

Rev 26-07-19a

Good morning, welcome to the Sunday morning services at Grace and Truth Bible Church. This is the 19th of July 2026 we continue our study in the book of Revelation We're picking up at the threshold of chapter 21 with the new heavens and the new earth Test God's blessing on our time of fellowship and study and we'll begin Father how grateful we are for this morning another day that you have given us to invest to Redeem to make the most of so that we can be as prepared as possible for service and function in this life and in the next we pray that your Holy Spirit will guide us give us insight and Understanding at the things that we look at this morning. Help us to see their Pertinence and application in the time that remains to us.

We ask it in Jesus name. Amen Reading our passage Let's pick up in the middle of chapter 20 so that we have a nice glide path You will remember that these letters were Continuous there were no chapter and verse breaks In the originals they are conveniences for us but in many cases there is a lot of context in a preceding chapter or in the The verses and their content that immediately precede so let's begin at verse 11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who sat on it from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away This is where our chapter 21 picks up There was found no place for them I saw the dead small and great standing before the throne and the books were opened and another book was opened Which is of life and the dead were judged according to their works by the things which were written in the books Hopefully if you were to suddenly be handed a pop quiz you can explain Where any person that has lived in human history? receives their Resurrection and their judgment. We've reviewed it several times.

But if I say Uriah the Hittite When is he raised? When is he judged? You have a bit of a trick question there because he would be resuscitated at the beginning of the Millennium He will no doubt pass under the rod as one of David's mighty men and enter into the kingdom proper where he will experience all of the promised covenant blessings of God for Israel during the thousand year Millennium, but his actions in the flesh Enabled and empowered by the Holy Spirit with wonderfully Greater access to the Word of God will then be judged at this point the millennial Individuals Even if they have been resuscitated from an Old Testament life didn't have the chance to demonstrate what they can do with the Fulsome revelation of God in his word and the presence and power of his Holy Spirit That was promised to them. It is coming. I will pour out my spirit on your flesh.

So Old Testament Saints Will come back Old Testament believers will come back some of them to a resurrection of life others to a resurrection of shame and contempt What will they do with that? Will they learn their lesson and make progress during the Millennium? Will they make the most of the opportunity because God says he will pour out his spirit on all flesh much as he does with us but Old Testament Saints have an evaluation at the beginning of the Millennium to determine their location on planet earth In or out of the kingdom if out how close if in how much? Inheritance how much opportunity for service? Are you a Levite or you a son of David and so on but their Thousand-year existence or whatever portion of the thousand years they live because they are susceptible to death. They are susceptible to crime They will be Evaluated the books are open. That's why there is the the Mention of works here coming from the books plural a lot of books with everyone's works What if I mention? Billy Graham, when is he going to be raised? When will he be judged? You know that the rapture precedes all of this you go all the way back to chapter 4 verse 1 Typologically speaking when John comes up here and the white-

robed throngs are Viewing the events of the last seven years of the age of Israel from a heavenly perspective We were raised to immortality and judged at the judgment seat of Christ at and shortly after The rapture we have already been judged at the beginning of the Millennium because this coincides with and corresponds to the wedding supper of the Lamb to which Old Testament friends of the groom are invited and others who lack the robes of righteousness are Excluded cast out send into the darkness with the hypocrites and so on so Billy Graham all other believers of the church age Raised to immortality not to human life 2.0 like the Millennial people Schofield had it right during the Millennium.

There is an earthly people of God and there is a heavenly people of God. They got embarrassed by his notes and changed him in the new Schofield, but he was right and we should be able to Understand if I name any person living or dead Past present or future When are they raised to what kind of life and where are their judgments. So That is what we see here in the closing portion of Revelation chapter 20. If you have any questions on that by the way, be sure and contact me or go back and review the the previous lessons. I've endeavored to be as clear as possible on that.

