

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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Mission Statement

This study of the Book of Revelation gives special attention to the testimony it provides concerning our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev 19:10; cp. 1:2), leading us to worship and serve Him in everything.

- I.** What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II.** What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
- III.** What will take place after these things (Rev 4–22).
 - I.** The Return of Jesus Christ (19:11–20:6)
 1. The Second Advent of Christ (19:11–16)
 2. The Great Supper of God (19:17–21)
 - a. The angel’s invitation to the great supper of God (vv. 17–18).
 - b. Earth’s armies gather with the Beast against Christ (v. 19; cf. 13:10; 16:12–16).
 - c. The defeat of the Beast and the False Prophet (v. 20; cp. 14:9–11).
 - d. The slaughter of Earth’s armies (v. 21).
 3. The Chaining of Satan (20:1–3)
 - a. The angel with the key to the abyss and the great chain (v. 1).
 - b. Satan bound for 1,000 years (v. 2).
 - c. Satan cast into the sealed abyss (v. 3a).
 - d. Satan loosed for a short time after the 1,000 years (v. 3b).
 4. The Thousand-Year Reign of Christ (20:4–6; cp. 11:15)
 - a. Judgment given to those on the thrones (v. 4a).
 - b. Tribulation saints live and reign with Christ (v. 4b).
 - c. The first resurrection (vv. 5–6).
 - The rest of the dead will be raised at the end of the 1,000 years (v. 5).
 - Participants in the first resurrection will not experience the second death (eternal death; v. 6a; cf. 2:11).
 - Participants in the first resurrection will be priests of God and of Christ (v. 6b).
 - Participants in the first resurrection will reign with Christ for 1,000 years (v. 6c).
 - J.** Events After the Thousand-Year Kingdom of Christ (20:7–21:8)
 1. The Loosing of Satan (20:7–10)
 - a. To deceive the nations and gather them for war against Jerusalem (vv. 7–9a).
 - b. To lead nations to their final destruction (v. 9b).
 - c. To be cast into the lake of fire (v. 10). Cf. Matthew 25:41.
 2. The Great White Throne Judgment (20:11–15)
 - a. The Place: the third heaven (v. 11; cp. 2 Pet 3:10).
 - b. The Judge: Christ (v. 11).
 - c. The Judged (v. 12a).
 - Not all of mankind are included (cf. Rev 19:20; 20:4; Dan 12:1–2, 13; Matt 25:31–46; 1 Thess 4:13–18; 1 Cor 15:20–28).
 - Fallen angels seem to be included as well (1 Cor 6:3; Jude 6).

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- d. The Books for the Judgment (v. 12b).
 - “the books”: the record of deeds (cf. v. 13).
 - “another book” (“of the same kind”) = the “book of life” (cf. 3:5).
- e. The Judgment (vv. 12c–15).
 - The judgment considers human works. The Book of Life confirms a person’s rightful place in eternal condemnation as opposed to eternal life (vv. 12c–13).
 - All of those being judged are dead and includes all who were in the second resurrection, which is unto damnation.
 - Death and Hades are cast into the lake of fire (v. 14): physical death and spiritual death. This event is the final death (eternal death). Cp. v. 6.
- f. The Church’s Participation in the Judgment (see 1 Cor 6:2–3; Rev 3:21).
3. The New Heavens and the New Earth (21:1)
 - a. See 2 Peter 3:10–13.
 - b. No more sea. Cf. Ezekiel 47:8, 15–20.
4. The New Jerusalem (21:2; cp. vv. 9–10): same city, but a different time and event.
 - a. “The holy city” (v. 2a).
 - b. Descends out of heaven from God (v. 2b).
 - c. Prepared as a bride (v. 2c; cp. vv. 9–10).
5. “All things new” (21:3–5).
 - a. God dwells with mankind (v. 3).
 - b. No tears, no death (cf. Isa 65:20; 66:22–24; 1 Cor 15:26), no mourning, no crying, no pain (v. 4).
6. The Promise of These Things (21:5–8).
 - a. The Basis for the Promise (vv. 5–6).
 - Its characteristics: “faithful and true” (v. 5; cf. 19:11; 22:6).
 - “It is done!” (v. 6).
 - “I am the Alpha and the Omega” (v. 6; cf. 22:13).
 - b. The Bestowal of the Promise (vv. 6–8).
 - For believers (vv. 6–7):
 - The water of life for the thirsty one “without cost” (v. 6; cp. 7:17; 22:1, 17; Isa 55:1–5).
 - The overcomer will inherit everything mentioned in the preceding verses (v. 7a). Cf. Revelation 2–3.
 - The believer will fully realize his/her sonship (v. 7b).
 - For unbelievers (v. 8):
 - The lake that burns with fire and brimstone, rather than the water of life.
 - The second death (= eternal death) rather than eternal life in the Son.

Questions for Discussion

- a. Why confine Satan during the 1,000-year reign of Christ?
- b. What is the sin for which a person will be cast into the lake of fire?
- c. Does 21:3–4 refer to the eternal state or to the millennial kingdom?

Implications Regarding Jesus Christ (19:17–20:6)

- ▶ Jesus stands against all the forces of evil.
- ▶ Jesus will defeat the Man of Sin and the False Prophet.
- ▶ Jesus will defeat all the armies led by the Man of Sin.
- ▶ Jesus will reign for a thousand years with His martyred saints.
- ▶ Jesus will be served by those who are in the first resurrection.