

REVELATION 19 – 20: JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

1. Introduction

- a. This is the concluding part of the storyline, everything after this deals with the New heaven and the New earth and the New Jerusalem.
- b. This fifth chronological section details the events surrounding Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Following this Jesus will execute the kings of the earth, cast the Antichrist and the False Prophet into the lake of fire, cast Satan and his angels into prison for 1,000 years and inaugurate the Millennial Kingdom. All this in preparation for the Father coming to dwell amongst his people on the earth forever.
- c. So this chronological section 5 in so many ways is the high point of human history, but it has been gained at such tremendous cost. John records the culmination of the greatest dream that has ever entered the human heart in these verses, this final and ultimate triumph of good over evil and the rescue of the beautiful maiden in distress by her majestic warrior King.
 - i Jesus is that great warrior-king, he is coming to claim his Bride, and rescue the planet, he will vanquish the enemy, and will restore order to the earth forever.
 - ii Jesus said in Luke 21:26 that men's hearts will fail them for fear in this hour, so we must heed his warning concerning the intensity of these days.
 - iii We need to study this out from the scriptures and get clarity on these issues so that we not subject to lies that Satan, through fear will be spreading across the earth, so that we have clarity, boldness and confidence in our certain victory.
- d. We need to be familiar with the details of these verses so we see the big picture and understand where we are in the storyline. It helps us to make sense of the events we see unfolding before our eyes around the world, and they are all pointing towards this glorious conclusion in Jerusalem.
 - i This is our reference point to know where we are going so that everything else makes sense. Ploughmen would set their sights on the end of the furrow to keep themselves aligned so they didn't go off course. Athletes are trained to fix their eyes on the finishing line putting all their efforts into crossing that line.

2. Context – God's global justice movement

- a. Some context will help us to anchor what we are about to study in a biblical framework. In these days it is very easy for issues of a more serious nature to become trivialised or marginalised.
 - i We have to understand the context for this climax to human history, and we must view it through the lens of the biblical narrative, and not our soulish, human values.
 - ii Allowing the bible to give us the context subordinates those soulish, human values, so we can interpret these verses in such a way that we come into agreement with God's judgments as necessary and righteous, in order to purify the earth from sin.
- b. God is preparing his people in many ways. The revelation of Jesus as Bridegroom, King and Judge is preparing the church to see Jesus in his end-times glory, and to ready us for action. The centrality and necessity for prayer is sweeping through the church in these days as we partner with the Lord to see his kingdom come and his will being done on earth as in heaven.

- c. God is raising up a global justice movement to confront the kingdom of darkness, all the more as we see lawlessness and injustice expand exponentially across the globe. Truth is an expendable commodity, and absolutes are blurred through agendas of “rights” where time-honoured boundaries are torn down in the name of freedom and progress.
- d. This will culminate in Jesus coming to the earth to bring vengeance upon the ultimate oppressor – the Antichrist – and his empire.

Isaiah 19:1, 20 *Behold, the LORD is riding on a swift cloud and comes to them... When they cry to the LORD because of **oppressors**, he will send them a saviour and defender, and **deliver** them.*

- e. This crisis will increase in the days ahead, escalating in ways we can’t even imagine today. We must not deceive ourselves into thinking things will always continue as they have in the past.
 - i Jesus warns us many times to have our lamps burning, to be watching, to be ready and to know the end of the story so when we see these things happening, we are able to interpret what’s happening in the news by the Bible – not taking the news and interpreting the Bible by the news.
- f. Harlot Babylon is the main vehicle for this false justice system, but it will operate in different ways and with different motives to the pure and holy Bride of Christ. The Bride increases faith in the context of freedom, while the Harlot increases fear in the context of bondage.
 - i The Harlot will be the main pervading culture of the masses, and will have massive support across the nations because of its idealistic emphasis on justice. However, this will not be true justice.
- g. Many in the church don’t have a paradigm for a Jesus who kills, because they have an inadequate view of the nature of this coming oppressor. We need a revelation of the condition of the human heart so that we can see these things the way that Jesus sees them.
 - i God is a God of patience, giving men time to repent and turn to him. But there comes a moment when he has to call “time” and bring things to a conclusion.

