

Revelation Class 13 (Revelation 19:11-20)

“Judgement and the Kingdom “

Recap:

A challenge when preaching and teaching the Bible is not to bend Scripture to fit what we believe, but to take Scripture for face value

The proper terms is Exegesis and Eisegesis...



Exegesis means that you pull from the context, history, and understand what the Original listener heard- and after you do that, you pull timeless truths out That can practically apply in your life.

Eisegesis is the complete opposite = **THE BAD APPROACH**

It is taking the Scripture, with little understanding of the context, history not prioritizing what the original audience heard

And you put meaning to it... it can be bent to justify one's actions, politics, beliefs, etc.

This method can justify and make scripture say anything- hence a lot of denominations.

To add to the challenge, since this particular book is largely symbolic

Prophetic and also categorized as apocalyptic

We can struggle to make this fit into our westernized 21st century understanding.

Many Americans read this book and yell out, This is about America!

The Anti-Christ is the Democratic nominee!

When... America wouldn't be discovered for another 1500-years!

“This misreading of Scripture arises from combining our individualism with a more subtle, deeply hidden and deeply rooted aspect of our Western worldview: we still think the universe centers around us.”¹

I'll circle back to this tonight...

¹ — E. Randolph Richards, *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible*

Last week, we covered chapter 18, which John describes the ultimate downfall of the economic and political Babylon.

even as God was preparing to pour out His final judgement

His grace was still extended to any person who did not take the mark of the Beast

Sending an angel to call out, “get out Babylon” there is still time.



As Babylon fell, the kings, merchants, and sea merchants all lament

Beat their chests with grief as they see their profits

And ability to make more profit is destroyed.

Their kingdoms up in smoke... despite the hard work, sacrifice, and compromises

As we went into Revelation 19, John reveals the beauty of praise taking place

As all of Heaven would chant, “Hallelujah” commanding each other to “praise God!”

Even as John would record the marriage supper of the Lamb.

a party as Christ would receive the Church as His bride.

Once again... taking an **Eisegesis approach (THE BAD APPROACH)**

people are afraid to read this book because it’s all doom and gloom...

yes, there are some horrendous images and scary situations

and our imaginations can run wild that blind us from what this book is revealing...

Many believers get caught up in the thought, “will I experience the tribulation?”

Where if we take the **Exegesis approach...**

what hope did the original listener hear? As their lives were literally on the line

as their families were torn apart... as Nero ran free to persecute, slaughter, and destroy
what hope did reading about the marriage supper have?

What did it reveal about Jesus, when people desperately needed hope?

Remember **Revelation 1:3**, “³ **Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.**”

The timeless truths the original audience took away

Are the same timeless truths that can provide hope for you and me 2,000 years later.

Here are some from our study so far...

1. Jesus is alive and glorified!

2. God will righteously judge- He won't stay silent forever.
3. God will always provide grace to an undeserving people to the very end
4. God has always been in control, even in judgement.
5. Evil exists and there is demonic influence on Earth
6. God has THE VICTORY
7. The Church, believers in Christ, are the bride...

God could have easily forced us to worship Him
 He could had easily started creation over...
 He could have easily been a distant father
 He could have easily chosen anything that didn't cost Him or require much from Him.
 But yet, He is a passionate, intentional God

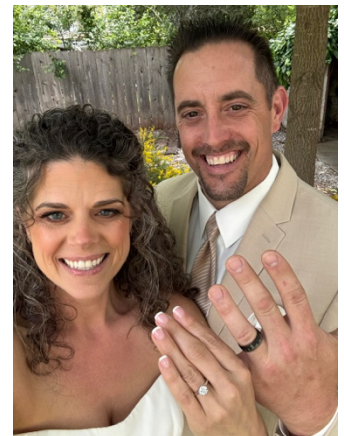
Who desires relationship, commitment, and intimacy...
 not only with the original audience
 but with you... me... every believer in this world.
 Let's not just jump to the next verse...

Sara and Tyler

I just came back from California where I was blessed to officiate a wedding
 I personally know the couple and we have walked together through
 some of the worst seasons in our lives...

They were both divorced from a previous marriages
 Not getting into the details, I'll simply say that they experienced pain
 going through divorce can be hell...
 include children... the reason for the divorce
 It can be earth shattering,

Experiencing not only brokenness, but humiliation
 Questions of worth, value, will I be able to trust again?
 Am I loveable? Play on repeat



When life feels like there is a period, God adds that conjunction, "but God..."
 God didn't leave them... God would provide people in their lives to help them walk through
 The pain and devastation... where they ultimately were open to look for love again.

