

STUDENT'S STUDY GUIDE

Dr. Stanford E. Murrell

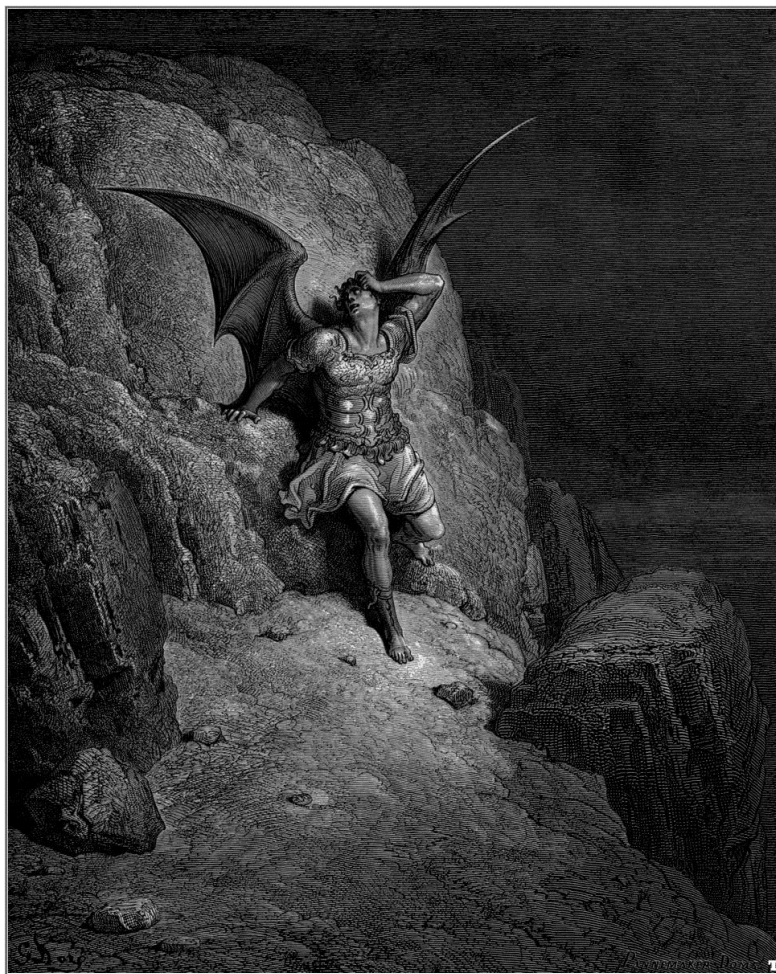
A Review Of

A COMMENTARY OF REVELATION TWENTY:

PAST-PRESENT- FUTURE

By

L.R. Shelton, Jr.



**A COMMENTARY OF REVELATION TWENTY:
PAST-PRESENT- FUTURE**

**by
L.R. Shelton, Jr.**

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Student's Study Guide

A Review of

**A COMMENTARY OF REVELATION TWENTY:
PAST-PRESENT- FUTURE**

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Preface

In his Commentary on Revelation: Past – Present – Future, Bro. L. R. Shelton Jr. never used the term “Amillennialism”, though that is the theological position he was advocating. Rather, Bro. Shelton was content to write about what God had shown him in Scripture in his own studies of eschatology.

The term “Amillennialism” does not suggest there is no rule and reign of Christ. Rather, the teaching this word represents, contends that the rule and reign of Christ on the earth, and over the universe, is a present reality, and shall last, not just for a thousand years, but for all eternity. The present reign of Christ will be made more visible to all, and will be fully manifested at the Lord’s glorious second advent. This second coming of the Lord will not take place in “stages”, or “phases”, but will be one grand event. *Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*

When speaking of different eschatological positions, Bro. Shelton was careful to show grace and courtesy, even though he feared others were reading too much into certain passages of Scripture. He refers to the brethren as a friend speaking to a friend. “...*our friends, the pre-tribulationists, pre-millennialists and the dispensationalists, have read into these verses.*” They of course, would beg to differ. In the end, Christian charity must be shown, one towards another, as individuals come to different conclusions in their personal journey into grace.

I do believe that individuals with differing positions should give a careful hearing to what others are saying. I also believe there is much said that can be a source of blessing within each theological construct. The passion of Bro. Shelton for an authentic conversion experience, personal sanctification, and evangelism of the lost, shines forth in this Commentary on Revelation 20, and so there will be much common ground.

In this Leader’s Study Guide, and Student’s Study Guide, I have tried to extract the essence of what Bro. Shelton taught about Revelation 20. My objective is to elicit, not only a review of what has been written, but reflection and discussion. Those who continue to hold to a different conclusion about the millennial can still profit from understanding an alternative perspective. The section, Heart Work, is designed for personal application.

Stanford E. Murrell
Viera, Florida

The Symbolism of Revelation 20

1 Corinthians 2:13

*“Which things also we speak,
not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth,
but which the Holy Ghost teacheth;
comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”*

The Symbol	The Spiritual Substance and Meaning
• Angel	The Lord Jesus Christ, the ultimate Messenger of God
• Key	Authority
• Great Chain	The faith of Jesus Christ
• Dragon	The Devil
• Old Serpent	Satan
• A thousand years	A number of perfection or completeness
• Bottomless pit	Satan's prison
• Seal	The mark of God's ownership, authority, and authenticity
• Deceive the nation	Satan will spiritually blind the nations to the gospel truth
• A little season	An indeterminate length of time
• Thrones	Representing kingdom authority
• Souls	Christian martyrs
• The Beast	The arch-enemy of the saints
• The Image of the Beast	Representing forced idolatry and pseudo worship
• His mark	A reference to the mark of the beast which is the number of a man
• Foreheads and hands	The places of understanding and power

- First resurrection Salvation, regeneration by the Holy Spirit
- Second death Eternal judgment and separation from God
- Priests of God A great function and privilege of the believer
- Gog and Magog Illustrative of the ancient enemies of the saints
- Camp of the saints Where the church is gathered on earth
- The Beloved City The New Spiritual Jerusalem
- Fire from heaven The place from which God shall protect His own
- Lake of Fire / Brimstone The awful sphere of eternal judgment
- The False Prophet The puppet of the arch-enemy of the saints
- Great White Throne The final place of judgment of mankind
- The books The books of good works on which men depend for salvation
- The Book of Life The record of the redeemed
- Sea gave up the dead
with death and hell General resurrection

**A COMMENTARY OF REVELATION 20
PAST-PRESENT-FUTURE**

**Student's Study Guide
Revelation 20
Chapter 1**

Review

1. Why is it important to have a correct understanding of Revelation 20?

Answer.