Psalms 94 *O LORD, God of vengeance, O God of vengeance, shine forth! ²Rise up, O judge of the earth; repay to the proud what they deserve! ³O LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked exult? ⁴They pour out their arrogant words; all the evildoers boast. ⁵They crush your people, O LORD, and afflict your heritage. ⁶They kill the widow and the sojourner, and murder the fatherless; ⁷and they say, "The LORD does not see; the God of Jacob does not perceive..." ²¹They band together against the life of the righteous and condemn the innocent to death... ²³He will **bring back on them their iniquity** and wipe them out for their wickedness; the LORD our God will wipe them out.*

- h. As forerunner messengers we are commissioned to pray and prophesy the word of God as we see each stage of the unfolding of this biblical narrative. As we do this we will become more familiar with the storyline, and God will give us greater revelation of his heart and his purposes in it.

3. The 7th Bowl

Revelation 16:17-21 *The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" ¹⁸And there were flashes of **lightning**, rumblings, peals of **thunder**, and a great **earthquake** such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. ¹⁹The great city was **split into three parts**, and the **cities** of the nations **fell**, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. ²⁰And every **island** fled away, and no **mountains** were to be found. ²¹And great **hailstones**, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.*

- a. This final judgment centres on a great earthquake, and it will be felt all round the world, not just in Jerusalem. London, New York, Rome, Beijing, Sydney – they’re all coming down. No city will be left standing. Jerusalem will be divided into three parts.
 - i God singles out the city of Babylon, as being especially deserving of God’s wrath being poured out upon her because of her iniquity.
 - ii Every island will flee away, and the mountains will disappear. The earthquake will be cataclysmic in its power, shattering and levelling mountain ranges across the earth.
- b. Hail comes in all sorts of shapes and sizes. Large hailstones have been recorded across the world. Golf ball sized hail is relatively common. The largest recorded size for hail is about 8” or 20cm, weighing in at just under 2lb.
 - i V21 mentions hail weighing about a talent. In the ancient world, a talent was a unit of weight – the equivalent weight today would be about 100lb, or 45Kg – more than any of us could lift.
- c. The end of the story tells us Jesus is victorious, the saints will be vindicated and the Antichrist’s empire will be openly defeated, as the consequences of sin are judged forever. In Matthew 24:25 Jesus says, “See, I have told you beforehand...” Jesus wants us to keep our eyes fixed on the end of the great drama so that we remain straight, steady and true in the here and now, and persevere to the end.
- d. The context of the 7th bowl is seen in the 6th bowl in which all of the Gentile armies of the earth gather together against Jerusalem (Revelation 16:13-14; 19:19; Joel 3:2, 12; Zechariah 12:3; 14:2; Zephaniah 3:8; Ezekiel 38:4). The events following the sixth bowl are recorded in Revelation 19:11-21.
- e. This 7th bowl judgment is God’s final judgment against the Antichrist. Heavenly “storm-like” activity breaks out at the conclusion of each series of judgments. These storms mark the shifting and escalation of God’s judgment to the next level of intensity.
 - i God has employed these heavenly storms on many occasions in the past:
 - (1) 1 Samuel – thunder causing confusion and panic among Philistines
 - (2) Sinai – thundering and lightning on the mountain
 - (3) Crucifixion of Jesus – darkness and earthquake
 - (4) Pentecost – mighty rushing wind and fire
 - ii All of these storms begin at the throne of God and carry through into the natural realm, as heaven collides with earth, marking the shift and escalation of God’s end time purposes.

Haggai 2:6-7 *For thus says the LORD of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. ⁷ And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in [and they shall come to the Desire of all Nations], and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts.*

Haggai 2:21-22 *I am about to shake the heavens and the earth, ²² and to overthrow the throne of kingdoms. I am about to destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations, and overthrow the chariots and their riders. And the horses and their riders shall go down, every one by the sword of his brother.*

- iii Haggai prophesied 2,500 years ago that God would shake heaven and earth, the sea, the dry land, and the nations. When God says he is going to shake these things he is talking about a thorough shaking that everybody and everything in creation will feel the effects of.
- iv We see in this 7th bowl judgment the full outworking of this shaking which originates in the heavens, and which has a physical effect on the heavens themselves, the earth, the sea, the land

and the nations. The intended consequence of this shaking is that the nations will come to the Desire of Nations.

