Matt. 25:31), by ten thousands of saints (Jude 14).

His feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives and cause an earthquake, the mountain dividing in two with a great valley between (Zech. 14:1-4, 8-9).

He will utterly destroy the armies attacking Jerusalem at that time by the breath of His mouth and take the reign over the whole earth (Zech. 14:9).

III. Vs. 31

Regather the Jews – why? – they had been scattered by the persecution
Isaiah 11:12 says they will be gathered from the four corners of the earth

This will be the regathering of Israel to the land.

God’s promises will be fulfilled.

They had been scattered because of the anger of Satan

And the abomination of desolation of the Beast (Antichrist).

The miraculous regathering of living Israel to Israel is told in verse 31, “he shall send his angels.”

That is, Zionism will not bring the whole nation of Jews back to Israel; the angels of God will gather these chosen people, and bring them back to their own land.

That regathering of Israel is often foretold in the Old Testament and when we speak of the regathering of the Jews, we do not refer to dead Jews.

Both Jew and Gentile alike, who die without Christ, are eternally lost and will get no second chance.

But living Jews will be brought back to Israel and converted.

This indicates that the Jews, in the midst of the Great Tribulation, will be looking for Jesus Christ, longing for Him.

Zechariah 12:10 tells how Jews will receive Jesus when He does appear.

Zechariah 12:9

Zechariah 12:10-11

Zechariah 13:6

When Jesus comes again then . . . (Zechariah 13:6).

It is not surprising that, even in the tribulation, Jews will begin to know that they have turned down their own Messiah, and multitudes of Jews will at last begin to get their hearts prepared to receive Jesus, because of the heartless persecution of the Antichrist and the incessant danger and trouble.

False prophets will arise in those days to deceive the people (vs. 24).

Matthew 24:23-26

Some will urge Jews to go to this place in the desert or to visit secret chambers where cults worship, hoping to find Christ.

But they are not to believe it.

For when Jesus comes to end the tribulation, to put down the Antichrist, He will come boldly, visibly from Heaven, with the saints and with clouds and with angels.

We are told, “Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him . . .” (Rev. 1:7).

Matthew 24

In verse 31, the Lord is here promising that the nation Israel shall be preserved until the consummation of her program at the second advent in spite of the work of the devil to destroy her.

The Jews cannot be destroyed – Hitler and Arafat and many others have tried it.

But no one will succeed.

There will be a group of Jewish people converted at the conclusion of the Tribulation who will become the parents of the Jewish portion of the millennial population.

They will come from among the Jewish people who survive the Tribulation even though they were unsaved throughout it.

When the Lord returns, they will be gathered and judged, the rebels . . . to be excluded from the kingdom and those who turn in faith when they see Him to enter the kingdom (Ezek. 20:33-44).

Those believing survivors constitute the Israel that will be saved at the Second Coming (Rom. 11:26).

But they will not be given resurrection bodies at that time.

Therefore they can still sin; still populate the earth.

Put into context – Matthew 24:36-40

Be ready; don't wait

Matthew 25:1 – get ready

25:30 – judgment on the Jews

25:31-41 –

IV. Vs. 32

Matthew 24:32

The parable of the fig tree (vs. 32-36) is spoken to show the certainty of Jesus' coming.

The preceding verses would herald the coming of Messiah as certainly as the new shoots on the fig tree heralded the approach of summer.

Now learn this lesson: When the **twigs** of **fig** trees begin to **get tender** and put forth **leaves**, that is a sure sign **summer is** not far away. . . so these signs (vs. 15 – abomination; vs. 21 – tribulation; vs. 29 – shaking of universe) . . . indicated that His coming would follow shortly. . . .

V. Vs. 33

Having seen these things, the Jews should know that the return of Jesus Christ is near, even at the door.

That door could be flung open by Christ at any moment.

Vs. 34

. . . “this generation” refers to the generation living at the time of the final attack on Jerusalem

Vs. 34 The **generation** (genea) of people living in that future day will see the completion of all the events. Jesus was not referring to the generation listening to Him.

Vs. 35 – This prophecy is as good as My word – Jesus said – which will endure forever. The Bible is forever – mark it down – I’m coming.

Matthew 24:36-51

Vs. 36

What are we talking about? The coming of Jesus (VS 37)

He will come after the Tribulation – vs. 29 – many preach that this is the Rapture – I Thessalonians 4.

Why would we be raptured at the end of the tribulation period and brought right back to earth for the Millennial Kingdom?

The Rapture will be quick – in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye.

All believers are gone to the sky – unbelievers are left to live on.

Again let me remind you that the Church is not in view in the Olivet Discourse.

The Lord is answering the questions asked Him by His disciples who are thinking in terms of the establishing of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Let me quickly show you we are not dealing with the second coming, not the Rapture.

