

# The Revelation

## Lesson 18

The REVELATION presented the entire record of the 1,000-year reign of the LORD in just three verses. Why? This vision was recorded to present the facts surrounding the *Second Coming of the LORD* and the *salvation of the Nation of Israel*. The specifics of the LORD's millennial reign and Israel's place and part in that reign have been covered in great detail in the rest of God's Word. Concerning the *Second Coming of the LORD*, the REVELATION focused on defeating all sin and evil which has dominated the world and especially the *Nation of Israel* through the ages. The major instigator of that sin was the one who sinned first, the *great red dragon, the devil, whom we know as Satan*. He was the first to sin in heaven before he imported it to the earth in the *Garden of Eden* when, disguised as a snake, he lured Adam and Eve to commit the first transgression on earth which started the whole trouble for humanity all these years since.

Before moving past the 1,000-year reign of the LORD, it might be appropriate to take one look at the design of the LORD's kingdom on earth. When the REVELATION says He will be the **"King of kings and Lord of lords,"** (19:16) coupled with the reign of all the resurrected saints with Him on earth (20:6), it means that the millennial kingdom will be a *theonomy*. The term comes from the Greek word *theo* which means *god* and *nomy* which means *law*. Together, the two Greek words form the new word *theonomy* which means *God's Rule*.<sup>7</sup> The 1,000-year kingdom of the LORD will be organized, managed and ruled under *God's Law* and no other law. The LORD's law given through Moses to the newly born *Nation of Israel* at Mount Sinai after leaving Egypt was meant to be a *theonomy*. However, as soon as the *Nation of Israel* demanded a king (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 8), the king known as King Saul began the process of turning the rule of Israel into a *heteronomy*. In so doing, the *Nation of Israel* became like all the rest of the world. The term *heteronomy* comes from the Greek word *hetero* which means *other* and *nomy*, which means *law*. The new word means *others' rule*. In other words, a few leaders, but not God, determine the rights and laws that govern the majority of the people in each nation. We might note here that the founders of the *United States of America* attempted to form this nation as a *theonomy*, one nation under God, not to be ruled as a *heteronomy* like England, France, Spain and all the rest. Sadly, the American government has slowly changed and chipped away at the original intent of the founding fathers by attempting to turn the country into a full-fledged *heteronomy* nation where the few attempt to press their rule on the majority of the people. However, our founding fathers did establish five roadblocks in the way that continue to thwart the total implementation of *Heteronomy* in this nation. One roadblock is the *autonomy of free speech*. The term *autonomy* comes from the Greek *auto* meaning *self* and *nomy* meaning *law*. Combined, the new definition is *self-rule*. In the past in America we were allowed to say-

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<sup>7</sup> Two fully functional and stand-alone Greek words are never used to form a new word with the same meaning as the original two words. For instance, *theo* = *god* and *nomy* = *law*. It is a common mistake to say the new word means *God's law*. Greek does not create a new word that has the same meaning that could have been adequately expressed in their original form. Neither does it create a new word with the same number of letters as the original words and keep the meaning of the two separate words. Therefore, the meaning of the new word must be discovered. In order to convey a new meaning used in the same context a new Greek word was formed. In this case, the new word does not just mean the *law of God*, it means *God's rule* with His *law* as the basis of His *rule*.

*what-we-wanted-to-say* without the fear of government persecution or persecution from others. This concept in America is in jeopardy. Today, the *autonomy of free speech* is accepted only when the listener agrees with the speaker. Across political party lines the *autonomy of free speech* is being attacked – one against the other. Court battles are ensuing to limit the *autonomy of free speech*. In Canada, Sweden and the United Kingdom it is already a criminal offense for preachers to read certain portions of the Bible in public. In Houston, Texas, a mayor collected messages of local pastors in an attempt to thwart the *autonomy of free speech* and stop the reading of certain passages of God's Word by claiming them to be hate-speech. At the same time, the mayor used the *autonomy of free speech* to continue her own personal vitriol. Once she began to try to take away the *autonomy* of the preachers, she inadvertently moved from *autonomy* to *heteronomy* where a few govern the many. The millennial kingdom of the LORD will be free of *autonomy and heteronomy rule* – it will be His *Theonomy*. The resurrected spiritual saints of all the ages will serve with Him as priests throughout the world making sure everyone abides by the will and rule of the LORD.