- f. 500 years later we have an apostolic interpretation and insight into Haggai's prophecy, confirming that this shaking finds its fulfilment in the 7th bowl.

Hebrews 12:26-29 ...but now he has promised, "Yet **once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.**" ²⁷ This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the **removal of things that are shaken**---that is, things that have been made---in order that the things that **cannot be shaken may remain.** ²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a **kingdom that cannot be shaken**, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.

- i After this shaking, only those things that cannot be shaken will remain. Things established in love, humility and righteousness will remain in remembrance and reward, while vanity and futility will be removed successfully and permanently.

Ezekiel 38:18-23 But on that day, the day that Gog [Antichrist] shall come against the land of Israel, declares the Lord GOD, my wrath will be roused in my anger. ¹⁹ For in my jealousy and in my blazing wrath I declare: On that day there shall be a **great earthquake** in the land of Israel. ²⁰ The fish of the sea and the birds of the heavens and the beasts of the field and all creeping things that creep on the ground, and all the people who are on the face of the earth, **shall quake at my presence.** And the **mountains** shall be thrown down, and the **cliffs** shall fall, and **every wall** shall tumble to the ground. ²¹ I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares the Lord GOD. **Every man's sword will be against his brother.** ²² With **pestilence and bloodshed** I will enter into judgment with him, and I will **rain** upon him and his hordes and the many peoples who are with him **torrential rains and hailstones, fire and sulphur.** ²³ So I will show my **greatness** and my **holiness** and **make myself known** in the eyes of many nations. Then they will **know** that I am the LORD.

- ii Ezekiel prophetically saw this great earthquake associated with the 7th bowl and graphically describes its destructive consequences both in Jerusalem and in the nations.
- iii Mountains will fall, cliffs will topple down, buildings will fall to the ground, nothing will be able to withstand this great earthquake. There will be a supernatural confusion causing the antichrist's armies to begin to fight with one another. He also mentions the great hailstones, flooding rain, fire and sulphurous burning. The level of destruction upon the Antichrist and his people will be unprecedented.

4. The Bride has made herself ready

- a. In Luke 21:28 Jesus, having told the disciples what is going to happen at the end of the age, tells us to do one thing. He says, "When you see these things happening – look up, for your redemption draws near." Lift your heads, look up.
- b. At the beginning of Chapter 19 John hears the sound of heaven rejoicing over God's judgment and destruction of the great prostitute, the Harlot Babylon that we looked at in our previous session.
- c. Then he hears the sound of a multitude in heaven, like the thunderous roar of a mighty waterfall – the triumphant announcement that the Bride of Christ has made herself ready, and everything is now set for the marriage of the Lamb of God.
- i Now Jesus has an equally-yoked Bride who is ready to enter into this marriage relationship. So everything is in place now, and the marriage itself can go ahead. But we are not given any more detail than that. All we do know is that the marriage takes place at some time between Revelation 19:7 and Revelation 21:9 which is the next time the Bride is mentioned, and is then described as the wife of the Lamb.

- ii Similarly, we cannot determine the timing of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. All that we are told in verse 9 of Revelation 19 is that those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb are blessed.

5. The rider on the white horse

Revelation 19:11-16 *Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a **white horse!** The one sitting on it is called **Faithful and True**, and in righteousness he **judges** and makes **war**. ¹² His eyes are like a **flame of fire**, and on his head are many **diadems**, and he has a **name** written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe **dipped in blood**, and the name by which he is called is **The Word of God**. ¹⁴ And the **armies of heaven**, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a **sharp sword** with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a **rod of iron**. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the **wrath** of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a **name** written, **King of kings and Lord of lords**.*