The Second Coming/Advent

1. The audience of the book of Matthew are the Jews
2. Second Coming – judgment – vs. 28-vs. 39 – Do you want to get taken away or left?
3. Will the eyes of everyone see this? Yes – vs. 30
4. The order of events
 - Abomination of Desolation
 - The Great Tribulation
 - The end of the Tribulation
 - And then the Millennial Kingdom
5. Signs – vs. 29

Order of events: Abomination of Desolation, end of Tribulation, Jesus returns to set up the Millennial Kingdom – five signs

This is not the Rapture – this is the second coming of Jesus to the earth – first coming was as the Babe in the manger

Matthew 24

Vs. 37

Like the people of Noah's day, the generation of the Tribulation will be warned and warned and warned again.

Vs. 38-39

The verb "taken" in verses 39-41 means "taken away in judgment." – vs. 40-41.

Do not apply these verses to the Rapture of the church when believers are caught up in the air to meet the Lord.

This is after the Tribulation, a division will take place: Some people will perish in judgment (be taken away), while others will remain to enter into the kingdom.

The use of "took them all away" in verse 39 makes this clear.

Those that were left in Noah's day were the ones who escaped judgment.

Those remaining when Christ comes will enter the Kingdom.

When the Son of Man finally appears in His second-coming judgment, **one will be taken** to judgment and the other **will be left** to enter the kingdom.

Vs. 41

Those who are taken are taken into the judgments and condemned, and those who are left successfully pass the judgments and are left for blessing in the kingdom.

This alone should encourage serious soul-searching.

For one thing, it demolishes any fond hope of universalism, the idea that in the end everyone will be saved since God could never send anyone to hell.

When Jesus says that "one will be taken and the other left, He means that not all will be saved. Many will be lost.

Vs. 42-43

Matthew 25:31-46

When will the time of judgment be?

It will be when He **comes in His glory** (vs. 31)

We do not know at what precise time in history but we know that He will appear
“immediately after the tribulation” (24:29-30).

When the clouds should be rolled back like a scroll

Accompanying and assisting the Lord at His appearing in judgment will be all His
heavenly **angels**

The Lord will come not only with His angels but with His saints.

“When Christ, who is our life, (shall appear) is revealed,” Paul assured the Colossian
believers, “then shall ye also appear with Him in glory” (Col. 3:4).

The Old Testament saints, the saints of the church who will have died, the saints who
will have been raptured, and the saints who will have been martyred during the
Tribulation will all accompany Christ and join the saints still living on earth when
He descends to earth to establish His millennial kingdom.

Verse 31 settles beyond any doubt just when Christ will sit on the throne of His glory.
It is at His coming in glory.

25:31a

Not if but when Jesus is coming—

Now notice the place of Christ’s judgment will be the earth, where **He will sit on His
glorious throne**

Luke 1:31-33

Where was David’s throne? It was in Jerusalem

And that is where Christ's throne will be (Zech. 14:4).

At the ascension, an angel made clear that Jesus' return would be bodily and historical, not figurative or merely spiritual.

He told the astonished disciples, . . . (Acts 1:11)

When He returns to earth He will reign personally on a literal **throne**, in a literal Jerusalem, and over a literal people.

Until this point in His ministry Jesus had never directly referred to Himself as King
Not until now, did He speak of *Himself* as King. – vs. 31c

Jesus here reveals . . . that the Son of Man who sits on the glorious throne . . . is also the Son of God, the divine **King**.

The throne of Christ will be at Jerusalem (Mic. 4:7, 8) David's throne

He declared that He, the **Son of Man**, would one day take His rightful place as the great King and Judge. . . . sitting "on His glorious throne" (v. 31), He will reign over the earth and that His first act will be to decide who enters His millennial, earthly kingdom and who does not.

It is obvious that those who are not allowed to enter will not remain on earth.

As Jesus explicitly states, "these will go away into everlasting punishment" (v. 46).

25:32

Verse 32 begins . . . a great judgment. However, this is not the last great judgment. . . . The judgment in Revelation 20 is called the Great White Throne Judgment and it is *after* the thousand years' reign.

Our Lord Jesus describes the judgment day

Notice first *who will be the Judge in the last day*. . . . it will be "the Son of Man," Jesus Christ. The Judge will be Christ Himself . . . John 5:22

His judgment will be instantaneous, at the moment He appears, and when that occurs the opportunity for faith in Him will be past.

Vs. 32a

The decisions people already will have made regarding Him will determine His decision regarding them.

Those for whom He is Lord and Savior will enter the kingdom, and those who have rejected Him will be forever excluded.

Now look who is coming to court. It will be **all the nations**.

We read that in front of Jesus Christ “shall be gathered all nations.”

The word **nations** means “ethnic persons” – referring to the Gentiles.