2. What spiritual truth will be opened to the heart of the Christian when Revelation 20 is rightly understood?

Answer.

3. List three victorious results the heart of the Christian can see in Revelation 20.

Answer.

There are three victorious results the heart of the Christian can see in Revelation 20.

First,

Second,

Third,

4. How many verses are in Revelation 20?

Answer.

5. List eleven questions for which answers will be sought with this study of Revelation 20.

Answer.

A study of Revelation 20 will seek to answer the following eleven questions.

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6. What are the four natural divisions of Revelation 20?

Answer.

There are four natural divisions in Revelation 20.

First,

Second,

Third,

Fourth,

7. What is the key thought to understanding all that is in Revelation 20?

Answer.

8. What three grand pictures are presented in Revelation 20?

Answer.

There are three grand pictures presented in Revelation 20.

First, there is the picture of

Second, there is the picture of

Third, there is the picture of

9. What is a distinct characterization of Revelation 20?

Answer.

10. List the seven symbols found in Revelation 20:1-3.

Answer.

There are seven symbols found in Revelation 20:1-3.

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11. What determines whether or not a text is being spiritualized?

Answer.

12. Identify the dragon, that old serpent mentioned in Revelation 20:2.

Answer.

13. Identify the bottomless pit mentioned in Revelation 20:2.

Answer.

14. List six popular teachings based on Revelation 20 not found in these fifteen verses.

Answer.

First, nothing is said

Second, nothing is said

Third, nothing is said

Fourth, nothing is said

Fifth, nothing is said

Sixth, nothing is said

15. Identify seven divisions in the book of the Revelation and briefly label each division.

Answer.

Seven divisions can be found in the book of the Revelation.

First Division

Second Division

Third Division

Fourth Division

Fifth Division

Sixth Division

Seventh Division

16. List five important questions to be asked concerning the binding of Satan.

Answer.

First,

Second,

Third,

Fourth,

Fifth,

17. Where is the setting of the scene for the verses in Revelation 20:1-3?

Answer.

18. Identify the Angel that came down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit.

Answer.

19. When is the time of the binding of Satan and what is the Scriptural evidence of this time frame? List at least three passages of Scripture in support of the answer.

Answer.

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20. What did Jesus do to Satan at the Cross in fulfillment of the prophecy of Genesis 3:15?

Answer.

21. What passage in Paul's epistle to the church of Colossae, Turkey, speaks of the triumph of Christ over Satan?

Answer.

22. List two reasons why the Lord cast Satan out and bound him.

Answer.

There are two reasons why the Lord cast Satan out and bound him.

First,

Second,

23. Provide Scriptural proof for the Lord's two-fold purpose for coming into this world.

Answer.

The Lord came into this world for two purposes.

First,

Second,

- Doctrine of
- Doctrine of

28. What system of doctrine is not clearly taught throughout the New Testament?

Answer.

Special Note.

Read Hebrews 10 in light of the idea being advanced of animal sacrifices being reintroduced in worship.

29. How does Bro. Shelton Scripturally defend the interpretation that the regeneration of which Jesus speaks in Matthew 19:27-30 refers to the Lord in His eternal glory and His apostles reigning with Him in the restored or renewed universe? *Matthew 19:27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? 28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. 30 But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.*

Special Note.

“Christ's second coming will be a regeneration, when there shall be new heavens, and a new earth, and the restitution of all things. All that partake of the regeneration in grace (John 3:3) shall partake of the regeneration in glory; for as grace is the first resurrection (Rev 20:6), so glory is the second regeneration” (Matthew Henry)

Answer.

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30. What does the expression “the thousand years” mean? Compare Scripture with Scripture.

Answer.

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31. How many times is the word “thousand” used in Revelation 20?

Answer.

32. According to *The Analytical Greek Lexicon*, and *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon*, is the word in Greek, translated “thousand”, in the singular or the plural?

Answer.

Special Note.

According to Strong’s Concordance, the word $\chi\iota\lambda\iota\alpha$, $\chi\iota\lambda\iota\omicron\iota$ (khil’-ee-oy) is plural of uncertain affinity; [translated] a thousand [in 2 Peter 3:8; Revelation 11:3 etc].

33. Where is the setting for the scene found in Revelation 20:4-5.

Answer.

34. How many times in the book of Revelation are the throne of God, the throne of the Lamb, and the throne of the saints found in heaven.

Answer.

35. Did John see the bodies of the martyred saints?

Answer.

36. When did Jesus teach the resurrection of the dead would occur?

Answer.

Special Note.

Read aloud, and together, the following verses.

- *John 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.*
- *John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*
- *John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*
- *John 6:54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*

37. If the resurrection takes place on the “last day”, can there be any more resurrections?

Answer.

38. At the death of the body, where is the soul of every child of God taken?

Answer.

39. What are the saints doing after death with Christ according to Revelation 20:4? *Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

Answer.

40. What two major truths summarize Peter’s sermon in Acts 2?

Answer.

41. What word in 1 Corinthians 15:24 has been inserted into the text but is not in the original. *1 Corinthians 15:24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.*

Answer.

42. Is the destruction of death placed biblically at the beginning or at the end of the millennial reign of Christ, according to 1 Corinthians 15:25-26?

Answer.

43. According to 1 Corinthians 15:27-28, is the reign of Christ before the resurrection of the dead, or after it?

Answer.

44. Write out three passages of Scripture that set forth the present reign of Christ.

Answer.

These three passages of Scripture set forth the present reign of Christ.

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Special Note.

Please read out loud, and in unison with your Mentor, these passages of Scripture you have written for your answer.

45. What is meant by the first resurrection introduced in Revelation 20:5?

Answer.

Special Note.

The first resurrection is spiritual in nature. It occurs when a person who is dead in trespasses and sin is brought to life by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- *John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. 25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.*

46. Why is a person called “blessed” who is a partaker of the first resurrection?

Answer.

47. List nine facets of blessings a person enjoys by being in the first resurrection.

Answer.

- The power of sin is
- The person is
- The person is
- The person stands
- The person is
- The person is
- The person is
- The person is
- The person is
- The person awaits

48. According to Romans 5:17 and Ephesians 2:6, when does a Christian begin to reign with Jesus Christ? *Romans 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.). Ephesians 2:6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

Answer.

Special Note.

Grace has made believers kings and priests unto God.

- *Revelation 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

49. Which passage more than any other convinced Bro. Shelton that the first resurrection is a spiritual, and not a physical, resurrection?

