

## UNIT 8 PART 2

### BF232 OUR FUTURE HOPE

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Welcome back to our study of Our Future Hope.

In this lesson, we're going to be looking at the Book of Revelation. What I'm going to do is walk you through the Book of Revelation in quick time. I'm going to show you how

*GOD'S PLAN FOR THE CHURCH AND GOD'S PLAN FOR ISRAEL COME TOGETHER INTO ETERNITY.*

The book opens by letting the reader know that Jesus will bring God's plan to fulfillment. John says,

*Revelation 1:1a This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the events that must soon take place.*

From God's perspective, it would be soon.

*Revelation 1:1b He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John,*

*Revelation 1:3 God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near.*

One of the things that I want you to know as we move into the Book of Revelation is that even though it's been nearly 2,000 years since Jesus gave this revelation to John, the events, from God's perspective, must soon take place. God wants the reader to pay attention to what is said.

*Revelation 1:4 This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia.*

John lets us know that he received this revelation from

*Revelation 1:5 Jesus Christ. He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world.*

This is significant because when this revelation was given, Jesus was not recognized as the King over the kings of the world. The kings of the world thought they were the ones that were ruling.

*JOHN SEES JESUS AS THE RULER OF THE KINGS OF THE WORLD.*

Here's what he says about him.

*Revelation 1: 6a He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father.*

He's using language that we've seen about Israel where God made them a Kingdom of Priests; but now, in the Church Age, you and I, are those who represent God to the nations.

**WE HAVEN'T REPLACED ISRAEL; BUT WE ARE FUNCTIONING THE WAY THAT ISRAEL SHOULD HAVE FUNCTIONED IN THE SENSE THAT GOD WANTS US TO MAKE HIM KNOWN AMONG THE NATIONS.**

He goes on to say this in verse seven.

*Revelation 1:7 Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven.*

*And everyone will see him—*

*even those who pierced him.*

*And all the nations of the world*

*will mourn for him.*

*Yes! Amen!*

*What I love about this verse, and the reason we're looking at this, is that this picture of Jesus coming with the clouds of heaven reminds us of Daniel chapter 7. It shows us that Jesus is the One, the Son of Man of Daniel 7, the Messiah of Daniel 2 and 7. He is the One who will bring God's plan to fulfillment. Revelation uses verses and words from the Book of Daniel to let us know that now, these things are going to be fulfilled.*

***JESUS WILL BRING GOD'S PLAN TO FULFILLMENT.***

John says,

*Revelation 1:10-11a It was the Lord's Day, and I was worshiping in the Spirit. Suddenly, I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet blast. 11 It said, "Write in a book everything you see, and send it to the seven churches*

He names those places.

*Revelation 1:19 "Write down what you have seen—both the things that are now happening and the things that will happen.*

He was commanded to write the visions that God gave him. The things that are happening now referred to the things that were happening when John wrote the letter. Those would be the things in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 when he talks about the church in Thyatira, Pergamum, Ephesus and the different cities. The things that will happen after that are found in Revelation chapters 4 through 22. We're not going to look at the things that were happening in John's day, Revelation 2 and 3. We're only going to look at the things that will happen after this, Revelation chapters 4 through 22.

Revelation chapters 4 and 5 show us John's vision of the throne room of God. The text begins with John saying,

*Revelation 4:1-2 Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." 2 And instantly I was in the Spirit, and I saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it.*

God gave this vision to John of the things that would happen after the time that he wrote, after the period that he's looking at of the churches. He has this vision in heaven of One sitting on a throne. Now, he gives a description of the One sitting on the throne. It's the throne of God.

What's amazing as you read through chapters 4 and 5, is that over and over, he says "the One on the throne," "on the throne," "on the throne," "on the throne."

**HE'S GIVING A PICTURE OF GOD ON HIS THRONE TO REMIND HIS READERS THAT GOD REIGNS OVER ALL OF CREATION.**

This is powerful because there's a contrast of the vision on earth (Revelation 2 and 3) where believers are persecuted and Christ is rejected. There's a contrast with that and the vision in heaven where God is on His throne and the Lamb of God is worshipped by all the creatures of God. God's will is done in heaven. But when will God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven? When will the kingdom come?

