

Revelation 06-02-17a

This is Friday the 17th of February 2006. We continue tonight our study in the book of Revelation. A study that for me at least has been very fascinating.

I have really come to appreciate a lot of passages that were somewhat opaque to me in times past. I hope it has been the same for you all. We pick up tonight in the latter part of chapter 19.

Let's take a moment as we begin to ensure that God will be able to teach us and implant his word like a powerful seed in the soil that is our souls and that it will spring up and bear fruit. Shall we pray? Father, we are grateful as always for another opportunity to spend time in fellowship and in the study of your word. We recognize that the blessing that comes to us when we assemble is not limited to the formal communication of scripture but is implicit in our fellowship and in the presence of each one who is here.

Each one that you have gifted with encouragement, with the gifts of prayer and faith and the ability to bless and uplift each one. We are grateful for the Lord Jesus Christ and his work on our behalf transferring us out of darkness and into the light by the great work that he did in becoming sin for us so that we could be made righteous in your sight. We pray that our study tonight will equip us for every good work that it will give us discernment and understanding, stability and the reflection of your glory both now and in ages to come.

We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen. As I said, Revelation chapter 19, you will recall in verse 17 John saw an angel standing in the sun and he cried with a loud voice saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven come and gather together for the supper of the great God that you may eat the flesh of kings, captains, mighty men, horses those who sit on them, flesh of all, free and slaves, small and great and the beasts, the kings, the armies gather together to make war against the Lord Jesus Christ sitting on the horse and the army that accompanies him, that Lord willing, is us it is the army of the overcomers clothed in white linen, riding white horses the cavalry, the quick reaction force, those who are qualified to rule and reign with Christ.

Whenever we say, you know, rule and reign with Christ we say, well, rule and reign, rule and reign well, it's sort of an administrative sounding thing ruling and reigning means to implement and enforce the authority the power, the policies of God and it includes this kind of activity it's not sitting around signing off on court dockets or sending off a tax report on some province to rule and reign with Christ is to participate in some very interesting and important work that advances the plan of God, that furthers the policies and the history that God has created for human beings and this is a part of it the beast gathers together the kings of the earth and the armies to make war and this is a pitched battle between forces of light and forces of darkness you've got your people wearing the home jerseys and you've got people wearing the away jerseys the ones with the Lord Jesus Christ are wearing the white away game jerseys the people in the dark uniforms are the home team for the fallen, corrupt, evil, and by now smoking ruin of the earth and with all

that God has done in the preceding six and some odd years these people are still unhappy at the side of the Lord Jesus they don't fall and acknowledge Him they don't cry out for forgiveness they don't repent and this is the first principle the first point of application this evening it's one that we have seen before with the 66 pound hailstones and so on it is not a lack of information it is not a lack of revelation that causes people to disbelieve God not believe in Christ not accept the Bible not become Christians many of these people profess to be intellectuals profess to be smart profess to have stuff figured out and they say well you know there's just not a preponderance of the evidence if God could be more clear the Bible is contradictory and inconsistent and people make anything out of it they want and look at all the vast numbers of interpretations and conflicting ideas about it down through the ages so if there was a God and He was righteous and holy and wanted us to understand everything why did He give us this mishmash of old Jewish myths and legends that I can't make heads or tails out of well excuse me but let me begin to enumerate all of the fallacies in what this person just said first of all the Bible is not the tool of evangelism I have never taught you the Roman road and I never will you know why? Romans isn't written to unbelievers in every verse that they rip out of that thing to try to evangelize and God blesses in spite of it it's like Moses striking the rock the water still comes forth but that's not what the book is talking about Romans is not a book to get somebody saved and all the navigators have just gone ballistic and if they could hear me now I'd probably be anathema the Bible is not God's communication to unbelievers to get them saved unbelievers don't have any business trying to understand the Bible it is opaque to them it's never going to make sense to them you can explain until you're blue in the face and some of us have done so and you're wasting your time you're wasting your breath the unsaved person is not going to understand the Bible it's not written to him you might as well hand a trigonometry book to your second grader and say here you go you got questions on math? just read that well that's what you're doing when you hand an unbeliever the Bible spiritual things are spiritually discerned if you're spiritually dead you're never going to figure it out and it is going to be mocked ridiculed misunderstood misconstrued and of course they do that with Jesus Christ the Lord Jesus Christ himself could walk up to your unbelieving friend and say hello there I'm the Lord Jesus Christ you want to see me walk on water? and he goes over and does it and comes back walks across the pool and back that person will not accept him it is not a matter of proof it's not a matter of information it's not a matter of revelation it is a matter of acceptance or rejection God himself sends his own son the fullness of deity in bodily form people watch him for three and a half years in Israel and don't accept him the wisest Bible scholars in the land took a look at Jesus and said oh no that's not him what are you talking about? no no no we know what the Messiah is and the Messiah I know all about the Messiah I've learned it from the prophets the prophet is a friend of mine I know the Messiah you're not the Messiah go away you're not the Messiah in fact, you bug me and we're going to get rid of you you're an annoyance you're anything but the Messiah well, that's the Lord Jesus Christ perfect communication not a wasted word not a word out of place knew men's hearts spoke exactly the truth they needed to hear and they literally spit in his face pulled out his beard whipped him and sent him to the cross that's what people do with perfect revelation from

