



REVELATION

Understanding the Apocalypse

Radical Word Bible Study

Episode 37

July 23, 2026



Rick Lancaster

REVELATION: Understanding the Apocalypse

Revelation 2026

Opening Comments

- **Check Hard Drive capacity.**
- **Switch to PowerPoint (slide 2) once timer reaches zero.**
- Welcome to episode 37 of the Radical Word Bible Study.
- I am Rick Lancaster, and we are coming to you live from our podcasting studio in Murrieta, California at Calvary Chapel French Valley.
- This will be our last stream from here.
- The movers come a week from tomorrow and we will be in Texas on August 4th.
- I will do our first stream from there on August 13th.
- We are streaming this Bible Study live on Rumble, Facebook, and YouTube.
- The podcast version of this Bible Study can be found anywhere you go for podcasts.
- It is listed under Radical Word Bible Study with Rick Lancaster wherever you get your podcasts.
- Radical Word Bible Ministries is an outreach ministry of Calvary Chapel French Valley.
- We have a service every Sunday @ 9:30 am.
- If you are in the area, please come this Sunday.
- It will be my last Sunday teaching at CCFV.
- Kelly and I would love to see you before we take off on this exciting venture of faith.
- If you are interested in staying up to date with what is happening at The Radical Word, click the link in the description for this video.
- Also, I publish a daily devotional that I send out by email.
- I will include a link to that as well.
- Today is Thursday, July 23, 2026.
- We won't have study on July 30th because we will be busy packing up our whole life.
- We would very much appreciate your prayers.

- It is both exciting and sad.
- Let's open with a word of prayer.

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- Turn to **Revelation 20** as we continue a series: **REVELATION: Understanding the Apocalypse.**

Teaching

- **REVELATION: Understanding the Apocalypse**
- Last time we looked at the Second Coming.
- The Bible is loaded with prophecies.
- At least one-quarter and maybe up to a third of the Bible relates to prophecy.
- The only prophecies left to be fulfilled are the ones relating to the Second Coming.
- There is no prophecy that precedes the beginning of the Second Coming event.
- We believe the very next event is the Rapture of the church.
- And that will happen without warning.
- Jesus did tell us to watch for the signs of His coming.
- That is what Matthew 24 is all about.
- Prophecy watchers have been riled up because of all the earthquakes that are going on around the world
- There have always been earthquakes, sometimes more and sometimes less.
- It is a sign though.
- Keep your finger in Revelation 20 and turn to **Luke 21.**
- They are like traffic signs on the road.
- They provide information or warnings as you travel on the road.
- Speed limit signs cause me to be mindful of my speed.
- Direction signs cause me to think about where I am.
- Hazard signs warn me of possible danger ahead.

- Signs, like earthquakes, volcanoes, war and rumors of wars all cause me to think about Jesus coming back again.
- That should, in turn, cause me to examine my life and make sure I am on the right path.
- It also serves as a warning that the time might be short so I should be busy doing the good works of God.
- Luke gospel talks about how should respond to the signs.
- **Luke 21:25-28**
- There are two actions Jesus calls us to in response to these signs of His soon coming.
- First, look up.
- That is a call to be hopeful regarding the Second Coming. **Psalm 121:1-2**

¹I will lift up my eyes to the hills—From whence comes my help? ²My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

- It can be easy to slip into hopelessness as we see this world slipping further into the depths of wickedness and corruption.
- A child of God should never be hopeful.
- Have faith in God and lean on Him and His strength.
- The second one was “lift up your heads”.
- This is a call to fearless confidence.
- Someone with their eyes and head down is not confident and may be afraid.
- These signs, like earthquakes or famines or wars, can make people afraid.
- The only people who should be afraid are those who do not have a God who loves them and has promised to bring them to heaven.
- Turn to **Revelation 20**.
- I think of the recent earthquakes in Venezuela [July 2026] and am saddened by the tragic loss of life.
- But at the same time, I can’t help but think that Jesus said these kinds of things would happen before He comes back.
- And then I wonder just soon before He gets here; hopefully very soon.
- In the last chapter, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, the glorified Christ Jesus returned to the earth just as He promised and as the Old Testament predicted.

