

Revelation 20:1-6 Study #12#ID1324

I believe this is our 37th or 38th week in the Book of Revelation and we are nearing the end in fact last week we finished or last time Chapter 19 the last 10 verses or so and saw the Lord's return with the saints to the earth having gone all that we've gone through we were able to celebrate the coming of the Lord and that He would strike the nations and rule them with a rod of iron and certainly the striking takes place there at the battle of Armageddon of which we have very few details but we find more details about that battle and what ensues from the prophets than we do of John's book. So by the time we get to verse 16 there of Chapter 19 and we read about the King of Kings and the Lord of Lord's returning we would expect that the next Chapter would cover His rule and His reign upon the earth and indeed that it does and certainly from here on out everything we read will be chronologically again in order. Now I mention that because pre-millennialism believes that Jesus returns before His kingdom commences upon the earth and it is certainly the only position that adequately embraces all of the scriptures. There's a lot of ideas out there, but I think as you stick with the scriptures and just kind of let it lay out before you the Lord's interested in making Himself known. We find in Chapter 20 here the rule of the Lord.

After the devastation that the judgments of God brought upon the earth and then the battle, though it is a quick one of Armageddon, there are several matters that I think still need to be addressed if we are to fully understand all that is going to take place. What happens to and in the earth, what happens to the devil, to the lost, what happens to the survivors upon the earth and to that remnant that the Lord hid there in Petra that we saw there in Revelation 13 – how about all of the life-giving systems upon the earth that were basically shut down as the waters became blood. We know that they're going to be restored, we have prophets that tell us so, we also know that the Lord will rule and reign here upon the earth for a 1000 years. Who gets into the millennial kingdom and who doesn't. In these last 3 chapters we are given, as I said, chronological information insights that will help us with our understanding. All of them taking place after the Lord returns with the saints to rule and to reign upon the earth. Yet as we mentioned to you last time with the battle of Armageddon that is covered in such a few amount of verses, 11 verses, we increasingly get less information the further out we go.

Tonight in the 6 verses that we want to look at since it's communion night we want to leave the bigger portion of the Chapter until next week. But the Lord covers the 1000 year reign of Christ upon the earth in 6 verses. Now to me I would have wanted more verses. "What else is gonna happen Lord tell us where will we be assigned" – nothing. In fact verse 7 starts there in Chapter 20 with the words "now when the 1000 years had passed" or after the 1000 years, when the 1000 years have expired. So all we have to go on as far as the millennial reign of Christ is found in these 6 verses. It is a bare-bones outline, it will leave you as most bible students, I think, hungering for more. The Lord chose to give us just this outline. You can fill in some of the information by carefully reading the prophets, the gospels as well, but specifically the prophets and if you'll read with pen and pad in hand and you read the prophets and you realize what they are saying wasn't fulfilled in a near-term historical setting, then you get to look

forward to see where it might be placed in the prophetic calendar of the Lord and so much of the information we get comes from those Old Testament prophets. So one of the reasons, big reasons, you would study the prophets besides just being convinced clearly of God's Word and it coming pass is you get lots of information about what is yet to come. Six verses to cover a 1000 years. We are sure it is a 1000 years because 6 times in 7 verses the Lord says here "the 1000 year reign of Christ" so lest you aren't reading clearly you won't miss that. It is also the only place in the bible where we are told that his reign is 1000 years, right here. You don't read that anywhere else and in fact here's where we discovered the length.

The rule of Jesus according to the prophets will be in righteousness. There will be peace upon the earth, it will be inhabited as we know by sinful men. Satan as we will see in a minute will be bound during this time and after 1000 years will be released for a very short time to give those who might not have had much of a choice as the Lord ruled with a rod of iron to decide whether they want to follow this Lord or not. And this final act of defiance will lead to the great white throne judgment where the Lord will gather the dead from the earth and from the sea and from all of the places that they can be found and in His judgment when He sits to judge it will be all unbelievers that gather there and then we'll read in a couple of weeks that heaven and earth will flee at the anger and the judgment of God. So the dead will be presented and the earth will be removed and the heavens as well and everyone that shows up at that great white throne judgment will be thrown into the lake of fire, the second death, eternal damnation. And then a new heaven and a new earth and then interestingly enough we get a chapter and a half of what the new heaven and the new earth looks like. So I'll be excited to go through that with you as well. But like I said Satan will be bound during this time and all of that is found in these last 3 chapters.

