

SESSION 6

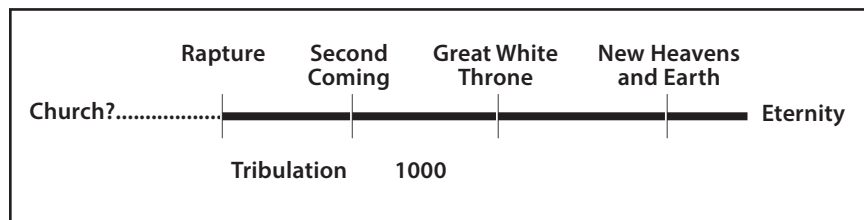
(“Second Coming” to the “Ages to Come”—Revelation 19-22)

I. PRAYER

II. AGES TO COME

BOOK OF REVELATION		
"4 Periods (Ages) of Time"		
Revelation Chapters	Time Period	Length
1-3	Church Age	2000+ years
4-19	Tribulation Age	7 years
20	Millennial Kingdom Age	1000 years
21-22	Eternal Age (to come)	Endless years

III. THEOLOGICAL CONTENT



Note:

- (1) This chart represents the Pre-tribulational, Pre-millennial viewpoint (the interpretive stance taken in this study).
- (2) Our theological conviction is that the Church present at the time of the Rapture will not go through the Tribulation (described in Rev. 6-19).

- (3) Our view suggests that there will likely be a “transition period” of days (weeks, months??) between the actual Second Coming and the establishment (beginning) of the Millennial Kingdom (or Davidic Kingdom or Thousand Year Reign).
- (4) Our view believes the thousand years (millennium) to be literal years as to duration.

IV. MAJOR PURPOSES OF THE SECOND COMING

A. The Second Coming Fulfills the Prophetic Promise

Acts 1:9-11

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

B. The Second Coming Completes (Ends) the Seventieth Week

Daniel 9:24-27

Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place. ²⁵“Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. ²⁶After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. ²⁷He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

C. The Second Coming Culminates the Spiritual Revival/
Regathering of Israel

Isaiah 43:5-7

Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. ⁶I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

Jeremiah 33:6-9 (Promise of the Coming Kingdom)

*Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing to it; I will **heal my people** and will let them enjoy **abundant peace and security**. ⁷I will bring Judah and Israel back from captivity and will rebuild them as they were before. ⁸I will **cleanse** them from all the sin they have committed against me and will **forgive** all their sins of rebellion against me. ⁹Then this city will bring me renown, joy, praise and honor before all nations on earth that hear of all the good things I do for it; and they will be in awe and will tremble at the **abundant prosperity and peace** I provide for it.*

D. The Second Coming Precedes the Judgment of Sheep/
Goats and Resurrection of Believing Dead (OT and
Tribulation)

Matthew 25:31-34 (cf. 25:31-46)

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.'"

Daniel 12:1-4 (cf. Rev. 19:11-21; 20:4-6)

At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. ²Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others

to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. ⁴ But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.

E. The Second Coming Prepares for the Davidic Kingdom (Millennium)

Isaiah 9:6-7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. **He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom**, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Luke 1:30-33

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

V. BIBLICAL DEVELOPMENT: REVELATION 19-22

A. The Second Coming: Revelation 19

1. Prelude (19:1-10)

a. "The Four Hallelujahs" (1-8)

Prior to the Second Coming there is rejoicing in heaven by (1) a great multitude (again; 3); by the twenty-four elders and four living creatures (4-5); and by what sounded like a great multitude (6-8).

The fourth hallelujah follows:

Revelation 19:6-8

*⁶Then I heard what sounded like a **great multitude**, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns ⁷Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. ⁸Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear."*

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.)

- b. The wedding supper (feast) of the Lamb

Revelation 19:9

*Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the **wedding supper of the Lamb!**" And he added, "These are the true words of God."*

Excursis: "Wedding of the Lamb"/ Typical Jewish Wedding

In His earthly ministry, Jesus (also known as the Lamb of God) often referred to Himself as the bridegroom:

Matthew 9:14-15

Then John's disciples came and asked him, "How is it that we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁵Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast."

John 3:27-30

To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.'²⁹The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰He must become greater; I must become less."

(Cont'd)

Further, Revelation 19:7 identifies the bride which the NT further develops as the Church (see 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-32). The imagery here is Christ the bridegroom and the Church as the bride. Historically and culturally there were at least “5 Stages of a Typical Jewish Wedding” (cf. Fruchtenbaum, *Footsteps*, 110-112).

Stage One: Covenant: Betrothal, Dowry Paid

As parents would choose a bride for their son, so the Bride (Church) was chosen by God (Eph. 1:4). This is the betrothal. The dowry (bride-price) was the blood of Christ. The sole responsibility of the bride was to be pure (faithful) and be ready (expectant).

