

Lesson 24

Christ's Second Coming, 1,000 Years and Defeat of Satan: Chapters 19 & 20

STUDY GUIDE

1. In these chapters, we come to the culmination of God's plan of redemption. Chapter 19 opens with two songs of praise. Read vs. 1-10 to get the general impression. Now read the first song again -vs. 1-5. What is the cause of this praise? In what chapter was that described? For what are they praising God in the second song? (vs. 6-10) To what event does that refer? Where is that described?
2. In verses 11-16, we find the great event toward which the book of Revelation has been moving. Who is this one which comes on the white horse? Make a list of the things said about this one. What three names are given to him? What is he to do? In connection with this passage, read Matt. 24:29-31.
3. In vs. 17-21, we have the outcome of the battle of Armageddon referred to in Rev. 16:13-16. In vs. 17-18, God calls the birds to the battle. Why are they called? The battle is set in vs. 19. Who is engaged in this battle? Read carefully vs. 20-21 for the outcome. What happens to the others? In this connection, read II Thess. 2:3-8.
4. We have seen what is to happen to the Beast and the False Prophet. What is to be the outcome of the Dragon? For this, turn to 20:1-3. What is done to him? For what purpose? For how long? How does this compare with what was done to the other two (Beast and False Prophet)? What is to happen after this period is over?
5. Now read vs. 4-6. Who is described in vs. 4? What happens to them in the last of vs. 4? What does it mean "they lived" (note vs.5)? Who are the "rest"? What is said about them? Go back through vs. 1-6 and notice every reference to the thousand years. To what does this refer?
6. Now read vs. 7-10. What is to happen? Who is leading it? What happens to him?
7. The next great event is given in vs. 11-15. Who are those who are before the throne? By what two things are they judged? What is the judgment?

NOTES

Christ's Glorious Advent — Chapter 19

Chapter 19 opens with two songs of praise. These praises in 1-5, arise from the just judgments of God, especially regarding the great harlot, as seen in 14:8, her reign in chapter 17 and fall in chapter 18 and now judgment. The second song, verses 6-10, is a Hallelujah for Christ's reign and the bride made ready. We saw at the sounding of the seventh trumpet that the kingdom of earth had become the Kingdom of God. Christ visibly joined to His people.

In verse 11, heaven is open and Christ rides forth on a white horse and is called "Faithful", "True" and "The Word of God". He rules the nations with a rod of iron and is called "King of Kings and Lord of Lords".

Verses 17-21 then tell us of the battle of Armageddon and the outcome of this, which we had been told in Rev. 16:13-16. Jesus calls the birds to eat the flesh of those destroyed. Here, the army of Satan is defeated with the false prophet and the beast is thrown into the eternal lake of fire. (see also II Thess. 2:3-8)

1000 Years and Defeat of Satan — Chapter 20

The dragon, Satan, is bound for a thousand years and cast into the abyss from which he came so that he will not be able to deceive the nations during this time. After this time, he will be released for a short time.

Those who held true to the testimony of Christ and had not received the mark of the beast, were resurrected and reign with Christ for this 1000 years. This 1000 years, of course, is commonly referred to as the Millennium.

At this time of the ending of the 1000 years, Satan is again released and able to deceive those who follow him. Satan marches against God's people and Jerusalem, and is destroyed and cast into the eternal lake of fire with the beast and the false prophet.

Following this is the great white throne judgment, which leads into eternity. Those that stand before the throne are judged by their deeds and as to whether or not their name is written in the Lambs book of life.

The New Heaven and Earth and the Epilogue: Chapters 21 and 22

STUDY GUIDE

1. The closing vision of the book is of course the most glorious. It is a vision of a glorious city. What city was seen in chapters 17 & 18? Go back over these chapters quickly so you can see the contrast between these two cities as you study this one.
2. There are two visions of the city: (1) vs. 1-8 and (2) vs. 9-22:5. Take the first one for study. Read it through hurriedly. Now go back through these verses and make a list in parallel columns of the contrasts between the first things and the last things. (for example, note the clear one in vs. 1). What promise is given? What warning? (cf. 14:10-11 and 20:11-15)
3. Now read the second vision hurriedly (vs. 9-22:5) and then go back for careful study. How is the city described in vs. 9? Is this the same as Eph. 5:22-32? What is described in vs. 10-14? What is the significance of this? What is done in vs. 15-17? Figure from the "furlong" (see a Bible dictionary) the actual size of the city. What does this suggest?
4. What general impression do you get from vs. 18-21? Try to visualize a city such as described here. Now read through 21:22-22:5 and list the things that will be absent and the things that will be present in the city.
5. To what does this city refer? Why is it seen coming down from Heaven? Why is it called "Jerusalem?"
6. The rest of the chapter 22 may be called the epilogue. Read vs. 6-7 and note the similarities with 1:1-3. What does John do in vs. 8-9? Go through vs. 10-20, and list the ideas that are presented. For example, what is John to do with the book (cf. Dan. 8:26, 12:9)?

NOTES

Three pictures:

1. The eternal abode of those who know God
2. The new heaven and new earth (Gen.1:1), the holy city, new Jerusalem (the height of God's blessing); God is the tabernacle – there is no sorrow, pain etc.
3. The vision of the Holy City; everything is valuable and precious.

The New Heaven and New Earth — Chapter 21

The city is described as:

1. bride of the lamb v.9
2. great Jerusalem descending out of heaven from God v.10
3. having the glory of God v.11

4. light was like a most precious stone, jasper stone, clear as crystal v.11
5. Great and high walls (salvation and praise) with 12 gates, 12 angels, names of the 12 tribes of children of Israel written on them v.12
6. v.15-17 describes the measurement of the great city. It is HUGE (not to be comprehended). 12,000 furlongs cubed (approx 1200 miles cubed).

God and Christ are its temple. God's glory for light is for those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Things that will be present in the city	Things that will be absent in the city
Pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, the tree of life and healing of nations, serving of God, reigning of His chosen ones.	No temple, no sun, no moon, no night, no closed gates, no unclean, abomination or lie, no curse.

The Epilogue — Chapter 22

John is told not to seal up the words of this prophecy because the time for them is at hand. God will reward each man according to his doings (because He is the eternal one). Those whose robes are washed will have rightful access to the tree of life and to enter into the gates. Outside the city is all manner of sin. These things were testified for the churches. He that is thirsty may have access to the waters of life.

Anyone who adds to this book shall receive its plagues and those who take away from it will have his part taken out of the holy city.

Verses 20-21: He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.