So verse 13 the sea gave up the dead who were in it death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. They were judged each according to his works. You remember that death is the change in status That is brought about at the end of life. Hades or the grave is Representative of the power of death your options are closed. You have no further opportunities in the life that you have just left and you will be judged or evaluated based on the status. The grave is the power of death to Prevent us from making any further progress from having any more opportunities for exercising our spiritual gift or Changing our minds and growing in grace and laying hold of righteousness by faith. So death is the process the change in status the grave is representative of the fact that those Opportunities are in the past and those who are in the grave so to speak await their judgment. There's nothing left but the test to be graded if you will.

The sea giving up the dead Is a reminder that there is death in the nations there are death Episodes that we know nothing about someone who is Unknown they left and we never heard from them again. We assume that they passed away all of the unknown what happens among the nations Was largely unknown. There were soul civilizations entire Nations that rose and fell there were wars and and many different cultures that came and went in continents that the Biblical world knew nothing about people lived and died they were entirely in Satan's purview. It is my belief that these people at the point of sensitivity to the existence of God Wanted no part of it. If they had had an interest and wanted to seek after God I think God would proactively have Ensured that they were born at a place and time where that information could reach them, but there is no point in Passing on detailed information if someone looks at the universe Realizes the truth that is in their heart. God has put eternity in their hearts It says in the Old Testament what may be known of God is manifest in creation. So they are without excuse Paul says in Romans 1.

These individuals are known to God there's nothing that's going to convince them yet. God has to be born and he has basically given the nation's to Satan. That's why Satan is the god of this world. That's why Satan can legitimately offer rulership of the world to the Lord Jesus during the temptations. These people are Satan's they share his attitude they share his dislike of God and Their Ambitions to live apart from him and God says fine show me what you can do With yourself and people apart from you, so I believe that these are the ones that are in the sea and

all Small and great stand before the judgment seat. They were judged each one according to his works Revelation 20 verse 13. Then death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire.

This is the second death There is going to be no more change of status Everyone's eternal status is now fixed. You do not go from life to death. You do not go from death to life There is no further opportunity death and Hades no longer apply they no longer exist and And Anyone not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire At this point the only people written in the book of life are those who came to acceptance of Christ and entered into relationship with the Father through him during the Millennium All others By way of believers Old Testament and you have already been raised either at the rapture or the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom so Chapter 21 now I saw a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away and there Was no more sea By way of context we understand this heaven to be the heavens the firmament That are a part of the human environment on earth.

There is a new earth. It has a new atmosphere a new sky This is the new heaven God is not renovating his eternal holy dwellings his throne his tabernacle and And the dwelling places that already exist for unfallen angels and the places that the Lord Jesus has gone to prepare Continue to exist This is the earthly heavens if you will There's no more sea and that means that there is no unknown area where people live and die and are invisible in terms of accountability to God or even to God's people there Everything is open and visible. There is no more sea.

There is no more Gentile chaos ruled by Satan Then I saw the Holy City New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband this city Represents those who in their earthly life given divine resources Energy and power and insight from the Holy Spirit and An understanding of and access to the Word of God Have made themselves ready just as we saw in chapter 19. That's our task. This is our Hope and our potential every day that we live Whatever our physical circumstances good bad indifferent hardship prosperity suffering joyful celebration All of it is an opportunity to make ourselves ready for this future Opportunity this future hope Adorned like a bride for her husband This was done in expectation it is done in advance it is done with the knowledge that there will be a day of Union with The groom She can't hear that he is outside the door and suddenly rush around and get ready there any bride past present or future other than Standing in your sloppy clothes at the justice of the peace.

But if there's any kind of a formal wedding there is extensive preparation as Everyone has observed and experienced we are in a phase of extensive preparation That's what this represents and to live in this city. You have to think in those terms and have that sort of anticipative Hope I Heard a loud voice from heaven saying behold the dwelling place of God the tent the tabernacle This is the skein a s ke and e and this is what Abraham dwelt in Waiting for the city whose founder and builder is God now instead of believers so journeying Waiting for the city. The city has come and it is God who is going to sojourn who is going to tabernacle with his people as He did in a shadow Anticipation with the nation of Israel during their 40 years in the wilderness the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire God had a representative presence in their midst and wherever he led them they would follow but he was with his people and this isn't going to be a sojourn or a Sort of nomadic existence as Israel had between Egypt and the promised land This is a fixed and permanent City this is a status that will always be there came a day when the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire departed from Israel That will never happen.