God brought them together

of course, it makes sense for someone who goes through divorce
 To think "I don't wanna put my heart out there again"
 Yet God, would work on them individually and together...
 as triggers were hit, they were able to communicate, to trust again... to love again
 To be willing to walk the aisle again...

Talking with the Groom's mother...

it looked like she was hit by a car... kind of that "wow, this is unbelievable" she shared, "just three years ago, my son came home, broken, crying alone in the garage."

And now look at him... (tears rolling down her face)

Married to someone who will hold his heart, care for it, cherish it, protect it...

I looked at him and I started tearing up, seeing his huge smile
it hit me hard because knowing some of the history
Seeing and hearing the hard work they put in
Talking with them individually and hearing the depth of love



Here's my main point: They wouldn't settle for just anyone who looked pretty and gave them attention... not after what they went through!

And yet, Here Jesus is... imagining the same huge smile on His face

He wouldn't just choose anyone to be His bride...

He chose a bride that not only would he care for, die for, provide for...

But a bride that was comparable to Him.... As the second Adam (as Paul says in Romans)

He would choose a bride to do life with... not to just sit and look pretty

He found a helpmate... fit for him.

What interesting...

for the original audience, many may had been illiterate

they didn't have big churches, just simple house churches...

yet, they too were enough for Jesus

You and I may wrestle with the idea of being the recipient of Jesus' love and attention

but you are enough... you being part of the Church... chooses you today, tomorrow

Even unto eternity.

From a time of celebration, "hallelujahs!" Jesus prepared for his second return.

Revelation 19 (Part 2)

Revelation 19:11-16 (ESV), ¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords."

Here's a little more behind the scenes of this day

1. Israel, hidden by God, as Satan has been seeking them out to destroy them will cry out

**Isaiah 64:1-2 (ESV), " Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!"**



2. The book of Zechariah prophesied about the answer to their prayers...
look at how Jesus is prophesied to return...

Zechariah 14:3-4 (ESV), "3 Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. 4 On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward."

3. Israel's response to this return was prophesied

Zechariah 12:10 (ESV), "10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn."

Jesus will come down with a **white horse**...

A white horse symbolized honor, power, and speed
the color of the horse symbolized victory.

Jesus was recognized as **Faithful and True**...

Jesus is the keeper of His promises
We can rush by this portion as a feel good point,
"aww Jesus is faithful and true.."
But this also includes



His necessity to discharge justice/ to administer discipline and punishment as needed
True also means that he cannot waver on the standards of God and not condemn sin.

- He was true and faithful on the cross on calvary
- He will still be true and faithful on the battlefield of Armageddon

One commentator stated,

Jesus being faithful and true is complete opposite of what the world was facing

- The lies of Satan (12:9)
- Anti-Christ's evil empire (18:23)
- The wicked people (2 Tim. 3:13)

In His righteousness he judges and makes war...

His holy nature demands a holy, righteous reaction to sin.

"The world likes a complacent, reasonable religion, and so it is always ready to revere some pale Galilean image of Jesus, some meager anemic Messiah, and to give Him a moderate rational homage." (Torrance)

We praise the Lion of Judah... We call Him the King of Kings
And now Jesus with power and authority
He first came as Savior and was judged by wicked people like Herod, and Caiaphas
Now he comes back as judge and executioner

It's good to pause here and remember...

this is after thousands of years of patience, second chances,

Not rushing to judge

This version of Jesus is reserved for those who have hardened their hearts

And are in full on rebellion against Him.

In his Righteousness...

it's not a personal vendetta... it's not for land... it's not for power

it's from His Righteousness

There are no exceptions, God doesn't judge and grade on a curve...

Even though humanity has been relativistic (doing what is right to them)

in their morals and ethics

Jesus will judge upon the true condition of man's heart

His eyes are like a flame of fire...

"Why are they like flames of fire? Why, first, to discern the secrets of all hearts. There are no secrets here that Christ does not see. There is no lewd thought, there is no unbelieving scepticism, that Christ does not read. There is no hypocrisy, no formalism, no deceit, that he

does not scan as easily as a man reads a page in a book. His eyes are like a flame of fire to read us through and through, and know us to our inmost soul." (Spurgeon)²

and on his head are many diadems,

Jesus wears a crown of royalty

not won... but his right to wear... the many, commentators believe refer to absolute authority

This is where we get the saying, "King of Kings"

It is an expression of ultimate sovereignty- ultimate control.

Side note: some teach that as Jesus is judging the kings of the earth, He gathers their vanquished crowns.

and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.

What is interesting about this portion of Scripture is that it reveals

An intimacy between the triune God..