The millennial reign when Jesus returns to the earth and overthrows the enemy and all and takes over and the antichrist and the false prophet are immediately thrown into Gehenna, the lake of fire, accomplishes a lot of things for us biblically. It is for one thing a worldwide display of the purpose and the power and the will of God. It is man seeing what God intended. God's promises to Israel about Him ruling and reigning through her and from Jerusalem and that Israel would be the center of God's dealing upon the earth will take place during this 1000 year reign. As the bible tells us the prophets say that folks will say to another "let's go up to meet the Lord He's in Jerusalem" and all of the nations of the earth will gather there. It will fulfill this 1000 year millennial reign of Jesus the Father's promise to His Son that He would be given a throne and that His enemies would be made His footstool and so we will see that during the millennium and it will begin the eternal reign of Jesus. You might remember the prophet Isaiah in 700 BC saying of the Lord "that of His reign and of His rule that there would be no end." And indeed there won't be an end, He will establish it in justice and in judgment from this time forth even forevermore.

The millennial will be the answer to your prayers "Thy kingdom come Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven". Until this millennial kingdom that will not be fully seen. It is our prayer that God's way would be found upon the earth and we will see it during the

millennial reign. And the millennium will demonstrate once and for all to all mankind that sin is a matter of the heart, not a matter of your environment. I know so often we like to pass off people's wickedness because of the place they grew up or the things that they experienced or what they had to face. That's not biblically correct, sin is in the heart of man and you can grow up in the weirdest of situations but if you know God you'll be fine. Just look at Joseph – very weird way to grow up your brothers hate you some tried to kill you the others say oh let's not kill him let's be good people, let's sell him - alright good idea. And off you go to Egypt and years in jail for something you didn't do and then who knows, right? And yet you don't read one thing of Joseph other than he loved the Lord. So the millennium will demonstrate because Jesus will rule for 1000 years and people at the end of His rule will go "yeah, I'd rather follow the devil to destruction" – really? You've got to be kidding me. But that anyone would even make that kind of a choice and yet we know that he will and that they will so as we mentioned to you most of what we know about the millennial reign of Jesus is discovered in other places.

John is interested in giving us a cursory overview, he's interested in putting them in chronological order but there are many things that you can learn. For example we know here from John here in these 6 verses as well as other places that Satan will be bound during the entire 1000 year reign of Jesus and unable to deceive men that until that 1000 years passes he will be really out of commission or out of business and yet at the end he will be released because the Lord is big on choice and everyone gets a choice and if you were raised in the millennium you wouldn't have much choice, sin would be swiftly dealt with, there won't really be much wiggle room and so you're pretty much going to be kept under the thumb, you're either going to worship willingly or not but worship you will. Yet at the end you'll get a choice and then you'll have to decide who you're going to serve.

The millennium according to the scriptures will be a time when the Old Testament and the tribulation saints who have been waiting for this time will get their glorified bodies. We read about that in Daniel as well as in Isaiah. The church will get its glorified body, you and I at the rapture of the church where the dead in Christ will rise first and then we which are alive and remain will be changed – that's when you'll get your heavenly body, the new model, the one that'll have hair, or in my case will have hair, in your case maybe something else. But you'll have all that you'll need for eternity. Well the Old Testament saints and tribulation saints they don't get their body until the return of Jesus to the earth, until His second coming. So the unrighteous who have died throughout all of history will be raised to judgment after the 1000 year millennial reign of Christ and then they will be gathered and they will get a new body too, but it will be designed for eternal judgment in Gehenna.

So this is an important time the return of Jesus and the overthrow and what follows the battle of Armageddon. We are told in Matthew that Jesus will return to the earth and judge the nations and that the single greatest measuring stick of the judgment of the nations according to Matthew 25 will be the treatment of Israel by those nations. "When I was hungry you fed me, when I was thirsty you gave me to drink" is first presented to

us in the terms of the nations who stand before God in that day. Is it personally applied? Of course. But as Jesus tells it there beginning in verse 30 of Mathew 25 those who are of an age of responsibility and of the nation's themselves they will be judged by the Lord at that time and then those who pass will be allowed to enter into the kingdom age along with their children as well as any gentiles who have survived that the Lord may have protected, as well of the Jews who He has hidden there in Petra during that time.