Who will the resurrected spiritual saints be ruling during the 1,000-year kingdom of the LORD? The misconception that the *Battle of Armageddon* will annihilate all humanity from the earth in one final *apocalypse* is blatantly false and misleading. First, the word *apocalypse* means the *revelation* or the *unveiling*. The title of the book is the *Apocalypse of Jesus Christ* and it means the revealing of the details of His Second Coming. It has absolutely nothing to do with the total destruction of the world. Such destruction will never happen! Second, not everyone will join Satan in the valley of Megiddo to fight against the LORD. Zechariah tells us the following about those who do not join Satan in the valley.

**Zechariah 14:9-21** And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be *the only* one, and His name *the only* one. All the land will be changed into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin's Gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's wine presses. And people will live in it, and there will be no more curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security. Now this will be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples who have gone to war against Jerusalem; their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, and their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongue will rot in their mouth. And it will come about in that day that a great panic from the LORD will fall on them; and they will seize one another's hand, and the hand of one will be lifted against the hand of another. ... So also like this plague, will be the plague on the horse, the mule, the camel, the donkey, and all the cattle that will be in those camps. Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

Thus, after the *Battle of Armageddon*, humans, just like you and I, will still be alive on the earth. Those humans will not have the *mark of the beast* on them. They will not go to the valley when the call is made to join Satan and fight against the LORD. Armageddon is not a worldwide battle, it happens in one valley fifty miles north of Jerusalem. All humans who are not in the valley will then transition to live in the 1,000-year kingdom under the rule of the

LORD. Their lives will be guarded and protected by the resurrected and glorified saints who came to earth with the LORD as the mighty host of heaven riding on white horses. No nation will have its own government any longer. No congress, senate, or president will be changing the laws. The law will be the *theonomy* – *God's Law*. It will be carried out and overseen by His priests and ministers. The saved people from the *Nation of Israel* will also be alive and transition into the LORD's kingdom. Every Jew in the world will return to Israel to live during the millennial reign on his tribal land in the Promised Land (Ezekiel 37, Dry Bones). All people, Jews and Gentiles, will be ruled by Jesus and His *theonomy*. However, during the 1,000-year reign, the *Nation of Israel* will be the esteemed people of the world – the *Nation of nations*. Every Gentile in the world will revere every Jew in the world. However, all of this information is outside the text of the REVELATION. It is time to return to the story in this last book of the Bible.

### 3. The Parade of the Satanic (20:7-10)

#### a) Surrender of the Satan (20:7)

Rev 20:7 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,

One thousand years after Satan is bound in chains and locked in a chamber in the abyss, he will be released as promised to tempt the nations of people on earth once again, Jews and Gentiles. The promise to Satan will give him only a short time to do his dirty deeds (Revelation 20:3b).

#### b) Seduction of the Society (20:8)

Rev 20:8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.

The phrase “**the four corners of the earth**” is another way of saying *the entire world*. In other words, Satan will attempt to “**deceive**” the people of all the nations of the world just as he did through the ages, Jews and Gentiles alike. Here we might well take the time once again to address the question that is not specifically addressed in the REVELATION concerning all the population in the LORD's millennial reign as King of kings.

First, *resurrected spiritual beings* will inhabit the earth with the LORD, each with a resurrected body, each with a throne, each with a job in the administration of the LORD to rule, guide and direct all the political and religious business of the one-world government in place under His reign. That point is alluded to in Revelation 20:4.

Second, *earthly human beings* like you and I will inhabit the earth with the LORD. We read about that in Zechariah 14 above. During the 1,000-year reign, these humans will be governed by the *resurrected spiritual beings*. Isaiah says the following about the length of human life during the reign of the LORD.

