

REVELATION: God's Holy & Righteous Judgement
Also God's Patience, Love, Mercy, Grace, Blessing & Glory!

1. **Introductory thoughts:**

a. Secrets and Revelation

i. Deuteronomy 29:29 “The **secret things** belong to the Lord our God, but those **things which are revealed** belong to us and to our children forever, **that we may do** all the words of this law.

1. We trust Him with the things he chooses to not reveal.

2. We believe... we do... we follow... the things he chooses to reveal.

b. God's actions and revelation to us... that **all peoples may know Him**

i. Exodus 14:4 Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that **the Egyptians may know** that I am the Lord.”

1. Exodus 9:20 He who feared the word of the Lord **among the servants of Pharaoh** made his servants and his livestock flee to the houses. (We see, that some of the Egyptians did fear the Lord. Saved?)

ii. Joshua 4:23-24 for the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, ²⁴ that **all the peoples of the earth may know** the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever.”

iii. 1 Samuel 17:46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that **all the earth may know** that there is a God in Israel.

iv. 1 Kings 8:59-61 ...that He may maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel, as each day may require, ⁶⁰ that **all the peoples of the earth may know** that the Lord is God; there is no other. ⁶¹ Let your heart **therefore be loyal to the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments**, as at this day.”

v. 2 Kings 19:19 Now therefore, O Lord our God, I pray, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the Lord God, You alone.”

vi. 2 Chronicles 6:33 ...that **all peoples of the earth may know** Your name and fear You, as do Your people Israel, and...

vii. Psalms 9:19-20 Arise, O Lord, Do not let man prevail; Let the nations be judged in Your sight.

²⁰ Put them in fear, O Lord, That the **nations may know** themselves to be but men.

viii. Isaiah 37:20 Now therefore, O Lord our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the Lord, You alone.”

ix. Ezekiel 38:16-23 You [Gog] will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the **nations may know Me**, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes.”

¹⁸ “And it will come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel,” says the Lord God, “that My fury will show in My face. ¹⁹ For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: ‘Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel, ²⁰ so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.’ ²¹ I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains,” says the Lord God. “Every man's sword will be against his brother. ²² And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. ²³ Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and **I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord.**” ’

x. John 17:20-23 “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, **that the world may believe** that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and **that the world may know** that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

c. Book of Revelation – God's Purpose

i. Describes **much judgement** ... however... God's desire and purpose is **much blessing**

1. Begins and ends with **blessings** to those that read, hear, and keep those things that are written therein.

a. Blessed are those who read and keep these words (i.e. us today) (Rev. 1:3, 22:7)

b. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord (i.e. tribulation saints) (14:13)

c. Blessed is he that watches (i.e. tribulation saints) (16:15)

d. Blessed are those bidden to the Lamb's marriage supper (i.e. saints of all time) (19:9)

e. Blessed is he who has part in the first resurrection (i.e. saints of all time) (20:6)

i. John 5:28-29 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation

f. Blessed are they who have right to tree of life (i.e. saints of all time) (22:14)