- a. Many assume because heaven is open, the white horse and its rider and everyone following is riding out of heaven. But the text does not say that. It makes no mention of where the horse and its rider are located.
- b. John, seeing the heavens opened, speaks of the way in which he received the vision, not the location in which Jesus is riding the horse from. The opened heavens allows John to witness the next section of the unfolding storyline on the earth.
 - i John records the same event from two different perspectives – heavenly and earthly, and with the help of some other scriptures we will be able to piece them together.
- c. It is clear from the description that the figure on the white horse is Jesus. First of all, he is described as being **Faithful and True**. Jesus' promises are faithful and true, in contrast to the Antichrist, whose promises are false and his policies are deceptive. This is more than just a character statement, it is a governmental and political statement of Jesus' imminent worldwide Messianic government.
- d. Jesus is coming to bring **righteous judgment** upon the earth. He will do that by making war against those who seek to promote ungodliness and sin through greed and corruption, oppression and exploitation, political manipulation and satanic deception. He is judging and making war – these are activities that Jesus is carrying out as John watches. He will make righteous war to establish everlasting peace and an ever-increasing kingdom.
- e. Nothing escapes Jesus' **eyes of fire**. He penetrates all things, including thoughts, desires and motives of the heart and mind. The writer to Hebrews describes him as a "consuming fire" who zealously burns with fiery zeal against all sin and unrighteousness.

Hebrews 4:13 *And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

- f. In this description Jesus is crowned with **many diadems** – which is a symbol of sovereignty. These diadems that he wears signifies his sovereign power and authority.
 - i The word used here is **diadema** – the kingly symbol of power and authority. In ancient times, a diadem was a white ribbon or band that encircled the head, tied at the back with a knot, with the long tails falling to the shoulders. Diadems were awarded to those who conquered, who were victorious in battle.
 - ii There is no-one worthy to wear these diadems other than Jesus, because the Father has given him all authority in heaven and on earth.

- iii The Greek word **diadema** is a compound word comprised of the root words **dia** and **deo**. **Dia** is usually translated “across” or “around”; **Deo** means “to bind”, so together they carry the meaning of “binding around.” This idea of binding in this way is frequently used in terms of betrothal, the pledge of being bound together in marriage..
- g. **Jesus has a name written that no-one knows but himself**. This new name is related to his unique new role as the Son of Man. Jesus has more revelation of his beauty and glory that he wants to give us, and this new name will reveal some stunning new understanding of that beauty and glory to hearts that are ready to receive it.
- h. John tells us that **Jesus’ robe is dipped in blood**. A better rendering would be that Jesus’ robes are stained with blood, spattered with blood. This is not his own blood, because on the cross he didn’t wear a robe. This is speaking of Jesus in the same condition that Isaiah saw him in chapter 63, coming up through Bozrah in the greatness of his strength.

Isaiah 63:1-3 *Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from **Bozrah**, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the **greatness of his strength**? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save." ² Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress? ³ "I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; **their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel.***

- i This is a significant timing factor. This tells us that what John is describing here cannot be Jesus’ second coming, because his garments are already bloodstained. How did the blood get there? Isaiah explains that the blood is that of Jesus’ enemies, and we have already established that as Jesus travels up through the land towards Jerusalem, he will be killing those who oppose him, while he sets free those Jewish people who have been held in prison camps.
- ii Jesus has already returned to the earth, which we saw in chapter 11, now John sees him accompanied by the armies of heaven coming up through Bozrah, which is modern-day Jordan heading for Jerusalem. It is a royal procession with Jesus leading the way.
- i. Jesus comes as the **Word of God**, who not only created all things by the word of his mouth, but is now coming to hold his creation morally accountable according to his word as judge. By his word he created, and as we shall see in a few moments, it is by his word that he will defeat the Antichrist.
- j. Jesus is followed by the **armies of heaven** – both the saints and the angels ride with him on white horses. There are real horses in the heavenly realm – we have the testimony of Elijah, Elisha and Zechariah who all saw horses in heavenly visions.
- k. From his mouth comes a **sharp sword** with which to strike down the nations. This once again is speaking of the power and ability of Jesus’ word to tear down as well as to create. Jesus will employ both the sharp sword of his word from his mouth, meaning his command to release judgment against the Antichrist and the nations, as well as using the literal sword of his hand to defeat his enemies in battle.

