

The Return of the King of Kings (Revelation 21:1-27; 22:12-21)

I. Introduction

A. *This Week in Clear Living*

1. The Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1-14)
2. The Signs of the Times (Matthew 24:1-51)
3. John on the Isle of Patmos (Revelation 1:1-20)
4. The Church at Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22)
5. The New Heaven and the New Earth (Revelation 21:1-27)
6. The Deity of Jesus Confirmed Once Again (Revelation 22:12-21)

Question: What was the symbolic meaning of the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel 37:1-14? What two events concerned the disciples in Matthew 24:1-51? What did Jesus tell them?

B. The Valley of the Dry Bones

1. Ezekiel 37:14 says, "And *shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land*: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD."
2. This is an end time prophecy that has already begun to happen.
3. Jews started returning to Israel in 1948 after Israel became a state.
4. Revelation 17:14 says, "These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."
5. The Lord will defeat the Antichrist, and Israel will finally see Him as their Messiah.

C. The Signs of the Times

1. Matthew 24:3 says, "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"
 - a. When will the temple be destroyed?
 - b. When will Jesus come again?
 - c. When will the end of the world come?
2. Jesus told His disciples about signs of His Second Coming.
3. ***He was NOT telling them about the signs for the Rapture.***
4. Matthew 24:36 says, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."

Question: Why did Jesus appear to the Apostle John on the isle of Patmos? What were John's instructions in Revelation 1:19? What did John tell the church at Laodicea in Revelation 3:14-22?

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- II. Jesus appeared to the Apostle John on Patmos to answer the question about His return.
- A. Revelation 1:19 says, "Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;"
1. John would have a vision about future events, and his instructions were to write what he saw for the church.
 2. But he did not write everything.
 3. Revelation 10:4 says, "And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and ***write them not.***"
 4. As Christians, we should try to always be obedient to the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Our attitude should be controlled by the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Our lifestyle should be controlled by the Holy Spirit.
 - c. Our church participation should be controlled by the Holy Spirit.
 - d. Our attendance and giving should be controlled by the Holy Spirit.
 - e. Our witnessing for the Lord should be controlled by the Holy Spirit.
 5. ***You will never be wrong when obeying the Holy Spirit.***
- B. John wrote to the seven churches.
1. The churches to which he wrote actually existed.
 2. Some theologians believe that the messages to the churches also serve as a prophetic view of the church during the past two thousand years. According to this view, the current age is that of the Laodicean church.
- C. John wrote to the church at Laodicea in Revelation 3:14-22.
1. He told them that they were lukewarm.
 2. He told them that He would spew them out His mouth because of their condition.
 3. He told them that they were deceived by their prosperity.
 4. He urged them to repent.
 5. Revelation 3:21 says, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."
 6. Many people may not understand what it means to overcome.
 - a. I John 5:4-5 says, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"
 - b. Overcoming does not involve some kind of struggle. ***It involves a personal relationship with Jesus.***

Question: What kind of places will the new heaven and the new earth be? Who will be in the new heaven and the new earth?

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III. Jesus will come as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

- A. Revelation 19:16 says, "And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."
 - 1. "King of Kings" and "Lord of Lords" are used because Jesus will be the best and highest King of all kings and the best and highest Lord of all Lords.
 - 2. Jesus will return to earth to defeat the Antichrist.
 - 3. At the end of the battle, the beast and the false prophet were cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20).
- B. Revelation 20:1-15 presents the Millennium and the white throne judgment.
 - 1. Revelation 20:4 says, "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and *they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*"
 - 2. Revelation 20:14-15 says, "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."
- C. In Revelation 21:1-27, the new heaven and new earth are discussed.
 - 1. The current heaven and earth will be gone, and there will be no sea.
 - 2. God will dwell with His people.
 - 3. He will wipe away our tears.
 - 4. We will have access to the water of life (John 4:14 and Revelation 21:6).
 - 5. Revelation 21:6 says, "And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. *I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*"
 - 6. The new Jerusalem will be a cube in shape with each dimension being twelve thousand furlongs.

Question: What is significant about the name, Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End? How does that relate to Exodus 3:14, "I AM THAT I AM"?

IV. Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

- A. Revelation 22:13 says, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."
- B. Revelation 1:8 says, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."
- C. The references to alpha and omega are consistent with "I AM THAT I AM" in Exodus 3:14.
 - 1. In Revelation, Jesus declared that he was the beginning and the end, meaning that He has always been and will always be.

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2. As God, He is eternal and not created. He was and is the Creator.
3. In Exodus 3:14, His name was Yahweh, which meant that He is self-existent and was not dependent upon anything or anyone for His existence and being.

Question: What is significant about Genesis 3:24, Revelation 22:2, and Revelation 22:14?

- V. Three verses with close parallels.
- A. Genesis 3:24 says, "So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, **to keep the way of the tree of life.**"
 1. When Adam and Eve sinned, they brought condemnation upon humanity.
 2. All people born of woman since Adam, except virgin-born Jesus, have had a sin nature.
 3. We do not have access to the tree of life, which means that we die physically.
 - B. Revelation 22:2 says, "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, **was there the tree of life**, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."
 - C. Revelation 22:14 says, "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that **they may have right to the tree of life**, and may enter in through the gates into the city."
 1. Those in Christ will have access to the tree of life.
 2. When Adam and Eve lived, the tree of life was with them in the Garden of Eden.
 3. At the end of the Age, the tree of life will be in heaven.

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Next week's lesson: "**The Judgment of the Nations**" (Matthew 25:31-46 and Revelation 20:5-15)

Five Day Recommended Reading:

Monday:	Genesis 22:1-14
Tuesday:	Job 19:23-29 and Daniel 12:1-4
Wednesday:	Isaiah 26:12-21 and Psalm 16:1-11
Thursday:	Ephesians 1:1-14 and Matthew 25:31-46
Friday:	Luke 20:27-40 and Revelation 20:5-15

Study questions:

1. 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?
2. 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?
3. According to Ephesians 1:1-14, why can Christians feel easy about the judgment?
4. What did Paul mean when he said that Christians had been chosen before the foundation of the world? Why is this NOT election?
5. In Luke 20:35-36, what did Jesus say about the eternal fate of Christians?
6. What is the judgment of nations in Matthew 25:31-46, and when will it occur?
7. 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?
8. What does Satan do after the Millennium? Where will he ultimately reside?