Answer.

50. What is the Scripture saying about “the rest of the dead” mentioned in verse 5?

Answer.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Do you agree there is widespread misunderstanding in Christendom in regard to Revelation 20? What is one basic cause for this misunderstanding?
2. Would you agree that the children of God rule and reign with Christ right now, or, do you believe that the rule and reign of Christ with His saints is something to be realized in the distant future?
3. Is it possible to over spiritualize the teachings of the Bible in the book of the Revelation? What practical safeguards can be used to keep the Christian from doctrinal error?
4. Is it possible to under-spiritualize the teachings of the Bible so that we miss the true meaning of what is being said, as the Pharisees did? *John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. 20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? 21 But he spake of the temple of his body.*
5. Would you agree that spiritual truths must be compared with spiritual truths? *1 Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*
6. Discuss the difference between the interpretation of a Scripture, and the application of the same.
7. Do you believe that Jesus presently has kingdom authority over heaven and earth and is exercising it now?
8. Brother Shelton identifies the “chain” in Revelation 20:1 as, “faith in action that will and does bind Satan”. Is his understanding valid? Can a literal chain bind a spiritual creature?

Special Note.

The word “chain” is used in Scripture in both a literal and symbolic way.

Literal. Genesis 41:42 And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;

Symbolic. Ezekiel 7:23 Make a chain: for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence. The chain would be a symbol of the captivity.

9. Do you believe that a Christian’s final view of eschatology must come from the New Testament?

10. If a person's final view of eschatology should come from the New Testament, what is to be said of the fact that nothing can be found in the New Testament clearly teaching that Christ will reign upon this earth for a thousand years at Jerusalem after His second coming with all His saints ruling and reigning with Him?
11. Discuss the argument that Revelation 20 refers to a literal angel, with a literal key, and a literal chain, and there is a literal binding of the literal devil, for a literal one thousand time period.
12. Are you surprised to discover the word translated, "thousand" in Revelation 20, is in the Greek, plural? Does this knowledge affect your understanding of the passage?
13. Would you agree that it is biblically unwarranted to teach that salvation will be offered after the second coming of Christ?

Heart Work

1. As you begin your study of the Bible, have you confessed all known sin to God?
Yes _____ No _____

If not, please do so now. *1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

2. Many who study the book of the Revelation, approach it with a presuppositional frame of reference. Some approach the study of the Revelation with a Dispensational frame of reference. Others approach the study with a Reformed frame of reference. How do you approach the book of the Revelation?
3. Are you aware of any theological biases in your mind?
Yes _____ No _____
4. If the arguments set forth by the author are illuminated by the Holy Spirit to be true, is your heart teachable? *1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*
Yes _____ No _____
5. Does your heart look forward to the second coming of Christ? *Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*
Yes _____ No _____
6. Have you ever read into a passage of Scripture something that was not there?
Yes _____ No _____
7. Are you afraid of death?
Yes _____ No _____

For comfort, read Hebrews 2:14-15. *“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”*

8. Knowing the authority that is invested in Christ, is your heart not comforted and encouraged in personal evangelism and soul winning efforts?
Yes _____ No _____
9. Have you had part in the first resurrection, and are among the number of those who are called "blessed and holy"?
Yes _____ No _____

Memory Work

Revelation 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

**A COMMENTARY OF REVELATION 20
PAST-PRESENT-FUTURE**

**Student's Study Guide
Revelation 20
Chapter 2**

Review

1. According to Scripture, is there one antichrist, or many? Write out the Scriptural answer.

Answer.

2. What is the distinguishing mark of an antichrist? Write out the Scriptural answer.

Answer.

The distinguishing mark of an antichrist is

Special Note.

To deny that Jesus is the Christ is to deny the divinity of the Lord. "The great and pernicious lies that the father of lies, or of liars, spreads in the world, were of old, and usually are, falsehoods and errors relating to the person of Christ. There is no truth so sacred and fully attested but some or other will contradict or deny it. That Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God had been attested by heaven, and earth, and hell. It should seem that some, in the tremendous judgment of God, are given up to strong delusions." (Matthew Henry)

3. What is the best way to understand what is meant by the mark of the beast taught in Revelation 20:4?

Answer.

Special Note.

Satan is a counterfeiter. He has a counterfeit gospel (Galatians 1:8), counterfeit ministers (2 Corinthians 11:14-15), and a counterfeit mark of sealing (Revelation 20:4).

4. Who are the 144,000 who are sealed by the Father in Revelation 7 and 14?

Answer.

5. What does the number 144,000 represent?

Answer.

6. Provide three reasons why the sealing of the Father is important.

Answer.

- A seal

- A seal

- A seal

7. In what way has God the Father sealed the saint?

Answer.

8. In what way has God the Son sealed the saint?

Answer.

9. In what way has God the Holy Spirit sealed the saint?

Answer.

10. What is the seal that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit gives to every child of God? Write out the Scriptural support.

Answer.

11. State the one great purpose why God marks His children.

Answer.

The mark, or seal of God, has one purpose, which is

- *Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*
- *2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*
- *1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:*
- *1 Thessalonians 4:7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.*
- *Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:*

Special Note.

Read aloud, and together, these biblical references.

12. What does Revelation 13:18 say about the mark of the beast.

Answer.

Special Note.

In context, it may be that “the number of man” is a veiled reference to Nero. In ancient times letters were used as numbers. For example A=1, B=2, C=3 and so forth. So names had a certain numerical value. The Hebrew spelling of Nero Caesar (Neron Kaiser) adds up to exactly 666. There is a textual variant in Revelation 13:18 with the number 616 which is probably the Latin equivalent of Nero Caesar.

N	=	50
R	=	200
W	=	6

N	=	50
Q	=	100
S	=	60
R	=	200

666

13. According to Scripture, what is every person who is outside of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Answer.

14. According to Revelation 13:16-17, in what two areas on the body can the mark of the beast be found? *Revelation 13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

Answer.

15. For what five actions are the saints of Revelation 20:4 commended?

Answer.

- The saints had
- The saints had
- The saints had
- The saints had
- The saints had

16. Write out 1 Corinthians 6:11 which is a Scripture of hope that anyone can change and be fundamentally and forever different.

Answer.

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17. List some people believed to have been the “number of a man.”

Answer.

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Special Note.

Many others have been included in this list.