These are all **people**, other than Jews, who have lived through the Tribulation period

Turn to Joel 3:2, 12

They will be judged individually, not as national groups.

They are described as a mingling of **sheep** and **goats**, which the Lord will separate.

Just as death immediately nails down eternity for unbelievers when they die, so will the second coming of Christ for unbelievers.

They will be destroyed on the spot and ushered instantaneously into judgment and eternal punishment.

But believers who are alive at the Lord’s coming in glory at the end of the Tribulation will go directly into the earthly kingdom in their earthly bodies.

There is no indication in Scripture that those saints will experience any sort of transformation or resurrection bodies at this time.

But mingling with them and ruling over them will be the glorified saints of all ages who will then be reigning with Christ.

Although their bodies will be of vastly different orders, those two groups of saints will be able to communicate and interact with each other just as Jesus communicated and interacted with the disciples in His glorified body after the resurrection.

Vs. 32b

. . . separation of the saved from the unsaved.

A division will take place—

Vs. 33

At this time the battle of Armageddon will just have been completed and all the armies of the Antichrist will have been destroyed

Here the civil population of the earth will be judged, saved Gentiles (sheep), unsaved Gentiles (goats).

The Lord Jesus Christ will separate believers from unbelievers when He returns to establish His millennial kingdom.

He will put the believing **sheep on His right** hand, see that's the place of favor and blessing.

But the unbelieving **goats** He will put **on the left**, that's the place of disfavor and rejection.

Jesus makes clear that those who are alive on earth when He returns will include both saved and unsaved, represented by the sheep and the goats

And those two separate peoples will have two separate destinies.

The believers will be ushered into the kingdom and the unbelievers into eternal punishment.

All that are judged will be divided into two great classes.

There will no longer be any distinction between black and white or rich and poor.

There will be no mention of ranks and denominations

Grace, or no grace, conversion, or unconversion, faith or no faith, will be the only distinctions at the last day.

Vs. 35-36

Let us mark, in the third place, *in what manner the judgment will be conducted in the last . . .*

The last judgment will be a judgment according to evidence.

The question to be ascertained will not merely be what they said, but what they did—not merely what they professed but what they practiced.

Their works unquestionably will not justify them.

They are justified by faith

But the truth of their faith will be tested by their lives.

The good deeds are the fruit, not the root, of salvation.

If a person has not trusted in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, no amount of seemingly good works done in His name will avail to any spiritual benefit.

To such people the Lord, will say . . . (Matt. 7:23).

Good deeds do not save. . . . “By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified” (Rom. 3:20 . . .), that it is “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us” (Titus 3:5), and “not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph. 2:9).

The Lord listed six areas of need: . . . **hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, and in prison.**

James 2:15-17, *“If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, ‘Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled’; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”*

I John 3:17-18, *“But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”*

Because of their identity with Christ, they will often be hungry, thirsty, without decent shelter or clothing, sick, imprisoned, and alienated from the mainstream of society.

This tells us how bad the Tribulation Period is going to be.

The good deeds mentioned in these verses all deal with common, everyday needs – routine, day-to-day kindnesses that help meet the needs of fellow believers. Nothing more evidences conversion than a life marked by the compassion of God

Vs. 37-40

Whatever believers do for each other they also do for their Lord Jesus Christ, and the person who genuinely serves Christians in Christ’s name proves he himself is a Christian.

“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another”
(John 13:35).

Notice again that what people do in the Great Tribulation time for Christ and for His people will truly represent their hearts.

It will not be a time where people could hope to gain anything by deceit and hypocrisy.

Men will suffer for taking the part of the Jews, suffer for witnessing for Christ.

Those who hate the Antichrist, who defy him and risk his wrath, those who take up for God’s chosen people, the Jews, will do so because of truly Christian hearts.

Jews are the physical brothers of the Lord.

In view of the distress in the Tribulation period, it is clear that any believing Jew will have a difficult time surviving.

A Gentile going out of his way to assist a Jew in the Tribulation will mean that Gentile has become a believer in Jesus Christ during the Tribulation.

By such a stand and action, a believing Gentile will put his life in jeopardy.

His works will not save him; but his works will reveal that he is redeemed.

Vs. 41

These are **accursed** because they have rejected Christ.

The unsaved will be immediately cast into Hell-fire.

Notice the literal word *fire* in verse 41 and the word *everlasting* in verses 41 and 46.

That is a clear picture of Hell.

If the lost will be in hell with the devil forever, believers will be in heaven with God forever.

Because Jesus uses the same word in vs. 41 as He does in vs. 46 to describe salvation and condemnation—as everlasting – eternal.

Jesus is speaking of eternal *separation* from God

He is speaking of eternal *association* with **the devil and his angels**

He is speaking of eternal *isolation*

He is speaking of eternal *duration* and of eternal *affliction*, from which there will be no relief or respite.

