



HMR Men's Neighborhood Bible Study - Prophecy Series

Lesson #9: Revelation (3/3): Chapters 20 through 22

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

This is the final lesson in our three-part series focused on the book of Revelation. As discussed in our last two lessons (Lessons #7 and #8), there are divisions within this book that allow us to focus on specific themes and concepts that can be covered in an abbreviated time period. **Figure 1** below provides a three-part outline for Revelation that includes the following sections.

- Section #1: Focus on Heaven and the Coming King as Judge
- Section #2: Focus on Earth and the Coming Calamity with Judgment
- **Section #3: Focus on NEW Heaven and Earth with the Coming Kingdom resulting in Joy**

This week we are focusing on the *NEW Heaven and Earth with the Coming Kingdom*.

| Focus: | Heaven | | Earth | | | | | | | New Heaven & Earth | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----|----------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Divisions | Letter to the Seven Churches | | Opening the Seven Bowls | Blowing the Seven Trumpets | Describing the Seven Signs | Pouring Out the Seven Bowls | Destroying the Enemies of God | Making All Things New | | | | | | |
| Chapters | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 13 | 14 | 16 | 17 | 19 | 20 | 22 |
| Topics: | Coming King (Judge) | | Coming Calamity (Judgment) | | | | | | | Coming Kingdom (Joy) | | | | |
| Place: | Aegean Island of Patmos | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Time: | Approximately 95 – 96 A.D. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Author: | The Apostle John | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Figure 1: Graphical overview of Revelation

This particular lesson deals with the Coming Kingdom and *making all things new*. In contrast to the majority of Revelation, Chapters 20 through 22 of Revelation deal with events after the Tribulation Period. Refer to the chart on Page 4 of this lesson for a general overview. Some of the significant events of which we have spoken during this series are addressed in this part of Revelation, including the Millennial (1,000-year) Reign, Satan being bound, the Final Battle, the White Throne Judgment, and creation of the New Heaven and Earth.

This week please read Revelation chapters 20 through 22. In this lesson we are going to minimize the commentary, but let Scripture speak for itself. As you read through these passages, consider some of the more noteworthy events and people.

One of the most striking aspects in reading Revelation 20 is that after the Thousand Year Reign, when Satan is released, he is able to amass a huge army, described as “the number of them is like the sand of

the seashore" in verse 8. The first, and most important, question is how in the world could anyone rebel with Jesus ruling on earth? The obvious answer is even without Satan and his demons present on earth, man still has a heart of rebellion. The concept that "all have sinned" as presented in Romans 3:23 is apparently still true in the Millennial Reign.

The second question I have always wondered is how in a 1,000-year period of time can mankind have grown to the point where an apparent "countless" number of people are willing to rebel. Being the engineer that I am, I decided to run a little math model to explore the possible population growth during the Thousand Year Reign (results plotted in **Figure 2**). At the current time the world's population growth rate is 1.13%.¹ If we assume that the population at the start of the Thousand Year Reign is 1 million (I will admit a number that is likely too small), after a 1,000-year period of time the earth's population will be 75.9 billion.

I recognize my model is flawed in that I assuming zero deaths occur during the Thousand Year Reign; however, the bottom line is that the population of the earth will grow significantly during this time period; even if 10% of the world's population of the world at the end of the Thousand Year Reign rebels against Jesus that would be 7.5 billion people (close to today's current world population of 7.8 billion).

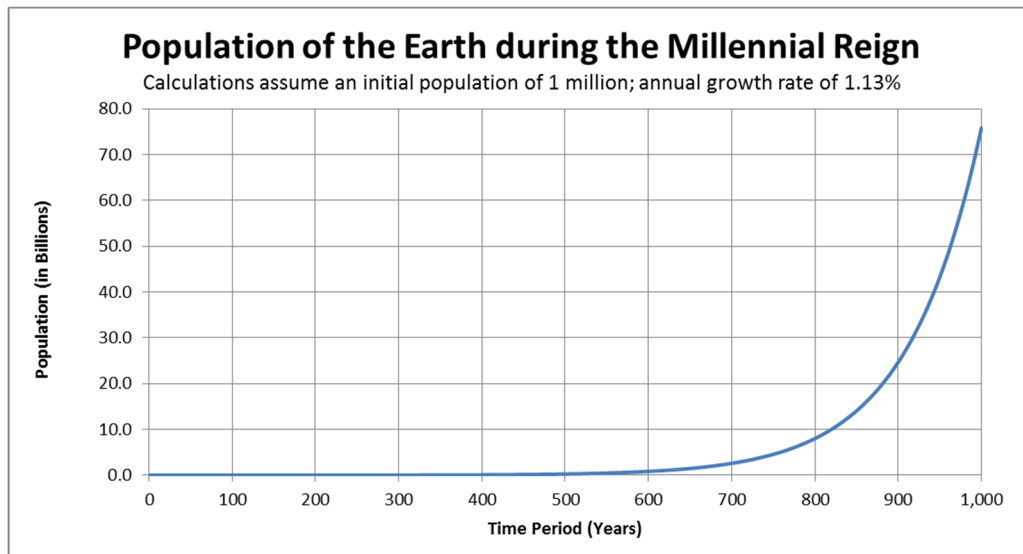


Figure 2: Possible population growth during the Thousand Year Reign

One of the most striking aspects at the end of Revelation is God's remaking of Heaven and Earth, as well as Jerusalem. Provided below is Revelation 21, verses 15 through 21.

¹⁵ The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall. ¹⁶ The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. ¹⁷ And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements. ¹⁸ The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. ¹⁹ The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; ²⁰ the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst. ²¹ And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

¹ www.worldometers.info/world-population/

As indicated in the **RED** highlighted text above, the dimensions of the new Jerusalem will be 1,500 miles by 1,500 miles. Putting that in context, 1,500 miles is the approximate distance from Houston to Los Angeles, which is shown graphically below overlaid on the map of the United States. The bottom line – *this is going to be one big town!* As Jesus said in John 14:2, “In my Father’s house are many mansions.”



Questions for Consideration

1. Read Revelation 20 and answer the following questions.
 - a. For what reason is Satan bound (hint: verse 3)?
 - b. According to verse 5 what happens to those who are killed for the cause of Christ in the Tribulation Period? What makes them unique relative to the rest of the world's population?
2. Read Revelation 21:22-27. What are some of the unique characteristics of the New Jerusalem?
3. Read Revelation 22:1-3. What does it appear that God is rebuilding?
4. In reading Revelation 22:12 do you sense Jesus is establishing for us a high level of accountability? In what areas is your “level of accountability” lacking?

A Graphical Representation of the Church Age and End Time Events