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2. **The things which you have seen** Revelation 1
- a. Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him **to show His servants**—things which must shortly take place.
 - b. Revelation 1:3 **Blessed** is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.
 - c. Revelation 1:4-6 John, **to the seven churches** which are in Asia: **Grace** to you and **peace** from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. **To Him who loved us** and **washed us** from our sins **in His own blood**, ⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, **to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever**. Amen.
 - d. Revelation 1:10-11 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, ¹¹ saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."
 - e. Revelation 1:17-19 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. ¹⁹ **Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.**
3. **The things which are** Revelation 2-3: Letters from the Lord Jesus to **the churches**
- a. To Ephesus (2:1-7) forsaken its first love v5:Remember; v5:Repent... Repent
 - i. Redeemed will eat from the tree of life... v7
 - b. To Smyrna (2:8-11) persecuted/tested v10:Do not fear; v10:Be Faithful
 - c. To Pergamos (2:12-17) hold wrong doctrines v16:Repent
 - d. To Thyatira (2:18-29) corrupt... false teaching v21: repent... repent; v22: repent; v25: Hold fast... til I come
 - e. To Sardis (3:1-6) dead/lifeless v2:be watchful...strengthen; v3:remember...hold fast...repent
 - f. To Philadelphia (3:7-13) faithful, perseveres v11: hold fast
 - i. Kept **from** the hour of trial v10;
 - g. To Laodicea (3:14-22) lukewarm/indifferent v19:be zealous... repent... v20:hear my voice
 - h. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says **to the churches**. HE also knows our works.
4. **The things which will take place after this** Revelation 4-22
- a. 7-year Tribulation Revelation 4-19
 - i. Rapture pictured (?) 4:1-2 (door open... voice...like a trumpet... speaking with me... come up... Immediately)
 - ii. Chap 4 Beautiful heavenly view:
 1. Rainbow (v3): Gracious/merciful picture of God's promise to men
 2. 24 elders... around throne... white robes... crowns (old/new testament saints prior to tribulation)
 3. **Praise:** v8 "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"
 4. **Praise:** v11 "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For you created all things , Any by Your will they exist and were created.
 - iii. Chap 5 Amazing Worship:
 1. The Lamb!
 2. New Song (v9+ It will always be a **new** song; it will never grow old!)
 3. All redeemed shall reign (Revelation 5:9-10 And have **redeemed us** [24 elders] to God by Your blood Out of **every tribe and tongue and people and nation**, ¹⁰ And have made **us** kings and priests to our God; And **we shall reign** on the earth.")
 4. Revelation 5:12 "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"
 5. Revelation 5:13 "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"
 - iv. Chap 6 Opening of 6 of 7 seals
 1. Notice that power is **given** or **granted** in first 4 seals to those allowed to bring judgement.
 - a. God is in control!
 2. Fifth seal (v9-11): we see martyred tribulation saints for the word of God and for their testimony they held.
 - a. Hmm... it seems that they are conscious of time... and conscious of events on the earth.
 - b. White robe given to each. Rest a little longer... until fellow brethren... was completed.
 - i. God is patient! But the time will reach an end (i.e. completed)
 3. Sixth seal (v12-17): earthquake, sun darkened, moon like blood, stars fell, sky receded, mountains moved
 - a. Kings, great men, rich men, commanders, slave, and free... hid themselves... from **Him**.
 - b. Revelation 6:16-17 "Fall on us and hide us **from the face of Him** who sits on the throne and **from the wrath of the Lamb!** ¹⁷ For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

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- a. Revelation 14:6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people.
 - b. Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached **in all the world** as a witness **to all the nations**, and then the end will come.
 - i. Believer's Bible Commentary on the "gospel of the kingdom":

This refers to the gospel of the kingdom (v. 14) which will go out to all the world during the Tribulation Period. The terms of this gospel are, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved**, and when Christ comes, you will enter the Millennium with Him." It is the **same way of salvation that we preach**, but ours looks forward to the Rapture. In other words, we say, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, and when Jesus comes, you will go to the Father's house with Him."
3. True believers who do not take the mark of the beast:
- a. Revelation 14:12-13 Here is the patience of **the saints**; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the **faith of Jesus**. ¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die **in the Lord** from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."
- xiii. Chap 15 Prelude (in heaven) to the seven bowl judgements
1. Once again, praise in heaven to the Lord
- xiv. Chap 16 Seven bowl judgements
1. Severe judgements upon men to lead them to **repentance**. It is clear that men understand that these judgements were from God, but rather than bow to Him, they blasphemed Him and did not repent.
 - a. Revelation 16:9-11 And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and **they did not repent** and give Him glory.

¹⁰ Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. ¹¹ They **blasphemed the God of heaven** because of their pains and their sores, and **did not repent of their deeds**.
- xv. Chap 17-18 Scarlet woman and the Scarlet Beast
1. Appears to represent both a religious and commercial system of unbelieving men.
 2. Both are against the tribulation saints:
 - a. Revelation 17:6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the **martyrs of Jesus**.
 - b. Revelation 18:24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."
 3. Revelation 17:18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."
 4. Revelation 18:10 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'
 5. Revelation 18:17 For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.'
 6. Revelation 18:21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore."
- xvi. Chap 19 Rejoicing in heaven and Christ's victory over the earth
1. Revelation 19:2 For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her."
 2. Marriage of the Lamb in heaven
 - a. Revelation 19:7-9 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

