

**PREFACE**

These notes are to serve as a blessing and help to those studying the word with Pastor Neil Spencer. Pastor Neil does not claim to fully agree with all the thoughts, beliefs, writings, or teachings of every named source/person in these notes. The Bible is the ultimate authority & ALL believers are to be Bereans (Acts 17.10-11).

**Introduction + Review**

1. It's so incredibly wonderful to be back in the study of the book of Revelation as a church
  1. Last Sunday, Pastor John opened up the 1st 6 verses of CH 20, in which we see what's to come during a time of utopian-like peace on earth with Jesus ruling/reining for 1K yrs.
  2. This morning, we'll finish ch20 as we really consider two things:
    1. The Ultimate Defeat of Satan
    2. The Ultimate Judgment — The Great White Throne Judgment
2. We began our study in Revelation, in ch 1–5, w/ a theme & focus — **(PP) Jesus LOVES Church** —
  1. We witnessed together, Jesus' love, the tenderness/toughness of His Love **revealed** to the CHURCH
  2. **(PP)** Wiersbe, "*Revelation gives us the privilege of seeing the glorified Christ in heaven & the fulfillment of His sovereign purposes in the world. Revelation is the OPEN BOOK in which God reveals His plans & purposes to us, His church...*"
  3. Chapter 1 — the **PERSON** of **JESUS**
    1. **GLORIOUS** — v13 *And standing in the middle of the lampstands was someone like the Son of Man. He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash across his chest. 14 His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow. And his eyes were like flames of fire. 15 His feet were like polished bronze refined in a furnace, and his voice thundered like mighty ocean waves. 16 He held seven stars in his right hand, and a sharp two-edged sword came from his mouth. And his face was like the sun in all its brilliance.*
    2. **GOD** — v8 *"I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end," says the Lord God. "I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One."*
    3. **GOT EVERYTHING in HIS HANDS** — v5 *and from Jesus Christ. He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world.*
  4. Chapters 2/3 — the **PEOPLE** of **JESUS** — the church
    1. 7 msg's to 7 churches who actually existed in real places
    2. These letters give clarity to Jesus' LOVE: commending/encouraging/warning/teaching
  5. Chapters 4/5 — the **PERSPECTIVE** with **JESUS**
    1. The perspective is HEAVEN — *1 Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this."*
    2. The preeminent focus in HEAVEN is God's sovereignty & holiness
    3. 4.11 *"You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased."*
    4. 5.13 *"Blessing and honor and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever."*
3. As we moved into part 2 of our study in CH 6-19, we saw

1. God's Justice poured out upon the world.
2. We're given amazing descriptions of the AntiChrist, the False Prophet, the 144k, the Great Earthquake, 2 Witnesses, Symbols/Signs of what's known as the Woman & the Dragon & the earthly battle of ch13, & description of the army of the Lamb & a call to repentance.
3. We saw the 7 Seals, Trumpets, & Bowls of God's righteous judgment
4. We saw the Battle of Armageddon, in which Jesus returns w/ the sword of His mouth & defeats the armies of the antichrist
  1. The Beast & False Prophet are thrown into the lake of fire.
  2. Jesus returns to usher in what's known as the millennial kingdom // 1,000yrs of peace upon the earth.
5. The the theme/focus/the message of part 2 is clear — there is **JUDGEMENT** for sin, but there is always **MERCY** — an opportunity & a call for repentance — **(PP) JESUS** is full of **MERCY & JUSTICE**.
4. Now, as we begin to wrap up our study of the book of Revelation we've come to a **significant**, even **marvelous** point. — our 3rd & final theme — **(PP) JESUS OVERCOMES**
  1. Last Sunday, Pastor John opened up the 1st 6 verse of CH 20, in which we see what's to come during a time of utopian-like peace on earth with Jesus ruling/reining for 1K yrs.
  2. This morning, we'll finish ch20 as we really consider two things:
    1. The Ultimate Defeat of Satan
    2. The Ultimate Judgment — Great White Throne Judgment
5. Let's read in CH20 about this Ultimate Defeat of Satan, pray, & begin to break this down together: ***7** When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison. **8** He will go out to deceive the nations—called Gog and Magog—in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for battle—a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the seashore. **9** And I saw them as they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded God's people and the beloved city. But fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them. **10** Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