- The kings of the earth had gathered to fight against Him – Battle of Armageddon - Jesus defeats them with a word.
- The Antichrist and False Prophet are cast alive into the Lake of Fire.
- The chapter ends with the phrase “And the rest were killed ...”
- Who are the rest who are killed with the sword by Christ.
- It could be the rest of the army that was with the Antichrist.
- I believe it is everyone who took the mark of the beast. **Revelation 14:9-11**

⁹ Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand,

¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

- One of the purposes of the Second Coming is to cleanse the world of sinners and wickedness.
- Jesus is about to establish His earthly kingdom.
- No one with the Mark of the Beast will be welcome there.
- God has been systematically judging all the systems and people who have rebelled against His grace, mercy, and forgiveness through Christ.
- There are some aspects of the nature of God that are mysterious to me.
- I believe that God created everything, but I don’t understand how He did it.
- I believe that he has always existed, but I don’t understand how He doesn’t have a beginning.
- I believe that God is sovereign, that He is in control of everything, but I don’t understand why things happen the way they do in this world.
- The Bible tells me a lot about God and His Kingdom, but it doesn’t tell me everything.
- The Bible is God’s self-revelation, but it is not a complete revelation of God.
- There are mysteries, questions that go unanswered in the Bible.
- Today, we will look at a couple of mysterious things.
- Things that might leave us with more questions than answers.

- There is one last evil thing Jesus must deal with before He can start restoring the world back to the way it should be.

- **Revelation 20:1-3**

- Satan has been free to deceive the world since the Garden of Eden. **1 Peter 5:8**

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

- This is one of those mysterious things – why has God allowed Satan to tempt and deceive humanity for the last 6,000 years?
- We know God is stronger than Satan – He doesn't even get involved in chaining the devil up in the pit.
- So, why doesn't God just do that now?
- Not an easy, simple answer, but probably has something to do with God's desire that we would choose to love Him.
- So, a nameless angel is dispatched capture, bind, and throw Satan into the pit.
- This angel has the key to bottomless pit.
- That key was also held by another angel. **Revelation 9:1**

¹ Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.

- A star is most likely an angel.
- A fallen star is a fallen angel, or demon.
- At some point that fallen angel had to give back the key.
- This angel lays hold of Satan.
- Several names are used here for Satan.
- One of the interesting ones is “serpent of old” which connects back to Genesis 3 and the serpent in the Garden of Eden who deceived Eve into eating the forbidden fruit.
- He has been deceiving the nations since the Garden of Eden.
- But he will be cast into pit for 1,000 years.
- This will be the first time in human history without the evil influence of Satan.
- It is hard to imagine the world without Satan relentlessly tempting and deceiving mankind.
- I think it would be pretty wonderful.

- Humans would still be sinners and do bad things, but probably not as many and not as bad.
- The angel also put a seal on Satan after he locks him up in the bottomless pit.
- A seal indicates ownership or authority, which is the most likely application here.
- Only someone with higher authority can break the seal.
- And since there is no authority higher than God's, Satan will be there for the whole 1,000 years.
- No getting out early for good behavior
- No liberal judge deciding it is inhumane to keep Satan locked up for 1,000 years.
- Verse 3 says that after 1,000 years the devil 'must be released' – Why? Doesn't say!
- It will prove something about mankind, but that is for later.
- After the devil is bound in the pit, the earth is free from all the external influences on wickedness, sin, and evil.
- Next, the Tribulations saints are rewarded.
- **Revelation 20:4**
- The Old Testament has a lot to say about the earthly reign of Jesus Christ – this is first occurrence of the duration of that kingdom.
- Jesus is going to rule for 1,000 years on this earth.
- He will rule forever but this stage of His rule will last 1,000 years.
- Jesus doesn't need help reigning on the earth, but He rewards those who were killed for believing in Him during the Tribulation, by placing them in roles of reigning with Him.
- First, He resurrects them and gives them glorified bodies.
- These are the same glorified bodies we will receive.
- These are bodies that are designed to exist in heaven with God forever.
- The bodies we have right now cannot go to heaven.
- Paul, describing his own weakness, described his body like this.