God so don't waste your breath don't waste your time thinking well if I could just make it more clear if I could just make it more plain the Bible is not the evangelism tool what reveals God to the hearts of humankind? creation and the Holy Spirit what may be known of God it says in Romans chapter 1 is manifest look around design equals designer how many times have I given you this illustration you're walking along the beach you look down I did this when I was a child walking along seeing these dead and dying starfish and sand dollars and pieces of seaweed and this funny looking kelp stuff and this kind of faint stench of decay along the beach there walking along you see all of this stuff shells pieces of crabs different kinds of mollusks and mussels and bits and pieces of organic detritus along there and all of a sudden here's this wonderful round glass ball bright red glistening in the sun I pick it up and I take it back to my friends and I say hey look what I found my friends are a couple of years older children of some missionaries that live next door to us I'm down at the beach with them I say hey look at this thing I found what is it? and they said well that's a float off a fishnet and it may have come from they told me it came from Japan this is the kind of thing they use over there in Japan I don't know where it came from but it was obviously not native it was obviously not natural I knew somebody had made this it was round and made of glass and unlike anything else on the beach you can find a flint arrowhead it's a rock with a particular shape when you pick it up and it's got that point and the symmetry and the two little prongs and the little base for lashing onto a stick anybody finding that is going to say this did not erode into this pattern this is not the result of freezing and natural forces somebody made this we recognize the product of intelligent manufacture instinctively well people who look around this universe and think that organic life came about in an undesigned fashion are actively rejecting the evidence of their own mind so here the veil is taken away right now the evidence is sort of balanced you have the evidence of creation and all of that but you have the evidence of science you have the story of Noah's Ark they think they saw it they might have a picture of it the guy claims to have visited it but nobody really knows for sure and everything is kind of hanging in the balance and people are choosing in the absence of any clinching cop-and-nail type of argument in either direction all of the scientists all millions of years old well, maybe, maybe not same thing with the Genesis account of creation nothing is definitive you have to choose when this army when this army rides out of heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ at its head and comes down to earth and the beast says everybody get your weapons there is no doubt of who it is that has ridden out of heaven who it is that's with him what he is trying to do and why he is being opposed I mean, the cards are now on the table this is like in poker you know, Texas Hold'em you're down to two players and you call and you lay down your hands alright, let's start flipping over cards and see who won everything is out on the table now all the dealing is over that's what this is and what does it tell us we look at future predictive scripture the same way we look at past historical scripture what does it tell us? people do not lack information God the Holy Spirit addresses himself to the heart of every man Jesus said when he comes he will convict the world so if you know a person and they're an unbeliever or they're a believer way out in the weeds it is not your power of persuasion you don't have to feel confident or take credit if you have conversations with them and they move in the right direction nor can you beat yourself up and feel bad and go into

