

LESSON 6

The Final Victory — Revelation 19:6–20:15

Taught by Dr. J. Scott Duvall · Follow along with the video and fill in the blanks

After God judges Babylon the Great (17:1–19:5) we come to the full and final victory of God over the forces of evil: the wedding of the Lamb (19:6–10), the return of Christ for his bride (19:11–16), and a series of visions showing God’s final judgment of his enemies (19:17–20:15).

19:6–10 — The Wedding of the Lamb

- The great multitude praises God for his eternal reign and the arrival of the Lamb’s wedding (19:6–7)
- The bride (the church) has made herself ready (19:7)
- 19:9 — the fourth beatitude: “Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!”

19:11–21 — The Warrior Messiah Conquers

This is where we see the second coming of Christ. Eight features of his return:

- 1. He rides a white horse — victorious return as warrior king (19:11)
- 2. He is “Faithful and True” — a reliable witness, faithful to execute just judgments
- 3. His “eyes are like blazing fire” — penetrating insight and wisdom to judge
- 4. He wears “many crowns” — the only legitimate ruler, unlike the dragon (12:3) and beast (13:1)
- 5. He has a name only he knows — certainly divine, possibly the sacred name Yahweh
- 6. He wears a robe dipped in blood — most identify it as the blood of God’s enemies; figurative language
- 7. His name is the “Word of God” — God’s powerful presence (John 1:1)
- 8. He is “King of kings and Lord of lords” — sovereign over all earthly rulers, Caesar included

The armies of heaven follow him in fine linen, white and clean (19:14). We fight by following the Lamb. Three images describe Christ as judge — the sword, the staff, and the winepress (19:15).

In 19:17–21 the wedding banquet of the Lamb is set in contrast to the great judgment supper of God. At Armageddon the beast, the false prophet, the kings of the earth and their armies face the rider on the white horse — “but the beast was captured ...” (19:20).

20:1–3 — The Temporary Imprisonment of Satan

Revelation 19–20 does not necessarily unfold in strict chronological sequence; it offers a different perspective on final judgment and salvation when Christ returns.

The main theme of Revelation 20 is the judgment of Satan. He is not so much a figure of sheer power as a master of deception. His judgment occurs in two stages: temporary imprisonment in the Abyss, then eternal torment in the lake of fire (20:10). His names: the dragon, the ancient serpent, the devil, Satan — adversary or accuser (20:2).

The meaning of the millennium?

The main focus is the judgment of Satan. Notice the forceful verbs: seized, bound, threw, locked, sealed — indicating a total binding of Satan at the end of the age (premillennialism) rather than a curtailing of his activities in the present age (amillennialism).

20:4–10 — The Millennial Reign and Satan’s Judgment

John sees thrones and those given authority to judge, and the souls of those put to death for their devotion to Jesus — certainly all Christian martyrs, probably all Christians. They came to life and reigned with Christ.

- First resurrection = resurrection of the righteous
- Second “resurrection” = resuscitation of the wicked for judgment
- First death = physical death · Second death = eternal death

All believers must be included in the first resurrection in order to be exempted from the second death (20:4b–6). The “rest of the dead” in 20:5 refers to unbelievers. In 20:7–10, Satan is released, rebels, is defeated, and is punished eternally — thrown into the lake of burning sulfur where the other two members of the unholy trinity had been thrown.

20:11–15 — The Final Judgment

The great white throne judgment is the final judgment of the ungodly — a “second resurrection,” or better, resuscitation, of the ungodly dead to face divine judgment. Believers share in the first resurrection, coming to life at Christ’s return prior to the millennium (20:5).

What is God’s promise that you will experience resurrection when Christ returns?

The Spirit is God’s guarantee of resurrection to eternal life (Rom. 8:11; 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:14).

The wicked dead are judged according to what they had done (20:12b, 13b). Two kinds of books are opened: “the books” and “the book of life.” In 20:14 death and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire. Hell in the NT is eternal separation from the presence of God and all that is good and life giving.

At this point in the story all of God’s enemies suffer the same fiery fate — the beast and false prophet (19:20), Satan (20:10), death (20:14), and wicked humans (20:15; 21:8). Evil has been completely destroyed.

Reference: The Symbolism of Numbers

Duvall, Revelation, 163. ½ short, brief · 1 exclusiveness · 2 plurality · 3 sufficiency · 3½ limited period of Satan’s rule · 4 cosmic completeness · 5 limited · 6 incompletion · 7 perfection, completeness · 10 fullness · 12 completeness, the number of God’s people · 24 (12×2) · 42 · 144 (12×12) · 666 man’s number · 1,000 large numbers · 1,260 · 7,000 · 12,000 · 144,000 (12×12×1,000)