

**THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

## CHAPTER 20

**“No More Excuses”**

I want to confess to you, that I have dreaded bringing this message to you this morning. **For me it is one of the most difficult studies in the Bible**, because it describes the day when there will be no more excuses for why we didn't accept Jesus as our own Savior.

**But, as you know, we don't pick out the studies that we think you need to hear**, we just go through the Bible line by line, verse by verse, and let the Holy Spirit teach us what He wants to say to us...

So, after going through the entire New Testament, we find ourselves here in this 20<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Book of Revelation, so we will go thorough it also....

**Last Sunday, in chapter 19, we saw ourselves in heaven with Jesus at the Bema Seat Judgment where He rewarded us for those things that we did for Jesus, while we were alive here on earth.**

- ☞ **Then we saw that we sat down** with every other believer, to a great dinner called “*The Marriage Feast of the Lamb*”, in which Jesus came to serve us.
- ☞ **Then we rode out of Heaven**, back to the earth, with the Lord, where a great army of the Beast is gathered in the Valley of Megiddo, for “*The Battle of Armageddon*”
- ☞ **Jesus simply spoke** and the entire army, the great men and the small, all destroyed in a single blast from the mouth of Jesus.

This morning, as we begin chapter 20, satan is about to finally be removed from the earth and chained up for 1,000 years.

**Revelation 20**

- 1 Then I saw **an angel** coming down from heaven, **having the key to the bottomless pit** and a great chain in his hand.
- 2 He laid hold of **the dragon**, that **serpent** of old, who is the **Devil** and **Satan**, and **bound him for a thousand years**;
- 3 and he cast him into **the bottomless pit**, (Abusso) and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more **till the thousand years were finished**. But **after these things he must be released for a little while**.

**In chapter 9, the 5th trumpet is blown, and we saw a fallen angel who had the key to the bottomless pit, and he released the Demon Locusts from the pit:**

**Revelation 9:1-2**

- 1 Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw **a star fallen from heaven** to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.
- 2 And **he opened the bottomless pit**, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.
- 3 Then **out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth**

- ☞ **Here in Revelation chapter 20**, we see the Angel is **not to release** those in the Abusso, but **to place someone into** the Abusso, the antichrist, the beast.
- ☞ **The 1,000 years of Jesus reign upon the earth** is about to begin, and before it does, satan will be out of the picture for that entire 1,000 years.
- ☞ **Notice that satan is not put into** the “Lake of fire” or “Ghenna”, his final destination, but he is placed in the “Abusso”, a great holding cell somewhere in the center of the earth.
- ☞ **Later, after the 1,000 years are completed**, satan will be placed in the lake of fire.

**Ghenna: is a word used to describe a valley called “The valley of Hinnom.**

- ☞ **It is a deep, narrow valley** south of Jerusalem.
- ☞ **It was the “Garbage Dump”** where all of Jerusalem’s refuse was taken.
- ☞ **It was on fire and burned continually**, so that it’s smoke rose non stop.
- ☞ **Jesus used** this garbage dump, “*The Valley of Hinnom*”, also called “**Ghenna**”, as an illustration of what hell will be like.

### **Matthew 13:42**

and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be **wailing and gnashing of teeth**.

### **Matthew 18:8**

... the **everlasting** fire

### **Mark 9:43**

...to hell, into the fire that shall **never be quenched**—

In 2 kings 23:10 and Jeremiah 7:31, it describes how the Jews sacrificed their children there to the god Molech in this same Valley of Hinnom

### **2 Kings 23:10**

And King Josiah defiled Topheth, which is **in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom**, that no man might make his son or his daughter **pass through the fire to Molech**.

This Pagan god was a great cast iron creature sitting on a throne that was superheated with fire, with his arms outstretched, waiting to receive the offering of a new born baby, that would be burned to death as an offering to Molech.

- ☞ **The place in 2 Kings 23** where they made these sacrifices was “*The Valley of Hinnom*”.
- ☞ **Later it became a garbage dump** in Jerusalem where **the fires never went out**.

**The Hell that Jesus describe is not a place of annihilation** because in revelation 19:20 and 20:10 we see that after 1,000 years the antichrist and his false prophet **still exist there** in the “*Lake of fire*”.

- ☞ **In Luke chapter 16**, Jesus describes hell as a place where the people there are alive, they can see, hear, feel, and regret the decision they made to reject Jesus as Gods only plan to saved them from that place.