God will exist and Dwell with them. They shall be his people God himself will be with them and be their God Verse 4 and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes There shall be no more death nor sorrow nor crying. There shall be no more pain for the former things have passed away Remember, this is not said of the Millennial Kingdom that has just wrapped up, but in the kingdom of the Father These things have served their purpose They have come and they have gone Death was abolished in the Lake of Fire as a part of the second death The former things have passed away This is so important to understand because we have abundant Scriptural references to this and I won't repeat them now, but the one that always comes to my mind is that of Peter when he talks about the elements melting with a fervent heat What kind of people ought we to be knowing that the heavens will roll up like a scroll and so on? so this is the Kingdom of the Father and And That is what we are ultimately preparing ourselves for we will have a role Depending on our judgment at the judgment seat of Christ During the thousand years of the Millennial Kingdom.

We will do so as the angels do from a heavenly dwelling place Much as God is going to continue to have his permanent habitation in the third heaven and still have his throne and so on but he is going to also have a formidable presence in the new earth under the new heavens those new skies and he will tabernacle, he will be dwelling among his people and Much as we now are able to enter into the throne room Spiritually speaking by a new and living way. I'm referring to Hebrews chapter 10 so that we can Appeal for grace to help in time of need we have to be sprinkled we have to be cleansed Our bodies washed with pure water so that we can approach We will have a permanent sanctification. There will be a lack of sinful nature.

There will be a lack of sinful activity there will be no need for us to Examine ourselves and confess and claim the cleansing power of Christ. It will have done its perfect work and we will be perfect and complete lacking nothing and There will be no obstacle in terms of corruption or defilement or sinfulness that will Prevent us from enjoying the the presence of God What a wonderful anticipation He who sat on the throne in verse 5 said behold I make all things new And he said to me write for these words are true and faithful The words that John is supposed to write are Take a look. I make all things new This is a kind of newness.

This is a state of being an environment that is Largely beyond our comprehension except by figure or Metaphor or shadow in the same way that it would have been difficult to fully comprehend the Lord Jesus his Life and his death his work of ministry for an Old Testament saint they would see the shadows in the Levitical offerings and the feasts in the shadows represented by the law when the reality came it is Not without Significance that the Bible speaks of those things as shadows. You can look at a shadow On the ground and you can tell the outline of something It's approximate shape and size but to turn and see who is casting that shadow is Enormously more informative helpful and gratifying. That's how this will be when it says I make all things new We have just a very brief representative description of the kingdom of the Father because it is Something that surpasses our human understanding And God said be sure and write that down.

These words are true and they are faithful This is going to happen the character of God Guarantees it the integrity of God makes it a certainty We may not understand its Magnitude its scale and its detail, but we know it is going to happen and it ought to make a difference we should be Anticipating this day the way a bride anticipates her wedding day and making ourselves ready Got the earthly Circumstances to contend with we have pressures we have

hardships. We have distractions We have issues that come up and want to deflect our focus and rob us of our concentration and our Awareness of who we are and why we're here, but think about that bride. Do you think that there's ten minutes that go by in? waking moments when a bride Who is soon to be married isn't thinking about all? That that encompasses not just the ceremony not just the guests not just the logistics and the honeymoon, but the future life That ceremony will take place there will be the union of husband and wife and then there is a whole new plane of existence a fresh set of opportunities and challenges and further Awareness and coming to know the spouse In in ways that are impossible when you're not married So we should take this to heart Verse 6 of chapter 21.

