

REVELATION: HELP FOR LIVING, HOPE FOR LEAVING
Sermon no. 22
THE RISE OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM AND THE FALL OF SATAN'S
Revelation 20:1-15

Our passage today literally covers a thousand years. While this chapter has caused some of the most heated debates in theology, there's no reason to doubt what it ultimately says: at the end of it all, God is the ultimate judge and His Word the ultimate basis.

There are four major movements in this thousand year narrative:

1. SATAN'S IMPRISONMENT (vv. 1-3).

- Satan's equal is not God. It is just an unnamed angel. Have a healthy respect, but NOT fear, of what is supernaturally evil (Jude vv. 8-10). Greater is Jesus in you than all the combined demons in this world (1 John 4:4).

2. THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM OF THE FIRST RESURRECTED (vv. 4-6).

- The vindication of a life lived for Christ and through Christ, is eternal. You never lose whatever you give up for Christ, even your life. The bank of heaven is an investment that profits you today, and also when it counts the most – forever.

3. SATAN'S FINAL AND FUTILE WAR (vv. 7-10)

- Government is not, and will never be the solution to the ills of society. The most righteous Ruler who ever lived will still have rebels under His reign!
- Evil will seem to get away with it again and again, but one day its fall will be final and eternal. Do not be seduced by the seeming success of those who seem to "get away with it" today. What one sows, one always reaps.

4. THE FINAL JUDGMENT AT THE GREAT WHITE THRONE vv. 11-15

a. The Judge and His Charges (v. 11-13).

- One day God will prove that you should have considered all things from an eternal point of view. And those who refuse to weigh things from an eternal perspective today, will be forced to accept the eternal consequences someday.

b. The Lake of Fire (vv. 14-15)

- Death itself will die. The victory of Christ will be seen in the death of death. Do you fear death? Make sure you know the only One who can defeat it.
- The believer has already been judged before this – but the punishment was taken by a willing Volunteer: Jesus Christ.

Final Thoughts:

The last thing you want to be called is a follower of Satan, when you realize how they end. But this universe is Christ's kingdom and He made the rules: no one can serve two masters. Either you will hate one and love the other, or you will be devoted to one and despise the other (Matthew 6:24). There is no middle ground when it comes to Christ. To not be completely for Christ, is to be totally against Him.

If you are certain of your faith and fate as a believer, thank and worship God in your heart for how He ultimately makes all things right. But as you do, listen to the younger brother of Jesus: *But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear. . .* (Jude vv. 20-23).