

## SESSION FOUR: THE END OF THE BEGINNING

Revelation 20-22

### THE MILLENNIUM (20)

#### Where We Need To Start Today...

- It's ok to disagree about the millennium.
- It's sin to divide over the millennium.

#### What We Don't Know For Certain...

- When?
  - Are these passages arranged chronologically or cyclically?
  - Is the millennium before or after Christ returns?
  - Is the millennium present (happening now) or future (still to come)?
- How long?
  - Is the millennium literally 1,000 years?
  - Or is the millennium simply a planned, perfect, limited time?
- What and where?
  - Will the millennium involve a physical resurrection of Christians to reign on earth during the millennium?
  - Will the millennium involve a spiritual resurrection of Christians to reign in heaven during the millennium?

#### What I Think I Know For Now...

- Christ has come once, and Satan has been bound. (Col. 2:15)
  - Satan could not stop Jesus.
  - Satan cannot stop Christians. (12:10-11a)
- We are in the millennium. (1 Cor. 10:13; Rev. 20:3)
  - Christians who are alive now reign with Christ on earth.
    - Satan cannot keep the church from proclaiming the gospel, and he cannot keep the nations from believing the gospel. (7:9)
  - Christians who have died now reign with Christ in heaven.
    - They are worshipping God while they rule with Christ as judge.

### NOTES

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### THE CONSUMMATION OF THE KINGDOM (21:1-22:5)

- Christ will come again, and Satan will be obliterated.
  - After a final period of Satanic revolt, there will be a final point of Satanic defeat. (Matt. 24:21-22)
  - The return of Christ will usher in full and final judgment, once and for all.

### What We All Know Forever...

- God is sovereign.
- Satan is subordinate.
  - He is limited and bound.
  - He is doomed to be defeated. (12:12)
- The gospel will advance through the church. (Matt. 24:14)
- Jesus will return for the church.
- At the end of history, every single one of us will be judged by God.
  - Two questions:
    - Did we put our faith in Christ's work? (13:8)
    - Was there evidence of faith in our work?
      - Were we faithful in our worship?
      - Did we fight against sin?
      - Did we trust amidst suffering?
  - Two destinations:
    - Eternal torment.
    - Everlasting joy.
- We live between two worlds.
  - We are travelers on a journey in this country today.
  - We are citizens of a kingdom in a country to come.
- We live between two times.
  - The birth of Christ: The King has come!
    - The kingdom of God is a present reality.
  - The return of Christ: The King is coming!
    - The kingdom of God is a future hope.

### NOTES

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- We live for one purpose.
  - To experience the consummation of God's kingdom.
  - A kingdom...
    - People who are ruled by the King.
    - A place where the King has dominion.
    - A purpose for the King and His kingdom.
  - God's kingdom...
    - God is bringing His people...
    - To His place...
    - For His purpose.

### Consummation of the Kingdom

- God's people: God's final blessing and judgment.
  - For all who have revered the King...
    - Inexpressible joy. (Psalm 16:11)
    - Heaven exemplifies God's eternal blessing for conquerors who have turned from this world to Christ.
- In God's place: Eternal fellowship. (21:3)
  - We will be with Him.
    - Death will be replaced by life.
      - No more sin. (21:1)
      - No more sorrow.
      - No more sickness.
      - No more separation.
    - Night will be replaced by light. (21:22-25)
    - Corruption will be replaced by purity. (21:27)
    - Curse will be replaced by blessing. (22:1-4)
  - We will see His face.
  - We will reign with Him. (22:5)
    - Our bodies will be resurrected. (Phil. 3:21)
    - All creation will be restored.
- For God's purpose: God's glory enjoyed by all people. (21:3)

### NOTES

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**THE END OF THE BEGINNING (22:6-21)**

- See the world in all its deception.
  - The beast: Do not put your hope in government.
  - The false prophet: Do not put your hope in religion.
  - The prostitute: Do not put your hope in material affluence and social acceptance. (1 Jn. 2:15, 17)
- See Christ in all His glory.
  - No one and nothing compares to Him.
- See the Church in all her beauty.
  - We are His body. (Acts 9:5)
  - We are His bride.
- See your life in proper perspective.
  - Fight against sin.
    - Resist compromise.
    - Refuse complacency. (22:18-19)
  - Endure amidst suffering.
    - Do not be surprised by it.
    - Do not be overcome in it.
    - Jesus is present with you.
- God, give us unwavering holiness in this world...
- With unshakeable hope in the world to come.