Having a name reserved for Jesus not to be revealed until He desires it to be known

It may be a marvelous name that reflects his character or authority

What's interesting, Jesus promised the Church of Sardis the same thing

If they were to be faithful and overcome...

They too would have a new name that only they and Jesus would know.

¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.

Some people argue whether Jesus pre-dip's His robe...

Stating that this isn't Jesus' first battle. It's his last.

He fought throughout redemptive history, these are his war clothes.

Or is this in reference to the slaughter in Armageddon.

***Isaiah 63:3 (NLT), "I have been treading the winepress alone;
no one was there to help me.***

***In my anger I have trampled my enemies
as if they were grapes.***

***In my fury I have trampled my foes.
Their blood has stained my clothes."***

Word of God... points to the consistency of John's writing
As He identifies Jesus as the living Word of God.

² <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-19/>

14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.

It is easy to believe that the angels will be with Jesus

But it will be the Church who will ride into battle with Jesus

Jude 14-15 (NLT), "14 Enoch, who lived in the seventh generation after Adam, prophesied about these people. He said, "Listen! The Lord is coming with countless thousands of his holy ones 15 to execute judgment on the people of the world. He will convict every person of all the ungodly things they have done and for all the insults that ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

Revelation 17:14 (MSG), "They will go to war against the Lamb but the Lamb will defeat them, proof that he is Lord over all lords, King over all kings, and those with him will be the called, chosen, and faithful."

There may be some who are ready to carry a sword

And fight with courage... but... there is no mention of any weapon, armor, or shields.

The weapons, if any, are fine linen, white and pure....

The idea we can see here is that if the blood is that of Jesus' enemies

He is covered... and the Church is not.

Whose in Jesus' army? The angels, Church, Tribulational saints, Old Testament Saints.

Revelation 19:15-16 (ESV), "15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords."

The picture of the sword isn't that Jesus walks around with a sword hanging out

He doesn't shoot physical swords

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV), "12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

In Ephesians 6:17, Paul writes to carry the sword of the spirit which is the word of God.

What will Jesus say, "die?" "explode" "move"? I don't know...

but we can pull out the power of the word of God

In Revelation, it clearly has the power to destroy and annihilate

And it has the same capability to speak life into existence as we've seen in creation.

The word of God is powerful
And can move mountains, bring peace, calm storms,
Instruct, provide wisdom, and so much more...

"The Word of God holds formidable power and is capable of transforming us at our core. What a privilege to have it in our possession!"³

It's hard to fathom... some argue the size of the battlefield 180-200 miles long
as John records that the height of the blood reaches the bridle of a horse
there are interesting calculations, one being, 1 Billion people would need to be killed
To only have a stream of 184 miles long and only 60 feet wide and 4 feet high

Revelation 19:17-18 (ESV), "17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, 18 to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great."



An Angel standing in the brightness of the sun
Illuminated brighter directing birds to prepare to feast.
On the flesh over kings, captains, mighty men, horses and their riders, humanity free and slave

Even after the birds fill themselves up from the dead human and animal carcasses.
Ezekiel prophesied that'll take Israel 7 months to bury the remaining bodies (Ezekiel 39:12)

Special note, It's been pointed out the number of times the word flesh is used (5)
Five is usually understood as the number of blessing and grace
This is when it's all run out.

One more note:

There are four special suppers mentioned in Scripture

- The supper of salvation, alluded to in Jesus' parable (Luke 14:16-24).
- The Lord's supper, a commemoration of Jesus' sacrifice.

³ <https://www.gotquestions.org/two-edged-sword.html>

- The marriage supper of the Lamb.
- The supper of the great God.

“If you reject the first supper, the second supper will mean nothing to you. Then you will not be present at the third supper, but will be present at the fourth supper. Everybody gets to attend at least one of these suppers, but some will eat and others are eaten at the suppers.”⁴

Revelation 19:19-21 (ESV), “¹⁹ And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. ²⁰ And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. ²¹ And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.”

I Used to imagine the great face off... like fighters.
the anti-christ, possessed and scrambling for power
Ordering attacks... This makes me wonder though...
as we discussed the war in heaven
We know that bullets don't kill or injure angelic beings.

If Satan is influencing and empowering the Beast...
Will he try to provide weapons
he actually thinks may injure Jesus?
Or the angelic beings?



Can you imagine the face off though... bodies everywhere.
Jesus getting through the defenses, beyond enemy lines
Coming face to face with the anti-Christ
And the Anti-Christ comes to attack Jesus... How will Jesus attack or defend?
Paul prophecies that the anti-Christ won't even come near Jesus

2nd Thessalonians 2:8 (NLT), “Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming.”