He said to me it is done I am the Alpha and the Omega the beginning and the end I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts you have a text note there on it is done, but That's the majority text and for some reason it got left out. I think this is a significant and Accurate reflection of what John heard It is a bookend with tetelestai Which John also heard from the cross it is finished It is finished It is done the work of redemption of restoration the foundational work of atonement and the elimination of sin and its concomitant death Was initiated at the cross and like so many other things that we have seen it is a process That has a beginning has a middle and has an end The second coming of Christ begins at the rapture continues through the tribulation period and culminates when he stands at the Mount of Olives and Begins the Millennial Kingdom phase Redemption reconciliation Propitiation the fullness of salvation began at the cross when the Lord Jesus said tetelestai it is finished and It brackets with this it is finished it is done it is complete. This is what all Scripture aims for this is God's ultimate purpose is to bring us in a perfected state into his presence to live in a perfected environment and And enter into a phase of God's plan and purpose this isn't a freeze it's not a still life It's not a painting.

It's not a set of statues. It's not a diorama There will be as there has always been with God intense activity plans and purposes in things that are just so completely beyond our comprehension, but if we prepare in this life we will Enjoy Entering into these things and be useful to God For them we think What's the use? I don't understand. How can this be a lesson? There's bereavement.

There's pain. There's sorrow. There's Disappointment I am stymied I am Stopped there is high friction.

There are people involved. It's it's an ugly scene. What purpose could God possibly have? Trust God when he says Everything has a purpose and God is working it together for good.

This is that ultimate good of Romans 8 28 through 30 this life Everything we learn good and bad Our failures as well as our successes will be vindicated at this point. It is done God says What began at the cross for us culminates in the kingdom of the Father I Will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts Think about this. What did we just what did we just describe here? What have we just reviewed? How perfect is the kingdom of the Father? It's perfect So as The Riddler used to say riddle me this Batman Why is there thirst? There is thirst in the kingdom of the Father.

I Thought there's no more pain or death. I'm a sorrow they will neither hunger nor thirst Yet there's thirst If we have developed a thirst a Desire a recognition of the importance and the needfulness of the Word of God of Entering into his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with

praise if we continue to be grateful and we want to vindicate God's effort and God's sacrifice and God's Plan and purpose that has benefited us. We will still Have that attitude We will still want to be in his presence We will want to experience the life that is sourced in him and that glorifies him Reflects his glory accomplishes his purpose Being a part of the positive Divinely Inspired things that are going to take place in the kingdom of the Father We just can't even imagine.

It's like trying to explain the the gratification of a wonderful job you have as an adult to somebody who hasn't gotten into kindergarten yet and Work, I don't want to work. I want to play. I don't understand work.

I don't understand accomplishing, you know hard tasks and Scaling mountains of resistance. What do you mean? Give me a toy. We can't understand it but notice the thirst that you are cultivating and that you are Accommodating that you are answering by coming to the study of the Word of God And Availing ourselves of the presence of his Holy Spirit Jesus said blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

They will be filled This is that time of filling but it's not a one-shot. Well, I'm not thirsty anymore that desire and that recognition of need that recognition of the beauty and the Divine righteousness and justice that is reflected in the kingdom of the Father will be continually gratified There will still be thirst in the kingdom of the Father and we want to be thirsty. We develop that thirst now We come to understand how Blessed it is to have that thirst slaked by the water of the river of life And that will continue to be our gratification in the kingdom of the Father so To him who thirsts not him who was thirsty or who used to be thirsty back in the old earth and the old heavens This is a new situation, but him who thirsts present tense I will grant to partake of that river of life.

This is highly metaphorical I think there will probably be an actual river of life with some form of Greatly enhanced Water, I don't know if it will be H_2O I think the new heavens and the new earth may be made out of an entirely different kind of physics but this represents Acknowledgement of need of appreciation we don't aren't only drink to To satisfy our thirst, but it is healthy where our bodies are more than 95% water and We know that it is needful It is a part of our health and our life and we will continue to recognize that our life is sourced in God and in His provision even in the perfected state even in the immortal state I am sure that this is how the unfallen angels feel in heaven They love God they delight in serving him as Spirits and flames of fire. I think the cherubim feels so privileged to surround God's throne I think the burning ones the seraphim delight in being in the presence of God in the throne room. I think the Angelic messengers who travel to and fro up and down Jacob's ladder in the present Delight in doing so they are an active part.

