

The Judgment of the Nations (Revelation 20:5-15)

I. Introduction

A. *This Week in Clear Living*

1. Abraham Believed in a Resurrection (Genesis 22:1-14)
2. Job and Daniel Believed in a Resurrection (Job 19:23-29 and Daniel 12:1-4)
3. Isaac Believed in a Resurrection (Isaiah 26:12-21)
4. David Believed in a Resurrection (Psalm 16:1-11)
5. Christians do not have to Fear the Resurrection (Ephesians 1:1-14)
6. The Incorruptible Body (Luke 20:27-40)
7. The White Throne Judgment, the Second Death and the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:5-15)

Question: How does Genesis 22:1-14 show that Abraham believed in a resurrection? Do you think that he envisioned a resurrection during the Rapture and another one at the end of the Tribulation? Why or why not? Do you think that Job, Daniel, Isaac, and David envisioned a resurrection during the Rapture and another one at the end of the Tribulation? Why or why not?

- B. In Genesis 22:1-14, the Lord charged Abraham to undertake a very difficult test.
 1. Abraham was commanded to offer his promised son on an altar, just like an animal sacrifice.
 2. Abraham was obedient to the Lord's command.
 3. He would have carried out the command except the Lord stopped him.
 4. In verse 12, an angel of the Lord told Abraham not to kill his son.
 5. The angel also showed him a ram that could be offered.
 6. Abraham called the place *Jehovahjireh* because the Lord had provided a lamb for the sacrifice.
 7. *Isaac was a type of Christ because he was willing lay down his own life as the sacrifice.*
- C. Abraham did not know anything about the Rapture or the Great Tribulation.
 1. He had limited knowledge of future events.
 - a. He knew that God had promised him a son.
 - b. He knew that God had promised that his seed would be plentiful.
 - c. He knew that God had promised him some land (the Promised Land).
 2. *Because those promises have been backed up by a literal son and literal land, conservative theologians believe that the Great Tribulation is also literal.*
 3. Because he believed the Lord's promises to him, Abraham believed that God could raise Isaac even if he did sacrifice him.
 4. Hebrews 11:17-19 says, "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that

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God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure."

- D. The Old Testament saints believed in a general resurrection, ***but they did not know about the Rapture or the Tribulation.***
1. Some Old Testament prophecies foretell Jesus coming in power and glory.
 - a. I Kings 2:45 says, "And king Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD for ever."
 - b. Isaiah 9:6 says, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."
 2. Some Old Testament prophecies foretell Jesus coming to die on the cross.
 - a. Psalms 8:5 says, "For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour."
 - b. Psalms 22:1 says, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?"
 - c. Isaiah 53:5 says, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."
- E. Trying to understand the Old Testament prophecies about Jesus is like driving towards some mountains.
1. From a distance, the mountains appear to be a contiguous line extending from left to right.
 2. From a distance, all the mountains look like they are side-by-side.
 3. Close up, the mountains are obviously extended from side-to-side and from front-to-back. ***But that was not clear from a distance.***

Question: According to Ephesians 1:1-14, why can Christians feel easy about the judgment?

- II. Ephesians 1:1-14 promises great eternal blessings for Christians.
- A. In verse 3, we have spiritual blessings in heavenly places in the Lord.
 - B. In verse 4, we have been chosen from the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him.
 - C. In verse 5, we have been adopted by Jesus to Himself.
 - D. In verse 7, we have been redeemed through His blood.
 - E. In verse 11, we have received an inheritance because of our walk of faith.

Question: What did Paul mean when he said that Christians had been chosen before the foundation of the world? Why is this NOT election?

