

"The Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ"

Part 39

Revelation 20

Introduction: Last week in our study of the Kingdom we looked at the parallels between the Ten Plagues in Exodus and the 3 sets of judgments that are coming in the Tribulation. In the book of Exodus, the Ten Plagues were designed to loosen the grip of Pharaoh which he had on Israel. By the time the tenth plague came about, Pharaoh was more than willing to let Israel go.

Exodus 11:1

And the LORD said unto Moses, yet will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt; afterwards he will let you go hence: when he shall let you go, he shall surely thrust you out hence altogether.

This was a picture of what will happen in the tribulation. The judgments will be used by the Lord for several purposes.

1. To bring the Jews to the place of repentance and to the place where they will accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah and King.
2. To bring the Times of the Gentiles to an end.
3. To bring judgment upon the world system and the inhabitants.
4. To loosen Satan's grip upon the earth so that the earth can be delivered back into the hands of the Creator.

Last week we looked at how Satan became the god of this world when Adam sinned and he has remained the god of this world.

Revelation 5:1-5

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

² *And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?*

³ *And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.*

⁴ *And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.*

⁵ *And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.*

Jesus is worthy to open the scroll which is the Title Deed to the Earth. The seals are the judgment that God will use. There are 6 Seals and, in the 7th, seal are the 7 Trumpets and, in the 7th, trumpet are the 7 Vials or Bowls. All of this is to bring about the Kingdom.

Revelation 11:14-16

¹⁴ *The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.*

¹⁵ *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

¹⁶ *And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,*

This now brings us to where we are tonight.

I. The Return of Jesus Christ

At the end of the Great Tribulation Jesus will return to the earth with His wife/church. It will be then that He will clean up the campaign of Armageddon.

Revelation 19:

¹¹ *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*

¹² *His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.*

¹³ *And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.*

¹⁴ *And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.*

¹⁵ *And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

¹⁶ And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

¹⁷ And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

¹⁸ That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

¹⁹ And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

²⁰ And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

²¹ And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Matthew also describes this event.

Matthew 24:29-31

²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Now I want to show you something very interesting. Let us understand that three and one-half years which half of the tribulation is 1260 days. Now let us see what Daniel writes.

Daniel 12:11-12

¹¹ *And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.*

This verse tells us there will be 1290 days. This is an additional 30 days.

¹² *Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.*

This verse tells us there will be 1335 days. That is a total of 75 extra days that are at the end of the tribulation. What is the purpose of these extra days? In these days there will be several judgments.

1. The Judgment of the Gentile Nations.

Matthew 25:31-34, 41

³¹ *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:*

³² *And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:*

³³ *And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.*

³⁴ *Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

⁴¹ *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

2. The Binding of Satan.

Notice Revelation 20:1-3

Satan will not be permitted to deceive the people of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Regardless of what many teach, Satan is not bound today. There are teachers who say that Satan was bound at the cross.

1 Peter 5:8-9

⁸ *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

⁹ Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Revelation 12:7-11

⁷ And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

⁸ And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

⁹ And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

We will get back to him getting out after the thousand years in a few minutes.

3. The Judgment of the Old Testament Saints and the Tribulation Saints both who have died and those who have survived.

Notice Revelation 20:4-6

The thrones set up here are in the Kingdom. Remember the request of the mother of James and John?

Matthew 20:20-22

²⁰ Then came to him the mother of Zebedees children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him.

²¹ And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.

²² But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

Notice Revelation 20:5 again.

This is a reference to the judgment of the unsaved at the *Great White Throne Judgment*.

Notice Revelation 20:6 again.

The first resurrection spoken of here has 5 parts.

1. The resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. The resurrection of the church age saints.
3. The resurrection of the two witnesses.
4. The resurrection of the Old Testament saints.
5. The resurrection of the tribulation saints.

This then is the establishment of the Kingdom as promised throughout the Bible. This is what *God* is working to bring about in the world. Next week we will go further and look at the eternal state.

Conclusion:

Notice Revelation 20:7-10

Why is Satan permitted to be free again? To prove that no created being can EVER overthrow the plan of *God*.