- Charlemagne (AD 742 – 914). He tried to rebuild the Roman Empire when he controlled much of Central Europe.
- Napoleon (1769-1821), emperor of the French.
- Aleister Crowley (1875 – 1947). He was so evil that he was called "The Great Beast 666." A number of rock and roll groups such as The Beatles, The Doors and Ozzy Osbourne have paid tribute to him on their albums.
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945), the 32nd and the most autocratic US president of the 20th century.
- Joseph Stalin (1878-1953), one of the greatest mass murders of all time, having killed 30 million people. He specialized in killing his own citizens.
- Ronald Wilson Reagan (1911-2004), was the 40th President of the United States. During the 1980's, many prophetic pundits noticed he had six letters in all three of his names.

18. Whom does Bro. Shelton believe is to be identified with "the number of a man"?

Answer.

19. List four specific details about Satan's future activities revealed in Revelation 20:7-9.

Answer.

First,

Second,

Third,

Fourth,

20. What is promised to the persecuted saints in Revelation 20:9?

Answer.

21. List the two beasts of Revelation 13.

Answer.

There is the Beast from

There is the Beast from

22. Identify the dragon of the Revelation with Scriptural proof.

Answer.

23. In what two areas does Satan operate?

Answer.

First, Satan operates as

Second, Satan operates as

24. How does Bro. Shelton sum up the mark of the beast?

Answer.

25. In what two areas does Satan operate in order to deceive individuals?

Answer.

26. What three signs accompany the “working of Satan”?

Answer.

The working of Satan is manifested by the following.

First,

Second,

Third,

27. List five ways the word “world” is used in the New Testament.

Answer.

- The world is used to describe
- The word is used to describe
- The word is used to describe
- The word is used to describe
- The word is used to describe

28. List six systems known to exist.

Answer.

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29. How does Satan rule all the various systems in the world?

Answer.

30. List 9 tools Satan might employ to deceive others.

Answer.

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31. List 14 ways the world can impress upon and try to influence Christians.

Answer.

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32. Through which three gates does the world pass through to influence the Christian?

Answer.

33. Provide two reasons why God will send men strong delusions.

Answer.

34. What is “carnal Christianity”?

Answer.

Carnal Christianity is the belief that

35. What six truths does atheism deny?

Answer.

- Atheism denies
- Atheism denies
- Atheism denies
- Atheism denies
- Atheism denies
- Atheism denies

36. What would it mean to Christ if Satan was set lose after His second coming and near the end of His reign?

Answer.

37. What Scriptural evidence would refute the idea of a second chance for salvation after death or after Jesus comes the second time for all who believe (Hebrews 9:28).

Answer.

Special Note.

To 2 Corinthians 6:2 can be added Acts 17:30. *Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: The day of salvation is now. There is urgency to the gospel message which must not be withdrawn in a gospel presentation. The church must not be formally charged with offering souls a false sense of security by presenting a future opportunity for salvation when the Bible says today is the day of salvation. Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; 15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.*

38. What biblical evidence is there for teaching that when Christ returns the second time, He is coming in judgment upon the wicked and in mercy upon the righteous; and there is no time period between our Lord's second coming and the Day of Judgment? Provide at least three Scriptural references. Write out the texts. Read them aloud with your mentor.

Answer.

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39. What is a pivotal passage of Scripture for teaching the general resurrection and the general judgment at the second coming of Christ?

Answer.

Special Note.

To John 5:28-29 can be added 2 Timothy 4:1; Acts 17:31, Romans 14:10, and 2 Corinthians 5:10-11. Look these verses up together with your Mentor and read them aloud in unison.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Are you satisfied that the words of Revelation 7:9, “*which no man could number*”, indicates that the 140,000 is representative of completeness, and the number is to be taken symbolically?
2. Comment on, and discuss, the various candidates suggested for “the number of a man”. Begin with Nero and conclude with Bro. Shelton’s idea that “the number of a man” is what every sinner is, a person who is depraved because he has failed and is short of perfection.
3. Since every passage in the New Testament that uses the word “tribulation” indicates suffering, why do so many Christians believe they will escape great tribulation?
 - *John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*
 - *Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*
 - *1 Thessalonians 3:4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.*
 - *2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*
4. Why is there so much pleasure in unrighteousness? Why is sin so appealing?
5. What are some examples of the strong delusions that God has sent that men might believe a lie? Discuss whether or not some of the following teachings and organizations include strong delusions.
 - Evolution
 - United Nations
 - Communism
 - Ecumenicalism
 - Pentecostalism
 - The Health and Wealth Gospel
 - Self-esteem Theology
 - Liberation Theology
 - Arminianism
 - Free will
 - The Rapture and Pre-tribulational Dispensationalism
 - Mormonism
6. Mormonism teaches there is a second chance for a person to be saved after death. Do you believe that? Should the church teach there is a second chance for salvation after the Lord comes?

7. Do you agree that the Rapture, Pre-tribulational, Dispensational teaching advocates three comings of Christ?

- First Coming. The First Advent birth
- Second Coming. The Rapture (Christ comes for His saints)
- Third Coming. The Second Advent (Christ comes with His saints)

Special Note.

Classic Dispensational teachers unite the Rapture and the Second Advent into one event happening in two stages, or two phases, even though these two events are separated by a seven year time period and are going in opposite directions. Is such teaching reasonable?

8. Do you still believe in the doctrine of the Rapture? Has not Bro. Shelton made a strong case, with Scripture, that there is no secret Rapture and there is no second chance for sinners to be saved after Jesus has come? If you still believe in a secret Rapture, discuss what you believe is the biblical evidence for such a position.

Heart Work

1. Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ?
Yes _____ No _____
2. Are you an antichrist?
Yes _____ No _____
3. Do you personally believe the Devil is a real person?
Yes _____ No _____
4. Do you believe that God has marked, or sealed His own, according to Scripture?
Yes _____ No _____
5. Have you been sealed by the Father?
Yes _____ No _____
6. Have you been sealed by the Son?
Yes _____ No _____
7. Have you been sealed by the Holy Spirit?
Yes _____ No _____
8. Do you have a new heart and a new nature that is given to the people of God?
Yes _____ No _____
9. Have you willingly accepted and received the mark of the beast?
Yes _____ No _____
10. Do you allow the lusts of the flesh to master your soul?
Yes _____ No _____
11. Are you held captive by the devil at his will?
Yes _____ No _____
12. Do you walk according to the course of this world as a child of disobedience?
Yes _____ No _____
13. Do evil thoughts and all manner of sin come out of your heart?
Yes _____ No _____
14. Will you one day be cast into the Lake of Fire which is the Second Death?
Yes _____ No _____
15. Do you recognize, and have you confessed, the depravity of your own heart?
Yes _____ No _____

