

LEARNING TO INTERPRET REVELATION

Rev. 20:4-15

After seven years of tribulation upon the earth,
 After the wicked, idolatrous rule of antichrist over the world,
 After Christ returns at Armageddon leading armies of saints and angels,
 After rebellious soldiers are instantaneously slain fighting the King of Kings,
 After the antichrist and false prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire,
 After the remnant of Israel are saved as they look upon the Returning Christ to believe
 and trust in Him,
 After Satan has been bound and cast into the bottomless pit,

I. THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM OF CHRIST BEGINS! *Revelation 20:4-6* **4** *And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5* *But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6* *Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.*

A. ITS GOVERNMENT

1. Christ will rule from His throne in _____. Isaiah 9:6–7 **6** *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7* *Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*
2. David (in his _____ body) shall rule over Israel, the prince of the nations. (Ezek. 37:24)
3. The Apostles shall be _____ of the twelve tribes of Israel. (Mt. 19:28)
4. _____ shall rule and reign with Christ in their resurrection bodies.

Positions of authority and responsibility will be _____ at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Romans 14:10 **But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.**

1 Cor. 3:10-15 **10** *According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11* *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12* *Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13* *each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14* *If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15* *If*

anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

- a. Gold is associated with the _____ of God. What have we done for God's glory?
- b. Silver speaks of _____. Who have you led to faith in Jesus Christ?
- c. Precious stones remind us of _____. How is our life making a difference for eternity?
- d. Wood, hay, and stubble speak of those things which time _____: personal gratification, personal _____, the accumulation of wealth for personal comfort, _____ and luxury.
 1. How have we used the talents, spiritual _____, financial resources, health, energy, _____, opportunities that God has given us since our salvation?

Matthew 25:14-21ff 14 **"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. 16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. 17 And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. 18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' 21 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' 22 He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' 23 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'**

In the parable, the men given five and two talents respectively represent _____.

Each has a different level of ability and opportunity. However when each of them is faithful to use what was entrusted to them by their lord _____ their lord, they are equally rewarded. So it will be at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

B. ITS POPULATION

1. The remnant of _____ that was saved (Zech. 12:10, 13:1)
2. The righteous ones from the Judgment of the _____ **Matthew 25:31-46** 31 **"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying,**

'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.' 41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' 44 "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' 45 Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.' 46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

In the early days of the Millennium, Christ will gather the Gentile survivors of the tribulation in the Valley of Jehosaphat east of Jerusalem. They will be separated on the basis of how they treated the _____ of Christ, the _____ and Christians. The reality is that only true followers of Christ would have been merciful to Christians and Jews, and they will be ushered into the Millennial Kingdom in their _____ bodies. The lost, with the mark of the beast still emblazoned on hand or head, refused any kindness to Jews or Christians, showing they did not have _____ in their heart. They will be cast into hell.

3. People _____ in the millennium (Like the children of Isa. 11:8)
4. _____ of life will return as in the early years on the earth. Isaiah 65:20 "No more shall an infant from there *live but a few days*, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner *being* one hundred years old shall be accursed.

If a person dies at age 100, they will still be considered a _____. People born in the millennium will have _____ years to trust in Christ.

C. ITS ACTIVITY

1. Peace replaces war. (Micah 4:3)
2. Swift and righteous justice (Isa. 11:4)
 - a. _____ is still possible for the natural men in the millennium.
 - b. But it is not as _____ because Satan is bound.
 - c. Sin will be dealt with _____ as Christ rules with a rod of iron.
3. Industry and development
 - a. After terrible tribulation and Armageddon, much _____ will need to be done.
 - b. There will be time to do the things you have wanted: other _____, exploring, developing relationships.
 - c. A renewed earth will more than adequately provide for the _____ population.
4. Worship

- a. A new millennial _____ will be built. (Ezek. 40-46)
- b. Animal _____ will remind everyone of the sacrifice of the Lamb of God upon the cross.

5. Every covenant _____ to Israel and to believers will be fulfilled during these days.

II. REBELLION OF SATAN *Revelation 20:7-10* **7** Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison **8** and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. **9** They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. **10** The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Satan will be allowed one final spree of _____ and temptation to separate the wheat from the chaff. At the end, the devil will be cast into the Lake of Fire to _____ the antichrist and false prophet.

III. THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT *Revelation 20:11-15* **11** Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. **12** And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. **13** The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. **14** Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **15** And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

After the thousand year Millennial Kingdom, the Second Resurrection occurs and the _____ dead are resurrected out of hell to be judged. The Books which contain the record of their _____ and words will be opened. Another book will be opened: The Book of _____. If anyone's name was not in this book, they are cast into the Lake of Fire. Whose names are recorded in the Book of Life? Those who have _____ Jesus.

Philippians 4:3 And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

All who stand before this throne are proven to be _____. The wages of sin is _____. The Book of Life is checked, and it is found that these have refused to accept the _____ of eternal life offered to them by Jesus Who purchased it by His death upon the cross. Therefore they must pay for their sin _____, and they will pay for all _____.

CONCLUSION: Knowing the truth about what God has in store for us in the Millennial Kingdom excites me about what is ahead. I am looking forward to the rapture. I am glad I will miss the terrible days of tribulation, but I am flat out excited about the Millennium. We will not just be like little renaissance _____, sitting on clouds, playing a harp. Those who are in Christ will live as we have never lived before. We will know more completely than we have ever known what it means to have the _____ life promised by Christ. Justice will _____; righteousness will prevail; truth will be honored; Christ will be _____. And all who have trusted in Christ shall be there.