blame and shame and the rest of it if you speak with them and nothing happens or they get worse you are not an agent for change in the hearts of people you are not the evangelist it is not your power of persuasion it's not your eloquence Paul says I can speak with tongues of men and angels and it doesn't speak as loud as love what matters is God's addressing that person and that person's response to God God ensures that people get the revelation that is sufficient for them to make their choice and they make that choice and you can't take the credit and you can't take the blame for anybody's decisions but your own and even in making decisions that respond to God's grace and God's revelation we still don't get credit because that's what you are supposed to do what's the matter with people that they don't? you have to really be opposed to God to not accept I mean what part of this is a bad deal? you get to live forever you get your body of sin removed you get taken out of a corrupt and fallen environment you go into places where eye is not seen and ear is not heard I mean what part of this is bad? why would people not say I'll roll the dice and believe in Christ maybe, maybe not but hey what's bad about this deal? I'll tell you what's bad about it men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil because their hearts are evil because they make the same reactionary choice when they are confronted with God that Satan and the fallen angels did it is inevitable with free will that some will choose God and recognize Him and love Him and want to serve Him and want to live with Him and others will not the problem is for those that will not they become a cancer it's just like two kinds of cells in your body healthy cells cancerous cells and you say oh but it's a living thing it has a right to live I should feed my cancer I should try to nourish and nurture and find a place for my cancer so that it will thrive and grow because hey it has just as much a right to live it just made a different choice it's a different kind of living thing this leech that attaches itself oh look there's a tick behind my ear well he's got a right to live I mean I should care for him and provide a little home for him do you see what I'm saying? this is what God is doing in angelic and human history is demonstrating that when there is this kind of attitude it must be eliminated if you heard the president's speech today he was talking down in Florida if you didn't hear it you ought to hear it because it is a classic he had like a mental outline of three or four points and he just spoke extemporaneously and it was a thing of beauty everybody ought to be forced ought to be duct taped to their TV and forced to watch that speech in my opinion but the president said you know there are people who like freedom appreciate freedom yearn for freedom and there are those who are determined to take freedom away from other people there's a fundamental divider there are people who appreciate freedom and those who don't and that is the basic foundation stone under his entire foreign policy is I'm going to deal one way with people who appreciate freedom I'm going to deal another way with people who don't we are going to foster freedom and encourage it and support it and anybody that tries to mess with it we are going to stay on the hunt we are going to track them down we are going to take away their money we are going to take away their place to live we are going to take away their security we are going to keep them on the run we are going to fight them over there so that we don't have to fight them over here two kinds of people well in God's economy there are two kinds of creatures both angelic and human those who accept God who want a life with Him who look forward to living in the light and being

restored and having communion and fellowship and all of the wonderful things that are associated with God and those who don't you are a branch in the tree and you either want to flourish and grow and derive nourishment from that tree or you reject it you dry up, you are shriveled and you are broken out of the tree one or the other Romans chapter 10 so the beasts, the kings of the earth and their armies gather together why? to make war that's why they gather together Jesus Christ the Savior of the world clothed in white perfect absolutely fair absolutely just absolutely righteous in everything He says everything He does people take one look at Him and say we've got to stamp that out we've got to get rid of that we've got to make that go away and they gather together to fight Jesus told His disciples if they've hated Me they are going to hate you and you can expect opposition in this world in fact you can count on it Jesus said in this world you will have philipsis you will have tribulation and you will be hated He told the disciples everybody is going to hate you because of Me and to the extent that we reflect the glory of God and the glory of Christ there is an element out there that is going to hate us that is going to react negatively to us so just get used to it get over it you get a chance to put it in its place if we are those who are qualified to ride these white horses and wear these white robes righteous deeds of the saints with Christ then we'll be able to whack some of this stuff and put it where it belongs we can be active in implementing the will of God and bringing in the kingdom of God that's what's happening here the beast was captured the false prophet who works signs in His presence by which He deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped His image these two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone the line is somewhat blurry in my mind between what we talked about in class and what we talked about before, during and after class with regard to this but I will remind you again that in my opinion this is evidence for the supernatural nature of the beast and the false prophet they do not go through a judgment which tells me that they are already judged there's only one class of sentient creatures that are already judged and that is the fallen angels these are either incarnate fallen angels similar to what we know has taken place in history in the past, Genesis chapter 6 specifically we know that angels have been incarnate and have walked around on the earth Abraham gave some a meal Lot was dragged out of Sodom by a couple of them there were cherubim stationed at the entrance to the garden of Eden angels have spoken to Joshua to Gideon to the parents of Samson and to numerous other people in the scripture we know that they can come down and assume human form an angel came and let Peter out of prison in the New Testament scripture tells us that some have entertained angels unaware and all of this conspires to tell us that angels can't appear to be human although they manifestly are not and these are the first two creatures to go into the lake of fire we know that the lake of fire was prepared for the devil and his angels and it seems only appropriate that these two go in as two thirds of the unholy trinity which part does not go in? Satan himself why? God is not finished with him yet he is the incarnation of evil the father of lies the lion roaming the earth seeking whom he may devour prince of the power of the air yet God says not ready to throw you in the lake of fire yet now here's my question or my thought actually it's sort of a semi-question pseudo-question hypothetical question observation it's interesting to me that if the lake of fire is not annihilation if it's active conscious torment unending