16. Is Christ, the Hope of glory, in you to enable you to stand?
Yes _____ No _____
17. Is Christ your all in all?
Yes _____ No _____
18. Is your eye upon the Lord Jesus to follow Him no matter what may come upon you?
Yes _____ No _____
19. Do you believe God when He speaks?
Yes _____ No _____
20. Do you have pleasure in unrighteousness?
Yes _____ No _____
21. Are you a carnal Christian?
Yes _____ No _____
22. Do you know Christ as your personal Savior?
Yes _____ No _____
23. Are you trusting Christ to save you?
Yes _____ No _____
24. Have you obeyed the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and closed with Him?
Yes _____ No _____
25. If He comes today, are you prepared?
Yes _____ No _____

Memory Work

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. 7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

**A COMMENTARY OF REVELATION 20
PAST-PRESENT-FUTURE**

**Student's Study Guide
Revelation 20
Chapter 3**

Review

1. What does the phrase, “a thousand years” mean?

Answer.

2. Identify Gog and Magog.

Answer.

3. What do Gog and Magog illustrate?

Answer.

4. Should the “beloved city” of Revelation 20:9 be spiritualized? What Scriptural warrant is there for so doing?

Answer.

5. What passage in Hebrews speaks of Jerusalem as a spiritual city?

Answer.

6. What three truths offend the conscience of men?

Answer.

-
-
-

7. On what two grounds is God justified in punishing sinners?

Answer.

8. How does the natural man open himself to Satan's deception?

Answer.

9. How will Satan again deceive the nations prior to the return of Christ?

Answer.

10. Define "total-depravity".

Answer.

11. Define a tri-part being.

Answer.

12. List 9 facets of man's mental and moral nature.

Answer.

-
-
-
-
-
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-
-

13. Describe the relation of the carnal (natural) mind of man toward God. Provide at least one Biblical reference in support of your answer.

Answer.

Special Note.

To Romans 8:7 can be added Jeremiah 17:9; Ezekiel 36:26; Ephesians 4:18; John 3:19; Romans 5:6; Proverbs 15:8; Psalm 51:5; Isaiah 48:8; 2 Timothy 2:6; and Psalm 58:3.

If you do not mind marking in your Bible, make a chain reference of the Doctrine of Total Depravity by placing by the first text the next reference. For example, at Psalm 51:5 write, T – Psalm 58:3, which indicates, Total Depravity, and then the next reference, Psalm 58:3. Repeat this process. On a blank page in the front, or back, of your Bible write the first Bible reference. You can repeat this process for each of the Doctrines of Grace: T-U-L-I-P. This will aid your memory.

14. What do the following verses say about the natural man?

- 1 Corinthians 2:14
- John 3:19
- Ephesians 2:2-3

Answer.

- 1 Corinthians 2:14 The mind of the natural man is
- John 3:19 The affections of the natural man are
- Ephesians 2:2-3 The will of the natural man is

15. What is worshipped today in addition to the mind?

Answer.

16. List six mediums for promoting sensual sin in society.

Answer.

-
-
-
-
-
-

17. List two ways man has been deceived by Satan.

Answer.

First,

Second,

Special Note.

The late astronomer Carl Sagan (1934-1996), has influenced untold millions in his book *Cosmos*. Sagan declared that the Cosmos is all that is or ever was or ever shall be. He went on to say, "The size and age of the Cosmos are beyond ordinary human understanding. Lost somewhere between immensity and eternity is our tiny planetary home. In a cosmic perspective, most human concerns seem insignificant, even petty." The message is clear. Man is insignificant. God is not interested in us.

18. On what basis is the Lord able to save a sinful rebel?

Answer.

19. In what two areas does Satan work to deceive the souls of men?

Answer.

First, Satan works as

Second, Satan works as

20. Keep in mind, and summarize, Satan's one aim.

Answer.

Satan's one aim is to

21. Clarify what is meant by a "strong delusion." Provide one false doctrinal example.

Answer.

22. Define the following terms.

- Eschatological
- Doctrine of Carnal Christianity
- Easy Believism
- The Gospel of the Grace of God in Christ
- Justification
- Sanctification
- Metaphor.

Answer.

- Eschatological

- Doctrine of Carnal Christianity

- Easy Believism

- The Gospel of the Grace of God in Christ

- Justification

- Sanctification

- Metaphor

23. How does a false gospel change the evangelistic appeal?

Answer.

24. What does the Gospel of the Grace of God in Christ proclaim?

Answer.

25. Can justification be divided from sanctification?

Answer.

26. Bro. Shelton believes the “man of sin” of 2 Thessalonians 2:3, has two other names. How else may he be identified?

Answer.

Special Note.

A Comparison of Two Comings	
Anti-Christ	Christ
Man of Sin	Son of Man
Son of Perdition	Son of God
The Mystery of Iniquity	The Mystery of Godliness
The Wicked One	The Holy One
The Working of Satan	The Working of the Lord of Glory

27. What Scripture can Christians appeal to in support and encouragement of a rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem?

Answer.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Bro. Shelton says, “Take your New Testament and look up all the references from the Old Testament that are used in the New, and you will find to your amazement as I did, that these Old Testament Scriptures are always used to show forth some great spiritual truth; in other words, all the Old Testament Scriptures that are used in the New Testament are given a spiritual meaning, NEVER a material or physical meaning!” Would you agree with his observation? Defend your answer with Scripture.
2. There are several passages of Scripture that speak only of man’s soul and body (Isaiah 10:18; Micah 6:7; Matthew 10:28). When God breathed into the body of Adam, we are told he became a living soul. *Genesis 2:7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.* Is it possible that man consists of body and soul, and the spirit is synonymous with the soul?
3. Do you believe that homosexuality is a medical condition? Can the argument be made that homosexuals are born that way? Can a practicing homosexual be a Christian? Appeal to the Scriptures in support of your answer.
4. Despite the new birth and all the gifts of divine grace, why do Christians continue to struggle with sin? Some even stop struggling against the flesh and just act the way they are. Why?
5. In Chapter 3 Bro. Shelton presents the deception of Satan as a future event. However, does not Satan roam even now, as a roaring lion, seeking to devour and deceive individuals through acts of persecution? Does not Satan even now appeal as an angel of light, as he deceives the mind and works through imitation? If so, then will not any future deception be the same as the present deception? Or, is Bro. Shelton saying something more about Revelation 20:7-10?
6. Do you believe there are three types of men in the Bible: the saved, the lost, and the carnal man? Use Scripture for discussion (1 Corinthians 3:1-3; 9:11; 2 Corinthians 10:4; Hebrews 7:16; Hebrews 9:10).
7. Would you agree with Bro. Shelton that the modern Gospel of Easy Believism appeals to the flesh, gives no power over sin, allows for a false hope of heaven, changes the evangelistic appeal, does not seek to slay the sinner, exalts the pride of man by allowing him to decide if Jesus will be Lord, is self-assertive, and makes no demands on the sinner, such as heart felt sorrow for sin?
8. The term “wicked one” is used six times in Scripture and seems to refer to Satan and not “the man of sin” of 2 Thessalonians 2:3. What is your conclusion? Read Matthew 13:19; 13:38; 1 John 2:13; 2:14; 3:12; 5:18).