In this vision of the One on the throne,

*Revelation 4:3b-5a And the glow of an emerald circled his throne like a rainbow. 4 Twenty-four thrones surrounded him, and twenty-four elders sat on them. They were all clothed in white and had gold crowns on their heads. 5 From the throne came flashes of lightning and the rumble of thunder.*

This is a very interesting picture if you think about what you would picture with thunder and lightning. When you hear thunder and see lightning, you know that a storm is coming. When John sees the throne of God, he hears distant thunder and sees flashes of lightning. A thunder is coming; or, as the book unfolds, we would say judgment is coming.

**GOD IS BRINGING JUDGMENT TO THE EARTH. THROUGH THAT JUDGMENT, JESUS WILL BE  
RECOGNIZED AS KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**

Now, we see the worship around the throne.

*Revelation 4:6b In the center and around the throne were four living beings,*

*Revelation 4:8b Day after day and night after night they keep on saying,*

*“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty—  
the one who always was, who is, and who is still to come.”*

*Revelation 4:10b-11 And they lay their crowns before the throne and say,*

*“You are worthy, O Lord our God,  
to receive glory and honor and power.*

*For you created all things,  
and they exist because you created what you pleased.”*

God is worshipped in heaven. He is recognized as the owner of heaven and earth. That's a contrast with John's vision of the earth. On the earth, God is not worshipped alone as God. On the earth, people are not recognizing Him for who He is. They don't recognize His authority over His creation. Again, when will God's will be done on earth in the same way that it is in heaven?

Well now, we see that they're looking for someone to reclaim God's Kingdom. John said,

*Revelation 5:1-3 Then I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who was sitting on the throne. There was writing on the inside and the outside of the scroll, and it was sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a strong angel, who shouted with a loud voice: “Who is worthy to break the seals on this scroll and open it?” 3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll and read it.*

The seven-sealed scroll probably looked something like this:



What we learned from studying history is that during the time that John wrote this, only one kind of document was sealed with seven seals. That was a document that was someone's right to inherit property; and this is the right to inherit the earth, the right to reclaim God's Kingdom on earth. John is looking for someone who is worthy to open the scroll, someone who can reclaim God's Kingdom on earth; and no one is worthy to do it.

Adam was not worthy. Adam is the one that God entrusted to spread His Kingdom over the earth, but Adam sinned against God. God started again with Noah, but Noah was a sinner, just like you and I. God said He would bring His blessing and Kingdom through Abraham, but Abraham is not worthy to open the scroll. God said He would fulfill His plan through Israel, but Israel is not worthy to open the scroll. David came. God said that the Kingdom would always be in David's family, and David was a man after God's own heart. David loved the Lord, but David was not worthy to open the scroll. No one in heaven and no one on earth was worthy to open the scroll. No one could lift the seals and inherit and restore God's Kingdom on earth; but then, a time of rejoicing came.

*Revelation 5:5a But one of the twenty-four elders said to me, "Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the heir to David's throne, has won the victory.*

This goes back to Genesis 49 where Jacob had a vision, a prophecy, where the Lion would come from the Tribe of Judah. David saw ahead that he would have a descendant

who could inherit his throne. When Jesus was born, the angel told Mary, “The Lord, God will give Him the throne of His father, David; and He will reign forever.”

*Revelation 5:b-6a He is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals.”*

*Then I saw a Lamb that looked as if it had been slaughtered, but it was now standing between the throne and the four living beings*

This is an amazing picture because he says, “Look, the Lion.” But when John looks, he doesn't see a Lion in His power. He sees a Lamb who had been slain.

*JESUS IS WORTHY TO RESTORE GOD'S KINGDOM AND TO BRING US INTO THAT KINGDOM, THE KINGDOM THAT NO ONE WOULD EVER SEE, APART FROM HIM. HE IS WORTHY TO BRING US INTO THAT KINGDOM BECAUSE HE BECAME A MAN. HE LIVED AS A PERFECT MAN AND NEVER SINNED. HE DIED ON OUR BEHALF AND ROSE AGAIN.*

This Lamb had been slaughtered, but now it was standing. he is the resurrected lamb who conquered death and this lamb is standing before the throne of God.

This reminds us of Daniel 7 where the Son of Man approaches the One sitting on the throne to receive the Kingdom. Jesus is the Son of Man, the Lamb of God, who approaches the throne of God. He receives the Kingdom. We're told here,

*Revelation 5:7 He stepped forward and took the scroll from the right hand of the one sitting on the throne.*

He is the one worthy to restore God's kingdom.