forever and ever seems like God could drop Satan in there leave him for a thousand years and pluck him back out like a burning brand at the end and say, alright go do the Gog Magog thing but God does not put him in there which suggests to me that he needs Satan to be around to draw like a magnet these iron filings of dark elements out of the field that is the world the tares, the bad fish and lead them in that final rebellion why is he thrown in the bottomless pit? well, one could argue one could suggest that were he thrown in the lake of fire he could not be pulled back out you don't ever see anybody coming out of the lake of fire it seems to be a one-way ticket to oblivion no more is ever heard of the beast and the false prophet they don't say hello there Satan at the end of the millennial kingdom after Gog Magog when Satan is thrown in along with the rest of the fallen angels and the unbelievers nobody says hello nobody raises up off their swords to greet them as they are said to do in Sheol so it seems to be a one-way ticket and nothing further is heard from people once they go in or angels or anybody else just a thought these two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone everybody else is killed these two are not killed why? suggests to me that they can't be killed by normal means the rest were killed with the sword if these two were men why couldn't they be killed with the sword raised up with everybody else these two are cast alive they seem to be of a different stripe a different material all the birds were filled with their flesh and as I suggested last time I would argue that these birds representing the fallen angels this victory and this whole history is stuffed in their faces and they can't talk with their mouth full they've been arguing that God is unfair they've been arguing that something to the effect that well if we had only known we would not have done this, that and the other here are people who see and know everything and rebel in the face of the returning Christ well this brings us to chapter 20 John says then I saw an angel coming down from heaven having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand he laid hold of the dragon that serpent of old who is the devil and Satan and bound him for a thousand years we've talked about this we've heard about this we've referred to this innumerable times but before I even read the rest of this think about it what do we know from Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 about Satan greatest thing to ever come from the hand of God you were perfect in the day that you were created you walked among the stones of fire you had all of this power you were organizing and administering commerce all of that emblazoned with the breastplate of priesthood obviously a leader of leaders among the angels now I saw an angel coming down from heaven having the key to the pit and a great chain he laid hold of Lucifer and he binds him remember the parable Jesus told about the strong man if you want to plunder the house what do you have to do first you have to bind the strong man if you're going to bind a strong man what has to be true you have to be stronger than the strong man he laid hold of the dragon notice interestingly the Lord Jesus Christ is not the one who grabs the dragon and binds him and casts him into the pit it's an angel why I ask myself we tend to sort of unconsciously drift into the Chinese yin yang here's God and Satan Jesus and Satan you've got the Mormons or the JW's whoever I think it's the JW's who say that well Satan and Jesus were like brothers and the priests are the Mormons I get all that blonde haired blue eyed nonsense mixed up in my mind but they're the ones they say well here's the well they are I mean it's they've got the same little Aryan problem the guy with the little mustache all of us with brown hair and