## **PRAYER**

### **The Ultimate Defeat of Satan**

1. I heard a familiar story this week of an elderly Christian woman who lived in an apartment next to a man who was an atheist. Have you heard this one?
2. The elderly woman was barely able to make ends meet, but her faith was strong and she trusted the Lord daily.
  1. Oftentimes, as she was praying and thanking God for His faithfulness
  2. Her atheist neighbor could hear her, and it drove him crazy.
  3. One afternoon, the atheist overheard the old woman praying, "Dear Lord, You know that I don't have enough food to even make dinner tonight, but I'm trusting You."
  4. The atheist rubbed his hands together and thought to himself, "I know how to knock her off her spiritual wagon."
  5. So he drove down to the local supermarket, bought some groceries, and set the bags at the woman's door. Then

he rang the bell and hid in some bushes.

6. When the old woman answered the door, there were the bags of groceries, with no one in sight. She was so excited that she looked up and said, "Thank you, Jesus!"
  7. Just then, the man jumped out of the bushes and said to the old woman, "Hey, lady—God didn't give you those groceries, I did! Do you see how stupid it is to believe in a God who doesn't even exist?"
  8. The old woman paused for a moment; then she looked upward and said, "Oh God, You're so amazing! Not only did You provide me with food, but You sent the devil to deliver my groceries!"
3. That story is cute/fun... but, the devil is a very real... here in Revelation 20 we read him being loosed after the 1K yr reign of Jesus. The devil is a very formidable foe to God's ppl... has been since Genesis 3
1. **Gen 3:15** - *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*"
  2. **Eph 6.12** *For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.*
  3. You need to know – THERE IS AN ENEMY — Warren Wiersbe says, *Unless we know who the enemy is, where he is, and what he can do, we have a difficult time defeating him.*
    1. He is a real spiritual being
      1. Originally one of God's most beautiful creatures (many believe the leader of worship in heaven)
      2. Isa 14:12-15 / Ezekiel 28.15 – in rebellion Satan became the enemy of God
    2. He is pictured as a serpent & a dragon in Genesis 3.1 & Revelation 12.9
      1. Jesus called him a murderer & the father of lies (JN 8.44)
      2. In Rev 12.10 he is known as the accuser of the brethren
      3. 2 Cor 4.4 he is called the "god of this age" & his goal is to keep unbelievers in spiritual bondage
      4. 1 Tim 4.1 — he is constantly promoting false doctrines.
    3. 1 Peter 5.8 tells us, *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*
    4. James 4.7 tells us that when we are tempted that we should *submit to God, resist the devil, & he will flee.*
  4. Here in Revelation 20, we read that God will ultimately defeat/judge the devil once & for all.
    1. Before that happens, God will have one final purpose for Satan at the end of the millennium.
    2. **7** *When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison. 8 He will go out to deceive the nations —called Gog and Magog—in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for battle—a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the seashore.*
    3. Satan will be let out of his prison, & just as before... he'll do what he's always done — deceive
  5. John tells us that he'll deceive the nations called Gog & Magog — in every corner of the earth — what is this?
    1. Remember with me that much of the content in Revelation reaches back to some kind of OT reference.
    2. Gog & Magog (Ezekiel 38/39) a prophetic enemies of Israel perhaps right before/during the tribulation.
    3. Here, the Apostle John describes what's to come at the end of the millennium w/ this description of those who are coming against Christ.
    4. Now, this in & of itself is very intriguing... those who are deceived by the devil come out of the millennial age.