⁹ Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'"
 3. Christ's victory on the earth
 - a. V11-16 Christ appears on a white horse – "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS"
 - b. V12-21 Satan, kings of earth, and their armies gather to make war with Him.
 - c. Revelation 19:20-21 Then **the beast** was captured, and with him **the false prophet** who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived **those who received the mark** of the beast and those who worshiped his image. **These two** were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And **the rest were killed** with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse.
 - i. Correlates to "judgement of the nations" Matthew 25:31-46

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1. Saved at end of tribulation: righteous, on His right hand
 - a. Matthew 25:34 the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you...
 - b. Matthew 25:46 the righteous into eternal life.
 2. Unsaved at end of tribulation: unrighteous, on His left hand
 - a. Matthew 25:46 these will go away into everlasting punishment,
 3. It seems that only righteous saints that are alive on the earth at end of the tribulation enter the 1000 year millennium. All unrighteous on earth at the end of the tribulation are killed.
- b. Chap 20 Millennium (1000 years) & subsequent Great White Throne judgement
- i. Satan is bound for 1000 years (v2)...
 - ii. Tribulation saints are raised to life to reign with Christ during 1000 years (v4)
 - iii. After Satan is released at the end of 1000 years (v7), Satan is allowed to deceive many people of all nations to gather for one last battle against saints on the earth (v9)
 - iv. Satan is now finally cast into lake of fire (v10)
 - v. Great White Throne judgement (v11-15) – Judgement of unsaved men since Adam/Eve
 1. Unsaved (i.e. dead) v12 stand before God... judged according to their works (v12) but ultimately cast into the lake of fire because their names are not found written in the Book of Life (v15)
 - 2.
- c. Chap 21-22 Eternity – New Heaven/Earth
- i. Revelation 21:2 the holy city, **New Jerusalem**, coming down **out of heaven** from God, **prepared** as a bride adorned for her husband.
 1. Abraham and other old testament saints awaited this city:
 - a. Hebrews 11:10 for he [**Abraham**] **waited for the city** which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God
 - b. Hebrews 11:13-16 **These all** died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. ¹⁵ And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But now they desire a better, that is, a **heavenly country**. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for **He has prepared a city for them**.
 2. Church and other new testament believers will be the in this city:
 - a. Revelation 2:7 To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."
 - b. Revelation 3:12 I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the **New Jerusalem**, which comes down out of heaven from My God.
 - c. John 14:2-4 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And where I go you know, and the way you know."
 3. Ephesians 1:10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might **gather together in one** all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.
 4. Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the **tabernacle of God is with men**, and **He will dwell with them**, and they shall be His people. **God Himself will be with them** and be their God.
 5. Revelation 21:6 And He said to me, "**It is done!**..."
 6. Revelation 21:12 ¹² Also she had a great and high wall with **twelve gates**, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the **twelve tribes of the children of Israel**:
 7. Revelation 21:14 wall of the city had **twelve foundations**, and on them were the **names of the twelve apostles** of the Lamb.
 8. Revelation 21:22-23 But I saw no temple in it, for the **Lord God Almighty** and the **Lamb** are its temple. ²³ The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.
 9. Revelation 21:24-27 And the **nations** of those who are **saved** shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. ²⁵ Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). ²⁶ And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. ²⁷ But there shall by no means enter it

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anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but **only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.**

10. I conclude that the New Jerusalem came out of heaven... God dwells in it...the Lamb dwells in it... all redeemed of all time now dwell with Him (together)! This is what he has wanted since the creation of the world... and He has done All to make it a reality! An eternal reality!
 11. It appears to me (although many see it differently), that the New heaven and New earth come together (with no separation) into a single entity.
- ii. Revelation 22:1-5 – Further description of the New Jerusalem
1. Throne of God and Lamb are present **in it** (v1 and v3)
 2. Many similarities to what I suspect was the original creation: rivers, tree of life (that He always intended for man), fruit, months (apparently time in eternity?), leaves, street.
 3. New realities: no curse, no night, no tears, no death, no sorrow, no crying.
- iii. Closing
1. Revelation 22:20-21 He who testifies to these things says, “**Surely I am coming quickly.**”
Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!
- ²¹ **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.** Amen.