Stage Two: Groom to Bride’s Father’s House: Ascension (Acts 1:9)

A typical Jewish wedding could be arranged (Stage One) months or years apart before the fetching of the bride.

Stage Three: Groom Returns for Bride: Rapture (Jn. 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:13-18)

Stage Four: Groom Takes Bride Home/Consummation

Stage Five: Wedding Supper/Feast

Some see the Feast in Heaven after the Rapture; others see the Feast during the Millennial Kingdom.

2. Return (19:11-21)

a. Christ returns to the earth (11-16)

Revelation 19:11-16

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. ¹²His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the

nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

- (1) The rider on the white horse is "Faithful and True" (11).
- (2) The rider "judges" with justice (11) with eyes like "blazing fire" (intense, searching scrutiny) (12).
- (3) The rider has many "crowns" indicating that He alone has the ultimate right to rule.
- (4) The rider has an unknown name (12).
- (5) The rider has a robe dipped in blood (judgment of enemies?) (13) and His name is the "Word of God."
- (6) The rider is accompanied by the armies of heaven (14).
- (7) The rider comes in judgment ("out of his mouth comes a sharp sword") (15).
- (8) The rider will rule with an iron scepter (15).
- (9) The rider comes to judge with the "fury of the wrath of God Almighty" (15).
- (10) The rider is identified (16):
KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

THE TWO "COMINGS" OF CHRIST

1) First Coming: Suffering Servant
(Isa. 52:13-53:12)

2) Second Coming: Conquering Judge
(Rev. 19:11-21)

- b. Christ brings victorious judgment (17-21)

Revelation 19:19-21

Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. ²⁰But the beast

was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.²¹ The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

These verses summarize what is commonly known as the Campaign of Armageddon. This is the final, climatic war of the Great Tribulation. Hitchcock (373) lists ten primary passages that describe this campaign:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Psalm 2 | (6) Zechariah 14:1-15 |
| (2) Isaiah 34:1-16 | (7) Malachi 4:1-5 |
| (3) Isaiah 63:1-6 | (8) Revelation 14:14-20 |
| (4) Joel 3:1-17 | (9) Revelation 16:12-16 |
| (5) Zechariah 12:1-9 | (10) Revelation 19:19-21 |

B. The Millennial Reign: Revelation 20

1. Purpose of the Millennium

- a. To fulfill OT promises (and Covenants)

Luke 1:30-33

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

- b. To answer visibly, tangibly, physically the theological question: "Who has the right to rule?"

Christ alone has this authority and it will be instituted in the Millennial Reign.

c. To redeem creation

Romans 8:19-22

For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

d. To bring peace and justice and abundant prosperity to the earth.

Isaiah 2:2-5 (cf. Isa 11:1-9, others)

In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.³ Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.⁴ He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.⁵ Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

2. Description of the Millennium

Many of the OT prophets speak of the time of Messianic rule. From scattered passages throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, the Davidic Kingdom will be a reign of peace, prosperity, safety, justice, righteousness, holiness (purity), spirituality (worship), healthiness, and so on.

3. Exposition of the Millennium: Revelation 20

a. Before it comes (20:1-5)

Revelation 20:1-3: Satan bound

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ²He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

Revelation 20:4: Believers reign

I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

b. When it comes (20:6)

Revelation 20:6

Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

c. The final defeat of Satan (20:7-10)

(1) Released for a final confrontation (7-8)

(2) Defeated in the final insurrection (9)

(3) Judged with eternal torment (10)

Revelation 20:10

And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

d. The Great White Throne Judgment (20:11-15)

Following the Second Coming, the Millennial Reign, the release and final defeat of Satan comes the final, complete judgment known as the Great White Throne judgement.

(1) The throne (11)

Revelation 20:11

*Then I saw a **great white throne** and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.*

(2) The dead (unsaved) and judgment (12-15)

(a) All unsaved dead stand before this throne (12).

(b) All saved are listed in the Book of Life (12).

(c) All unsaved dead are judged according to their works/deeds (12)

Romans 3:10

As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one..."

Romans 3:23

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Revelation 20:14-15

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

¹⁵Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

C. Ages to Come (Eternal State): Revelation 21:1-22:5

1. The new heaven and earth (21:1-2)

After the final judgment and sentencing comes the new age of everlasting, eternal joy. The old order was tainted, corrupted by sin (humanity and creation). That sinful condition must be purged and refined by bringing forth the new.

2 Peter 3:10

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

Psalm 102:25-26

In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. ²⁶They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded.

Insight:

One thorny issue on this event questions whether this is a “renovation” or a total “re-creation.” Conservative commentators are divided on the issue.

2. The new order (21:3-5)

- a. God will dwell intimately with the redeemed humanity (3).
- b. God will soothe all distress and banish death, mourning, crying, and pain (4).

Revelation 21:5

He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

3. The old order (21:6-8)

The new, eternal arrangement of saved believers is contrasted to eight categories of unsaved unbelievers who will experience the “second death” (eternal separation).