5. Pastor John talked about this time last week...

1. The earth will be returned to an Eden-like environment during the millennium.

1. These 1k yrs will be marked by tremendous peace, & ... Jesus ... Jesus is ruling/reigning.

2. Those living during this time will experience extended life span (Isaiah 65.17-25)

1. Assumptively, people will get married, have children, and raise families.

2. Population on the earth could swell to great numbers...

2. But in spite of those idyllic conditions, there's still a little problem called — sin nature.

3. **(PP)** *While the saved survivors from the tribulation are born-again believers, every person born after the millennium begins will need to find salvation by placing faith in Jesus Christ. No one is born a Christian; everyone must be born again. Those offspring who are born during the millennium are unsaved unless and until they trust Christ as their Savior by faith.*

6. This is extremely interesting... even amidst the most perfect scenario the earth has ever experienced...v8 *He will go out to deceive the nations—called Gog and Magog—in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for battle—a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the seashore.*

1. A number of ppl — too great to count — will be deceived by the devil & turn against Jesus. In an environment in which there is perfection & Jesus leading — there will still be those who rebel

2. You can look good on the outside & still be rebellious against God.

3. There will still be rebellion in the heart of ppl.

7. I love what Wiersbe & Guzik say about this:

1. **(PP)** *In one sense, the millennial kingdom will “sum up” all that God has said about the heart of man during the various periods of history. It will be a reign of law, and yet law will not change man’s sinful heart. Man will still revolt against God. The millennium will be a period of peace and perfect environment, a time when disobedience will be judged swiftly and with justice, and yet in the end the subjects of the King will follow Satan and rebel against the Lord. A perfect environment cannot produce a perfect heart. — Wiersbe*

2. **(PP)** *For all of human history, man has wanted to blame his sinful condition on his environment. “Of course I turned out the way I did. Did you see the family I came from? Did you see the neighborhood I grew up in?” With the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus, God will give mankind a thousand years of a perfect environment – with no Satan, no crime, no violence, no evil, or other social pathology. But at the end of the 1,000 years, man will still rebel against God at his first opportunity. This will powerfully demonstrate that the problem is in us, not only in our environment. — Guzik*

8. The great need for all of us is a SAVIOR... and that's who JESUS is... the one who saves us from the penalty, power, & as we'll see in this chapter... one day the presence of sin.

9. God is faithful to give each person the ability to decide for themselves the ability to accept/reject Jesus...

1. And it's not the environment you've grown up in

2. It's not whose raised you... or what's happened to... it's the reality that we are born sinners who need a savior...

10. Look at what John describes

6.9 *And I saw them as they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded God's people and the beloved city. But*

*fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them.*

1. This horde of deceived millennials surround the beloved city — the city of Jerusalem — the capital of Jesus' millennial kingdom.
  1. And just as w/ the battle of Armageddon (ch19), there's really no battle at all.
  2. God deals swiftly with this final rebellion.
  3. Fire will fall from heaven to devour & destroy all those who come against Jesus.
2. Now, we come to one of the greatest moments spoken of in the BIBLE...
7. **10** *Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*
  1. Have you ever heard someone say, when the devil tries to remind you of your past... remind him of his future?
  2. Well... here's his future... The great tormentor spends an eternity in torment... the lake of fire...
  3. John tells us that the beast/false prophet are there... from 1k yrs earlier...
  4. And this isn't a place where the devil is ruling/reigning... it's a place of punishment for him
    1. **(PP)** *In addition to being called a lake of fire, hell is called a place of outer darkness (Matthew 8:12). Consequently, the torment in a place so dark that even the flames of the lake of fire don't shed any light...*
    2. **(PP)** *There would be no way possible in the Greek language to state more emphatically the everlasting punishment of the lost than here in mentioning both day and night and the expression 'forever and ever,' literally 'to the ages of ages.'* — John Walvoord
8. As we see the Ultimate Defeat of Satan.... I want to remind you that **JESUS OVERCOMES**... now, let's look at the closing verses of this chapter...