The body of Anti-Christ was killed, destroyed...
In Revelation, Anti-Christ's and the false prophets souls were thrown alive.

“The Beast overcame physically for a time. Yet, in the end he lost both soul and body in hell. The saints whom he killed lost their physical lives, but their souls were immune to his persecution. “Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Mat. 10:28).

⁴ <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-19/>

Revelation 20

Revelation 20:1 (ESV), “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain.

I love this picture that an unnamed angel comes down
It’s not Jesus... it’s not an arch angel... it could be the custodian angel
What this may communicate is that Satan is not even worth God’s best angel
To come down...

This also communicates that Satan is not God’s opposite
He is no match for God.

Revelation 20:2-3 (ESV), “² And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, ³ and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.”

Just as God had bound the demons before
Satan is now bound... for the first time since his creation
Even as his demons were bound and yet he was free... not imprisoned.
It’s interesting the words that John would use,
It sounds like a pattern he tried to use against Jesus.

He seized him... Bound him... Threw him... shut it... and sealed it
Satan tried to imprison Jesus in a tomb but failed
Now he will live out his master plan

Satan would not be able to deceive for 1,000 years
This shows us that his main weapon of influence was deception.

“Satan continues to effectively deceive. “People not only make falsehoods, speak falsehoods, print falsehoods, and believe falsehoods; but they eat them, and drink them, and wear them, and act them, and live them, and make them one of the great elements of their being.” (Seiss)

The 1,000 years is known as the millennium
will this be a literal 1,000 years since

2nd Peter 3:8 (ESV), “⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

Depends on what perspective you want to hold on to
It can be a literal 1,000 years or you can see symbolically meaning a long period of time.



SNAP SHOT

1. Jesus will rule and reign from Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:1-3)
2. Humankind that survives will surrender to Christ (Isaiah 2:1-5)
3. No more war (Isaiah 2:1-5)
4. Peace with humankind and the animal kingdom (Isaiah 11:6-9)
5. Some believe King David will help rule in Israel (Isaiah 55:3-5, Jeremiah 30:4-11, Ezekiel 34:23-31, Ezekiel 37:21-28, Hosea 3:5).
6. Israel will be blessed with safety (Amos 9:11-15)
7. There will be purity and devotion to God (Zechariah 13:1-9).
8. Rebuilt temple (Ezekiel 40-48, Ezekiel 37:26-28, Amos 9:11, Ezekiel 20:39-44).
9. You and I, believers, will be given responsibility
 - a. Revelation 2:26-28 (ESV), “²⁶ The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷ and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. ²⁸ And I will give him the morning star. ²⁹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”
 - b. 1 Corinthians 6:2-3 (ESV), “² Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? ³ Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!”⁵

“Let us rejoice that Scripture is so clear and so explicit upon this great doctrine of the future triumph of Christ over the whole world ... We believe that the Jews will be converted, and that they will be restored to their own land. We believe that Jerusalem will be the central metropolis of Christ’s kingdom; we also believe that all the nations shall walk in the light of the glorious city which shall be built at Jerusalem. We expect that the glory which shall have its center there, shall spread over the whole world, covering it as with a sea of holiness, happiness, and delight. For this we look with joyful expectation.” (Spurgeon)

Revelation 20:4-6 (ESV), “⁴ Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who

⁵ <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-20/>

shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years."

This portion of scripture can be very confusing

But we remember that at this point, the Church is with Jesus

The first resurrection is in reference to those who died during the tribulation

Those who went against God and died during the tribulation will remain dead for 1,000 years

Revelation 20:7-10 (ESV), "7 And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. 9 And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, 10 and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

Who will be deceived?

Those who were born during the millennium

What's interesting here is that the redeemed from Israel will be in physical form

Survivors of the tribulation (who didn't take the mark) who placed their faith in Jesus will be in physical form

It'll be perfect conditions, including longer life spans

They will be able to have children, and over a 1,000 years may sway from God.

they will still be born into sin... human depravity.

Revelation 20:11-15 (ESV), "11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. 13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. 14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."



What is interesting is our culture tells us that this may look like a trial
As if God is weighing the pros and cons, and this person may have a chance
Not the case here, here people stand before the throne guilty.
Waiting for their judgement

They are judged based on their names being in the book of life
If their names are not written down- coming to faith
Then they are judged based on their works.

It doesn't matter how much you volunteer
It doesn't matter how much you donate
It doesn't matter how much protest, how you vote, or how you compare yourself to others
If the person doesn't come based on the blood of Christ
All they have to be judged upon is their works.

"The devil and the damned have punishment without pity, misery without mercy, sorrow without succor, crying without comfort, mischief without measure, torments without end and past imagination." (Trapp)