Like I said if you want to get a full picture of this time your best bet is to read the prophets, put a book next to you and a piece of paper and especially Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zachariah, those are probably the 5 that you'll get the most information from when it comes to the 1000 year reign of Christ. Let me suggest to you a couple of books that if you're at all interested in doing your own study that you should have in your libraries, and I'm big on books, I think when can find good study books grab ahold of them and hang on to them. John Woolvard who is from Dallas Theological Seminary wrote a book several years ago called "Every Prophecy In The Bible" and I think he's done an awesome job of gathering together prophecies under topics and so if you want to see prophecies that specifically speak to the millennial reign of Christ or to the time of the tribulation he breaks them up by topic. The other book that I think is a "have to have" for you as a Christian is a book by Dwight Pentecost called "Things to Come." It's a big, hardback book, certainly allot of reading but it is absolutely vital. I know that we usually carry both of them in the bookstore now if you were all to run over there we wouldn't nearly have enough I'm sure but get ahold of them for sure, let them be a part of your library, they will serve you well.

For example from prophecy we learn that the earth that is so ravaged during the judgments of Jesus will be restored by the Lord to their pre-flood condition. It is called the antediluvian period, if you will, before the deluge and according to the scriptures this time when Jesus comes to rule and reign will be restored to the pre-flood conditions which means no polar icecaps, no violent weather, temperate climate throughout the earth, roses growing in the desert, rivers running in dry places, the entire earth inhabited again. We are told by the prophets that the curse that sin has brought upon the animal kingdom will be removed. That the lion will lay down with the lamb that you'll be able to go play with the jaguar, that'll be fun won't it? There will be no war, in fact no evil will be tolerated that the swords of men's hatred will be beaten into plowshares, that Jesus will rule from Jerusalem. The prophets tell us, Ezekiel in particular, that during this 1000 year reign of Jesus that there will be a memorial temple built in either Jerusalem or somewhere else, there's lots of opinion as to where it might show up, but this memorial temple will be built during this time so that it might honor the work that Jesus came to do and that there will be sacrifices sacrificed upon the altar, not for the forgiveness of sin but for the honor of Jesus so that that whole old testament picture might be reflected as the Lord Himself sits upon the throne.

Israel will be at the center of God's government, forgiven and restored. The Jewish feasts will be back in order. In fact Zephaniah tells us in Chapter 3 that the whole world will gather together to Jerusalem for worship but all of the feasts will be kept in honor of

the Lord who has come and has given His life and has returned. Sin will be at a minimum and dealt with severely. The earth will be populated by sinners but there will not be as much opportunity for sin as you have today. Psalm 2 tells us that the Lord will reign over the nations with a rod of iron, there will be punishment. There will be death for the openly rebellious, but most will follow the ways of the Lord whether they want to willingly or not, but there will be little resistance. In fact the prophets say that a child will still be a child when he is a 100 years old so there will be little death during the millennium due to age. It will be an interesting time to be alive. We are told by Daniel in Chapter 7 that the kingdom of God during that time will be known for the peace and the holiness and the obedience of man. In fact Daniel writes in Chapter 7 "then the kingdom and dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people, the saints of the most high, His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and all dominion shall serve and obey him." There will be peace and justice, a tremendous outpouring of the Holy Spirit, "great wisdom", prophets tells us, the curse will be removed from the earth, sickness will be removed, labor will be productive, God will be honored. It will be quite a place during these 1000 years where the Lord will sit in power and reign. Zephaniah tells us in Chapter 3 verse 9 that there will only be one language upon the earth. "For then I will restore to the people one pure language that they all may call on the name of the Lord to serve him with one accord." So it is important like I said that you study the prophets so that you might get a good handle upon the things of this time. Now that book by Pentecost, "Things to Come" has I think several chapters on the millennial kingdom that are just very challenging and helpful and they'll make you a better rounded student. It's a great book to have as a permanent reference. There's a lot of books being written that you don't need to buy but that's a good one to have.

Well before man was created by God the bible tells us that there was a rebellion in heaven among the created angels of God led by a fella named Lucifer. And Lucifer we are told both in Ezekiel and also in Isaiah was a chief cherub, one who covered, the one who seems to have been the worship leader who walked in God's very presence to the nearness of God's throne and that he was perfect in all of his ways until there was sin found in him. That all of the angels like man were given a choice and at this point the choice was made and Satan decided that he would rather try to be like God rather than serve God and Isaiah records his "I will's" "I will be like the most high God", "I will sit on the sides of the north", "I will be exalted". And he had ambition to take God's place, the problem was we already had a God who was far more powerful than the one that he created and so Satan that day fell and according to Revelation a third of the angels, created angels in heaven, joined him in this rebellion against God so that even by the time that man was placed upon the earth, we were met with 2 kingdoms. There was the kingdom of God where there was light and life and hope and joy and then there was the kingdom of darkness ruled by Satan, the liar, the deceiver, the one who hated God and hated God's people, who would seek to destroy all that God would seek to make, who would be an enemy of God and an enemy of man.