### The Final Judgment

**11** *And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. 12 I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. 14 Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. 15 And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.*

1. After the enemy is judged & given over to his final place of torment in the lake of fire... the 2nd death...
  1. John records for us that he saw a GREAT WHITE THRONE.
    1. A throne — place of authority & power
    2. Great — meaning in priority & importance
    3. White — speaking of purity & right judgment... perfectly just/accurate
  2. The scene he describes is serious... *The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide.*
    1. What does that mean? Honestly, I don't know... fully...
    2. In one sense, there is no hiding from this throne, no one can escape the judgment that it represents.
    3. Also, it seems that earth & all of heaven will be moved to make room for the new earth & new heaven.

4. Whatever this means fully... the setting is serious...
2. John records for us that he saw the one sitting on the throne — who is that?
  1. John sees what Jesus spoke about
    1. **(PP) John 5.22** *In addition, the Father judges no one. Instead, he has given the Son absolute authority to judge, 23 so that everyone will honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son is certainly not honoring the Father who sent him. 24 “I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.*
    2. **(PP) 25** *“And I assure you that the time is coming, indeed it’s here now, when the dead will hear my voice—the voice of the Son of God. And those who listen will live. 26 The Father has life in himself, and he has granted that same life-giving power to his Son. 27 And he has given him authority to judge everyone because he is the Son of Man.*
    3. **(PP) 28** *Don’t be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves will hear the voice of God’s Son, 29 and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment.*
  2. Jesus is speaking about what we are reading about here in Revelation 20...
    1. Everyone who was not raised in the 1st resurrection (v5-6) will be raised again unto judgment.
    2. Everyone... there is no escaping it... that’s why John says:
      1. **12** *I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God’s throne.*
      2. **13** *The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds.*
      3. All ppl... from the famous to the nameless... rich/poor... no one is escaping this judgment...
    3. Those who reject Jesus... rising here in Rev 20 — to experience their just judgment.
    4. Just judgment?
      1. **(PP) Rm 5.12** *When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.*
      2. **(PP) James 2.10** *For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God’s laws.*
      3. **(PP) Rm 3.22** *We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. 23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. 24 Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.*
3. John writes that the books are opened...
  1. Several books will be opened—“book of works” or a “book of deeds” containing the thoughts, words, and actions of every person.
    1. These books are opened, not as if the judge is trying to determine what the facts are.
    2. But, to evidence the facts that are there...
    3. *“The issue is not salvation by works but works as the irrefutable evidence of a man’s actual relationship with*

God.” (Mounce)

2. Another book will be opened—the Book of Life — a list of names of all those who belong to Jesus.
  1. The testimony is there... written & recorded...
  2. **(PP)** Wiersbe — *The White Throne Judgment will be nothing like our modern court cases. At the White Throne, there will be a Judge but no jury, a prosecution but no defense, a sentence but no appeal. No one will be able to defend himself or accuse God of unrighteousness. What an awesome scene it will be! Before God can usher in His new heavens and earth, He must finally deal with sin, and this He will do at the Great White Throne.*
4. John closes with these words: **14** *Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. 15* *And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.*
  1. Death & the Grave are thrown into the lake of fire...
  2. The very last evidences of sin's effect upon the world are finally done away with...
  3. The lake of fire is the ultimate place for all those who do not belong to Jesus.
5. **(PP)** *You can escape this terrible judgment by trusting Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. By so doing, you will never be a part of the second resurrection or experience the terrors of the second death, the lake of fire. “I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life (John 5.24). Have you trusted Him and passed from death unto life?*

### **CONCLUSION & APPLICATION**

1. Today, we see the Culmination... the Climax... the Completion of God's Judgment — JESUS OVERCOMES the final effects of sin upon the world & brings final judgment to Devil & all those who choose to reject Him.
2. What's our response? Our Take-a-way?
  1. Fresh SURRENDER of our lives to Him... not to be hardened, but pliable in His hands.
  2. Live for Him...
  3. Know that you know that know you that you belong to Him!