- ☞ **One man there** even asked that someone could go from hell back to his family and tell them to make a decision to accept Jesus as their Savior, because hell was real.
- ☞ **The phrase** used in describing the “**Lake of fire**” is “**Forever and ever**”.

**Ghenna is not the same place as Hades or Sheol, these were temporary holding places for the o/t saints until Jesus came.**

This chart shows the principle that is taught throughout the entire Bible, of the “**Compartments**” that are in the center of the earth.

- ☞ **The 3 Crosses.**
- ☞ **Thief on Jesus left, Accepted Him**
- ☞ **Thief on Jesus Right, Mocked and Rejected Him**
- ☞ **Thief who believed** went to the place of comfort here called “Abraham’s Bosom, in the center of the earth.
- ☞ **Thief who rejected** went to Sheol or Hell, a place of torment, also in the center of the earth.

Between the two compartments was a “**Great Gulf**”, where no one can cross over, representing the fact that the decision you make either to reject Jesus or accept Him, is final at death, **it cannot be changed after death.**

- ☞ **Another compartment** called “*Tartarus*”, is where the Fallen Angels described in 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6 are being held for their judgment.
- ☞ **The Abusso**, is also here where satan is going to be held in chains during the 1,000 years of Jesus Rule on the earth, as described this morning here in Revelation 20.

**When Jesus died, for the 3 days that he was in the center of the earth, He preached to the souls of those who were in Sheol, that He is the Savior that the Bible promised, but they did not believe.**

- ☞ **Then when Jesus rose from the dead** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, he took everyone in the compartment called “*Abrahams Bosom*”, to heaven with Him, and emptied and closed this compartment forever.
- ☞ **Today** when any person who has accepted Jesus as their Savior dies, their Spirit **goes immediately into the presence of the Lord in Heaven**, not to this compartment called Abraham’s Bosom.
- ☞ **Those who died waiting for the coming of Jesus** in the Old Testament, had to be held in Abraham’s Bosom **until Jesus came** and made the sacrifice for their sins.

At the end of the 1,000 years, these that have all died rejecting Gods plan of saving them through Jesus death on the Cross, will be resurrected to stand before the “**Great White Throne**”.

- ☞ **Because they rejected Jesus paying for their sins**, now they will be judged themselves for **their sins** at the Great White Throne.
- ☞ **When Jesus died on the Cross**, He paid for the sins of every person that has ever been born on the earth.

- ☞ **All that any person has to do to be forgiven and have eternal life**, is to accept Jesus sacrifice as their own and **then live for Him the rest of their life.**
- ☞ **God leaves the decision** up to you.
- ☞ **So if someone ends up here at the Great white Throne**, it will be their fault, not Gods, they are lost, because they rejected Jesus Sacrifice.

As we will see this morning here in chapter 20, after they appear before the Great White Throne and are judged for their sins, they are cast alive into the Lake of Fire forever.

- ☞ **Today, while we are still alive**, we have the opportunity to hear and understand these things, and make a decision.
- ☞ **When you leave hear this morning**, you will have already made your decision.
- ☞ **Either to let Jesus pay** for your sins for you.
- ☞ **Or to Go to the Great White Throne** and pay for them yourself.
- ☞ **You will not be able to say** to the Lord **"I didn't know"**.

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4 And (John says) **I saw thrones**, and they sat on them, **and judgment was committed to them.** Then I saw the souls of **those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus** and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And NOTICE: **they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

One of the most amazing things that Jesus has done for us, in addition to leaving heaven and dying in our place for our sins, is that of promising us that **"We would reign"** with Him.

- ☞ **Now first of all**, this is not something that we can boast about: *"We are going to reign with Jesus"*.
- ☞ **We cannot even boast** about how Jesus saved us, because He did it all, there is nothing that we did except believe it.

**During the 1,000 years, Jesus will set up a perfect government upon this earth that will be ruled by Love.**

- ☞ **No one** will hurt or kill or destroy any longer.
- ☞ **Everyone** will treat every other person rightly.
- ☞ **No one will be sick or die**, or suffer or be hungry or thirsty.
- ☞ **The Lord will rule this perfect kingdom** with a *"Rod of Iron"*, that is, evil will not be tolerated, it will be a forced rule of righteousness.