**NOTES**

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*Revelation 20-22*

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell in them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."  
- Revelation 21:3*

	<b>PEOPLE</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
<b>CREATION</b> (Genesis 1-2)	God's <u>blessing</u> on His people	<u>Perfect</u> fellowship	God's glory <u>multiplied</u> to all people
<b>FALL</b> (Genesis 3-11)	God's blessing and judgment through Adam & Eve	<u>Disrupted</u> fellowship	God's glory marred in all people
<b>PATRIARCHS</b> (Genesis 12-50)	God's blessing and judgment through Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob	<u>Promised</u> fellowship	God's glory made known to all people through His faithfulness
<b>EXODUS &amp; CONQUEST</b> (Exodus - 1 Samuel 8)	God's blessing and judgment through Moses, Joshua, Judges, Samuel	God with His people: <u>Tabernacle</u>	God's glory made known to all people through His deliverance
<b>UNITED MONARCHY</b> (1 Sam. 9 - 1 Kings 11; 1 Chr. - 2 Chr. 9)	God's blessing and judgment through Saul, David, & Solomon	God with His people: <u>Temple</u>	God's glory made known to all people through His anointing
<b>DIVIDED MONARCHY</b> (1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings; 2 Chr. 10 - Esther)	God's blessing and judgment through Prophets	God with His people: <u>Exile</u>	God's glory made known to all people through His discipline
<b>JESUS</b> (Matthew - John)	God's blessing and judgment through Christ	God among His people: <u>Incarnation</u>	God's glory made known to all people through His salvation
<b>PRESENT</b> (Acts - Jude)	God's blessing and judgment through His Church	God in His people: <u>Body</u>	God's glory proclaimed to all people
<b>NEW CREATION</b> (Revelation)	God's <u>final</u> blessing and judgment	<u>Eternal</u> fellowship	God's glory <u>enjoyed</u> by all people

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### Remember

*“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.”*

*- Revelation 21:3*

### Review

- Who is it that sits on the throne to judge all humankind?
- How does a person know if their name is written in the book of life?
- The “second death” and “first resurrection” are mentioned in this passage. What definitions of these terms are provided in Revelation 20 itself (see Rev. 20:5-6, 14-15)?
- Even though we do not know for certain which view of the Millennium is correct, why is it important to think through what you believe on each of the issues regarding the timing, length, and location of the Millennium?
- If you knew the day and time of His return, how would you live? Is that an accurate description of how you are currently living? What regrets do you not want to have when He returns – with regard to family, the lost, friends, time, money, etc.?
- We often sing and talk about mansions, personal health, personal comforts, and other material aspects of heaven. What does it reveal about us that we think of material things as the best parts of heaven? What does it reveal about our view of God?
- Scripture is clear that there will be those in the church who confess God but show no evidence of a changed life. Why should this be a warning to us personally and to us as we proclaim the gospel?
- What hope do we have regarding the world to come? In what ways are you placing your hope in this present world? Take time to repent. In what ways are you placing your hope in the world to come?
- How has this study of Revelation fueled hopeful obedience in your own life? Why should the study of Revelation motivate believers towards greater faithfulness?
- Revelation views the church through the eyes of her Groom. Do you have the same attitude and commitment to the church as Christ? Why or why not? Why is commitment to the local church important?
- Who in your normal rhythm of life needs to know Christ as Lord and Savior? How can you encourage, share, and invest in them this week?
- How are you part of the advancement of the gospel to the nations?
- How would you summarize the message of the book of Revelation? What was John’s intent in writing this epistle to its original readers? How is this book’s message applicable to readers today?

### Respond

- Based on what you’ve studied this week, what do you believe God wants you to:
  - KNOW
  - DESIRE
  - DO
- What is the most challenging part of this study for you to understand, believe, or apply to your life?

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## PRAYER GUIDE FOR WEEK FOUR

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### **Pray for your life.**

Ask for God's guidance, wisdom, and discernment as we seek to understand more fully the events described in Revelation. Praise Him for His salvation, a result of which we will one day find our names written in His book of life. Pray for those facing judgment for their sins. Ask God to graciously grant them the faith to repent of their sins and turn to Him for salvation. Praise God for His Word and specifically for the book of Revelation. Thank Him for helping us in our understanding of this book. Pray for God's help in living in obedience to all we have studied and learned. Pray we will all live in such a way that eagerly anticipates Jesus' return.

### **Pray for your church.**

Pray for unity among our faith family in the midst of the differences we might have in interpreting Revelation. Pray that those who have trusted in Christ would find joy in the midst of hardship and struggle. Pray that those who are still in rebellion against Christ would see Him as the greatest treasure they could ever obtain, and that they would turn from sin to worship and adore Him. Pray for influence and opportunities for our church to reach people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **Pray for your city.**

*Each week, we will pray specifically for one of FCC's Local Mission Partners.*

This week, pray for the **Canton Christian Home**. CCH is a faith-based retirement community offering Independent, Assisted, and Nursing Care living options. They exist to empower seniors to live life fully, continuing to impact their world and enjoy the endless adventure of the Christian life. To find out more about CCH, visit them online at [cantonchristianhome.org](http://cantonchristianhome.org).

### **Pray for the world.**

*Each week, we will pray specifically for one of FCC's Global Mission Partners.*

This week, pray for **Mashoko Christian Hospital**. Mashoko Christian Hospital is a medical facility led by Dr. Zindoga Bungu that provides care for 60,000 patients, trains and sponsors new nurses and doctors, and develops churches and leaders in Zimbabwe Africa. Everyone who's trained and cared for at Mashoko has the opportunity to hear the gospel. To find out more about Mashoko, visit them online at [asheisusa.com](http://asheisusa.com).