

Revelation 20: Dawn of the Millennium

Rev 20:1-6 – Ushering in the Millennial Kingdom

- Enemy known as “the dragon”; “serpent”; “diabolos” (“devil” - “one who slanders”); “Satan” - “adversary”
- “abyss” - 5 times in Revelation (9:11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1,3) - temporary place of incarceration for demons
- Vv. 4-6 - number of thrones – on which are seated those who had been given authority to judge - followers of Lamb.
- “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matt 19:28)
- Resurrection of the saints from all ages = “the first resurrection” - “resurrection of the righteous” (Lk 14:14; Acts 24:15), the “resurrection of life” (John 5:29), the resurrection of “those who are Christ’s at His coming” (1 Cor 15:23), and the “better resurrection” (Hebrews 11:35).

Revelation 20:7–10 – The Final Rebellion

- Satan goes to the four corners of the earth to summon Gog and Magog to battle. Who are they?
- Gog appears in 1 Chronicles 5:4, Ezekiel 38–39 (ten times) and here in Revelation 20:8.
- Gog used in Bible as general title for an enemy of God’s people.

3. Revelation 20:11-15 - Great White Throne Judgement

Great white throne judgment comes after 2nd coming (19:11–21) and end of the millennium (20:1–10) but takes place before the establishment of the ‘new heaven and the new earth’ (Rev 21).

Rev 4:8–11 - Jesus Christ also on the throne

Rev 3.21

The NT attributes Judgment Day to both Father and the Son (Jn 5:22; 2 Cor 5:10; Rom 14:10; and 2 Tim 4:1).

“from His presence earth and heaven fled away.” - the “uncreation” of the universe.
(MacArthur)

2 Peter 3:10 ; John 5:28-30; Daniel 7.9-10; Daniel 12:2

Believers face separate judgement prior to the millennial kingdom where they will be judged on the basis of their works and will be rewarded (1 Cor 3:10–15; Romans 14:10–12).

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; (Vs. 13)

“Death” - symbolic of all the places on land from which God will resurrect the unrighteous dead.

“Hades” = Greek word used to describe the realm of the dead - used ten times in the NT - term for the place and condition of those who experience the separation of body & spirit = death.

Jesus used “Gehenna” for “hell”. (Mark 9:43)

Are there varying degrees of punishment in hell?

Matt. 11:20-24 - the day of judgement will be less tolerable for Chorazin and Capernaum based on the amount of revelation they had compared to Tyre, Sidon and Sodom - they are then *more responsible* for their unrepentant, unbelieving attitudes.

Luke 12:47-48; Acts 17.31

“[a] man can't be *taken* to hell or *sent* to hell: you can only get there on your own steam”; “the doors of hell are locked from the *inside*”; “there are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God ‘Thy will be done,’ and those to whom God says, in the end, ‘Thy will be done.’” (C.S. Lewis, ‘The Great Divorce’)

Hell a place of total darkness, which will isolate its inmates from each other (Matt 22:13; 2 Pet 2:17) - complete exclusion from his presence, heaven is his presence.

So hell *is* the absence of God in his good and lovely and joyful presence; it is the absence of any mercy or grace or kindness; it is divorce from any relationship or even potential for such. In this sense, hell is ‘separation from God’. Tim Keller

GBM/ Revelation

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