When verse 4 here says that "And they lived and reigned with Jesus for a 1,00 years, this verse is speaking of all those who in this PRESENT life that accepted what Jesus offered.

- ☞ **Non of us has ever seen Jesus**, talked to Him face to face, we believe because the Word of God has told us about Jesus.
- ☞ **God places a very high degree of reward** for those who have by faith, **accepted Jesus now in this life**, even before they have seen Him with their eyes.

- ☞ **Because you have lived your life for Jesus**, He counts you as a greater treasure than anyone who will accept Jesus during the 7 years of the Tribulation period.

**For this reason, all those from the Old Testament, and the New Testament, including us today, will be allowed to rule along with Jesus during this 1,000 years.**

### **Matthew 19:28**

So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, **you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones...**

- ☞ **Here in Revelation chapter 20**, we see us sitting on thrones with Jesus, we are to judge with Jesus.
- ☞ **Jesus had said** to the church of Thyatira,

### **Revelation 3:21**

21 **"To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne**, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

**Paul spoke of us as judging the world and judging the angels:**

### **1 Corinthians 6:2-3**

- 2 Do you not know that **the saints will judge the world**? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?
- 3 Do you not know that **we shall judge angels**? How much more, things that pertain to this life?

Now you are probably thinking here, “**Hey wait a minute I cannot judge the whole world with Jesus during the 1,000 years, I cannot even judge my own household right now.**”

- ☞ **Now, remember** that when this is all going to take place, you will not be in the body that you occupy now, **you will be an eternal being** with a perfect Body and “**The Mind of Christ**”.
- ☞ **You will have perfect wisdom** and perfect judgment.
- ☞ **You will be able to see into the hearts of people** and see what is really going on, so that you can judge righteously.

This is your destiny, this is your purpose, and it is the reason that you are enduring so many trials today.

- ☞ **Your heartaches, and trials are experiences** that you will be using in the 1,000 year reign, to minister to the mortal beings that will come to you for advice and judgment.
- ☞ **How else would you be able to understand** what people are going through as a mortals during the 1,000 years, unless once you had been mortal yourself and gone through the heartaches of this life.

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5 But **the rest of the dead** (Those who did not accept Jesus) did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is **the first resurrection**.

- ☞ **The rest of the dead**: here in this verse we see that those who refused Jesus offer of a full pardon during their life on earth, are not raised from the dead **until the end of the millennium or 1,000 years**.
- ☞ **The first resurrection**: began when Jesus rose from the dead, and for us, it will begin at the Rapture.
- ☞ **Notice in verse 5**, those who were killed during the tribulation, the Christians, are raised at this point, before the 1,000 years begin.
- ☞ **John calls this “The first resurrection”**, it began when Jesus rose from the dead

**1 Corinthians 15:20**

20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become **the firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep.

- ☞ **Jesus was the first one** to be raised from the dead **in a series**.
- ☞ **Then we, who remain here on earth alive**, as well as those who have died believing in Jesus, we will be raised at the Rapture.
- ☞ **The term “Fallen asleep”** was the polite way of saying that someone had died.

There is an interesting scripture in the Old Testament that describes Jesus when he came, that He would take to heaven, those who had died and had been held in “**Abraham’s bosom**”.

**Psalms 68:18**

18 You have ascended on high, you have **led captivity captive**; you have received gifts among men, even from the rebellious, that the LORD God might dwell there.

**Ephesians 4:8**

Therefore He says: “When Jesus ascended on high, (Back to Heaven) He led (Those in) captivity (In Abraham’s Bosom) free...”

- ☞ **These are the Old Testament saints** that were **waiting for the coming** of the Messiah, Jesus. They were held in Abraham’s bosom until Jesus came.

There is an interesting verse in Matthew, that says that on the day that Jesus descended out of the center of the earth and went back to heaven, taking with Him, all those who had already died waiting for Him to come, that were held in Abraham’s Bosom, that some of these Old Testament Believers were seen walking around in the streets of Jerusalem.

**Matthew 27:52-53**

...and the graves were opened; **and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised**;

53 and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, **they went into the holy city and appeared to many**.

Now in verse 6 of Revelation 20, John describes you and I as we will be raised to never die again, called “**The First Resurrection**”.

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6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in **the first resurrection**. Over such **the second death** has no power, but they shall be **priests** of God and of Christ, and shall **reign** with Him a thousand years.