And yet when God man you and I He placed us in His own kingdom, right, He made us in the kingdom of light, Adam and Eve walked with God they talked with God they

walked with Him in the cool of the garden in the evening they were blessed, they weren't told to work they were told tend the garden, they were told to enjoy themselves and eat of the fruit and be blessed and God found man and made man for His own pleasure wanting to share with you and I all that He had. But He gave us a choice, there's a tree in the midst of the garden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die. Eat of anything else, have at it, take what you like, just don't involve yourself with that in the day you eat thereof you'll die. And you know the story that though man was given one commandment Satan came and tempted man who fell by choice and in the first 3 chapters of the book of Genesis man willfully chose to transfer kingdoms and he left the kingdom of life, he left the kingdom of light, he transferred himself under the power of the enemy and darkness fell and death came and suffering and sickness and wickedness, boy just read from Chapter 4 forward in the book of Genesis and make a list of every sin that you find there after the fall of man and it'll be like reading the front pages of the paper today. Man was overwhelmed in his sin, he was alienated from God ever since that day and history bears out that alienation.

Despite our failures despite our choices God though still loves man so much so that He sends Jesus to declare to man I am the only door back to the sheepfold. If you try to get into His kingdom any other way you're a thief and a liar and a robber. And Jesus declared of Himself that He was the way back to change kingdoms one more time to leave this kingdom of darkness and sin and come back into the kingdom of God. So Jesus came and He invites men to come, he sat down at the last supper and he took the elements of the Passover and he translated them as being the fulfillment of His own sacrifice and He said to them "this is the communion that you'll have with me" **koinonia**, intimate fellowship. This is how you get into the kingdom, this is how you get into the light, this is how you have life and then he broke the bread and he poured out the cup and he pointed to Himself. Today men still live in one of 2 kingdoms. There really aren't 3 kingdoms, there's not the "I haven't decided yet" kingdom, there's not the "I'll just take no position and hope I made the right choice" kingdom. There's either the kingdom of life or the kingdom of darkness. And either men are in fellowship with God having been delivered from their sin through the death of His Son or they are still in darkness following him who had fallen from heaven in rebellion and is destined for damnation.

Now we are almost at the end of the story here in the Book of Revelation where Satan will now be set aside and bound for a 1000 years and then he will be given one last chance to convince man that God isn't worthy to be followed and worshipped and unfortunately many will still buy that lie. Whatever kingdom you find yourself in though tonight you are there by choice. I can choose to be born again, goodness knows the bible is filled with God's declaration that He doesn't want to lose anyone, He doesn't want to lose any one of you, doesn't want to take His hand off of any. He loves you, He gave his life for you, He made you so He might bless you but He has to give you a choice. Love is not love if it has to be forced to make a choice. You can come out of darkness and run to the cross and be saved and come into the light or you can stay where you're at and then answer for it. When Paul spoke to King Agrippa about his

salvation and the Lord's calling he said "King God has sent me to open the eyes of those that are blind in order that I might turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to the power of God. I've been called to help men to change kingdoms. That's really what Paul said. And in the end here those who choose to stand against God and His ways will fall for all of eternity, but don't lose sight of the fact that God would rather men be saved, this isn't a pretty picture this judgment seat, especially that we will look at beginning next week but it is certainly no one is showing up there going "man I didn't want to be here." No you did - you did. But in these last 1000 years before the final judgment where man is judged to hell for all of eternity and the heavens and the earth are destroyed and God creates a new heaven and new earth that only has a history of holiness that will never see a sin, that will never see rebellion that will never be tainted by wickedness. God has set it all aside we're almost at the end of God's reaching out to man.