Now, I want us to see the worship of the Lamb.

*Revelation 5:8-9a And when he took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they held gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God's people. 9 And they sang a new song*

The four living beings and the twenty-four elders are worshiping the lamb and they say,

*Revelation 5:9b “You are worthy to take the scroll*

*and break its seals and open it.*

*For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God*

*from every tribe and language and people and nation.*

Look at what Jesus has done. God wanted a Kingdom on the earth filled with people from every language group who would worship Him. Jesus, through His blood, has purchased people for God from every tribe, language, people and nation. God wanted a kingdom, not just in heaven. God wanted a kingdom on the earth. Look at what we find.

*Revelation 5:10 And you have caused them to become  
a Kingdom of priests for our God.  
And they will reign on the earth.”*

If God didn't have a kingdom on the earth, then God lost to Satan. God started with the kingdom on the earth.

**GOD IS GOING TO HAVE A KINGDOM ON THE EARTH THROUGH THE LORD, JESUS. BELIEVERS,  
YOU AND I WILL REIGN WITH HIM IN THAT KINGDOM.**

Now, we see the worship continue.

*Revelation 5:11 Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions  
of angels*

It started out with four living beings. Then, this chorus of praise included twenty-four elders. Now, it expands to the voices of thousands of millions of angels. See how there are more and more worshippers as the story unfolds? They're surrounding the throne of God.

*Revelation 5:12 And they sang in a mighty chorus:  
“Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered—  
to receive power and riches  
and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and blessing.”*

Look where it goes. Four living beings, twenty-four elders, a number of angels that cannot be numbered and then,

*Revelation 5:13b every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the  
sea.*

Everyone is recognizing Jesus for who He is. They sang,

*Revelation 5:13b-14 “Blessing and honor and glory and power*



*belong to the one sitting on the throne  
and to the Lamb forever and ever.”*

*And the four living beings said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and  
worshiped the Lamb.*

In Heaven, Christ alone is worshipped. When is that going to come to the earth? That's what happens in the next scene.

*Revelation 6:1 As I watched, the Lamb broke the first of the seven seals on the scroll.*

The Lamb of God opens the first seal. That sets God's judgment in motion. What we're going to find is that there are seven seals. Each of those seals that He opens starts another judgment. He opened the seven seals.

*Revelation 6:12 I watched as the Lamb broke the sixth seal, and there was a great  
earthquake.*

I want to talk about the earthquake, thunder and lightning. As we began the throne room scene, we could hear distant thunder. God's wrath is coming. At the end of the seven seals, it's getting closer. What you have is seven seals, and the seventh seal begins the first trumpet. The seventh trumpet begins the first bowl. They progress one from the other until God's wrath is complete. We went from the seals.

*Revelation 8:1-2 When the Lamb broke the seventh seal on the scroll, there was silence  
throughout heaven for about half an hour. 2 I saw the seven angels who stand before  
God, and they were given seven trumpets.*

See how the seventh seal connects to the first trumpet? The seal judgements begin the trumpet judgment.

*Revelation 11:15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices  
shouting in heaven:*

*“The world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,  
and he will reign forever and ever.”*

The reason I show you this verse is I want you to see that the Lamb of God is taking back the Kingdom through judgement.

**IT IS THE JUDGMENTS THAT MAKE THE WORLD BECOME THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST.**

Think of it this way. When evil had taken over and Satan's kingdom had spread over all the earth, God removed the wicked with the flood. He started again with Noah. God,



through the Tribulation, is going to remove the wicked through judgments and start again with Christ and His Kingdom on the earth. You have that. Then, we see that the judgments intensify from seals, to trumpets, to bowls. John says in Chapter 15,

*Revelation 15:1 Then I saw in heaven another marvelous event of great significance. Seven angels were holding the seven last plagues, which would bring God's wrath to completion.*

We have seven seals, seven trumpets and seven bowls. These seven bowls of plagues bring God's wrath to its end. They finish what God set out to do. Like Daniel 9 had said, "to bring an end to iniquity and to bring in everlasting righteousness."