One of the things about chapter 20, that is confusing to many people, is the mention here in verse 6 of “**The First Resurrection** and “**The Second Death**”.

**This little phrase will help you remember what this means:**

*“If you are Born Twice, you will only Die Once, but if you are only born Once, you will Die Twice...”*

- ☞ **Every Human being** is born the first time.
- ☞ **If you accept Jesus sacrifice** as your own, then you are “*Born Again*”, a second time.
- ☞ **The worst thing** that can happen to you is that you would die, then **you would immediately be in the presence of the Lord in Heaven.**
- ☞ **Or if you are Alive** when Jesus comes at the Rapture, He will remove you from the earth and you will never have died.

**On the other hand, if you are Born the first time and never accept Jesus offer of forgiveness for you sins.**

- ☞ **You will die someday**, but that is not the worst thing that will happen to you.
- ☞ **At the end of the 1,000 years**, you will be raised to life by Jesus to stand at the Great White Throne judgment.
- ☞ **You will be found lacking** in that all your goodness will not counteract your sins, without Jesus Blood to cleanse your sins, you will be thrown alive into the Lake of Fire, this is called “*The Second Death*”.

### **Revelation 20**

6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in **the first resurrection**. Over such **the second death** has no power, but they shall be **priests** of God and of Christ, and shall **reign** with Him a thousand years.

- ☞ **Priests**: in the old testament Israel was to become a “**Kingdom of priests**”, they failed to do this, the title is now given to every person who trusts in Jesus since the day of Pentecost when the church was born, up till the rapture of the church.
- ☞ **Reign**: this is the position of every “*Born Again*” believer in the Lord Jesus, we are to reign with Jesus as he is king over the earth during this 1,000 years. **Your position during this time is based upon your faithfulness with what the Lord gave to you to do, now in this life.**

### **Luke 19:17**

And Jesus said to him, “Well done, good servant; because **you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.**”

**Jesus said that He has placed you where you are at here in Winslow.**

- ☞ **He gave you the Job** that you have.
- ☞ **He gave you the home** you live in.
- ☞ **He has made you His representative**, that through your life, people would come to know Him.

To the degree that you lived for Jesus and seek to bring Glory to Him, He will reward your faithfulness to Him when He rules the earth during the 1,000 years, by placing you in authority over a city or perhaps 10 cities...

- ☞ **Notice that** what we are doing now on earth might seem “**Very Little**”.
- ☞ **But just by being faithful** over what seems very little, Jesus will make you ruler over **very much**.

When Jesus says that you will be a King, it is not so that you can rule over people, but so that you can see that the people that alive during the 1,000 years are blessed and cared for and loved.

- ☞ **When any person desires to follow Jesus**, they must understand that He has made us “*Servant Leaders*”.
- ☞ **That means** that we lead by Serving people.
- ☞ **When someone needs help**, we help them.
- ☞ **Freely we have been given everything**, so freely we give everything.
- ☞ **Because we have been given so much by Jesus**, it is an honor and a privilege to help other people, **it is not a burden or a bummer** when we get to help.
- ☞ **We don't gripe and complain**, when we help people, we rejoice that the King of Kings has ALLOWED us to serve Him by serving other people.

*“Jesus said that when we Love someone in His Name, we are loving Him”*

When Jesus says that you will be “**A Priest**”, He is saying that during the 1,000 years, you will be the ones that will be teaching and ministering to the Mortal human beings that populate the earth during that time.

- ☞ **A priest** is someone who brings **the people to the Lord**.
- ☞ **A priest is someone** who brings **the Lord to the people**.
- ☞ **What an awesome privilege** to know that we are helping people to know Jesus love and his great power, so that they can live with Him forever...

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7 Now when the thousand years have expired, **Satan will be released** from his prison.

**Why would the Lord release satan after he has been in prison for 1,000 years and the earth has benefited from the absence of his deception and destruction?**

- ☞ **During the 1,000 years**, there will be many people who will be born that will have never had the opportunity to rebel against God.
- ☞ **The world** will have to submit to the authority of Jesus, because he will be the king.