9. Is it possible that “the man of sin”, who is also “the son of perdition”, was once a figure of prophecy, but is now a historical figure? Comment on the following observation by Kurt Simmons.

“The whole tenor of Paul's description shows that this was to be an individual of world proportion; an individual of world infamy set out upon a career of lawless and blood lust against the church. The better view is that the man of sin was Nero. Nero was restrained from obtaining the throne of the empire while Claudius remained in power. Claudius was "he who lets will let until he be taken out of the way."

With the poisoning of Claudius by Nero and his mother, Claudius was taken "out of the way" and Nero came to power and was revealed as the man of sin who opposed all that is called God or worshipped. Taking his seat in the temple of God so as to show himself as God was not in reference to Zealot occupation of the Jerusalem temple, but to Nero's rage against the church and all that is held sacred.

His taking his seat in the temple is similar to the Babylonian king's setting his seat on the "sides of the north" (Jerusalem) ruling over the stars of God" (children of Israel). His aspiration to be like the Most High, which is the thrust of the man of sin's ambitions, did not require actual occupation of the temple. (Isaiah 14)

Similar language occurs regarding the king of Tyre who thought he was like God sitting in the heart of the sea. (Ezekiel 28)

These examples of world kings lifting themselves up in their hearts, thinking they are gods, mirrors the language of II Thessalonians 2. The language in both Isa. 14 and Ezek. 28 spoke to world leaders. Hence, we expect the same of II Thessalonians 2.”

Heart Work

1. Do you love the Doctrine of God's Sovereignty?
Yes _____ No _____
2. Do you believe in the Doctrine of the Wrath of God?
Yes _____ No _____
3. Do you believe the doctrine of Total Depravity?
Yes _____ No _____
4. Do you believe the Cosmos is all that is or ever was or ever shall be?
Yes _____ No _____
5. Is there any area of rebellion against the known will of God in your life?
Yes _____ No _____
6. Have you been deceived by Satan into thinking God does not care what you say or do?
Yes _____ No _____
7. Has the Lord purged your conscience from dead works to serve God?
Yes _____ No _____
8. Has the Lord cleansed your soul from the vile and filthy effects of sin?
Yes _____ No _____
9. Has the Lord covered all of your spiritual nakedness before God and clothed you in His righteousness?
Yes _____ No _____
10. Has God granted you the gift of repentance to the acknowledging of the truth?
Yes _____ No _____
11. How did you come into the church? Have you come into the church by listening to a gospel of Easy Believism?
Yes _____ No _____
12. Have you come into the church by embracing The Gospel of the Grace of God in Christ?
Yes _____ No _____

Memory Work

Revelation 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. 12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

**A COMMENTARY OF REVELATION 20
PAST-PRESENT-FUTURE**

**Student's Study Guide
Revelation 20
Chapter 4**

Review

1. Provide a four part division of Revelation 20.

Answer.

- I.
- II.
- III.
- IV.

2. According to Revelation 20:13, what shall happen when Christ returns?

Answer.

3. Identify the two classes of people that shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment.

Answer.

-
-

4. Describe the goats or wicked ones gathered for judgment.

Answer.

5. Describe the sheep who are also gathered for judgment.

Answer.

6. List sixteen characteristics of the Great White Throne.

Answer.

The Great White Throne is a throne of

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The Great White Throne is a throne

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-

The Great White Throne is a throne with

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-
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-

The Great White Throne is

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7. Based on Hebrews 7:26, list four characteristics of the Judge who will preside at the Great White Throne Judgment.

Answer.

The Judge who will preside at the Great White Throne Judgment is

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-
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-

8. According to Philippians 2:10-11 what shall those who are gathered for judgment do together?

Answer.

9. List six world orders that shall be swept away on the Day of Judgment.

Answer.

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10. What four provisions will a person not have on the Day of Judgment without Christ?

Answer.

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-
-
-

11. Name three men who saw the glory of God.

Answer.

-
-
-

12. List six books that are going to be opened out of which men will be judged.

Answer.

- The Book of
- The Book of
- The Book of
- The Book of
- The Book of
- The Book of

13. Whose names are to be found in the Book of Life?

Answer.

14. How does the salvation that is of the Lord, come to us sinners?

Answer.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Why is the teaching so popular of an escape from seven years of great tribulation and a literal millennium reign of Christ on earth with Israel being exalted among the nations?
2. Some teach that only unbelievers will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment. Are they wrong?
3. Do you find any Scriptural basis for believing in multiple judgments?
4. There is much sympathy for the idea that God will be merciful to people who do not know about the Lord Jesus Christ. The hope is that the Lord will save them and give them a place in heaven. Comment on this idea after you read again what Bro. Shelton says in his series of thoughts about the word, “Only” in the section about Isaiah.
5. Since men want to be judged for their “good works”, apart from faith in Christ, do you think it is fair that God will allow that to happen? *Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

Heart Work

1. Do you believe you will be numbered as a “goat” at the Great White Throne Judgment?
Yes _____ No _____
2. Do you believe you will be numbered as a “sheep” at the Great White Throne Judgment?
Yes _____ No _____
3. Have you ever bowed and confessed Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father?
Yes _____ No _____
4. If you have never confessed Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God, would you do that right now?
Yes _____ No _____
5. Have you laid down your arms of rebellion, hoisted the white flag of surrender in repentance, with a change of mind about sin and about God?
Yes _____ No _____
6. Have you bowed your knees unto the Lord Jesus Christ and surrendered your all up to His Lordship, crowning Him Lord of your life?
Yes _____ No _____
7. Have you by faith closed in with Christ, believing Him through grace to be your Savior, and obeying Him as Lord?
Yes _____ No _____
8. Have you counted God as faithful and true in giving His Son for your redemption?
Yes _____ No _____
9. Have you ever stopped and considered where you will spend eternity?
Yes _____ No _____
10. Are you among that number who will testify of the matchless grace of God in that day when this Book is opened?
Yes _____ No _____
11. Have you made your calling and election sure?
Yes _____ No _____
12. Will you stand in the Day of Judgment, washed from all your sins by the precious blood, and clothed in the perfect righteousness of Him Who sits upon that throne?
Yes _____ No _____
13. Will you one day stand before God naked, still in your sins, speechless, and unable to rejoice because you neglected so great salvation and did not bow your knees in repentance to Christ?
Yes _____ No _____