Romans 7:24-25a

²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

- Because everything is tainted by sin, including our bodies, we cannot go to heaven without first replacing our body of death with a body designed for heaven.

- For us, as pre-Rapture Christ-followers, that happen when Jesus comes back to get us. **1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: *“Death is swallowed up in victory.”*

- The Tribulations saints will be given glorified bodies and will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 years.
- Who are they ruling over?
- There are two groups still on the earth at the end of the Tribulation who will go into the Millennial kingdom.
- First, a remnant of the Jews including the 144,000 Jews from chapter 7. **Zechariah 12:10**

I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

- Right now, Israel has rejected her Messiah, and is mostly a godless, secular society, much like our own.
- Even the ones who say they believe in God the Father, reject God the Son.
- That is a problem because you can't have one without the other. **1 John 2:23**

²³ **Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.**

- All roads do not lead to God.
- You must come to God the Father through His Son, Christ Jesus.
- Only Jesus has made a way, through the shedding of His own blood for the remission of sins.
- Turn in your Bible to **Isaiah 11**.
- One of the purposes of the Tribulation was to prepare a remnant of the Jews to receive their Messiah. **Isaiah 11:11**

It shall come to pass in that day *that* the LORD shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea.

- Jews have been scattered all around the world.
- After the Second Coming, Jesus will recover them.
- One of the things that I wonder about is how Jesus will do that.
- The Hebrew word for recover has the meaning of to gain or to acquire.
- That just leaves me with more questions.
- The point is that God has a plan for the Jews at the Second Coming.
- The Jews are God's Chosen People.
- The fact that they are, for the most part, unfaithful to God doesn't change His promises to them.
- Their unfaithfulness is causing some of the consequences they have experienced over the last two millennia, but God will always be faithful.
- A remnant of Jews will survive to the end of the Tribulation Period and God will redeem them and exalt them to the world.
- They will look upon Jesus and receive Him as their Messiah and Savior.
- These Jews will have positions of great importance in the Millennium.
- The second group are non-Jews who trusted in Jesus during the Tribulation who escaped the persecution of the Antichrist.
- These two groups will be all that is left of humanity after Jesus comes to set up His kingdom.
- They will all be believers.
- John tells us very little about the Millennium here in Revelation.
- Isaiah gives us some fascinating details regarding this time.
- First, he gives us another look at the glorified Christ.
- **Isaiah 11:1**
- The NKJV capitalizes Rod and Branch because it is believed that this is a reference to the Messiah, Christ Jesus.
- It is from verse like this one that the Jews believed the Messiah would be a descendant of King David, the son of Jesse.
- Jesus' mother, Mary, and her husband Joseph were both descended from King David.

- We are then told other things about the Messiah.
- **Isaiah 11:2-5**
- This is the glorified Christ Jesus in His Second Coming.
- With the rod of His mouth and the breath of His lips He will judge the wicked.
- That is described to us in **Revelation 19:15**
- ¹⁵ **Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.**
- The wicked are everyone who refuses to humble themselves, repent of their sins, and receive Christ as their Savior.
- We should never rejoice over the death of the wicked.
- It should make us sad.
- They had enough opportunities to escape this judgment.
- They stubbornly chose to reject the only hope there is in this world, even with all hell breaking loose on the earth.
- Then a description of the time that follows.
- **Isaiah 11:6-9a**
- The very nature and physiology of nature will be changed to live at peace with humans and each other.
- This is how it was in the Garden of Eden.
- Humans and animals lived in complete harmony with animals.
- I am not a vegan or vegetarian.
- Some people are vegans because it gives them social credit with the politically correct crowd.
- Others avoid eating meat for specific health reasons.
- Some are vegans because they struggle with the idea of killing an animal for their food.
- I believe for that group, they are resonating with our ancient ancestors who ate fruits and vegetables and were in harmony with animals.