I want to show you this because as these judgments unfold in the throne room scene, John sees lightning. He hears rumblings and hears peals of thunder. With the seals, there's lightning rumblings, peals of thunder and an earthquake. When you get to the trumpets, it's lightning rumblings, peals of thunder, earthquake and heavy hail. See how it's getting worse and worse? When you get to the bowls of God's plagues, the bowls of wrath, you have lightning rumblings, peals of thunder, an unparalleled earthquake. It's an earthquake that it's never been that bad before. You have an unparalleled hail storm. There's never been hail that bad before. That's why when we get to Revelation 16 and the 7th angel pours out his bowl into the air, there's this mighty shout from the throne in the Temple saying, "It is finished." People living on the earth cannot say that the judgments are just a coincidence. He wants us to see that it comes from the throne of God. God is bringing judgment on the earth.

God finishes His judgments with this seventh bowl. Notice what we're told here.

*Revelation 16:21 There was a terrible hailstorm, and hailstones weighing as much as seventy-five pounds fell from the sky onto the people below.*

What God is doing through this judgment is He is trying to bring people to repentance. He's punishing the nations for their sin.

#### **GOD IS GOING TO BRING ISRAEL TO REPENTANCE.**

We didn't look at this, but if you read Revelation chapters 10 through 14, you'll find that

#### **MANY JEWISH PEOPLE COME TO FAITH IN JESUS DURING THE TRIBULATION.**

God's purpose for this 70th week of seven was to bring Israel to repentance. God was also trying to warn the nations. Something that stands out in Revelation 16 is that John says in verse nine that they still did not repent. He says again, in verse 20 or 21, that they blasphemed God because of the plague of hail. John is shocked that after all this judgment coming down, people still won't acknowledge God for who He is.

**THE NEXT THING WE SEE IS THAT CHRIST WILL JUDGE THE ENEMIES OF GOD AND ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM.**

Jesus comes to

*Revelation 19:15b rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty,*

He will be recognized as

*Revelation 19:16 King of Kings and Lord of all Lords.*

We also find that Jesus will judge the enemies of God and establish His Kingdom.

*Revelation 19:20 The Beast and the false prophet,*

We're looking at Antichrist, the Man of Lawlessness.

*Revelation 19:20 thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.*

Jesus removes the enemies. He's moving the wicked away so He can start with a righteous Kingdom on earth again.

*Revelation 20:2a he seized the dragon, that old serpent*

Some people say, "Well, is it really Satan in the Garden of Eden?" Look at what John says.

*Revelation 21:2b-3a who is the devil, Satan—and bound him in chains for a thousand years. 3 The angel threw him into the bottomless pit,*

**JESUS SETS UP HIS KINGDOM ON THE EARTH FOR 1,000 YEARS.**

This includes those who had been beheaded for their testimony of Jesus, probably during the Tribulation.

*Revelation 20:4b They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

Jesus will have the 1,000 year kingdom on the earth.

**AT THE END OF THAT TIME, THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT HAPPENS.**

*Revelation 20:13 All (unbelievers) will be judged according to their deeds.*

*Revelation 20:14 Also, death and the grave are thrown into the Lake of Fire.*

**SATAN HIMSELF IS THROWN INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE FOREVER, AND EVER, AND EVER.**

All wickedness, all evil, has been thrown into the Lake of Fire.

**GOD'S GOING MAKE A NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH (REVELATION 21). GOD WILL FULFILL HIS ORIGINAL PLAN.**

John says that it's a new heaven and new earth. He says,

*Revelation 21:3a "Look, God's home is now among his people!"*

From the beginning, God wanted mankind to live in perfect fellowship with Him; and we finally get there.

*Revelation 21:3b-4 He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."*

*We find in this new heaven and new earth, the names of the 12 Tribes of Israel are on the gates of this city. That shows us that Israel is there in Eternity with the Lord. There will be the Jews who came to faith in Jesus throughout different periods of time, all believing Jews. We also see that there's the names of the 12 apostles of the land. This shows us that*

***BELIEVING ISRAELITES AND CHURCH SAINTS, OR CHURCH BELIEVERS, WILL BE TOGETHER IN ETERNITY FOREVER. THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE.***

Notice that there's a river in this new paradise of God, just like there was in Genesis 2. Notice that the Tree of Life is present, just like it was in Genesis 1. Notice that there is no longer a curse, just like Genesis 1 and 2. Notice that believers will see God's face. That was God's plan forever, that we would be in perfect fellowship with Him. Notice that