Isaiah 11:4 *...and he shall strike the earth with the **rod of his mouth**, and with the **breath of his lips** he shall kill the wicked.*

- l. And Jesus will **dash the nations with a rod of iron** – a parallel to the sceptre of righteousness – hence righteousness will be the plumb-line by which Jesus will rule the nations.
 - i As Jesus takes up his promised inheritance of the nations, he will rule them by his standards of righteousness, severely dealing with any rebellion or resistance. It is only those whose hearts are rebellious who will feel this rod of iron, those who love righteousness will be blessed.

- m. Jesus **trods the winepress of the fury and the wrath of Almighty God** – pictorial language that God uses to describe the nature of this conflict. God gathers all the evil governmental and military leaders and their armies to Jerusalem for judgment. The “wine” that will flow out of this winepress is their literal blood that will run like a river.
- n. John sees written on Jesus’ robe and on his thigh the words “**King of kings and Lord of lords**” – highlighting the superlative nature of Jesus’ authority: Supreme king among kings and supreme Lord among lords.
 - i On his robe – outward authority
 - ii On his thigh – inner strength and power

6. The battle for Jerusalem

- a. We need to put together a couple of scriptures from Zechariah and see how they dovetail into the storyline in Revelation. No single prophet has the full revelation of God, they all had it in part. One of our tasks as bible scholars is to put these scriptures alongside each other in order to see the bigger picture.
- b. In our storyline so far Jesus is approaching Jerusalem on his white horse, accompanied by the hosts of heaven. He has been coming up through the land, fighting and killing his enemies, while freeing Jewish captives from prison camps. As a result of the fighting, Jesus’ robe has become stained and spattered with the blood of his foes.
- c. He has also been releasing the bowl judgments on the Antichrist – his infrastructure (supplies and materials) is severely disrupted. Through a great delusion that God released in the 6th bowl judgment, a multitude of the armies of the world that have allied with the Antichrist have been marshalled into districts surrounding Jerusalem, with a remnant of the Jewish people still besieged within the city itself. Jesus has arrived on the outskirts of Jerusalem, ready for the final confrontation.

Zechariah 12:2-3 *Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a **cup of staggering** to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah. ³ On that day I will make Jerusalem a **heavy stone** for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely **hurt themselves**. And **all the nations of the earth** will gather against it.*

Zechariah 14:2 *For **I will gather all the nations** against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city.*

- d. By now Jerusalem is under siege just as Zechariah had prophesied. The city has been devastated and over-run, the women raped and the homes plundered. Half of the population of the city had been taken into exile. The rest are trapped in the city.

Revelation 19:17-19 *Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the **birds** that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, ¹⁸ to **eat the flesh of kings**, the flesh of **captains**, the flesh of **mighty men**, the flesh of **horses** and their **riders**, and the flesh of all **men**, both free and slave, both small and great." ¹⁹ And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies **gathered to make war** against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.*

- i The armies of the nations are positioning themselves for battle to the north of Jerusalem, and Jesus and the armies of heaven are approaching the city from the south. God is also making preparations for the great clean-up operation after the battle. God alone knows how much bloodshed and carnage will ensue from this battle. So he delegates an angel to gather the birds to fly to Israel ready to gorge themselves on the first of God’s great suppers.

Zechariah 14: 3-5 *Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. ⁴ On that day **his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives** that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be **split in two from east to west** by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. ⁵ And you shall **flee** to the valley of my mountains...*

- ii Jesus has reached Jerusalem and he heads straight for the Mount of Olives. He knows the scriptures, and so he knows he has an appointment with prophetic destiny. He is about to set in motion the sequence of events that will finally enable him to deliver the kingdom in its fullness.
- e. As Jesus stands on the Mount of Olives he delivers the 7th and final bowl judgment. We will see this by comparing prophetic scriptures. As Jesus delivers that judgment the ground shakes and splits, moving east and west to create a large valley through which those who have been held under siege in the city can escape to the hills.