4. The New Jerusalem (21:9-22:5)

The majority of Revelation 21 describes the New Jerusalem (specifically referred to as the bride, the wife of the Lamb – thus a close connection of God’s people and the stupendous sight of the massive city).

Fruchtenbaum (369-73) highlights the following features of the descriptive passage:

- a. The City has the fullness of God's Shekinah glory (21:11).
- b. The City has high walls and gates which speak of absolute protection and security in the age to come (21:12-13).
- c. The City has foundations of the wall with the twelve names of the apostles; this speaks of permanence (21:14).
- d. The City has impressive measurements (a cube or pyramid 1500 miles square); some see literal miles, others see symbolic hyperbole to magnify the greatness of the City (21:15-17).
- e. The City has precious metals and jewels in its structure, a city of unbelievable beauty and value (21:18-21).
- f. The City has several omissions.

Revelation 21:22-24

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.

- g. The City has special inhabitants who are qualified to enter, those whose names are written in the Book of Life (21:25-27).
- h. The City has the river of life (22:1).
- i. The City has the tree of life (22:2).
- J. The City has blessed occupants who will see God's face and live in God's light (22:3-5).

VI. EPILOGUE (TO REVELATION): REVELATION 22

The visions and prophecy of the Book of Revelation have been completed. The book began as a revelation of Jesus to John through an angel (1:1); the book ends with the angel relaying final words of Jesus (“Behold, I am coming soon!”).

A. Jesus’ First Words (22:6-7)

The angel affirms that the words given in Revelation are “trustworthy and true” (6). Then, the angel relays the words of Jesus to John.

Revelation 22:7

“Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.”

Insight:

The Book of Revelation tells the reader how things will eventually turn out...and if you are assured of that, then one can order and live daily life accordingly (in light of future realities). We have come to the end of human history...God wins!!

B. John’s Response (22:8-11)

1. John confirmed that he was the one who viewed these things (8).
2. John inappropriately fell before the angel in a posture of worship; the angel rebukes him, “Worship God!” (8-9).
3. John heard the angel’s word to not keep these visions and revelations private but to share them (10).

C. Jesus’ Second Words (22:12-16)

Revelation 22:12-13, 16

Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

¹⁶ *I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.*

D. John's Second Response (22:17-19)

These words may be John's response or they could be a continuation of Jesus' second address. Either way the meaning is two-fold:

1. An invitation to come to Christ (17).
2. A warning to not add to or tamper with the words of this prophetic book (18).

E. Jesus' final Words (22:20^a)

Revelation 22:20^a

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

F. John's Final Words (22:20^b-21)

Revelation 22:20^b-21

...Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

VII. RECAP

A. Promise and Fulfillment

The Second Coming, the various Judgments, the Davidic Kingdom (1000 years), and the Eternal age are clearly promised in the Scriptures. For the believer our trust is that the God who is a Promise-Giver will also be a Promise-Keeper.

B. Second Coming

At the end of the seven years of tribulation, Christ will return suddenly, bodily, visibly, and literally to the earth. The differences between the Rapture and the Second Coming are summarized by Hitchcock (151):

THE RAPTURE	THE RETURN (SECOND COMING)
Christ comes in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).	Christ comes to the earth (Zechariah 14:4).
Christ comes for His saints (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).	Christ comes with His saints (1 Thessalonians 3:13; Jude 1:14).
Believers depart the earth (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).	Unbelievers are taken away (Matthew 24:37-41).
Christ claims His bride.	Christ comes with His bride.
Christ gathers His own (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).	Angels gather the elect (Matthew 24:31).
Christ comes to reward (1 Thessalonians 4:17).	Christ comes to judge (Matthew 25:31-46).
Not in the Old Testament (1 Corinthians 15:51)	Predicted often in the Old Testament
There are no signs. It is imminent.	Portended by many signs (Matthew 24:4-29)
It is a time of blessing and comfort (1 Thessalonians 4:17-18).	It is a time of destruction and judgment (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12).
Involves believers only (John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-55; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)	Involves Israel and the Gentile nations (Matthew 24:1-25:46)

C. Millennium

The Davidic Kingdom was described by the OT prophets as a day of unparalleled peace and prosperity, of justice and righteousness. During this period of time the world system will no longer be anti-God and Satan will be bound. But a problem will remain. Men and women will still have active sin natures; all born in these days will need to come to faith in Jesus Christ, Matchless Savior and Kingly Lord.

D. Great White Throne

The day of final judgment will come. All unbelievers will have to acknowledge the lordship and divine sovereignty of the Lord Jesus.

John 5:22-23

Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,²³ that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

E. Eternal State

The new heavens and new earth will be the dwelling place of God's people. Some details are given in a somewhat sketchy way, but as 1 Corinthians 2:9 notes,

*no eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived
what God has prepared
for those who love him—*

AMEN. COME, LORD JESUS.