Genesis 1:29

²⁹ **And God said, "See, I have given you every herb *that* yields seed which *is* on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.**

- All that changed when sin entered the world.
- After God judged the wicked world with a flood, He said this to Noah.

Genesis 9:3

³ Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs.

- There was a time when God restricted the Jews from eating certain animals for the purpose of setting them apart from other nations.
- But that was only until the fulfillment of the Law, Christ Jesus came.
- Then God visited Peter while he was in a trance.
- He saw a sheet lowered from heaven with all kinds of animals. **Acts 10:13-15**

¹³ And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." ¹⁴ But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean." ¹⁵ And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common."

- Paul would also discuss that later in Acts and in his letters to the Corinthians.
- If someone wants to be, or needs to be, a vegan or vegetarian, there is nothing wrong with that.
- But they have no right to tell others what they should or should not eat.
- And if they claim a biblical mandate to be a vegan, they are wrong.
- Those who claim hunting or harvesting animals is murder, are wrong.
- The only place the word murder is used is when a human kills another human contrary to the will of God.
- In the Millennium animals and humans will be in harmony again.
- God is sovereign over all creation.
- He can even change the nature of the animals.
- Imagine how cool it would be to hang out with lions, and tigers, and bears, oh my!
- Then we see another aspect of the Millennium.
- **Isaiah 11:9b**
- Everyone will know God – at the beginning everyone are true believers.
- Turn back to **Revelation 20**.
- Isaiah 66 teaches us that human lifespans will be as long as trees.
- Some trees are believed to be very ancient.
- The current record-holder is "Methuselah," a Great Basin bristlecone pine (*Pinus longaeva*) located in the White Mountains of California at an estimated age of 4,850+ years.

- There are very old trees in many places around the world.
- In Israel, where the Garden of Gethsemane was located is a grove of olive trees.
- The oldest trees there are about 900 years old.
- What makes them interesting is that they are a clonal tree system.
- They have a common root system which is much older than the trees themselves.
- It is believed that they were there when Jesus prayed for God to deliver Him from the cup of the wrath of God.
- Many who are alive at the beginning of the 1,000-year reign of Christ will still be alive at the end of it – strong and healthy.
- They will also be busy repopulating the earth.
- In the time before the flood, people were having babies well into their hundreds. **Genesis 5:6-7**

⁶ Seth lived one hundred and five years, and begot Enosh. ⁷ After he begot Enosh, Seth lived eight hundred and seven years, and had sons and daughters.

- Noah may have been five hundred years old before he had his three sons.
- It sounds strange, and dangerous to us.
- Everything will be different.
- Sin and all its consequences will be gone.
- The world will be restored back to like it was in the Garden of Eden.
- Crops will be plentiful and the world will be beautiful again.
- It will be an amazing time on earth.
- That will be for those who survive the Tribulation; the redeemed Jews and the Tribulation saints.
- But what about everyone else?

- **Revelation 20:5a**

- When Jesus was raised from the dead, it fulfilled a prophecy concerning the Messiah spoken by David whom Peter quoted on the day of Pentecost. **Acts 2:30-31**

³⁰ Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, ³¹ he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

