

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*

Worship Guide for October 31, 2021

Sermon Notes

The Thousand Years

Revelation 20:1-10

A foundational confession of our Christian faith is that Jesus *will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.* (Nicene Creed). Our own statement of faith, the Baptist Faith & Message 2000 states, *God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness.* (X. Last Things)

When Jesus ascended into heaven, the angels reassured the first disciples with this promise: *“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven”* (Acts 1:11).

Jesus came the first time in grace and humility, hidden from the eyes of most of the world. When he returns it will be in power and glory: *every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.* (Revelation 1:7)

Scripture clearly states that Jesus will return in power and glory. *How* this will occur is where there are diverging views, disagreement, and sometimes (unfortunately) division. This debate centers on Revelation 20, which is the most debated chapter in the book, and some would say the entire Bible. The basic issue in question concerns whether or not Revelation 20 depicts a future intermediate earthly kingdom in which Christ will rule before the final consummation of God’s redemptive purpose in the new heavens and new earth (Revelation 21).

Christians have differed in their understanding of the details of Revelation 20 since the earliest days of the church. But a few things are clear from this passage (and all of Revelation): the opposition, persecution, and death of believers is not the final and ultimate reality. The tables will be turned on the world that sits in judgment of God’s people. Followers of Christ will reign as priest-kings alongside their King. Evil will raise its ugly head at the end of history before the new heavens and new earth appear, but the end is sealed and certain. And while Satan will bring many down with him, in the end he will be routed and delivered into the place of eternal torment.

The Primary Question and Predominate Viewpoints:

Revelation 20:1-3: Satan Bound

Revelation 20:4-6: The Millennial Reign

Revelation 20:7-10: Satan Released and Defeated

Applications for Our Lives Today:

- ◆ Leave the insanity of sin and run to Christ.
- ◆ Long for this return and join John in praying, “Amen! Come Lord Jesus.” (Revelation 22:20)

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Know

**What does God intend for me to know?
In your journal, use the following prompts to write
some truths that stood out from this week's message.**

I never knew...	I was reminded...	A question I still have...
I was challenged...	I was convicted...	A truth I could share...
I was encouraged to...		I need to dig deeper into...

Be (Consider)

**What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider?
In your journal, use the following questions to write
some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.**

Is there a command to obey?	Am I convicted to confess any sin?
How am I compelled to exalt God?	Is there a sin to avoid?
Is there a promise to claim?	How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel?
Is there a principle to follow?	How can I pray for someone else?
Is there an example to follow?	What am I compelled to love or desire?

Do (Yield)

**How does God's Word call me to yield my life? In your journal, write
your answers and thoughts in response to the following questions.**

What are your greatest questions concerning this passage? How should our questions fuel our desire to grow in knowledge of the Lord AND our desire to fellowship together?

How would a growing attitude of "Come, Lord Jesus" affect our lives day to day now? How does this attitude work to shape our affections? Our behavior?

How is our pursuit of holiness and of knowing God related to our hearts increasingly longing for his return? In order to increasingly long for the coming of his Kingdom, can our posture toward this world and the things of this world stay the same? Why or why not?

*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.

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