- ☞ **In this act of releasing satan from the Abusso**, we see further proof of the righteousness of God, **he gives man another choice to serve him or rebel.**
- ☞ **For 1,000 years** man has lived under the most ideal conditions the earth has ever known, but man will still rebel.
- ☞ **Our problems on earth** are not a result of our environment, lack of resources, **our problems are because of our sinful and rebellious hearts.**
- ☞ **We see from this verse** that satan is just a tool of the Lord, he is under his control, he can chain him, he can set him free.

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8 and (**Again satan**) will go out **to deceive the nations** which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, **whose number is as the sand of the sea.**

- ☞ **Notice the primary mission of satan after he is released:** Verse 8: **“To deceive”, and Together those who have rebelled.**
- ☞ **This is at the end of the 1,000 years** of Jesus rule on the earth.

**Think of this:** For 1,000 years the earth has been in utter perfection and beauty.

- ☞ **Not one person** has hurt another or taken advantage of another.
- ☞ **There is no poverty or sickness**, war, or lack of any good thing
- ☞ **People have lived** in a perfect environment for 1,000 years...

And yet, deep within the heart of man, has simmered hatred and rebellion, and a desire to be rid of The Lords rule.

- ☞ **Within the hearts of millions of people** that have lived on the earth for 1,000 years with Jesus ruling the world in perfect righteousness and peace, has simmered a hatred for Jesus who has brought this peace and safety to the earth.
- ☞ **You see, it is not mans environment** that has prevented the world from being perfect paradise, as the haters of God have claimed.
- ☞ **It is not because** people don't have an equal share in prosperity, that the world is such a mess.
- ☞ **For thousands of years**, those who hate God have said that we don't need the Lord, **we need a perfect environment and equality on the earth**, for the earth to be at peace and prosper.

Well, here is 1,000 years of absolute paradise on earth, and yet the true problem with the world has manifested itself, when the opportunity presents itself.

- ☞ **The problem is not the world itself, the problem is all of us, our hearts,** and our fallen nature.
- ☞ **It is our hearts**, and the fact that we don't really know just how evil the human heart really is.

### **Jeremiah 17:9**

“The heart is deceitful **above all things**, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?

The truth is, that even though most of us think that we know ourselves pretty well, because we live in these bodies, the reality is, the Word of God says, “**We are completely deceived**” about our true nature, and what is really in our heart.

### **Hebrews 4:12**

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**Only the Word of God, when it is heard by a human being, really is able to bring out what the true thoughts and intents of our hearts are.**

- ☞ **We think that we have pure motives and right desires**, the reality is, that we have a real problem with anything outside of our own self.
- ☞ **Sometimes** when we are going through a study in the Bible, have you noticed how suddenly you will see something in yourself that surprises you?

**We begin to realize just how selfish we really are.**

- ☞ **We start to notice** that there is something desperately wrong with us.
- ☞ **We have the ability for such love and beauty**, and a few minutes later we are so mad that we could kill someone.

The Word of God is dealing with us this morning. It is shining a light on the fact that we are not OK. We need the Lord to change us and make us into new creatures in Christ Jesus.

- ☞ **If there is any place in the Bible** that allows us see ourselves for who we really are, **it is the 20th chapter of Revelation.**
- ☞ **In this 20th chapter**, we see that **we have this old fallen nature** that is desperately wicked, and who can understand it.
- ☞ **At the same time**, if we have given our lives to Jesus Christ, we have been “*Born Again*”, and have a new Spiritual nature that really wants to please the Lord.

**It is only by a steady diet of Gods Word, and fellowship with other believers, that we can build up this Spirit side of us, and put down the flesh side that constantly wants control.**

So, after 1,000 years of absolute righteousness, beauty and peace upon the earth, with Jesus as king, the Lord does something amazing.

- ☞ **He let's satan out of the Abusso**, where he has been chained up for 1,000 years, not able to lead any more rebellions against God.
- ☞ **As satan is released**, he goes right back to his former job, **gathering human being together in rebellion against the Lord.**

Here in chapter 20, all those who during the 1,000 years of Jesus Rule, secretly in their hearts, hated Jesus, and His Righteousness that He has brought to the earth, join with satan in trying to fight against Jesus and destroy Him...

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- 9 They (**Those who have hated Jesus during the 1,000 years**) went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And **fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.**
- 10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast **into the lake of fire and brimstone** where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

*“Fire came down out of heaven”*

- ☞ **Here we see the futility** of the schemes of man against God, they are destroyed in an instant by the Lord.
- ☞ **At this point God say’s “Enough”**, finally satan and all those who are his are finally eliminated from the universe.