- The apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:20 that Jesus is the ‘firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep’.
- Fallen asleep is an idiom for believers who have died.
- For most people in the world, the thought of dying is terrifying.
- It shouldn’t be so for a Christ-follower.
- Unless Jesus comes back and snatches us out of here, we will be meeting Jesus through the doorway of death. **Hebrews 9:27-28**
²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.
- The reason death is so terrifying is because of judgment for sin.
- As Christ-followers, our sin has already been judged, and Jesus took our penalty to the cross.
- We will meet Jesus “apart from sin” and therefore there is no fear of judgment.
- The more we mature in our faith, the less we should fear death and accept it as unpleasant doorway we must pass through to get to eternal life in heaven with Jesus.
- Because Jesus was raised from the dead, everyone who believes in Him will be raised from the dead also.
- But who are the “rest of the dead” who are not raised until the end of the Millennial reign of Christ?
- There are a couple of possibilities.
- The first is that this is referring to the wicked dead.
- They are awaiting the White Throne Judgment after the Millennium.
- It could also be a group we don’t talk about very often; the pre-Incarnation saints.
- These are believers who trusted in God and God counted as righteous before Jesus came and died for the sins of the world.
- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are examples of this group.
- There would be many millions of them from the time before Christ died on the cross.
- John the Baptist is another example.
- **Revelation 20:5a-6**
- The Bible teaches two resurrections. **Daniel 12:2**

² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

- The ‘first resurrection’ is the resurrection to eternal life with God.
- It begins with Christ – then the Church and Old Testament saints at the Rapture – then the Tribulation saints at the beginning of the Millennium.
- “blessed and holy” are those who are a part of the first resurrection.
- The word “blessed” can also be translated as happy.
- Happiness and holiness always go hand-in-hand.
- The problem with many people in the world is they focus on being happy without trying to be holy.
- That’s backwards and never works.
- If you really want to be happy, focus on holiness.
- To be holy is to be like Christ.
- Keep growing your faith, and trust God to bring the blessings He wants for your life.
- That can be really hard when the things of your life are robbing you of joy and happiness.
- We’ll look at the second resurrection in verse 11, and the second death in verse 14.
- It is the result of the White Throne Judgment.
- It is being cast alive into the Lake of Fire; the place of eternal punishment for the wicked.
- Those who are blessed and happy as a result of being a part of the first resurrection have no fear of the second death.
- To be worthy of the first resurrection, you must be saved from your sins.
- Once you are saved, because all your sins have been washed away by the blood of Christ, there is no fear of judgment.
- God cannot judge you, because you are covered by the righteousness of His perfect Son through faith in His sacrifice on the cross.
- Not only is there a promise of no judgments but promised a role in the kingdom of God as priests of God.
- We cannot say with certainty what that will mean in the kingdom of God.
- As a pastor, I love the idea of being priest in the kingdom of God.

- Whatever it means, I know it will be glorious; serving God forever; at least for a thousand years.
 - At the end of the one thousand years, something perplexing happens.
 - **Revelation 20:7**
 - The Bible doesn't explain to us why God does this.
 - Verse 3 said the devil 'must be released'.
 - 1,000 years chained in the bottomless pit doesn't rehabilitate Satan.
 - **Revelation 20:8-9a**
 - At the beginning of the 1,000 years everyone is a believer.
 - They have children and repopulate the whole earth.
 - Their children must get saved, just like each of us did.
 - They don't have to depend on the Word to see Jesus, He is their King, they have seen His glory themselves.
 - After 1,000 years of perfect peace in a Garden of Eden-like environment, with Jesus ruling in perfect righteousness, with no evil in the world, with no sickness or poverty, the first chance they get to rebel against God, they do it.
 - Everyone who goes into the Millennium will still have the same sin nature that we do.
 - Their children will all be born with that same sin-nature.
 - One of the possible reasons why Satan is released is to prove to people on this side of God's judgment, how righteous He is to judge this world.
 - In the sinless perfection of the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve rebelled against God, and at the end of the Millennium, mankind will prove again that their hearts are wicked. **Jeremiah 17:9-10**
- ⁹“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? ¹⁰I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.**
- The more we have the mind of Christ, the more we understand the things of God.
 - It may be hard for us to imagine, in the face of the glory of God, for a vast army to rebel against God.
 - We have only to look back at the book of Exodus to see people exposed to the glory of God in the pillar of cloud by day and fire by

night, to recognize people can become dull to the glory of God. **John Phillips**

“Children of believing parents today sometimes become gospel-hardened; so, during the Millennium many will become glory-hardened.”