Memory Work

Revelation 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Supplemental Material

Doctrine of the Last Day

1. All the Scriptures of the New Testament that speak of Christ's Second Coming, the Last Day and the Great White Throne Judgment, show that these are one event.
2. On the Last Day, the Lord will judge the world in righteousness. This is the day He has appointed "*...in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead*" (Acts 17:31).
3. On the Last Day the Lord will judge the secrets of men. This is "*...the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel*" (Romans 2:16).
4. On the Last Day all men shall be judged. This is the day when "*we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ...so then every one of us shall give account of himself to God*" (Romans 14:10, 12).
5. On the Last Day all men are to receive their just reward. "*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord we persuade men...*" (2 Corinthians 5:10-11).
6. On the Last Day the living and the dead shall be judged. This is the day when the Lord Jesus Christ "*shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom*" (2 Timothy 4:1).
7. All Scriptures speak of one coming, and one judgment, which is the final day of this world's history when every man shall stand before the Judge and the books shall be opened (Revelation 20:11, 12).
8. Once the books are opened, the Lord will "*render to every man according to his deeds: to them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: but unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness,*"

9. A terrible fate awaits the unrighteous. "*Indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile.*"
10. In contrast, the righteous shall fare much better. "*But glory, honour, and peace to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile. FOR THERE IS NO RESPECT OF PERSONS WITH GOD*" (Romans 2:6-11).

**A COMMENTARY OF REVELATION 20
PAST-PRESENT-FUTURE**

**Student's Study Guide
Revelation 20
Chapter 5**

Review

1. What has God never done first?

Answer.

2. In the four gospels, how many times did the Lord Jesus speak of the judgment of hell?

Answer.

3. Define the word, Gehenna. Where is it located and for what purpose was it used?

Answer.

4. How is the fire of hell different from a normal fire?

Answer.

Special Note.

“He Who kept the burning bush from being consumed before Moses, and He Who kept the three Hebrew children from dying in the fiery furnace of King Nebuchadnezzar can also keep the bodies of those in hell from being destroyed!” (LRS).

5. In what two ways are sinners banished?

Answer.

First,

Second,

6. What is the only thing that God punishes?

Answer.

7. What will a person take into eternity? Use Scripture to support your answer.

Answer.

8. What is meant by there being “a fire for the soul”?

Answer.

9. List the eight classes of sinners that will occupy hell.

Answer.

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-

10. List at least nine Bible characters in the abode of the damned.

Answer.

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-

Reflection and Discussion

1. What should be said to those who believe in the Doctrine of Annihilation of the Soul? Does eternal punishment fit the crime of sinning against God?
2. Bro. Shelton asked God for a broken heart so that he could deliver his messages on the Lake of Fire. Do you think ministers should follow his example and ask God for a love for sinners?
3. Do you think a person who knowingly persists in sin is simply weak, or are they wicked?
4. Is self-image important in the effort to combat sin, live right, and not go to hell? Or, does self-image even matter?
5. What does Bro. Shelton mean when he says that God punishes nothing but sin?
6. Are you familiar with the idea that hell is simply God letting a sinner continue in the sin of choice? What is a proper biblical response to this idea?

A Personal Note.

In 1973, while serving in the United States Army as a chaplain's assistant, I first heard, from a Baptist chaplain speaking to the troops, the idea that hell is a perpetual sin of choice. Bro. Shelton was familiar with this teaching as well. The idea is not new. Dante Alighieri (1265-1321), in one of his works wrote, "*If you insist on having your own way, you will get it. Hell is the enjoyment of your own way forever.*"

Heart Work

1. Do you love the Lord Jesus Christ?
Yes _____ No _____
2. On which side will you be in that great Day of Judgment? Will you be on the Lord's right hand of grace and mercy?
Yes _____ No _____
3. Do you believe in your heart that, *"it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"* (Hebrews 9:27)?
Yes _____ No _____
4. Will you one day be found to be in Christ, washed by faith in His blood, clothed in His righteousness, so you will hear those blessed, blessed words, *"Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" ?*
Yes _____ No _____
5. On the Day of Judgment, will you be with those on the left, standing there in all of your sins, naked before Him and before the world, to hear those awful words, *"Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels"?*
Yes _____ No _____
6. Do you have a broken heart over the lost?
Yes _____ No _____
7. Have you ever literally wept over someone you know is lost and needs salvation?
Yes _____ No _____
8. Would you ask God to give you a broken heart over sinners?
Yes _____ No _____
9. Do you love God supremely?
Yes _____ No _____

Memory Work

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Supplemental Material

**A Biblical List of those that Will Not Inherit
The Kingdom of God**

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

*“Know ye not that the unrighteous
shall not inherit the kingdom of God?
Be not deceived: neither...*

- Fornicators
- Idolaters
- Adulterers
- Effeminate
- Abusers of themselves with mankind
- Thieves
- Covetous
- Drunkards
- Revilers
- Extortioners

...shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

Galatians 5:19-21

*“Now the works of the flesh are manifest,
which are these;*

- Adultery
- Fornication
- Uncleaness
- Lasciviousness (licentiousness)
- Idolatry
- Witchcraft
- Hatred
- Variance (quarrel)
- Emulations (jealousies; self-exaltation)
- Wrath
- Strife
- Seditions
- Heresies
- Envyings
- Murders
- Drunkenness
- Revellings

*and such like: of the which I tell you before,
as I have also told you in time past,
that they which do such things
shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”*

Revelation 22:15

For without are...