Vs. 42-45

“Naked” means scantily clad or scantily clothed.

Vs. 44

Vs. 45

Vs. 46

Let us mark, in the last place, *what will be the final results of the judgment day*. . . . “the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

Since the millennial kingdom will be worldwide, there will be no place on earth for the accursed to go.

They will be slain on the spot and go immediately into the eternal punishment of hell

The ways in which we divide people seem almost endless – we see people as rich or poor, athletic or non-athletic, pretty or ugly, by nationality, and by race.

Yet the division in Matthew 25 is the only one that really matters—the division between those who will “go away to eternal punishment” and those who will enter into “eternal life” (v. 46), between the saved and the lost.

“Not one goat will be left among the sheep, nor one sheep with the goats. There will be no middle company in that day.”

Hell is suffering

Hell is darkness . . . this is a darkness that shuts off all sight of others, indeed, all sight of everything, even sight of oneself.

The only thing that will be left is the conscious, mental self in its rebellion.

The idea of eternal suffering has been so disturbing to some people that there have been countless attempts to deny it or limit its duration.

The state of things after the judgment is changeless and without end.

The misery of the lost, and the blessedness of the saved, are both alike for ever.

Let no man deceive us on this point.

It is clearly revealed in Scripture.

The eternity of God, and heaven, and hell, all stand on the same foundation.
As surely as God is eternal, so surely is heaven an endless day without night, and hell
an endless night without day.

Who shall describe the blessedness of eternal life? All this is blessedness indeed.
And yet the half of it remains untold.

Who shall describe the misery of eternal punishment?
It is something utterly indescribable and inconceivable.
The eternal remembrance of opportunities neglected and Christ despised.
All this is misery indeed.
And yet this picture is nothing, compared to the reality.

1. Israel will be regathered and judged – Matthew 24:31-25:30
2. Rest of the nations will be judged – Matthew 25:31-46
3. Satan will be bound and confined to the bottomless pit

Text deals with something the Lord does at the beginning and at the end of Millennium
(Revelation 20:1-3, 7-10)

I. The Forceful Restraint of Satan

Revelation 20:1-3

Where is Satan today? First Peter 5:8 says . . .

According to God's Word in Revelation 20, there is coming a time when this roaring lion
will be chained and cast into prison.

The court will meet. The final gavel will fall.
And the arch criminal, Satan, will be pronounced guilty for murder and every other
conceivable evil committed in this world.
And he will receive the longest prison sentence in history—one thousand years.

He is now judged guilty and cast into prison.

Actually, God's Word calls this prison a bottomless pit.

That will not be Satan's final destination; it will be a holding tank until he is finally cast into the liquid lake of fire.

II. The Future Reign of the Savior

Revelation 20:4-6

After the Great Tribulation and the battle of Armageddon, Jesus Christ will literally reign on earth for a thousand years and the saints will reign and rule with Him.

How do I know that?

Because Jesus taught us to pray: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

Has His will been done on earth as it is in heaven? No.

Will it be? Yes, when He returns for His millennial reign.

A. The Changes That Will Take Place

And when Jesus returns to rule and reign, many glorious, global, miraculous changes will take place.

Interrogative Question:

Now notice something in verse 3: When the thousand years are fulfilled, the old Devil "must be loosed for a little season." Why must he be loosed?

The messianic kingdom will be inaugurated at the second coming of Christ.

At that time the land promise made to Abraham and his descendants will be fulfilled (Gen. 15:18-21).

Then the promise made to David that his descendant (Messiah) will sit on the throne of the kingdom forever will be fulfilled.

The word *millennium* means “one thousand years.”

Theologians are divided on whether there will be a thousand-year.

Just look at all the references to this thousand-year period in Revelation 20:

The latter part of verse 2 says . . .

The middle part of verse 3 says . . .

The last part of verse 4 says . . .

The first part of verse 5 say, . . .

The second half of verse 6 says . . .

Verse 7 says . . .

Six times in Revelation 20:2-7 the length of the Millennium is stated to be 1,000 years. The repetition of this figure underscores both its literalness and its importance.

Those who object to the doctrine of an earthly Millennium often say that the term itself is not found in the Bible.

They argue from this fact that the teaching is manmade, not derived from the Word of God.

The words *trinity*, . . . *Rapture* are in the same boat.

These are words not found in the Bible – yet we use them to describe Bible teaching.

“A thousand years,” just as *century* means “one hundred years,” or *jubilee* indicates the expiration of fifty years.

A millennium, then, is a time period of 1,000 years.

There are basically three interpretations about the millennium: amillennialism, postmillennialism, and premillennialism.

An amillennialist believes there will not be a literal millennium.