Zechariah 12:4 *On that day, declares the LORD, I will strike every horse with **panic**, and its rider with **madness**. But for the sake of the house of Judah I will keep my eyes open, when I strike every horse of the peoples with **blindness**.*

- f. Part of this final judgment will be a supernaturally induced panic among the horses and their riders. Yes, there will be horses. We have to take into account the devastating result of the world war that is released in the seal judgments. As a result of this devastating war, a quarter of the world's population is killed either by direct conflict, famine or disease.
 - i The normal infrastructures of the earth will have been all but destroyed, especially in this Middle Eastern region. We have to be informed by the Holy Spirit when we try to understand these end times passages, life then will not be like life as we know it today.
 - ii Jesus now wields the sharp sword from his mouth as his word goes forth with unstoppable power:

Zechariah 14:12-13 *And this shall be the **plague** with which the LORD will strike all the peoples that wage war against Jerusalem: their **flesh will rot** while they are still standing on their feet, their **eyes will rot** in their sockets, and their **tongues will rot** in their mouths. ¹³ And on that day a great **panic** from the LORD shall fall on them, so that each will **seize the hand of another**, and the hand of the one will **be raised against the hand of the other**.*

- g. There is no need for hand-to-hand combat as Jesus stands on the Mount of Olives and delivers this final bowl judgment with devastating effect that sees the final defeat of the Antichrist and his armies.

Revelation 19:19-21 *And the **beast was captured**, and with it the **false prophet** who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were **thrown alive into the lake of fire** that burns with sulphur. ²¹ And the rest **were slain by the sword that came from the mouth** of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.*

- h. The Beast and the False Prophet are consigned straight to the lake of fire. The scale of the slaughter of these armies can hardly be imagined::

Revelation 14:19-20 *So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape **harvest of the earth** and threw it into the great **winepress of the wrath of God**. ²⁰ And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and **blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia**.*

- i As high as a horses' bridle – that's about 1.5 metres high – for 1,600 stadia – that's a distance of about 180 miles.
- i. Jesus the king has finally arrived in the city of the Great King, to survey the city that God has chosen as his own. But he doesn't stay there for long. He now rides out into the hills of Judea to meet with the

captives that escaped from Jerusalem, together with those he freed from the prison camps on the way up to the city.

Hosea 2:14-16 *Therefore, behold, I will allure her [Israel], and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her. ¹⁵ And there I will give her her vineyards and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth, as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt. ¹⁶ And in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me 'My Husband...'*

Zechariah 12:9-10 *And on that day I will seek to **destroy all the nations** that come against Jerusalem.¹⁰ And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a **spirit of grace and pleas for mercy**, so that, when they look on me, on him **whom they have pierced**, they shall **mourn** for him, as one mourns for an only child, and **weep** bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.*

Romans 11:26-27 *And in this way **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob;²⁷ and this will be my covenant with them **when I take away their sins.**"*

7. Satan cast into prison

- a. Now Jesus takes up his authority and begins to deal with the aftermath of his victory over the Beast, the False Prophet and Satan himself.

Revelation 20:1-3 *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. ² And he seized the **dragon**, that ancient **serpent**, who is the **devil** and **Satan**, and bound him for a thousand years, ³ and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.*

- b. Laying hold of the dragon will be a dramatic event as Satan is bound with chains. It only takes one angel, who will lay hold of him, bind him, cast him into the pit, shut him up and set a seal upon him. A seal will be set on him ensuring that he will not break out of prison prematurely to in any way negatively affect the nations for 1000 years.
 - i 4 names that John uses to describe Satan:
 - (1) **Dragon** – denoting his ancient and powerful cruelty with no capacity for mercy
 - (2) **Serpent of Old** – refers to the subtleties of the liar and deceiver in the Garden
 - (3) **Devil** – which actually means slanderer or accuser
 - (4) **Satan** – which means adversary, he is the one who opposes and attacks us

Isaiah 24:21-22 *On that day the LORD will punish the host of heaven, in heaven, and the kings of the earth, on the earth. ²² They will be **gathered together as prisoners in a pit**; they will be shut up in a **prison**, and after many days they will be **punished**.*

- ii All of Satan's angels that fell with him at the beginning, will be thrown into the pit with him for this 1,000 year period.