- There is another interesting fact about the Millennium.
- We are told how Jesus will rule during that time. **Revelation 19:15**
¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron.
- A rod of iron is a tool for punishment and discipline.
- It is similar to a wooden tool used by a shepherd to discipline his sheep and punish predators and thieves.
- Being made of iron implies stern inflexibility.
- Sin will not be tolerated.
- God has been exceedingly patient or longsuffering with humanity.
- That will not be how it is in the Millennium.
- If someone sins, they will be dealt with immediately.
- We are told that we will rule and reign with Christ during the Millennium.
- This is part of what we will be doing; maintaining righteousness.
- Today, we have the freedom to choose to be righteous.
- In the Millennium, people will not have that choice.
- There will be forced righteousness.
- That makes it a little easier to understand why they rebel, God has forced them to be righteous and they don't want to.
- We should be so thankful of God's gracious love.
- This great multitude rebels against Christ Jesus and experience the consequences
- **Revelation 20:9b**
- The lesson learned 1,000 years earlier was forgotten – you cannot fight against God and win – not ever.
- It is not even a battle; fire comes down and consumes them.
- **Revelation 20:10**
- Finally! Never again will Satan be allowed to tempt and deceive humanity.
- Cast into lake of fire and brimstone – joins Antichrist and False Prophet.

- They are tormented there ‘day and night forever and ever’.
- Seems right to me that Satan suffer eternal punishment forever.
- He has been tempting and tormenting humanity since the Garden of Eden.
- Even a thousand millennia of suffering cannot make up for the pain and suffering he has caused to humanity.
- Next is a doctrine that is harder to be okay with.
- **Revelation 20:11**
- Then, John sees a great white throne.
- This is the only place this throne is mentioned.
- John also sees Him who is seated on the throne.
- But John doesn’t give us any clues to tell us who this is.
- But we do get clues elsewhere.
- First, this is a throne of judgment; the wicked from all time will be judged here.
- Jesus told us something about who judges. **John 5:22-23**
²² **For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.**
- He also refers to Himself on a throne where He will judge. **Matthew 25:31**
³¹ **When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.**
- The most logical interpretation then is that this is Christ Jesus on the White Throne.
- That is not a small insignificant detail.
- This is Jesus in all His glory.
- This is Jesus as John saw Him in **Revelation 5:6a**.
⁶ **And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain...**
- As the wicked stand before Christ, they will see His loving eyes reminding them that Jesus loved even though they rejected Him.
- They will see the marks of the crown of thorns under His heavenly crowns and think of their own rebellion against their King Jesus.
- They will see the wounds in His hands and side and realize that Jesus died so that they didn’t have to face Him in this way.

- They will see Jesus and know they are forever lost.
- They will be incapable of making excuses or blaming their sin on anyone or anything.
- They will know they are guilty and worthy of the punishment that is coming. **John Phillips**

“To look upon the face of Jesus is bliss beyond words for the child of God, but for the ungodly, it will be the first agonizing stab of hell.”

- Then comes the judgment of the unrighteous.
- **Revelation 20:12**
- Billions of people since the Garden of Eden to the end of the Millennium have lived their lives contrary to Gods’ will.
- They rejected every attempt God made to draw them back to Himself.
- They died in their sins and have been waiting for their final judgment.
- As they stand before God, books are opened.
- They are going to be judged, not according to the whims of a human judge.
- Almighty God is going to declare the charges and evidence of their sin.
- It will be perfectly righteous and absolutely just.
- They will be judged for what they did that was contrary to God’s Word, will, and ways.
- They will be judged for every time they hear the small still voice of God and blocked it out and turned away from God.
- Every sin, small and great, will be laid out before them.
- I read that and I am immediately thankful.
- My sins, small and great, are washed away by the blood of Christ.
- The judgment they deserved was taken by Christ on my behalf.
- One of the things that is sometimes hard to imagine is that God knows all history before a moment of time passed.
- There was a book written before I was born that included every sin I would ever commit. Past, present, and future.
- The Book of Life is opened, and search will be made for their names.
- No one standing before the White Throne will find their name in the Book of Life.

