

Session Six

Revelation



The Sixth Opening:
Heaven Itself – Open!!
19:11 to 22:6

Four Operatic Movements:

- *The first movement (19:11-21)*
- *The second movement (20:1-10)*
- *The third movement (20:11-15)*
- *The fourth and final movement (21:1-22:5)*

The first movement (19:11-21)

- **Jesus, as the Conquering King, is also the Word of God;**
- **His Word is his only weapon;**
- **“he will rule them with an iron sceptre”**
- **Used three times 19:1; 2:27; and 12:5;**
- **It is not Jesus who starts this battle;**
- **The battle takes place in the white space between vv 19 and 20.**

The second movement (20:1-10):

Three most common interpretations:

- **This section outlines seven years (or 3½ years) of tribulation, the Rapture of the church, the Return of Christ, and a 1000 year-long Millennial reign of Christ, followed by another Return.**
- **This section is a continuation of the description of the great Age of the Church. The 1000 years is not taken as a literal amount of time in this view, and the reign of Christ is even now in place, although it must be conceded that the devil still has considerable effect and influence. There is only one Second Coming, and it comes only after this period is finished.**
- **In keeping with the general interpretation of Revelation as a broadly symbolic book, the events in Chapter 20 are not to be taken as literal in any way, and the whole thing is just to be read as the culmination of the war against evil.**

The third movement (20:11-15):

1 Cor. 4:2-5 ²Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. ³I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. ⁴My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me.

⁵Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

1 Corinthians 3:13-15 ¹³Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

¹⁴If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

The fourth and final movement (21:1-22:5)

1. It is not that we go to heaven to be with God, but rather that heaven, and God with it, comes to earth (21:1-4).
2. Is the main purpose of heaven to go to heaven to meet up with family and relatives again?

Extract from C. S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce* ...

3. It is not so much that God chooses to save some, but rather that some choose not to be saved by him.
4. The work of the angels is not only to pour out God's wrath, but also to show us the sheer beauty of the redeemed (21:9).
5. We are not taken back to the Garden of Eden, and become eternal tree-huggers. We become eternal city-dwellers.

The fourth and final movement (21:1-22:5)

- 6.** The measurements are intended to make us think that this city is unimaginably huge, and totally impossible ever to be overthrown.
- 7.** There is no temple in the city (v 22).
- 8.** There is genuine restoration of earthly things (22:1-5).
- 9.** The Tree of Life from the creation narrative; for the healing of the nations.

*¹ Come near, you nations, and listen; pay attention, you peoples!
Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, the world, and all that comes
out of it!*

*² The LORD is angry with all nations; his wrath is upon all their
armies.*

He will totally destroy them, he will give them over to slaughter.

*³ Their slain will be thrown out, their dead bodies will send up a
stench;*

*the mountains will be soaked with their blood.⁴ All the stars of the
heavens will be dissolved*

*and the sky rolled up like a scroll; all the starry host will fall
like withered leaves from the vine, like shrivelled figs from the fig
tree.*

Isaiah 34: 1-4

5 God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

7 For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

8 God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

9 The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham,

for the kings of the earth belong to God; he is greatly exalted.

Psalm 44:5-9

¹⁰In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.

¹¹In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea.

¹² He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel;

he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth.

Isaiah 11:10-12

**No hymn of praise to conclude; rather, a
declaration of the truth of this vision.**

Jesus: ⁷“Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.”

John: ⁸I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. ⁹But he said to me,

The Angel: “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!”

John: ¹⁰Then he told me, **The Angel:** “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near. ¹¹Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy.”

Jesus: ¹²“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

¹⁴“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. ¹⁵Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

¹⁶“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

John (?) / The Angel(?): ¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. ¹⁸I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. ¹⁹And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

²⁰He who testifies to these things says,

Jesus (in quotation?): “Yes, I am coming soon.”

John: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.

1. Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. (1:3)

2. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” (14:13)

3. Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed.” (16:15)

4. Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb! (19:9)

5. Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. (20:6)

6. Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book. (22:7)

7. Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. (22:14)

- **The Wrath of God;** how a God of love can also be a God of wrath.
- **The Kingdom of God and of Heaven.** This is a major study and answers the question: *How shall we then live?*
- The timing issues and **what is wrong with Pre-Millennialism.**