They are engaged. They are involved and I think there is a representative example of what it is like to want to continue to be a part of what God is doing to Enjoy his presence to hear the equivalent of well-done good and faithful servant. That is a thirst we are cultivating it and developing it now and We will still be able to enjoy its presence and its fulfillment in the kingdom of the Father the perfection It's so amazing to me.

No matter how perfect you think it is You can still be thirsty and God will still provide the water to cool that thirst to fulfill it to Enable us to enjoy and appreciate the wonderful blessings that are sourced in him. I Want it's not rationed. It's not a special Perfume to be held in a small alabaster container.

It's free as Thirsty as you are that's how much you can drink if you're only a little thirsty You'll only take a little if you are very thirsty and that is all you think about Take of it freely as much as you want Verse 7 he who overcomes shall inherit all things I will be his God and he shall be my son this of course my child. It's just as pertinent for ladies But What a promise and this promise is as valuable as we value Relationship with God. This is what the Lord Jesus died to give us He is the way the truth and the life we come to the father through him.

This is now having come to the father We will experience that intimacy that closeness The inheriting all things you notice there's you've got a text note down there that says the Majority text reads he overcomes I shall give him these things The better text is what you have in your New King James he overcomes shall inherit Inheritance is based on something in the past. It isn't just a Thought that someone had in the presence. I think I will I will get you a gift It's based on past Environment past activity past decisions past opportunities Inherit, this is something that is inherited based on what we do now Do we want this? Oh, yes, we absolutely do we inherit All of these things inherit all things.

I've had questions in the past and and You know who you are listening. How many of the overcomer blessings are available? From the second and third chapters: all of them, all of them.

What they represent? You don't have to live in Smyrna to be faithful in suffering. You don't have to live in Philadelphia or Ephesus or Thyatira to be party to that kind of testing and that kind of opportunity. Different phases of our life, even different areas of our life, test us in different ways. If we Overcome, we will not be hurt by the second death. Our inheritance doesn't end up in the Lake of Fire. Our Maros, our portion, isn't in there.

And we're about to see that there are those who will lose inheritance in a figurative sense. They will not inherit all things and will not enjoy this intimate closeness with God the Father that is represented here. He who overcomes, I will be his God and he shall be my son.

Notice even in the kingdom of the Father there are those who are Essentially inside the New Jerusalem and those who are outside. There will still be something equivalent to nations, as we'll shortly see.

Verse 8. Sobering thought as we go to the break. But the cowardly, the faithless, the Abominable, the murderers, the sexually immoral, Sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their portion, their inheritance. This goes back to verse 7. Do you hear? In all things, or? Does that opportunity end up in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death?

That's why the promise to an overcomer is not to be hurt by the second death. Some people will be hurt in the sense that there is loss, lack of availability of these things. What a tragedy to know ahead of time, to have the opportunity to prepare ourselves, make ourselves ready, and Enter into these wonderful things, but we got petty, we got distracted, we got too caught up in the mundane affairs of this temporary existence and Like Esau we fritter away that birthright, that inheritance, the opportunity for these things which are permanent and eternal.

They are either a permanent and eternal possession or they are a permanent and eternal loss. So we'll note what cowardly, faithless, abominable, and so on signifies in the next session, but we don't get anything else out from this morning. This Closing revelation is at the end of the scriptures for a reason. To Read it, to grasp it, to act on it, to apply it is to be blessed. Blessed is

He who reads and who keeps the words of this book. We have it at the beginning and we have it at the end: the promise that if we pay attention and take these things to heart there is Blessing—blessing in time, blessing in eternity.

What an opportunity With that we will pause and take our break You