

REVELATION

July 31, 2022 | Dana Williams

WARM UP QUESTIONS: What would our lives look like if we lived in a perfect world without temptation and any influence from Satan? Would we and the following generations be able to stay true to Jesus?

READ: Revelation 19:11-20:15

FOCUS: Jesus defeats all who stand against Him for Him to make way for a new heaven and new earth. Our hearts are easily deceived when we do not center our lives on Christ.

OBSERVE: The good news is that the beast is defeated and the persecuted live forever in perfect union with God. The dragon, the beasts, and those aligned with them will be removed from the presence of God forever.

The Warrior from heaven is Jesus.

- The Warrior has a sword and scepter, but the armies that follow Him have no weapons.

The Warrior from heaven defeats the beast.

- The battle scene of Armageddon is not a battle; Jesus has already won the battle on the cross. Armageddon is an execution. Jesus's sword is coming out of His mouth. The sword is the Word of God - "It is finished." Because of the Word of God, the beast and his armies gather and are immediately defeated.
- For the original audience, this was very good news because they were under persecution from the Roman empire and the Jewish religious establishment for their faith. For us, this is good news because the battles we face, whether persecution for our faith or the battle of living in a fallen world where evil abounds, are won by Christ. He is victorious.

The dragon is both bound and defeated.

- After a thousand years of "no devil," the people of God are living in an encampment, and the majority of the earth's population is not following Jesus. Upon Satan's release, the vast majority of people were deceived by Him. This shows us that Satan is not mankind's biggest problem, it's the heart that will not follow God even when we are living under His mercy. Our hearts are easily deceived when we do not center our lives on Christ.

The Final Judgement:

- Satan, the beasts, and all who followed them have been judged. All the dead rise again for judgment of their actions, but a second book, the Book of Life, is opened. Those in the Book of Life who have taken the name of Christ on their heads and hands – who have oriented their thoughts and actions towards Christ – are spared. Those who have not are then granted what they wanted: – eternal separation from God and the suffering it entails.

REFLECT:

- In what ways have you seen your own heart deceived?
- What did you do to realign your thoughts and actions towards Christ?
- Share how you have seen Christ bring you back toward Him.

TAKING ACTION:

- Confess how you have seen your heart being deceived lately.
- Take time this week to reorient your thoughts and actions back on Christ.
- Share with a trustworthy Christian friend who can support you through prayer.

PRAY: Lord Jesus, we praise You and Your victory over the beast. We thank You for the opportunity to have our names written in the Book of Life. Help us to center our lives on You, taking Your name, thinking Your thoughts and doing Your work. Save us from the deception of the dragon and from an eternity of selfishness that is worse than a lake of fire. Amen.