Amillennialists interpret Revelation as symbolism.

They do not look for a literal fulfillment.

Amillennialists do not believe Christ will reign physically.

They consider the Millennium to be a figurative, a picture of Christ's reigning on earth through the hearts of His redeemed people.

Next is the postmillennialist view.

The prefix *post* means "after."

These theologians believe that Jesus is coming *after* the thousand years of peace on earth.

The postmillennialist believes that when the church fulfills its God-given mandate to evangelize the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ and fulfills – then Jesus will come.

I am a premillennialist, and that is what I hope you are (or will be before I finish this chapter).

The premillennialist believes that Jesus must come before the earth can enjoy a thousand years of peace.

The Gospel has not failed.

We are not postmillennialists who are trying to make the world better so Jesus can come.

We are not rearranging the deck chairs on the *Titanic*.

We are telling people about the lifeboat, whose name is Jesus.

Let me show the sequence of events.

Revelation 19:11, 17

The "and" with which this chapter begins suggests that it continues the sequence of events begun in 19:1

“Postmill” and “amill” are not Biblical

Only in the Millennium the Lord Jesus Christ will personally and visibly reign over the affairs of all mankind (Daniel 7:14).

As a result of His rule, there will be perfect and complete justice for all, and sin will be immediately punished (Isaiah 11:4; 65:20).

The type of government will be a theocracy.

It is the same kind of government God used for Israel in the Old Testament.

The city of Jerusalem will be the center of government (Isa. 2:3).

That city will be exalted (Zech. 14:10); it will be a place of great glory (Isa. 24:23)

Jerusalem, scene of so much war and turmoil both in the past and present and victim of future judgments during the Tribulation, will never again need to fear for her safety (Isa. 26:1-4).

The Rapture will occur before the Tribulation, removing all the redeemed who are living on the earth at that time.

But many people will be saved during the Tribulation including a specific group of 144,000 Jewish people.

Of those saved during that horrible time, many will be martyred but some will survive to enter the Millennium.

The first subjects of the rule of Christ during the kingdom will be the believing Jews and Gentiles who survive the Tribulation and enter the kingdom in earthly bodies.

At the very beginning of the Millennium all the people on earth will be redeemed, for all unsaved will have been judged at Christ's return and sent to Hell.

Of course, babies will be born right away so that in a few years there will be many who will be of age to decide for themselves their own spiritual relation to the King.

They will have to be subject to Him at least outwardly, but whether they give heart allegiance will be a matter of personal choice.

All will have to accept Him as King; some will also accept Him as personal Savior.
All of these people will be living in mortal bodies.

The initial group who will enter the Millennium will not only enter with natural bodies but will also be redeemed people who willingly submit to the rule of the King.

In due time, babies will be born and grow up.

Some will receive Christ into their hearts; others will not.

But all will have to give allegiance to the King's government or suffer the consequences.

The original parents of the millennial kingdom will come from the redeemed (but unresurrected) survivors of the Tribulation, the "sheep" of Matthew 25:32-34 and the faithful Jewish survivors of Ezekiel 20:38.

Since resurrected people do not propagate, there would be no way to populate the kingdom unless some unresurrected people enter the Millennium.

Adults who survive the Tribulation who are not taken to heaven at the end of the Tribulation but who enter the Millennium in unresurrected bodies become the first parents of the millennial population.

People will have children during the millennium.

And when they have children, many of these children will not repent and believe upon Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

God has millions of children, but He has no *grandchildren*.

Just because one generation is Christian doesn't mean the next generation will be.

The Millennium not only involves the reign of Christ with His Church, who will then have resurrected bodies, but also the reign of Christ over people on this earth who will not have resurrected bodies.

If there were only resurrected saints in the millennial kingdom, then there would be no death, no increase in population, and no differences in the ages of millennial citizens (all of which are indicated as characterizing the kingdom—Isa. 65:20; Zech, 8:5; Rev. 20:12).

Abomination of Desolation and then this world sees Great Tribulation

Jesus returns to the earth – Battle of Armageddon

Judgment of the Jews, Gentiles, and the putting down of Satan

Then the Millennial Kingdom and the answer to our prayers of “Thy Kingdom Come”

In Scripture there is more prophecy concerning the Millennium than of any other time period.

The kingdom was the theme of the Old Testament prophets.

Jerusalem will be the capital of the world and Jesus will reign and rule from His throne in that city.

1. The Time of the Millennium - Immediately after the Tribulation

Matthew 24:29-30a, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

Matthew 25:31 – “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory”

2. The Length of the Millennium - Bible states six times in six successive verses of Revelation 20, verses 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, that this period of time will last for 1,000 years.