So verse 1, you thought we'd never get there, but look here we are - I'll be done before you know it. "John said then I saw an angel coming down from heaven having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain was in his hand and he laid hold of the dragon that serpent of old, the devil and Satan and bound him for a 1000 years and he cast him into the bottomless pit and he shut him up and he set a seal upon him so that he should deceive the nations no more until the 1000 years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while and I saw thrones and they sat on them and judgment was committed to them and I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the Word of God who had not worshipped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands and they lived and they reigned with Christ for a 1000 years but the rest of the dead did not live again until the 1000 years were finished, this is the first resurrection and blessed and holy is he who has part in this first resurrection, over such the second death will have no power. They shall be priests of God and of Christ, they shall reign with Him for a 1000 years." So when the Lord returns and the battle for Armageddon is finished we will see Satan bound in the bottomless pit, the word is **abusu**, we read about it you might remember back in Revelation Chapter 9 when the 5th angel sounded and the star fell down from heaven and then there was a key given to the bottomless pit that he opened and many demons came out, you might remember when we were there in Revelation Chapter 9. In fact the king over the bottomless pit was in Hebrew called **abaddon**, in Greek he was called **appolyon** according to Revelation 9. They're just 2 languages for the same word "destroyer" speaking of Satan. But this time rather than being, if you will released to do his wicked deeds, Satan as their king is now bound and sealed for this entire 1000 years for one purpose - that the nations upon the earth will not be deceived. Those who enter into the millennial kingdom will not have Satan to deal with.

So a couple of things: #1 notice it takes 1 angel to handle this wicked, fallen spirit that has terrorized men for generations. People hear about "oh, the devil" yeah the devil is stronger than you are but in the Lord you're fine, right "greater is he that's in you". However when it comes to other angels it doesn't seem like it takes much power because here's an angel of the Lord laying hold of the dragon with one hand, keys and chain in the other and he's able to quickly subdue him if you will. He's not even called a

mighty angel here. If you remember, if you've been with us for a while, there's a lot of mighty angels that show up, the Lord just doesn't call them angels, he calls them mighty angels, not this guy, this guy's just the 3rd ranking angel apparently. This regular guy never made it to mighty. But he's still sent to get the devil "yeah, could you lock him up?" "yeah, I got it boss" and there he goes, so not even a mighty angel just a regular guy and notice we're given some names of Satan here in verse 2, always to describe his action. Dragon is the name that is given to him as he empowers the antichrist, it is the most often used title for Satan in the Book of Revelation – the dragon. The old serpent takes us back to when the fall of man began to the Garden of Eden – "devil" is a word that means slanderer. He slanders God he slanders you to God, he is the accuser of the brethren. The word Satan just means adversary or opponent. Your opponent who slanders you who seeks to mislead and misguide you is now being locked up and notice from verse 3 that he is effectively and totally removed as will all of his fallen angels be. In fact in Isaiah Chapter 24 beginning in verse 19 you will read these words "the earth is violently broken, the earth has been split open and shaken exceedingly, reeling to a fro like a drunkard and tottering like a hut, it's transgression heavy upon it. It will fall and not rise again and it will come to pass in that day that the Lord will punish on high the host of exalted ones and on the earth the kings of the earth they will be gathered together as prisoners are gathered into a pit and he will shut them up in prison and then after many days they will be punished."

So Satan in all of his dominions during the millennial reign of Jesus will have absolutely no influence upon the earth. With Satan's removal and with the removal of the little demons that work with him, you can only imagine how life will be different for those who live upon the earth. Today the enemy works overtime against you and against God and against the world in general, he just likes to destroy. But life in the millennium there won't be Satan to deal with and there will be no opportunity for you to really carry on much because the Lord's going to put an end to it. So there's a lot that's been removed if you will from difficulty. He's not going to be roaring like a lion seeking whom he can be devouring, so as a result the only battle left for kingdom age inhabitants will be their flesh. The pull of the world won't so much be a factor because Jesus will be ruling so that won't be out there, the enemy will be locked up so what you're left with is your flesh and your battle with your flesh. Yet when Satan is released many will still choose against the love and the goodness of almighty God so we know that's what the conditions of the earth will be.

In verse 4 and verse 5 and verse 6 we also read that with the return of Jesus the first resurrection is completed, by that I mean all the saints who have been saints and have died will now have their glorified bodies or be in a position to be prepared in all that they're going to have for eternity. You at the rapture the Old Testament saints and the tribulation saints at the Lord's return and this is called Daniel 12:2 Isaiah I think its Chapter 26 verse 19 "the first resurrection". If you have a part in that you won't have to worry about the second death because you're then in Christ and you are where you need to be. Anyone not yet risen will be because he has either died in sin and unbelief and will rise for judgment after the 1000 years are over or he has yet to make that choice and is still then alive upon the earth and will one day be with the Lord. So we