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- III. The Apostle Paul was not writing about God choosing who would and who would not be saved.
- A. The doctrine of election can be understood when one considers that Jesus never changes.
 - 1. Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."
 - 2. The Lord does not change.
 - a. Genesis 6:6 says, "And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart."
 - b. Jonah 3:10 says, "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not."
 - B. In Genesis 6:6 and Jonah 3:10, ***the Lord DID NOT change.***
 - 1. He deals with people based on how they deal with Him.
 - 2. The people in Noah's day would not repent, so the Lord dealt with them as people that would not repent.
 - 3. The people of Nineveh did repent, so the Lord dealt with them as people that would and did repent.
 - C. Ephesians 1:4 says, "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:"
 - 1. Ephesians 1:4 can be understood just like Genesis 6:6 and Jonah 3:10.
 - 2. ***The Lord did not determine from the foundation of the world who would and would not be saved.***
 - 3. ***He determined from the foundation of the world what He would do for those that come to Him through faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross.***

Question: In Luke 20:34-36, what did Jesus say about the eternal fate of Christians?

- IV. Luke 20:34-36 says, "And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, ***neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.***"
- A. Jesus was responding to a Sadducee about the Jewish custom of a brother marrying his dead brother's wife if the former union had not produced children.
 - B. In heaven, we will not marry because God's program for the family will be complete.
 - 1. The family unit gives a picture of one's heavenly Father.
 - 2. God is our heavenly Father, not a super Cop.
 - 3. God's heavenly family will be complete, so no children will be born in heaven.

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- C. In heaven, we will not die anymore.
 - 1. Whether symbolic or literal, we will have access to the tree of life.
 - 2. Revelation 22:17 says, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. ***And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.***"
- D. We will be like the angels (equal - isaggelos).
- E. We will be the children of God and the resurrection.
 - 1. Children (huios) - used to describe those who are born again (Lk. 20:36) and of angels and of Jesus Christ, of those whom God esteems as sons, whom he loves, protects and benefits above others.
 - 2. Resurrection (anastasis) - that of all men at the end of this present age.

Question: What is the judgment of nations in Matthew 25:31-46, and when will it occur? When does the white throne judgment and the second death occur relative to the Millennium? What will happen to those that go through that judgment? What does Satan do after the Millennium? Where will he ultimately reside?

- V. The Judgment of the Nations
 - A. Matthew 25:31-46 is an individual judgment even though it appears to be divided into nations.
 - 1. Christians typically do good works, **not to be Christians but because they are Christians.** They will be at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
 - 2. Non-Christians are less inclined to do good works, or the good works they do are many times driven by the wrong motivations. They will be at the White Throne Judgment.
 - B. The White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:1-15)
 - 1. This judgment is the same as Matthew 25:31-46.
 - 2. People that die lost will be condemned as intruders.
 - a. Matthew 25:41 says, "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, ***prepared for the devil and his angels:***"
 - b. Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels, not for human beings.
 - 3. In Revelation 20:2, the devil will be bound for the Millennium.
 - 4. In Revelation 20:7, he will be released at the end of the thousand years.
 - 5. In Revelation 20:10, the devil will be cast into the lake of fire.
 - 6. Revelation 20:13 corresponds to Matthew 25:41-46.
 - 7. In Revelation 20:15, those without the Lord will be cast into the lake of fire.
 - C. A saying worth remembering.
 - 1. Born once, die twice.
 - 2. Born twice, die once.

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Next week's lesson: "Armageddon and the Millennial Reign of Jesus" (Revelation 20:2-9)

Five Day Recommended Reading:

Monday:	II Samuel 7:12-17, Isaiah 14:1-17, and Ezekiel 40:1-4
Tuesday:	Revelation 1:1-20
Wednesday:	Revelation 2:1-29
Thursday:	Revelation 3:1-22
Friday:	Luke 1:31-33, Revelation 20:2-9, and Mark 13:1-37

Study questions:

1. Who will someday sit on David's throne?
2. How long will His reign last?
3. What will happen at the end of His reign?
4. How does Isaiah describe the end of the Tribulation?
5. In Mark 13:33, what did Jesus tell His disciples to do? How does that affect Christians today?
6. How have John's letters to the churches played out in history?
7. At what point in time did John see the new heaven and new earth?