brown eyes if you go talk to them well we were the ne'er do wells in the great prehistoric battle and the blonde haired blue eyed people they were the fair haired children of God in the old conflict and so we're brown eyed but we try harder kind of a thing well what I'm trying to get at is you've got this whole theology pseudo theology that says well Jesus and Satan were sort of brothers both sons of God and you have the good brother and the bad brother and the evil twins and that they're sort of equal the Lord Jesus Christ does not even soil his hands with Satan here what does it tell us in Hebrews chapter 1 the Lord Jesus Christ is so much greater than the angels and has obtained a more excellent name than they to which of the angels did he ever say sit at my right hand don't get the idea that Satan is anything near the second person of the Trinity the Lord Jesus Christ is God almighty and he has but to speak he has but to think and stuff will happen he is the agent by which creation came into existence he holds all things together by the word of his power this entire universe with all of its quarks and nuons and freons and all the other little subatomic particles they're finding cluons you know, get a cluon dark matter M-theories new gravitational understandings and all the rest of it you know why this universe works the Lord Jesus Christ said universe work and it does he balanced the constants he invented the thing he created the thing he put it in place and it runs just like a computer programmer who writes a brilliant piece of software and you fire that thing up and it runs beautifully and does exactly what it's supposed to do I have a great piece of software called Spam Washer and I love it because no matter what all of your providers promise you spam comes through and you can configure and you can do this and the other but the last stop is my machine and on my machine Spam Washer is running and that thing is great it traps it quarantines it is rare for a single email to get through that thing because it is just fervent and malicious in its trapping of spam it's a great piece of software somebody wrote that but the guy who wrote it isn't sitting there slapping it on the behind making it go on my computer he wrote it he put those rules and procedures in place and then he left and he's doing something else and his program runs because he wrote it and the program runs the way it was written this universe was written and runs and follows the laws that God assigned to it specifically the Lord Jesus Christ so when this angel comes down from heaven he comes down why? already in the first few words he's higher Satan has already fallen Satan has been cast down this angel is up Satan is down the angel comes from up to down with his chain with his key and evidently he binds Satan with one hand busy holding the key he's got the key and the great chain he lays hold of the dragon now this is going to be a great great event you and I are going to get to see this this glorious angel is going to come down and lay hold of the dragon the serpent of why does it say that? why doesn't it just say Satan? laid hold of the dragon that serpent of old you know why? because this is the other end of that chiasm the other end of that beautiful that serpent came into the garden and unraveled the history of man here comes an angel to bind him so that that Edenic environment can be restored Satan goofed it up now Satan is bound so that it can be cleaned up and restored that serpent of old who is the devil and Satan and bound him for a thousand years people say well thousand years it's a round number it's an indeterminate length of time no it isn't it's an exact period of time if the bible says it's a thousand years I'm sorry it's a thousand years and it's not just well if he meant a long time he could have

just said a long time bind him a really long time it's a thousand years and he cast him into the bottomless pit and shut him up and set a seal on him now in our dimensional universe is there such a thing as a bottomless pit don't hurt yourself I'll just answer it for you no there's not there is no such thing as a bottomless pit a pit has sides made of something and you fall into it and you never hit bottom you we don't have anything like that if you dug a hole if you if you lasered a hole through the planet and could keep the magma from leaking into it and could control the temperature and you dropped something or someone into it how far would they go half way and if you could manage to keep them from being incinerated they would stop somewhere near the center because that's where gravity would put them there's no such thing as a bottomless pit so what does this have to be this is something more than what we can currently describe with our understanding of physics and so on at least anything that we can predict and experiment with I would submit that God exists in dimensions that are beyond our access and this is one of those places Satan is going to be confined in a place where he can't get any traction to extricate himself that's the idea he will be put in a special place where he can be kept and then he can be released cast him into the bottomless pit and shut him up and set a seal on him God is able to do this have you ever run your virus software and it finds a little piece of malicious code and if you're running AVG it says I've got the virus vault or McAfee or Symantec or Norton whichever one you're using it'll say I have quarantined this virus the virus is still on your machine in an unmodified form why are we not worried? because the program has taken that virus and copied it to a safe location this is logically speaking not physically speaking in the logical operation of your machine that virus has been put in a place where it can do no harm you can let it back out of there if you want to I've done that a time or two testing on a sacrificial hard drive I wanted to see will this I did this when I worked for a company and I was changing antivirus software and I said well how good is this? well I had a library of viruses I had trapped in the past and saved and I turned them loose to see if this package would in fact detect them quarantine them and work and it did and all was well this is sort of what God is doing Satan is trapped quarantined and then he's going to be released for a specific purpose and this can be a good thing you think why doesn't God just destroy him? well God has his reasons so that he should deceive the nations no more until the thousand years were finished now this is exceedingly important to observe faith according to Hebrews chapter 11 is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen and in the realm of the not seen it is easy to deceive how did Eve get deceived in the garden? well for one thing Adam was not in the immediate vicinity God was not in the immediate vicinity there was an element of absence there was an element of God and his command are over here somewhere but I am here talking to this suddenly sentient animal who seems to have bitten this fruit and is now capable of speech and thought and reason and he's saying look I ate the fruit now I'm a talking snake think what it will do for you you'll be if you eat it you'll be like God and she falls for this why? because there is this ability to deceive based on the absence of a thing deceit can take place in the absence of something can you be fooled about what happens you know how kids are rough housing and something will break and there's a crash and the parents come in the room and say what happened in here? well there's a potential for deceit why? because you weren't in the room