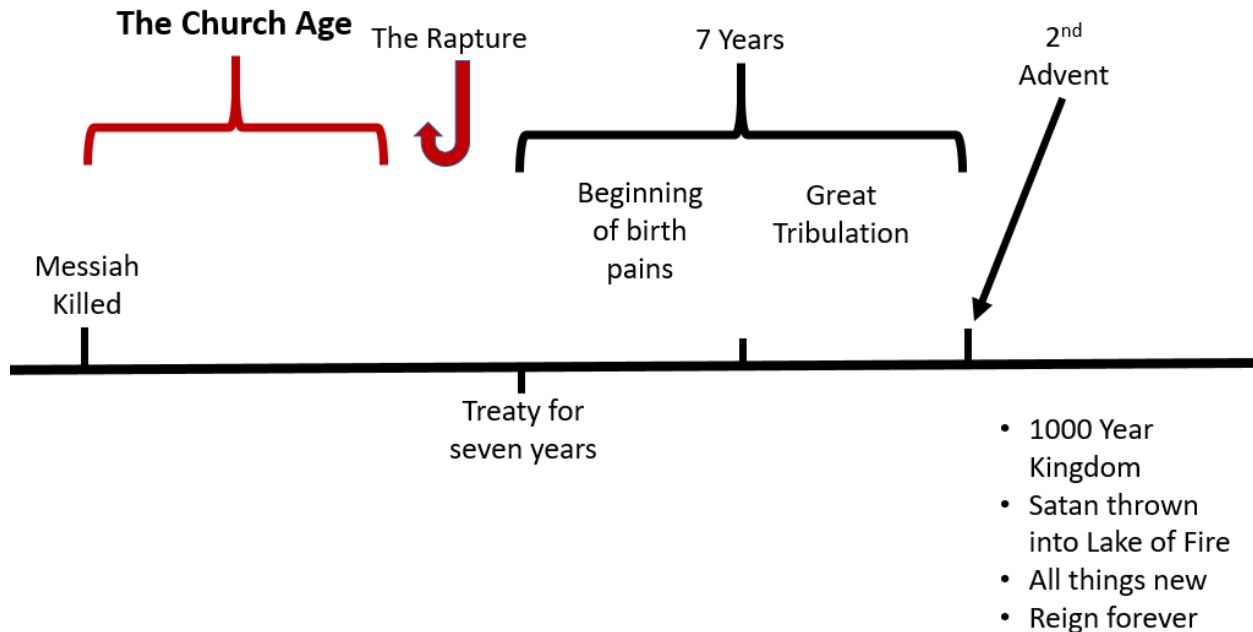
**BELIEVERS WILL REIGN FOREVER AND EVER.**

God wanted human beings to rain on the earth in fellowship with Him.

We see God's plan in Genesis 1 and 2 coming back together. God created the heavens and the earth and everything in them. He wanted mankind to rule over His creation from the paradise of God as God's representative.

***MANKIND LIVED IN PERFECT FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD UNDER GOD'S BLESSING WITH NO DEATH, NO FEAR, NO PAIN, A TREE OF LIFE WAS PRESENT AND A RIVER WENT OUT FROM THIS SPECIAL PLACE.***

When we get to Revelation 21 and 22, we find all of these things are fulfilled. Our future hope was first seen in Genesis 1 and 2. Our expectation grew as God's promises went from Genesis all the way through to the end.



When we come to the end, we see these different timelines that have shown us different pieces: God's plan for the Church, the Rapture, God's plan for Israel to be brought to repentance during the 70th week of Daniel, the Son of Man will come immediately after the Tribulation of those days. When we get to the end, we find that after Jesus comes back the second time (Revelation 19),

**HE WILL THROW SATAN INTO THE PIT. HE WILL THROW THE BEAST AND THE FALSE PROPHET INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE.**

Jesus will reign for 1,000 years. Then, Satan is thrown into the Lake of Fire forever. All things are made new, and believers will reign forever and ever. God will fulfill His original plan that was seen at Creation.

These are God's final words in Scripture to you and I,

*Revelation 22:20-21 He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon!"*

*Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!*

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's holy people.*

Let me just encourage you to know that as you and I live for Jesus in a world that is hostile to our faith, in a world that resists the message about Jesus, we know that our future hope is sure. We know that Jesus will bring us into His Kingdom. We will live with Him forever.

**NOW IS OUR ONLY CHANCE TO TAKE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS TO THE NATIONS.**

Let's take the Good News to the nations so that they can be in this Kingdom with us and with Him.