Notice the phrase **“They are tormented day and night forever and ever”**.

- ☞ **The Greek word here for “Forever and ever” is made up of 2 words:**
- ☞ **For:** gr. Eis (ice) **a point in time.**
- ☞ **Ever:** gr. Aion (ah-ee-ohn) **an age without end, an eternity.**
- ☞ **It means just what it sounds like** that it means: **Tormented for eternity.**

**Is this fair?, People being tormented forever and ever?**

- ☞ **The Lord will give an ample opportunity** to every person to choose him or reject him.
- ☞ **It appears that the human heart** is much darker and more deceitful than most of us realize.
- ☞ **The reality is** that **God has never sent one person to hell**, people send themselves there by their own free will and knowledge of the choice that has to be made.
- ☞ **The Lord grieves** over the choices that people make to reject His love and instead rebel against him and sentence themselves to torment forever.

**Ezekiel 18:32**

For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord GOD. “Therefore turn and live!”

**Ezekiel 33:11**

Say to them: “As I live,” says the Lord GOD, **‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked,** but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die

**Because the reward for accepting Jesus sacrifice on the Cross for your sins has an eternal reward**, on the other side of this, is that there is an **eternal punishment** for rejecting Gods offer of a full pardon for your sins.

- ☞ **You might say:** *“Well I don’t like the rules that God has made, I don’t agree with the two choices He has given me...”*
- ☞ **May I say to you** will all respect:

*“This is Gods Universe, He made it, as such, He has the right to make the rules. If you don’t like the rules, you are free to go and create your own universe and live by your own rules, but until you are able to do this, it is Gods Universe and He has the right to make the rules...”*

- ☞ **Thankfully, He is so full of Love and Grace** in that He has offered us a full pardon for all of our sins and Eternal life, at absolutely no cost to us at all.
- ☞ **Instead** He punished His own Son in our place.
- ☞ **In reality, I deserved the fires of Hell forever for my own rebellion against God, but He was rich in mercy and made a way that I could be forgiven.**

So don’t talk to me about fair. Fair would have been that all of us die eternally, fair would have been that Jesus would never have left heaven and died the most horrible death imaginable.

**Fair would have been that we each got what we deserved, But God was Rich mercy...**

### **Ephesians 2:1-9**

1 And **you He made alive**, who were dead in trespasses and sins,  
 2 in which you **once walked** according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,  
 3 among whom also **we all once** conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.  
 4 **But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love** with which He loved us,  
 5 **even when we were dead** in trespasses, **made us alive** together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),  
 6 and raised us up together, and **made us sit together in the heavenly places** in Christ Jesus,  
 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.  
 8 For **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,  
 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

No don’t talk to me about fair, God should have never given me a second thought...

But He did, in fact, He thought about each one of us, even before He made the world, and Jesus offered His life for your freedom, even before the Universe was made...

- ☞ **So that here in Revelation chapter 20**, when we see these that stand before the Great White Throne, because they would not bow their hearts to Jesus great love, **there is no excuse left for them.**

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11 Then I saw **a great white throne** and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And **there was found no place for them.**

There is no other place for them because they have rejected the Love of God and trampled under foot, the precious blood of Jesus Christ and counted His sacrifice for them as NOTHING...

- ☞ **They rejected the only way** that God provided for them to be saved, so there is no other place found for them.

### **Revelation 20**

- 12 And I saw the dead, NOTICE: **small and great, standing before God**, and **books were opened**. And another book was opened, which is **the Book of Life**. And the dead were **judged according to their works**, by the things which were written in the books.
- 13 **The sea gave up the dead who were in it**, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.
- 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. **This is the second death**.
- 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

- ☞ **The great White Throne**: is the final judgment of those who rejected Jesus as their savior, they are not here by accident.
- ☞ **These people had multiple chances** to accept the truth, and they rejected that truth.

### **Romans 1:18-22**

- 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,
- 19 because **what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them**.
- 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, **so that they are without excuse...**

The Lord has “**Hardwired**” a knowledge of Himself in the heart of every human being so that on the day of the Great White Throne, no one will be able to say “**God I didn’t know that you existed**”.