Isaiah 65:20-23 No longer will there be in it an infant *who lives but a few days*, or an old man who does not live out his days; For youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be *thought* accursed. They will build houses and inhabit *them*; they will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

They will not build and another inhabit, they will not plant and another eat; for as the lifetime of a tree, *so will be* the days of My people, and My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands. They will not labor in vain, or bear *children* for calamity; for they are the offspring of those blessed by the LORD, and their descendants with them.

Can you imagine, the days of one's youth lasting until the age of 100? Each will be born with a sinful nature. Each will require salvation. Can you imagine living as long as a tree? In other words, the length of life will return to the time span before the flood. But also notice, work will still be required. It has always been part of *God's Rule* that *the one who does not work shall not eat*. For the entire 1,000 years, businesses will still operate, products will be sold, factories will produce inventory, crops will be grown, food will be sold, vacations will be taken, babies will be born, schools will be filled, and hospitals will still be needed. The only difference is that it will be a one-world government with the LORD in charge and Satan and all his demons will be absent from the daily life of every human on earth.

Evidently, but not indicated here, the governing *resurrected spiritual beings* will stop the oversight of *earthly human beings* upon the release of Satan from the abyss. The LORD will purposefully allow Satan to **“deceive”** those who want to be *deceived*. We must never forget that it is part of the LORD's plan for humanity that He will allow them to have their own will and make their own choices about Him. In His *Theonomy* the Lord has always allowed humans to have *autonomy*. We might think of it this way. The LORD created us in His image with the ability to make choices. The LORD loved His human creation so much that He allowed each human to make the eternal choice to choose or reject Him. Adam and Eve saw and knew the LORD and, yet, He allowed them to make a poor decision that has affected every descendant of theirs through all the ages. Through the rest of the Old Testament, only a few people, here and there were allowed to see the LORD. Abraham saw the LORD and fed Him a meal on the same day he was told that he and Sarah would have a son. Then, the LORD allowed Abraham and Sarah to mess the whole story up with the poor choice of bringing Hagar into the equation. We have other examples through the Old Testament that tell the same tale, a glorious encounter with the LORD and then having the *autonomy* of making a poor choice. Then, 4,417 years after the creation of Adam and Eve, Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem. For thirty-three years He lived on earth. His story spread throughout the world. Religious magistrates came from three distant countries to see Him at his birth, each of them starting their journey many months before His parents left Nazareth to sign up for the census and pay the tax in their home city of Bethlehem. When the women in Sidon heard that Jesus had left His home country to take a vacation from the masses of people that were following Him every day, she searched Him out and asked Him to heal her daughter. She knew about the LORD. We find in the Roman records that after the LORD's death, burial and resurrection, Caesar Tiberius sent a letter to Pilate asking him to bring the *Healer* to Rome. Tiberius was sick and he needed healing. He knew, too, about Jesus. Even with all those who saw Jesus during His life and ministry on earth, some refused to believe in Him and made the choice to reject Him. The LORD loves everyone so much that He does not force them to love Him in return. He gives them the *autonomy* to make their own choices. Even with all the humans who will live in the 1,000-year reign of the LORD, who will journey each year to see Him sitting on His *great white throne* in Jerusalem as required by Him, live almost sinless lives as best as humanly possible without Satan and his hordes in the world, will, at the end of the 1,000-year reign, as many as the **“sands of the seashore,”**

choose to reject Him as their eternal LORD. Notice that John does not say, *the sands of the sea*. We must note that only God can count the granules of the “sands of the seashore” and the sea; however, the “sands of the seashore” will number far less than the *sands found at the bottom of the sea*. In just a short span of time, Satan will find all those who will be deceived by him because they want to be deceived and a mass of people will follow him instead of the LORD once again on this earth. It will not be a surprise to the LORD. Their names are not written in the *book of Life*. The LORD knows everything.

