

20:20 Vision Ministries—Devotions by Roger Browning

Week 31 (July 29-August 4, 2018)

The **rapture of the Church** will be followed by seven years of **tribulation** on earth during which the antichrist and his false prophet will rule. God will use this terrible time primarily to bring salvation to the Jews. At the end of the tribulation, Jesus will return to earth along with all the saints from all the ages to rule for 1000 years from the current city of Jerusalem. His earthly reign will be our study this week.

Sunday, July 29 (read Revelation 19:11-16)

He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and His name is the Word of God. (Revelation 19:13)

Jesus rides triumphantly from Heaven to earth to set up His kingdom (v. 11). As you will study in Tuesday's devotion, prior to establishing **His** earthly throne, He has to destroy earth's current ruler, the antichrist (beast) and his false prophet (v. 17-21). Jesus is called **Faithful** and **True** as He comes back on His mighty white horse to put an end to mankind's final war, the battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:16). This is in sharp contrast to the borrowed donkey He rode on Palm Sunday (John 12:14-15). Nothing is hidden from the Lord's eyes of blazing fire, and His right to rule the world is symbolized by His many crowns (v. 12). Finite humans will not be able to understand His private name (v. 12b), but we can certainly comprehend the name John gives Him from the start, **The Word of God** (John 1:1)!

Monday, July 30 (reread Revelation 19:11-16)

The armies of Heaven were following Him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. (Revelation 19:14)

Jesus' robe is dipped in blood because of the battles He has fought for us since the beginning of time (v. 13). As a result of **His** death and resurrection, we come back wearing spotless fine linen (v. 14). Does this help you to better understand 2 Corinthians 5:21? The Lord has a sharp sword in His mouth, symbolic of the Word of God (v. 15; see Hebrews 4:12). He **created** the entire universe by His Word, so you should not be surprised that, by this same Word, judgment will take place at the end of the Battle of Armageddon. God's wrath against sin and rebellion is poured out in this final battle, establishing the total and absolute rule of the "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" (v. 15-16).

Tuesday, July 31 (read Revelation 19:17-21)

And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God . . ." (Revelation 19:17)

All **believers** celebrate The Lamb's Supper with the Lord (Revelation 19:1-9). The **enemies** of Jesus will actually **be supper** for buzzards and other vultures (v. 17-18). Could you imagine facing the wrath of Almighty God without the mercy and grace of His Son? The antichrist and false prophet become the first two citizens of hell (v. 20). Other non-Christians will not be judged until the 1000 years under Christ's rule is over (Revelation 20:11-15). In this short space, I cannot address all the material contained in v. 19-21, but I do want you to understand that judgment is coming to all who reject God's plan of salvation. The politically correct views of our world will lead to the rule of the antichrist. Stay strong in God's Word and you will be ready for the tough days that will follow.

Wednesday, August 1 (read Revelation 20:1-6)

He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:2)

Satan is a powerful force, but “the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (1 John 4:4). The devil is not in charge of the abyss; in fact, he gets thrown in headfirst (v. 1-2)! He will continue to stay locked up until Jesus has reigned on earth for 1000 years (v. 3). Those new believers who were **beheaded** during the tribulation come to life and reign with Jesus and us (v. 4; see also 1 Cor. 6:1-2). The **first resurrection** consists of two separate events: 1) the rapture of the church (1 Thess. 4:13-18) and 2) the presentation of new bodies to those who died after becoming **believers** during the tribulation, many of whom were beheaded (v. 4). Thank God that your name is written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. The second death has no power over you (v. 6). **Unbelievers** also get new bodies (ones that will be fit for hell) after the 1000 years of Christ’s reign are over (v. 5). You do not want to be on earth **after** Jesus calls His Church home in the rapture. You can be born twice and die once, or you can be born once and die twice. Those who are born again will reign as priests of God for 1000 years (v. 6).

Thursday, August 2 (read Isaiah 11:1-9)

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. (Isaiah 11:1)

While Satan is bound for 1000 years, Jesus will reign on earth from the current city of Jerusalem. The Lord was born of the Virgin Mary and Joseph, his earthly father, both from the tribe of Judah. They traced their origin back to Jesse, David’s father (v. 1). Jesus is called the Branch that will bear fruit, although in the New Testament, He is the Vine that flows through us, the branches, to produce fruit (John 15:1-8). The earthly ministry of God’s perfect Son is described in v. 2-3. Jesus lived a sinless life on earth because He was filled with the Holy Spirit and was willingly obedient to His Father in all words and actions. God offers you the same opportunity. Seek to be filled with His Spirit (Ephesians 5:18b).

Friday, August 3 (reread Isaiah 11:1-9)

He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth; with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. (Isaiah 11:4b)

We learned in Monday’s devotion that Jesus returns to earth with a sharp double-edged sword in His mouth (Revelation 19:15). This pictures the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12), the source of all judgment. That is why He will not judge by **sight** or **hearing** (v. 3); instead, the **Scriptures** provide the source of righteousness and justice for all who follow them (v. 4-5). What would our world be like if everyone lived according to God’s Holy Word? We will find out when we return with Jesus to begin His reign of 1000 years on earth. If you don’t want to wait that long to get a glimpse of His kingdom, you may want to look at tomorrow’s devotion right now. God gives us a preview of coming attractions! I cannot wait to experience the peace of living in His earthly kingdom!

Saturday, August 4 (reread Isaiah 11:1-9)

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. (Isaiah 11:6)

Can you imagine all the natural enemies joining together to praise our Lord? That is exactly what will happen when Jesus reigns on earth for 1000 years! The animal kingdom will return to its created state in the Garden of Eden (v. 6-9), because the Prince of Peace will rule the world from His throne in Jerusalem. There will be no political parties jockeying for power and no presidents lying and deceiving the people. How can this be possible? Jesus will reign and the “government will be on His shoulders” (Isaiah 9:6). Until then, Satan will attempt to set up his own one-world global government before Jesus calls His Church home in the rapture. After that, the devil will rule the earth for seven years through the antichrist and his religious leader, the false prophet. You don’t want to be on earth during Satan’s reign. The good news is this: Jesus’ plan of salvation is still available to you and all your friends and family. Spread this good news until the whole world is full of the knowledge of the Lord (v.9)!