- ☞ **He will show them the place in their heart** where He placed a knowledge of Himself, and tell them that “*They are without excuse*”.
- ☞ **This morning, every one of us have heard the truth** as God’s Word declares it to us, so we will never be able to say to the Lord, “**I didn’t know**”.

### **Romans 2:15-16**

- 15 ...the law (Is) **written in their hearts**, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them
- 16 in the day when God will judge **the secrets of men’s hearts** by Jesus Christ...

### **Ecclesiastes 12:1**

For God will bring every work into judgment, **Including every secret thing**, Whether good or evil

**Hebrews 4:13**

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, **but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.**

- ☞ **There will be a day** when God judges the “**Secrets of men**”, here at the Great White Throne, **this is that day.**
- ☞ **On this day**, every thought and intent of the person will be known.
- ☞ **Books were opened:** Books will be opened for these people to show:
  1. The knowledge they really had about what God requires.
  2. The opportunities they had to receive Jesus as their savior.
  3. The times they rejected God’s plan to save them.
  4. The true thought and intents of this person’s heart.

**The book of life:** This book is also found in the o/t: psalm 69:28 speaks of being “**Blotted out of the book of the living**”.

- ☞ **In this book are found the names of everyone who has ever been born**, if upon their death, they have not accepted God’s offer of a full pardon, they are “**Blotted out**” of this book.
- ☞ **Here we see that the “Book of life”** is opened, it will be found that these people have had their names “*blotted out*”.
- ☞ **Moses said to the Lord:** to “*Blot out his name of the book of life, instead of destroying the rebellious people of Israel.*”
- ☞ **It appears that your name is already in this book** when you are born.

You will have to go through your whole life with all of the multiple opportunities to accept Jesus offer for forgiveness, and then die, before God will finally remove your name from the Book of Life.

**Revelation 20**

- 13 **The sea gave up the dead who were in it**, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.
- 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
- 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

No matter where your body ends up, **someday God will find it**, either to dwell with him or to come here to the Great White Throne judgment, to be killed again in the second death

- ☞ **Finally everyone not in the book of life** is cast alive into the eternal “*lake of fire*”
- ☞ **One day the people asked Jesus** what the works were that they should do that God would accept them.
- ☞ **Jesus reply** was “*This is the work of God, that you would believe in the one he sent*”

For me personally, this is one of the hardest chapters in the Bible to teach, that there is a day coming when people will be cast alive into the lake of fire forever, because they would not receive the Love of God and be saved.

- ☞ **I don't like to teach it**, I don' like to describe it.
- ☞ **I would much rather teach** how great The Love of God has been demonstrated through what Jesus did for you when He died for you and removed every one of your sins.
- ☞ **That if you would just call upon Jesus right now** and turn from your rebellion of Him, that He will accept you and save you and you can know for certain that you will never stand before this Great White Throne.

But, if I did not bring this chapter to you, just as I have already brought all of the other chapters to you in the New Testament and most of the Old Testament, **I would be held accountable myself, by the Lord...**

He would say to me *“Rob, why didn't you tell them? Why didn't you warn them? Why didn't you tell them that they must make a choice and that I will hold them accountable for their choice?”*

### **Ezekiel 33:8-9**

8 If I announce that some wicked people are sure to die and you fail to warn them about changing their ways, then they will die in their sins, but I will hold you responsible for their deaths.

9 But if you warn them to repent and they don't repent, they will die in their sins, but you will not be held responsible.

**So, you have heard, now it us up to you to respond.**

- ☞ **What will you do with Jesus** offer of forgiveness?
- ☞ **Will you reject it** or will you accept it?
- ☞ **If you say this morning that you have accepted it**, I want to ask you: *“But have you really been living for Jesus?”*

### **Matthew 7:22-23**

22 Many will say to Me in that day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?”

23 And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from Me

**Jesus said that many people will come to me on that day and say that they know who Jesus is.**

- ☞ **But Jesus said**, more important is this: **“Does Jesus know you?”**
- ☞ **To know is the Greek word “Ginosko”**, To know by experience”, by clinging to, relying upon, trusting in Jesus with your whole life...

**Do you have a living , real and personal relationship with Jesus? Then you know Him and He knows you and you can have confidence that you are His.**

But if you just know About Jesus and his Death, but you are not really living for Him, He will say to you *“I never knew You, I never had a relationship with you...You say that you know me, but you never lived your life for me...depart from me....”*