John mentions “**Gog and Magog**” in this verse. The land of “**Magog**” lies directly north of the *Promised Land*. Ezekiel prophesied that during the time of Israel’s tribulation, before the *Second Coming of the LORD*, “**Gog**,” the king of the country of “**Magog**,” will see the *Nation of Israel* living at peace, totally disarmed, having “**beaten their swords into plowshares**” (Isaiah 2:4, Micah 4:3). Never again will Israel train for war. The fact is, they will not have the need or ability to re-arm. Their only option will be to run for their lives and hide in the wilderness from Satan and *two beasts* as told previously in the REVELATION. Not told in the REVELATION story is Israel’s trouble with “**Gog and Magog**.” Ezekiel 38 and 39 tell us that “**Gog**” the king of Magog, along with the kings of Rosh, Tubal, Meshech will be joined by the kings of the east and the kings of the south to attempt to attack Jerusalem and the Promised Land to conquer it in the middle of the tribulation. Word will reach the *beast* in the *Revived Roman Empire* of their intent and the *beast* will move into the land of Israel to protect her against *Gog* and his armies in accordance with their *peace treaty*. The *beast* will destroy *Gog*. It will take seven months for the debris from the battle to be cleaned up. Once the *beast* enters the Promised Land, he will decide to stay and set his throne in Jerusalem in the temple and force the worship of himself and Satan. As soon as the 1260 days of protection are up for the *two witnesses*, he will kill them which will result in their resurrection and the salvation of the *Nation of Israel*. He will then turn his wrath against the *Nation of Israel* and she will be forced to run for safety. The families of the soldiers accompanying *Gog* still live north of the *Nation of Israel* when the call to come fight against the LORD occurs. No doubt, three and a half years after having their family members slaughtered by the *beast*, the living relatives of these nations did not join Satan in the Valley of Armageddon. However, one thousand years later, the descendants of “**Gog and Magog**” will still be alive, living through the divine rule of the *King of kings and Lord of lords*. When Satan is released, the first place he goes to deceive is north of the Promised Land, back to the land of “**Gog and Magog**,” a people who have, in general, always been godless nations. There, Satan will first garner supporters for one last battle before recruiting from the rest of the world.

#### c) Surrounding of the Saints (20:9a)

Rev 20:9a And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city,

The REVELATION does not tell us about this beloved city during the 1,000-year kingdom. Zechariah 14 tells us that on the Day of Armageddon, after the fight, the LORD will place His foot on the Mount of Olives and an earthquake will occur. This quake will move the land north and south and a plateau will begin to rise that will become the highest mountain on earth. The plateau will measure 50 square miles. In the middle, the LORD will place the temple described in Ezekiel 40 and the following chapters. With the reformation of

the topography of the land around Jerusalem, the “**broad plain**” will logically be the floor of the valley of Megiddo, the place of the battle of Armageddon 1,000 years earlier. Satan will gather the majority of his new army there but they will also surround the holy temple district that is 50 square miles. His purpose will be to remove the LORD from His *Great White Throne* in the Temple and take it for himself.

d) **Slaying of the Soldiers (20:9b)**

Rev 20:9b and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

As we know from the REVELATION, this last battle against Satan has been planned since before the days of creation. The LORD planned this stand off with Satan. It was written in this REVELATION. It will not be a surprise to the devil! It should not be a surprise to the *great red dragon's* army. It has been in the pages of the Holy Writ for centuries. Therefore, the army of Satan is without excuse. It will have made the wrong choice. The LORD will call fire from heaven and it will be consumed.

e) **Sentence of the Satanic (20:10)**

Rev 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

It will be the last stand for Satan. He will be snatched and thrown into the “**lake of fire and brimstone**” with all his other friends from the *Revived Roman Empire*. The work of Satan will be done – never to tempt and deceive again.