- In the same way that we need a special body to live in heaven forever, the wicked dead need a special body to suffer forever.
- **Revelation 20:13**
- This is the second resurrection – all the wicked dead from all time are raised to life to receive their final judgment.
- They are then cast alive into the Lake of Fire.
- **Revelation 20:14**
- Book of Life is opened – book written before the world is created of every human God would ever create. Created to be the object of His love forever – to be with Him in heaven forever
- At some point in life, God calls us to repent of our sins and choose to love Him.
- If they refuse – their name is blotted out of the book of life – the very first time they refuse – name is erased.
- God keeps calling them to repent and receive His Son – if they eventually respond like most of you have, their name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life – may be the same book.
- At the White Throne, the Book of Life is opened and a careful search is made for the names of each person, one at a time.
- And each time, where their name was once written, a blank space is all they see.
- No believers will be present at the White Throne – sadly, some who claim to be believers will be there – name won't be found – will hear from Jesus, 'Depart from Me – I never knew you.'
- And then other books are opened, and their works are examined, and their judgment is determined based upon what they did in this life.
- Anyone who does not come to God the way He tells us to, will not be found in the Book of Life = cast into the lake of fire.
- We know this place better by the name, 'Hell'.
- Hell is the place of eternal punishment of those whose names are not in the Book of Life.
- The doctrine of Hell is not popular – in fact, some reject it totally.
- And some who acknowledge that it is a real place reject the idea of eternal punishment of the wicked.

- Like the Seventh Day Adventists – believe in annihilation of the wicked – they cease to exist.
- They claim that it is contrary to the nature of God to condemn people to eternal punishment.
- Jesus, God the Son said that it is eternal **Matthew 25:41, 46**
⁴¹ Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels...’⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.
- The doctrine of Hell, eternal punishment for the wicked is hard to accept – it should be.
- In God is no unrighteousness at all – everything He does is right.
- On this side of eternity, I will never understand fully everything that God does, but I believe what His Word says about Him, and so I trust Him with those things I do not understand – especially things like the doctrine of hell, the doctrine of eternal punishment.
- And I use my discomfort with this doctrine to motivate me to share the gospel with others, so that they can escape that fate, just as we have escaped it.
- Some day we will rule and reign with Christ, and we will understand these things that are mysteries to us now.
- Until then, seek to know Him better, and trust Him with the things you don’t understand, and share with others what you do know.
- One last thing to do to complete the judgment.
- **Revelation 20:15**
- Death and Hades are no longer necessary.
- The Millennial Kingdom will be succeeded by the Eternal Kingdom.
- We know almost nothing about that.
- We’re just going to have to wait to find out about it.
- Next time, we will look at the new heaven and new earth.
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- the next time.
- Read chapter 20 before next week.
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- **Switch to last PowerPoint slide.**
- **Closing Comments**
- If you have any questions, please connect with me.
- You can email me at rick@radicalword.com.
- You can also connect with me on social media.
- If you are listening to the podcast and would like to tune in to the live stream, you can go to radicalword.com and click on one of the links at the top of the page every Thursday at 6:30pm PST.
- Let's close with a word of prayer.
- God bless you all. Until next time, go be radical with Jesus.
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- **Stop recording.**
- For those of you watching the live stream, thank you for your participation.
- I will stay online for a few minutes if you have any questions or comments.
- Have a radical week with Jesus.
- **Switch to Post Stream scene.**
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