3. The Members of the Millennium who will be here on the earth

First group: All saved people go in – all saved people of all time will enter the 1,000-year Church saints return with Christ

Second group: Old Testament saints

These people are people who lived and died before the Church began

They're saved saints – Old Testament saints – they will be resurrected from the dead at the Second Coming of Christ after the Tribulation

Daniel 12:1

Great Tribulation

Then resurrection from the dead

Daniel 12:13

II. The First Resurrection

The word “resurrection” in Greek is *anastasis*, meaning literally “standing again.”

Revelation 20 tells us that there will be a first resurrection.

What is the first resurrection? The Bible gives us the first resurrection is like a harvest, which has three general aspects.

The firstfruits. In the Old Testament, when the harvest ripened the priest went into the field and gathered a sheath of first-ripened grain.

Then he took that sheath into the temple and waved it before the Lord.

It was called a wave offering. He would say something like: “Thank you, Lord, for this sheath of wheat, for we believe it is a promise of the harvest to come.”

In the New Testament, Christ is called the firstfruits. First Corinthians 15:20-23 says . . .

Weren't there people raised from the dead before Christ? And the answer is _____

These people died again –

Resurrection – we are talking about new and glorified bodies – bodies that are immortal and incorruptible

When Jesus arose from the grave, He became the firstfruits.

His resurrection demonstrated that a harvest would come.

The general harvest. When Christ comes again, He will rapture the church.

This is considered the general ingathering of the harvest.

“The dead in Christ shall rise” along with the living saints (I Thessalonians 4:16, 17).

The gleanings. The third phase of the harvest is the gleaning, which will be the resurrection of the tribulation saints—many of whom will be beheaded for Christ – and also the Old Testament saints

The “first resurrection” does occur in more than one stage,

Zechariah 14:9, “And the LORD shall be king over all the earth . . .”

Jesus will administer God’s rule over the entire earth.

The earth will have different nations and some people will be sub kings over these nations

Revelation 19 – the King of kings, the Lord of lords

Jesus is the ultimate King, the ultimate Lord, in this government on earth

Psalm 72:7, 10-11, 17

These nations and their kings will bow down to the King and they will bring gifts to the Messiah.

Zechariah 14:16 – describes what some things will be like on earth

Zechariah 14:16-19

Every nation is to keep the Feast of Tabernacles and every year they are to come to Jerusalem and worship the Lord

Any nation that refuses will be shut off from rain until they repent and do what they are supposed to do.

His government will be characterized with absolute righteousness, peace, and justice.

Isaiah 9:6

Government refers to the Second Coming

Vs. 7 – notice two characteristics – peace and justice

Isaiah 11—Vs. 1-5

II Timothy 2:12

We will hold positions in His government – we will reign with Christ

Revelation 20:4

We will hold positions – we will be sinlessly perfect.

Once we are resurrected, we are sinlessly perfect. We cannot sin.

At the Beginning of the Millennium, Everyone Will Be Rejoicing

1. No longer plagued by sin
2. They are with Him and like Him

We cannot be bribed

Absolute righteousness and justice

Can you imagine a government where every politician is perfect?

Lord, hasten that day!

How desperately we need that!

Righteousness will be the descriptive term characterizing the rule of the Messiah as a whole.

Christ will be a king reigning in righteousness (Isa. 32:1).

Instruments of warfare will be transformed into agricultural implements. No more war.

Not one military skirmish on the face of the earth anywhere for 1,000 years.

Men will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks (Isaiah 2:4)

Peaceful

As a consequence of righteousness, the Millennium will be an era of peace. (Isa. 19:23-25) . . . (Zech. 8:4-5)

Indeed, the whole earth will be at peace

The removal of the curse during the Millennium

All of nature is under the curse – Genesis 3 – nature was radically altered.

God said, “Cursed is the ground” – by the sweat of the brow, thorns and thistles

#11 – radically reduced the fertility level in the soil of the earth

#12 – Curse came upon the animal realm

Before the curse – all animals were tame and vegetarian in diet

Animal natures were changed – became wild

Many became flesh-eating

Romans 8:18-25 – the whole creation

The natural realm is out of joint with God.

In the light of that – Matthew 19:28

Nature is going to be restored; nature is going to experience Genesis

The curse will be removed from nature

With that in mind, turn to Acts 3:19-21; 3:12

When will this come? When Jesus comes back in – the Second Coming

God, through the Old Testament prophets, spoke/revealed information

About this 1,000-year period

When Jesus came the first time, Jesus exercised His power on earth as demonstration that He was the Messiah and what He will do in the Second Coming.

Which miracle

Isaiah 11:6-9 – The curse will be removed from the animal kingdom

Miracle wild and tame – no one had ever ridden – change the nature of animals – Jesus rode that donkey

Isaiah declared that the desert would blossom abundantly (Isaiah 35:1-2)

The earth will be increasingly productive throughout the Millennium as wilderness and desert places become useful (Isa. 35:1-7). . . . (Amos 9:13-14) . . . (Ps. 72:12-13).

