

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

Scripture Reference: Revelation 20:7-15

In the last session, we finished looking at the Millennium – the one thousand year rule of Christ on earth.

QUESTION?	What is something you remember from the Millennium?

THE GREAT BATTLE

At the culmination of the 1000 year reign of Christ on earth, Scripture picks up with some intense action. Let’s read **Revelation 20:7-10**.

According to John’s revelation, what is the first thing that takes place once the Millennial reign of Christ is complete? _____

John says Satan will be released from his prison. Where has he been for the past 1000 years? _____

Do you recall from the study on the Millennium what our three enemies are?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

During the Millennium, which of these three will continue to impact the inhabitants of the earth? _____

As Satan is released from his prison, what does he proceed to do? _____

Read **John 8:44**. How does Jesus refer to Satan? _____

So, in keeping with who he is, Satan goes out and begins to bring deception to the inhabitants of the earth. He also, gathers “Gog and Magog” together to battle.

Where have you heard of these two terms? _____

We looked at these terms in our discussion of the Battle of Armageddon and in our discussion on the Beast Empires. Here Gog and Magog refer to the ancient enemies of the LORD. Read **Genesis 10:2**. Magog was the grandson of Noah and settled in the North – north of the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea. In Ezekiel, Gog represented the Anti-christ and Magog represented the Beast Empire. Yet throughout history, there has always been the true evil force behind the enemies of God – Satan. Satan is the ultimate Gog and Magog is his numerous minions.

Around what city does Satan rally his followers who number the sands of the seashore?

What army of God does John mention is present to confront Satan? _____

How does God defeat Satan and his minions (Gog and Magog)? _____

What is the eternal judgment of Satan? _____

The Battle of Armageddon saw the epic battle between the Son of God and the Antichrist. Now, at the end of the Millennium, we have the showdown of God and Satan. Once this enormous battle has ended, it is then time to sort out the dead. This takes place in front of the Great White Throne upon which Jesus sits.

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE

Once this battle has been fought and quickly won by God Himself, John then proceeds in his revelation. Read **Revelation 20:11-15**.

QUESTION?	What is the setting of this vision and how does John describe the One who sits on the throne?

According to John, who was standing before God? _____

From where did these dead come? _____

The fact that Death and Hades give up all their dead is a reference that this group of people are those who have died throughout the ages and did not have faith in God’s covenant (OT) or in Christ (NT). These are the unsaved from all of time who are now to be judged.

According to what will they be judged? _____

Read **Luke 8:17** and **Romans 2:16**. What “work” is Jesus and Paul talking about in this passage that will be revealed?

Read **Matthew 12:37**. What “work” is Jesus talking about in this passage that will be judged? _____

Read **Romans 2:6**. What “work” is Paul referencing in this passage that will be judged by Christ? _____

So, at this “Great White Throne Judgment,” we see that Jesus will examine the works of each individual – his/her thoughts, words, and deeds.

According to John in this passage, what is the *second death*? _____

QUESTION?	What is Hades?

We read all throughout Scriptures about this place referred to as “Hades.” In the Old Testament, the Jewish people referred to this place as “Sheol.” Read **Psalms 16:10**. From this passage, what is David confident in that God will not leave in Sheol? _____

David revealed that he was confident that when he died, and his “soul” was separated from his body, that God would not leave his soul in Sheol.

As we move into the New Testament, this concept of “Sheol” evolves into the Greek term “Hades.” This word actually comes from Greek mythology as “the place of the dead.” Interestingly, Jesus and Paul both pick up this phrase to use it in Christian / Jewish theology.

Read **Matthew 16:18**. According to Jesus, what will not prevail against the church?

Interestingly, when Jesus said this to His disciples, they were in Caesarea Philippi. This rocky and mountainous region had a claim to fame. There is a cave in Caesarea Philippi where, according to Greek mythology, was the entrance to Hades – or the Gates of Hades. It is fascinating to know that when Jesus made this famous statement, the disciples were looking in the background to this infamous cave.

Hades is the place of the dead. This is where the souls of the unsaved deceased go until judgment – the Great White Throne Judgment that comes at the end of the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

Finally, what is the last criteria by which Jesus will judge the dead according to **Revelation 20:15**? _____

This final judgment will bring to an end the age of a fallen creation. The time will have come for all things to be renovated – but that is next session.