- Dogs
- Sorcerers
- Whoremongers
- Murderers
- Idolaters
- Whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Doctrine of Hell

1. Hell is a place of belated belief. Saint Cyprian (200-258) said that in hell, *“The pain of punishment will be without the fruit of penitence; weeping will be useless, and prayer ineffectual. Too late they will believe in eternal punishment who would not believe in eternal life.”*
2. Hell is a place of insatiable selfishness. Dante Alighieri (1265-1321), in one of his works wrote, *“If you insist on having your own way, you will get it. Hell is the enjoyment of your own way forever.”*
3. Hell is the place of satanic reward. The great evangelist Billy Sunday (1862-1935) noted, *“Hell is the highest reward that the devil can offer you for being a servant of his.”*
4. Hell is the final resting-place of personal ambition. William Henry Davies (1871-1940),

*“I had ambition, by which sin
The angels fell;
I climbed, and step by step, O Lord,
Ascended into hell.”*

5. Hell is the place of eternal separation from God. W.R. Matthews (1818-1909) declared that, *“The essence of hell is complete separation from God, and that is the ultimate disaster.”*
6. Hell is a place of utter despair. Said Martin Luther (1483-1546), even,

*“The gnashing of teeth despair,
when men see themselves abandoned by God.”*

“What do the damned endure, but despair?”

asked William Congreve (1670-1729).

On the entrance into hell a sign could be posted that reads,

“Abandon hope all ye who enter here.”

7. Hell is a place without music, without laughter, and without joy or hope. “There are harps in heaven, but cymbals in hell” reads an ancient Irish Proverb.
8. Hell is a place without love and without the capacity to love. A great Russian author asked, “*What is hell?*” and then answered by saying that hell is, “*The suffering that comes from the consciousness that one is no longer able to love*” (Fyodor Mikhaylovich Dostoyevski, 1821-1881).
9. The reason why there is no capacity to love in hell is because self is the core of existence. One author has well said that, “*We must picture hell as a state where everyone is perpetually concerned about his own dignity and advancement, where everyone has a grievance, and where everyone lives the deadly serious passions of envy, self-importance, and resentment*” (C. S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*, p. ix).
10. Hell is a place of incredible hatred. “*Hell is where no one has anything in common with anybody else except the fact that they all hate one another and cannot get away from one another and from themselves*” (Thomas Merton, 1915-1968).
11. Hell is a place that is easy to get to. “*The road to hell is easy to travel; the road to heaven is not*” (Isaac Asimov). Jesus said “*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it*” (Matthew 7:13-14).
12. Hell is a place full of sincere people who were sincerely wrong. It was James Boswell (1740-1795) who observed that, “*Hell is paved with good intentions*”.
13. Because hell is real, because hell is a horrible place, individuals are commanded to deal radically with sin, “*For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt*” (Mark 9:49).

**A COMMENTARY OF REVELATION 20
PAST-PRESENT-FUTURE**

**Student's Study Guide
Revelation 20
Chapter 6**

Review

1. List four conditions of the eternal state.

Answer.

First,
Second,
Third,
Fourth,

2. Summarize seven great spiritual truths Bro. Shelton examined relating to the new earth.

Answer.

First,
Second,
Third,
Fourth,
Fifth,
Sixth,
Seventh,

3. Why does the feminist movement of today hate the first chapters of Genesis?

Answer.

4. What is a driving cause for the murder-killing of unborn children in their mother's womb?

Answer.

5. List at least three qualification of a kinsman redeemer of persons, of inheritance and land.

Answer.

First,
Second,
Third,

6. What spiritual truth does Isaiah 11:6-9 and Isaiah 55:12-13 teach in symbolic language?

Answer.

7. Provide at least four passages that can be appealed to teach the Doctrine of the Perpetuity of the Earth.

Answer.

-
-
-
-
-

8. When will the complete restoration of the earth take place? Support your answer with Scripture.

Answer.

9. Can sin be eradicated from the life and body in this life?

Answer.

Reflection and Discussion

1. Bro. Shelton traces the misunderstanding regarding the new earth, and the final abode of the righteous, to be a failure to start with God in the study of Christ and the End Times. This “has led to the mass confusion today in regard to sin, salvation, death, heaven, hell, the intermediate state; and also in regard to the work of Christ in all of His offices of Prophet, Priest and King, His present reign in His kingdom now, His glorious second coming, the Great White Throne Judgment, the final abode of the wicked in the lake of fire, and the final state of the redeemed children of God! “ Would you agree that this is the root cause of the problem? Consider other causes such as spiritual immaturity (2 Timothy 4:3), and false teachers who want personal power and glory (1 Timothy 4:1-3).
2. Many Christians embrace theistic evolution whereby, it is argued, God used the evolutionary process to bring forth man. What would be your response to the idea of theistic evolution?
3. Bro. Shelton speculates that Adam and Eve stayed in the Garden of Eden, the place of perfect tranquility and harmony, for the same amount of time our Lord was tempted in the wilderness after His baptism, which was forty days. What are your thoughts on this time frame?
4. Jesus is often referred to as the “second Adam.” Would it be more proper to refer to Him as the “last Adam” as per 1 Corinthians 15:45. “*And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.*” Does it matter? Consider this statement by Dr. Bill Greenhaw of the Creation Museum. “The Last Adam implies that there would not be a third representative man, sinless, as were both Christ and Adam.”
5. What should be said to those who believe in the Doctrine of Sinless perfection or the eradication of sin in this present life? Read together 1 John 1:8-10. “*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*”

Heart Work

1. Do you cry like David in Psalm 42:1, 2: *“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?”*
Yes _____ No _____
2. Do you have a thirsty soul for the Lord?
Yes _____ No _____
3. Are you one who is longing to see the Lord’s face and thirsting to be filled with His presence and His glory?
Yes _____ No _____
4. Are you crying out in your soul, *“I want Him, I desire Him, ‘Oh that I knew where I might find Him!’”*
Yes _____ No _____
5. Do you believe that you continue to sin in this present life?
Yes _____ No _____
6. Do you confess your sin to God?
Yes _____ No _____
7. Do you believe God is faithful and just to forgive you for your sin when you confess it to Him?
Yes _____ No _____

Memory Work

Isaiah 55:1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

“Come, every soul by sin oppressed;
There’s mercy with the Lord,
And He will surely give you rest
By trusting in His Word.

Only trust Him, only trust Him,
Only trust Him now;
He will save you, He will save you,
He will save you now.

For Jesus shed His precious blood
Rich blessings to bestow;
Plunge now into the crimson flood
That washes white as snow.

Yes, Jesus is the truth, the way,
That leads you into rest;
Believe in Him without delay
And you are fully blessed.

Come, then, and join this holy band,
And on to glory go
To dwell in that celestial land
Where joys immortal flow.

O Jesus, blessèd Jesus, dear,
I’m coming now to Thee;
Since Thou hast made the way so clear
And full salvation free.”

John H. Stockton
1869