Throughout the Old Testament, all diseases and deformities will be healed/also listed

Blind – see; lame – walk; deaf – hear; dumb – speak

Jesus has the power; Jesus has the authority to lift the curse off the world

Longevity of life – mortal bodies

Isaiah

A man at 100 – classified as a child

Life of a man is like a tree

Abundance of food during the Millennium

Productivity of animal life – Ezekiel – fish

Hebrews 6:5

The Golden Age is coming; there are better days ahead; and this earth is going to experience total transformation!

The Guarantee was His First Coming!

I have the power necessary to transform nature (and He's demonstrated it).

Revelation 20 tells us first of all of the forceful restraint of Satan and then the future reign of the Savior.

Satan's Final Fling

Revelation 12:9-12

Satan is firmly bound in his prison, utterly helpless to interfere.

Now notice something in verse 3: When the thousand years are fulfilled, the old Devil "must be loosed for a little season." Why must he be loosed?

It is to publicly expose what is really in the hearts of those born during the Millennium!

Revelation 20:7

At the end of the "1,000 years," Satan will be loosed for a little season to expose people for what they are!

Revelation 20:8

During the time of the millennium, the most ideal conditions will exist on the earth—the best since the fall.

But it will not be a perfect situation.

Sin and death, though greatly reduced, will not be eliminated, and a great number of unsaved men will be alive at the time of the close of the messianic age.

From where did such a company come? is a worthy question.

Multitudes are born during the Millennium (see Isa. 11:6; 65:30).

This will be the time of the earth's greatest population explosion.

Mankind will finally, as a result of a thousand years of longevity and perfect environment, "fill the earth," and the population will be practically innumerable, like the sand of the sea.

And yet, with all these privileges, with every possible incentive to believe on His name and to love and serve Him, there will still be multitudes who will reject Him in their hearts.

One of the most amazing commentaries on the fallen human nature to be found in all the Word of God is right here in this passage.

After one thousand years of a perfect human environment, with an abundance of material provisions and spiritual instruction for everyone, no crime, no war, no external temptation to sin, with the personal presence of all the resurrected saints and even of Christ Himself, and with Satan and all his demons bound in the abyss, there are still a multitude of unsaved men and women on earth who are ready to rebel against the Lord the first time they get a chance.

These will refrain from overt acts of sin and rebellion, but this restraint for many will be one of fear, not love.

Their hearts are naturally “deceitful and desperately wicked” (Jeremiah 17:9),
There will be a lot of changes.

But the human heart alone remains unchanged under these circumstances, and many will turn their backs on God and will go after Satan.

When Satan comes on the scene, people are confronted with a clear-cut choice.
Will they trust their great Savior and King in Jerusalem, or will they, when finally they have the opportunity, choose sin as their life-style and Satan as their god?

Satan will be delighted at his quick and wide success

Vs. 9

The pace of the record at least suggests that it all transpires quickly.

This army of rebels will dare to attack the capitol city, Jerusalem!

The work of deception will be massive, and a world-wide revolt will begin to form. Eventually a world-wide invasion of the millennial Israel will take place, and the millennial Jerusalem will be surrounded by these deceived Gentile armies.

But once these armies arrive, the invading forces will be quickly dispensed with fire out of heaven, destroying them quickly and suddenly (verse 9).

Suddenly it will seem that the very heavens are on fire.

A falling ring of fire will surround the holy city and the legions of the saints, radiating outward in all directions until every last unregenerate human being is engulfed and burned to death in the descending and surging sea of flames.

This is but a foretaste of what will shortly become the rebels' eternal fate . . .

Revelation 20:10

For a thousand years Satan's two greatest human accomplices had already been tormented in the lake of fire and, as he himself plunges into the fiery lake. It is the place where these evil men *are*, not *were*.

There are several facts here . . . First of all, the Devil is not in hell today.

In the second place, the Devil is not the first to be cast into the lake of fire.

The Anti-Christ and his False Prophet will precede him by one thousand years.

At this point, the instigator of this revolt will be placed into his . . . final abode: the Lake of Fire.

The great deceiver is gone!

We come now to the Great White Throne Judgment, where God settles the score and once and for all adjudicates the world with righteousness and justice.

I. Notice first of all the setting of this judgment in Revelation 20:11

The white throne is called “great” because of its awesome power and ultimate purpose,
which is judgment.

It is called “white” because of its unsullied purity.

Our God is a holy God and He demands a holy people.

Until we are broken over our sin – come clean – no personal revival

It’s a great throne; it’s a white throne and now we ask who is sitting on that throne.

Those who stand before the great white throne will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 5:22 says, *“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.”*

Jesus Christ is not only the Savior, but He is also the Judge.