**L. The Great White Throne from Heaven (20:11-15)**

1. **The Authority Over the Throne (20:11)**

Rev 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

Once the last battle is over and Satan is eternally eliminated, the LORD will not take a chance on letting another sin occur on earth. This relatively simple verse should strike great fear in the hearts of everyone. We have seen the power of the LORD as He left heaven and arrived on earth to destroy His enemies in the valley of Megiddo. We have seen the power of the LORD as the King of kings and LORD of lords for 1,000 years. We have seen the power of the LORD to call down fire to devour His enemies in this last battle and we have seen Him control Satan's every move and ultimately cast him into the eternal flames. But here, we see all of earth and heaven in fear of the LORD as He sits on the “**great white throne.**” He has absolute authority over everything, even the dead.

2. **The Authority Over the Dead (20:12)**

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

All of a sudden, John saw all the “**dead**” standing before the LORD. John saw the “**books**” open. He saw the “**book of life**” open. The dead, resurrected with transformed bodies from Hades’ compartment called *torment* were standing before the LORD being judged for their deeds while alive on earth. Where had all these resurrected souls come from?

### 3. The Authority Over the Judged (20:13)

**Rev 20:13** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds.

At first glance, it seems that three locations are giving up resurrected souls to stand before the *great white throne*, but that is not the case at all. The three, the “**sea ... death ... Hades**” are all different. Do you remember when John saw the *great red dragon* waiting for the *beast* to *come from the sea*? The *beast* did not come from the *sea*, but from the *ten countries* that surrounded the *Great Sea*. The countries were made up of people who joined together as the *Revived Roman Empire*. When those people died, they were buried on the land around the *Great Sea*. It seems that in this passage, John is using the word to a much larger extent to mean all the dead bodies or all those whose names were not written in the *Book of Life* because they had rejected God during their lives. When the LORD summoned the resurrection of the dead bodies from all the ages who had rejected Him, there was no place for them to hide. Out of their tombs they were required to immediately appear before the LORD on His *Great White Throne*, ashamed and naked. Naked they came into the world and naked they departed this world! It did not matter what had happened to their bodies, buried in the depths of the water, covered by the burning sands, laid low in the blacklands, left for the animals among the bush, the newly dead and those whose bodies and bones were nothing but dust reassembled and coming forth in a resurrected body. No speck of human life is ever hidden from the eyes of the LORD. He knows where ever fleck can be found.

All those bodies were disposed of because the life that was in each passed through the portal of “**death.**” Death put his or her bodies in the vast “sea” of the graveyard on this world, every human before the flood and after until that day. Death separated the clay of the body from the persona of the soul, which found its place in the compartment of *torment in Hades*. The bodies came from the dust, the souls came from Hades, ruined by the recorded history of their sin. There at the *great white throne*, the bodies will be rejoined to the souls and they will stand before the LORD their Judge. Risen in the *second death*, they have finally arrived at their appointed time of judgment. Each will get to explain to the LORD why he did not accept Him as Savior. Each will have the record of his life examined according to the books that contain every thought, action and deed. Then, the *Book of Life* will be examined and his name will be absent. No one standing before the LORD at the *great white throne* of judgment will find his name in the *Book of Life*. Regardless of the defense presented, each will be sent to the *lake of fire and brimstone*. That promise will come in a moment.

### 4. The Authority Over Death and Hades (20:14)

**Rev 20:14** Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

The portal of “**death**” was thrown into the *lake of fire*. It was no longer needed. After the judgment of the *great white throne*, no human will ever die again. Yes, there are humans on earth at this time in the story. They will see the LORD’s judgment of the *resurrected dead doomed to the lake of fire*. They will also see the LORD gather up the place called “**Hades**” and cast it into the *lake of fire*. It will never be needed again. No one will ever sin again and be sent to the place of torment of the living dead. All of humanity will change at the conclusion of the *great white throne* judgment, but that will come later in the story.

#### 5. The Authority Over the Book (20:15)

Rev 20:15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Just to make sure that he was crystal clear, John summed up the results of the *great white throne* judgment in this verse. If a man’s name was not found in the “**book of life**” to the “**lake of fire**” he was thrown for all eternity out of the presence of the LORD.