and you didn't see it I don't know it just we were just here watching TV and it just fell over if you're there and you see somebody rough housing and they put their foot through the front of the TV set or whatever well there's no possibility for deceit because there's no element of absence there's no inability to observe when Satan is quarantined so that he can deceive the nations no more in the same way there's no more room for deceit there's really no question of faith because you don't have that unseen element anymore deceit and faith both occur in a vacuum of observation a vacuum of discernible observable fact everything is going to be observable everything is going to be out in the open here and this remember is for a thousand years the seventh thousand the Sabbath rest in human history six thousand years you labor and do work and it is a labor to maintain our faith you have need of patience you have need of endurance patience and endurance are necessary because we are working you have to work at your faith work out your own deliverance with fear and trembling Paul says work it out it takes some effort but there is no element of faith and there's also no element of deceit in the millennial kingdom so what is the issue for that thousand years strictly acceptance or rejection it's all on the table the cards are out there you can see the divine elements from God it's not invisible it's not hidden you can see angels you can see resurrected church age believers you can see the results of the battle between Satan and the Lord Jesus Christ after these things he must be released for a little while because he is going to draw to himself at the end these others we'll be seeing that here shortly so after these things he must be released for a little while John says and 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 worshipped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years and we have talked throughout these fifteen chapters or so beginning in four about the symbolic representation of different groups we talked about what the 24 elders represent there are 24 of them but they represent a larger group of overcomers there are the 144,000 servants of God who are sealed but they represent a larger group they represent the overcomers in the age of Israel all through history patriarchal age on down and it's important to realize that this is symbolic language this is apocalyptic literature and it is not trying to be scientifically descriptive it is speaking in images it is speaking with symbols it is using icons it is using graphics to tell us things so here it sounds like if you tried to take this literally 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 not received his mark on their forehead or hands so of all the humans that have ever lived from Adam down to the beginning of the millennial kingdom if you were in the last seven years of the age of Israel and if you got your head cut off for the right reasons then you will rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years all the rest of the dead will not live until the thousand years are complete so a few beheaded people get resurrected the rest of the dead live not now does this comport does this make any sense at all in the light of the rest of scripture none whatsoever and it confirms the understanding and the observation that we have made throughout these last fifteen or so chapters that these groups are representative these groups these selected individuals are representative of larger and grander

things these who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God are identical to those that Jesus described when he said if a man will follow after me let him take up his cross and deny himself and follow me being beheaded is execution at the hands of the world notice it doesn't say we're stoned it says we're beheaded this is sort of the gentile method of execution from a Jewish point of view and this is the world passing judgment on you the world penalizing you the world taking away what should be yours because of the witness to Jesus and the word of God this can happen in large ways and small ways it doesn't have to result in your physical death those who had not worshipped the beast or his image remember the spirit of Antichrist is already at work it's been at work for the past 2000 years and it was at work before that the woman riding the beast deceit false religion has been at work since time immemorial since Old Testament times those who did not receive the mark on their foreheads or on their hands this is the mark of compromise this is the covenant with the world I enter into a contract with the world I pledge myself to an agreement with the world I'm going to put my faith in that agreement and not in the God of Heaven they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years I saw thrones and they sat on them and judgment was committed to them these are the overcomers these are the equivalent of the 24 elders and their role in representing the church those elders sit on thrones those elders have crowns those elders sit in the throne room of God with some sort of executive and leadership power hence the name elder well these this is the Israelite equivalent these are the Old Testament saints we know that specifically because they are represented by those who have most recently given that testimony in the last seven years of the age of Israel the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished this is the first resurrection what does that mean? we'll have to pause here and take a break when we come back we'll find out