8. The saints reign with Jesus

Revelation 20:4-6 *Then I saw **thrones**, and seated on them were those to whom the **authority to judge** was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been **beheaded** for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and **reigned with Christ for a thousand years.** ⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the **first resurrection.** ⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who*

shares in the first resurrection! Over such the **second death has no power**, but they will be **priests of God and of Christ**, and they will **reign** with him for a thousand years.

- a. John saw thrones and the saints were sitting on them. These are the saints who came up to Jerusalem with Jesus. This will be their eternal role, ruling and reigning in partnership with Jesus.
- b. John also specifically highlights the group of “Tribulation martyrs”, reigning upon thrones with Jesus during the Millennium. These martyred saints are not the only ones who reign, but these “Tribulation martyrs” are specifically highlighted to encourage those going through the Great Tribulation to stand strong and endure.
- c. The “rest of the dead” refers to those who were not saved during their life on earth. These are the unregenerate ones, the unrighteous who did not give their lives to Jesus.
- d. John emphasises the nature of our function during the millennium. He says they will be priests of God and of Christ. Our priestly role and function will continue into eternity, we will always be priests unto our God, we will carry it forward, even when in the very presence of the one we are ministering to.

9. Satan released for a short time

Revelation 20:7-10 *And when the thousand years are ended, **Satan will be released from his prison**⁸ and will come out to **deceive the nations** that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea.⁹ And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but **fire came down from heaven** and consumed them,¹⁰ and the **devil** who had deceived them was **thrown into the lake of fire** and sulphur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be **tormented** day and night **forever** and ever.*

- a. Satan is released from prison after 1,000 years of incarceration, to give those alive on the earth with natural bodies a chance to demonstrate their love and obedience to God over the serpent’s temptations. In the same way that Adam was tested in the garden, so they too will be tested.
- b. God does this as an act of justice to release Satan in the nations one more time so he can test the love and the obedience – just as Adam was tested in the garden – he tests the hearts of men again, those with natural bodies on the earth. At the end of the age the whole earth will be like the garden, so Satan is let loose in the garden one last time, in this great act of the justice of God.
 - i In God’s justice, He reveals not only the deceitfulness of sin, but the depravity of man as well, along with his propensity to sin, thus removing all excuses that natural circumstances alone were the reason for their continued, persistent rebellion and lawlessness.
 - ii God reveals the truth about Satan’s nature and character, being incurably evil.
- c. God demonstrates the justice of His eternal judgments by showing that rehabilitation and reform will not occur in Satan and that some men rebel, because it isn’t their circumstances, but rather their hearts that are desperately wicked.

10. The Great White Throne

Revelation 20:11-15 *Then I saw a **great white throne** and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.¹² And I saw the **dead**, great and small, standing before the throne, and **books were opened**. Then another book was opened, which is the **book of life**. And the dead were **judged** by **what was written in the books**, according to **what they had done**.¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were **judged**, each one of them, according to **what they had done**.¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the*

second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ *And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

- a. After 1,000 years, after Satan has been thrown into the lake of fire, the rest of the dead will be raised in the second resurrection. All unbelievers will appear before the Great White Throne, and they will be judged according to their works. The books that are opened are the record books that God keeps – every word that they spoke, every thought, every deed is recorded there.
 - i After everyone has received their judgment, hell itself, that was in the centre of the earth, will be thrown into the lake of fire. Jesus will then throw death into the lake of fire forever. Now, the death that reigned upon the earth ever since Adam first sinned in the garden, will be no more, no one will ever die again.
 - ii The lake of fire neither purifies nor annihilates. It is an eternal place of torment and punishment, where there is constant weeping and wailing, and worst of all an eternal regret over the rejection of the Son of Man.

11. Conclusion

- a. It is important that we at least know in outline what lies ahead. And there are still two glorious chapters to come.
- b. Esther spent months in preparation to meet the king, and we too must devote ourselves to preparation. We must understand that the Holy Spirit is partnering with the church in this age to prepare us as a mature bride, unified and equally yoked with Jesus in love.
- c. Part of that preparation is to become familiar with the storyline, to prepare us both in heart and in spirit for what may lie ahead for us.
 - i The church is being entrusted with power and greater authority, so that love would be established in truth and righteousness, releasing peace and joy throughout the whole earth.