Revelation teaches us that the Lamb will become the Lion . . . [reference](#)

When the Judgment comes, there will be no place to run and no place to hide.

On the day of the final judgment the unsaved dead will rise from their graves to stand
and be judged before the Lord Jesus Christ.

All that men have dreamed, schemed, and sold their souls for will turn to rust, dust,
mold, and corruption.

We are going to meet Jesus Christ. Every person who has ever lived is going to meet
Jesus Christ.

He is inescapable and unavoidable.

And if you don’t meet Him as Savior, you will meet Him as Judge.

It doesn’t matter how you treated Him when you were alive.

In fact, you may have ignored Him, denied Him, and even cursed Him, but one day you will stand before Him.

What will He be like when we meet Him face to face?

We were introduced to the Judge in Revelation.

That's why they title this book so – for it reveals Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:1, 14-16)

Jesus will be wearing the regal robes of a king and judge

He cannot be deceived. He cannot be disputed. He cannot be discredited.

Destruction of the earth and the heaven – Rev. 21:1

When the throne is set, the heavens and the earth as we now know them shrink away, as though the material universe were awed by the face of Him who summons the dead to their accounting.

What a sea of faces will appear before Him in that solemn hour of tremendous import!

II. Notice the people who are brought before the Great White Throne of judgment
Revelation 20:12 . . . the dead, the small, and the great.

The *Book of Life* contains the names of every person who was ever born according to Psalm 139:16.

Those who believe on Christ have their names retained in the Book of Life according to Revelation 3:5: *“He that overcometh shall thus be arrayed in white garments; and I will in no wise blot his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”*

However, in Psalms 69:28, the unsaved have their names blotted out of the Book of Life: *“Let them be blotted out of the book of life, and not be written with the righteous.”*

So then, at the Great White Throne Judgment, if their names are not found in the Book of Life, it will show them to be unsaved and worthy of judgment.

It is at that point that the *other books* mentioned in verse twelve are used.

These other books contain account of one's deeds and responses.

It is on the basis of what is written in these books that the degrees of punishment will be determined.

III. The Places from Which The Unsaved Are Called

Revelation 20:13 says Death and Hades will deliver up the dead people who are in them.

Earth will open its graves to give up the dead.

Out of cemeteries and graveyards the dead will rise.

The depths of the sea will give up the dead.

From the Arctic waste they will come;

From the desert sands they will come;

From the tropical jungles they will come.

Wherever people have died, they will be raised.

We need to understand at this point that death has the body, but hell has the soul.

IV. The Power with Which They Are Called

Sometimes when a judge issues a summons, the criminal refuses to come.

He may disguise himself, flee to another country seeking asylum, or he may even commit suicide to keep from coming to judgment.

But on this judgment day, there will be no refusal and no escape.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ guarantees the judgment of the unsaved dead.

Acts 17:31 . . . A forceful summons is coming.

V. At this judgment there will come an indictment. Let's read Revelation 20:12 again.

VI. The Sureness of the Judgment

VII. The Severity of the Judgment

This is one line you don't want to find yourself in.

God will judge according to a man's works, not according to His grace or mercy.

If you want grace, you may have it. If you want mercy, you may have it.

But you must have it in *this day* and in *this life* because there will be no mercy and grace then.

As I said before, don't get the idea that anyone is going to throw himself on the mercy of the court on judgment day.

There is no room for mercy in the courtroom of God on judgment day.

The second resurrection will be composed of unbelievers only.

The second resurrection will soon give way to the second death in the Lake of Fire, which will be the eternal abode of the lost.

The last of the enemies of man is not Satan, but death itself (verse 26).

It should be remembered that death will still exist in the kingdom.

Death can be abolished. And, at this point it will be.

Nothing shall be overlooked.

"The Judge of all the earth shall do right" (Genesis 18:25)

A righting of all the wrongs of the ages

And, I may add, the tracing back of every evil act to its source, and the placing of responsibility for every offence against the moral law, where it belongs.

No one will be great enough to escape; no one will be too insignificant as to be overlooked.

The dead, both “small and great,” will be there.

Although their bodies have been buried for centuries.

Death, the grave that has claimed what was mortal of man, his body, will give up its prey.

Hades, the world unseen, will surrender the undying spirits and souls of the lost.

With his body, soul, and spirit reunited, the man will stand trembling before the judgment bar.

The books of record will be opened. Memory will respond to every charge.

“This is the second death.”

Death is the separation of body and spirit, we are told in James 2:26.

The second death is the final separation of the lost from God, who created man.

It is a divine picture intended to make the soul of the sinner shrink with dread as he contemplates the end of those who obey not the gospel.

But over the portals of the lost they inscribed of old, “Abandon hope, ye who enter here.”