read in verse 4 that there will be thrones of judgment and those who sit upon them and John saw those who had died for their witness for Jesus and for the Word of God not bowing to the enemy and they would also live and reign with Christ for a 1000 years. Jesus presently is sitting at the right hand of Father in heaven. He will come to His own throne Peter, Matthew I think says when the Son of Man comes in His glory and all of the holy angels with Him, He will sit on the throne of His glory. So when the Lord comes He'll have a throne to sit upon and yet you and I will sit with Him when the Lord there in Revelation Chapter 3 wrote to those in Thyatira toward the end of that letter He said to them "to him who overcomes I will grant that you might sit with me upon My throne even as I have overcome and sit upon my father's throne." So who will rule during the millennium, the church, the Old Testament saints and the tribulation saints will all get an opportunity to serve with the Lord in various capacities. And eventually by the time we get to the end of the book we will see Jesus handing the throne back to His Father so that in the new Jerusalem there will be really one throne, the throne of God the father and the Son, but for now it's Jesus' time to be honored and glorified if you will upon the earth.

The word "throne" here in verse 4 is plural. "They" is plural as well and is a reference to the church to the old testament saints and to the martyred, if you will, tribulation saints and verse 6 tells us what we have learned back in Revelation Chapter 5 and in 2 Timothy Chapter 2 that we will rule and reign with Him for evermore. That's going to be pretty cool isn't it – reign with the Lord. I think it was Paul wasn't it who it in writing to the Corinthians, we've been looking at Corinthians on Sunday nights in Chapter 6 was so angry with them for taking each other to lawsuits before the world, Christians suing each other in court and he said "you know you guys are going to one day judge the world you think you could figure out your little stupid issues now". He kind of condescended to them. You're not going to be much for judging the world and the angels and here you are not able to get along. Jesus said to his disciples there in Luke 22 "I bestow upon you a kingdom as my Father bestowed one upon Me that you might eat and drink at my table and in my kingdom and sit upon the throne judging the 12 tribes of Israel." So you have lots to look forward to as God's people especially during this 1000 year reign of Christ and I'd love to tell you what the jobs will be and what you can apply for and what you might be best at – no idea. I'm glad that the Lord doesn't lay it all out so that there'll be lots of surprises waiting. In fact Paul will write in one of his epistles that in the ages to come the Lord will be just thrilled to reveal to us the things that he has planned for us. There's going to be lots of Door #3, lots of surprises, lots of guess what's waiting for you now, so praise the Lord for that. And this judgment time that the Lord has finished and then this 1000 years that comes the judgment of the nations is the subject of Matthew the subject I think of Ezekiel 20 as well. It seems that the loss of life obviously during the tribulation will be great. There will be a great loss of life but through the Lord's work gentile nations and some of the Jews and others will make it in so we do find gentile nations dwelling in the millennium though there may be very few to start. If you have a 1000 year life span and everybody's living to be a 1000 years it won't take long. Just go back and read before the flood how many millions of people there would have been. In fact there were probably just by doing the numbers there were as many people alive in the days of Noah when they drowned as there are

alive upon the earth today. So it doesn't take long to grow people if you will at that rate. Daniel does tell us in Chapter 12 that the first 45 days of Jesus' rule upon the earth will be spent judging the nations so that the first 45 days of this 1000-year reign will be dealing with the nations who may make it and who will not. And then Romans 11 tells us at that time all of Israel that is alive, that have been spared, that have been saved, that have survived it will recognize Jesus as Lord and all of Israel will be saved. It's a great statement there in Romans 11 where it says "they will all be saved" as you would suspect that they would be.

John also notices in verse 4 here sees the tribulation saints receiving their bodies ruling and reigning and then the rest of the dead like I said we will find them in verses 7 through 15. Verse 6 is the 6th time, we've tried to point them out to you in the Book of Revelation that there is this beatitude "blessed be". There's going to be one more coming but there are 7 in all but verse 6, this is the 6th one, "blessed and holy is he who has a part in this first resurrection", if you can make it here you're good. You won't have to have to face the judgment seat, you will have passed from death unto life. Paul wrote to the Corinthians in Chapter 15 but now Christ has risen from the dead, has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death by man also came resurrection from the dead and as in Adam all die even so in Christ all will be made alive but each in his own order. Christ the first fruits, afterwards those who are Christ's at His coming. The old saying still applies – if you're born once you're going to die twice, but if you've been born twice you'll only need to die once. So pretty exciting times.

Next week we will leap forward 1000 years – hold on to your seats. And we would like to spend the entire hour next week looking at the great white throne judgment at end of the 1000 years if you'll read ahead there's lots to learn – just remember you don't want to find yourself in any of these verses beginning in verse 7.