

Corresponds to Program 70-72

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the NKJV and KJV.

Everlasting Burning, The New Jerusalem, & The Glorious Finale STUDY GUIDE

EVERLASTING BURNING

Revelation 20:10

The beast and the false prophet are earthly powers, specifically the two earthly religious/political systems that enforced the mark of the beast just before the second coming of Jesus (Revelation 13:11-17). The lake of fire represents the final destruction of anything and everything that is thrown into it. The beast and the false prophet are pictured as already in the lake of fire when the dragon—the devil—is thrown in after the millennium. This is because the beast and the false prophet were completely destroyed at the second coming of Jesus. The devil was not. He was left to roam the desolate earth with no one to tempt for 1,000 years. Then, at the end of this time, in the course of the executive judgment, the dragon joins the beast and the false prophet in the lake of fire. The devil is then finally destroyed.

Revelation 20:8

According to Ezekiel 38 and 39, Gog and Magog are prophetic representations of the enemies of God and His people. These enemies will come against God in the last days. The four quarters represent the whole earth. Gog and Magog represent the unredeemed people of the whole world coming against God and His people in the New Jerusalem after the 1,000 years. The religious/political systems have been destroyed already at the second coming of Christ. Now Gog and Magog—the unredeemed people from the whole earth—determine to bring one final attack against the New Jerusalem. Ezekiel 38 and 39 are an almost perfect parallel explanation of what is happening in this last part of Revelation 20.

Revelation 20:13-15; Hebrews 12:29; Song of Solomon 8:6-7

In the Bible, fire is a symbol of love. The Holy Spirit comes in the form of fire (Acts 2). God comes to Moses like a burning bush of fire (Exodus 3:2). The eyes of Christ are like a flame of fire (Revelation 1:14). When Ezekiel saw God, he describes a fire coming forth from before Him (Ezekiel 1:4, 13). God's redeemed will stand on a sea of glass mingled with fire (Revelation 15:2-5). New Jerusalem is a city of fire (Zechariah 2:5). Often, we speak of rekindling the flame of love in human relationships. Fire is heaven's love language, and God's people are to be fireproof. They achieve this by trusting in God (Daniel 3:16-26). In this sense, it is not the wicked that dwell forever in everlasting burnings, it is the righteous that dwell in everlasting burnings, in the presence of a God of holy, fiery love (Isaiah 33:14-17).

This is why God wants to baptize us with fire in preparation for heaven (Matthew 3:11). God's love will make us His children again. We shall appear like Him, for we shall see Him as He is: a God of fiery

love (1 John 3:1-2). Those who refuse to let go of the lies about God and His character of love will not be able to stand in the fire of His presence but will be consumed by His "unusual act" of justice (Isaiah 28:14-22). It is unusual because a God of love takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

Revelation 21:1-4

These verses describe God's ultimate plan for us. This has always been His plan for us. Sin interrupted that plan, but God will restore this earth to its Edenic beauty. Not only that, but God's going to make the Earth, the one planet that rebelled



“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are...”

REVELATION 20:10

KEY SCRIPTURES

Rev. 20:12 AND I SAW THE DEAD...STANDING BEFORE GOD

Rev. 21:1 I SAW A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH

Rev. 20:13 THEY WERE JUDGED...ACCORDING TO HIS WORKS

Rev. 21:6 IT IS DONE

against God, the very center of His universe. That is because God will dwell with us, and where God is, His universe centers. The fire of God will consume the old and all things will be made new. This love story, which has been difficult at best, is brought to the happy-ever-after union that many of us dream of and hope for.

Revelation 21:5-27

The things that we treasure on this earth, gold, pearls, and precious stones, are building materials in heaven. Gold is blacktop in heaven, used for the pavement under our feet. We cherish gold, and even hoard it as our treasure, our “bling.” In heaven, gold and silver are secondary, people are number one. The New Jerusalem gates are named after the 12 tribes. The foundations are named after the chosen 12 apostles. Peoples, personalities, characters, and hearts are what matters most to God. They are the most important thing in heaven.

Romans 8:18

Our greatest trials cannot be compared with the gift of eternal life. There is nothing that we have suffered that will not be more than reconciled by the gift of life forevermore in the very presence of our Lord and Savior.

Revelation 22:1-4

We are going to see the face of God. Christ is going to look at us as His long-lost children, finally brought home. He will be so satisfied that we are there with Him for eternity. His heart will be made glad because we said “yes” to His unending love.

THE GLORIOUS FINALE

Revelation 22:9

The Apostle John, a tried and trusted disciple of Jesus Christ, reveals an important insight into fallen human nature in this verse. Human beings were created to worship God. It is interesting that in the Bible, angels are likened to stars (Revelation 12:4). In our human experience, we often look up to and worship human beings that we call “stars.” Sports stars, movie stars, music stars, TV stars, and even political stars. It is fallen human nature at its best, worshipping creatures instead of the Creator. This is a stark reminder of how susceptible human nature is going to be when faced with the deception of the fallen angel, Lucifer, when he appears, personating Christ. John’s experience was no different. Even in the ages past, an apostle was twice inclined to worship a created angel in the place of God. This tells us that our fallen, creature-worshipping nature will be with us to the end. However, as noted by the reaction of the angel to John, all heaven is enlisted to help us get our worship centered back on the Creator rather than the created.

Revelation 22:10-12

The book of Revelation is not a sealed book, as seen in the angel’s clear instruction to John as he closed the book. The book of Revelation is intended to be an open book, a blessing from God. Its prophecies were to be understood by God’s people in every generation, from John’s time to ours. It takes us through John’s time, the apostolic age, and ushers us down the corridors of time to the very end of sin and the coming of the new heaven and the new earth. This is a principle of prophetic interpretation we call Historicism. God reveals prophetic history to every generation of His people from ages past to far into the future. This principle of interpretation gives us a point of reference and directs us to an understanding of what is past, present, and future. And in this sense, Historicism is all-inclusive, including Preterism and Futurism (past and future prophecies). It also includes what we call Idealism, which is an interpretation of prophecy that focuses on the principles involved in the prophecy without focusing on the specific history involved. In Historicism, we look back, we look forward, and we look at principles. Historicism is foundational to a correct understanding of prophecy and God, Who is, was, and is to come (Revelation 1:4, 8, 19).

Revelation 22:14; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

The summation of the whole matter that God is calling us to, according to Revelation and Ecclesiastes, is the keeping of God’s commandments. This commandment-keeping is a form of wedding vow that expresses love. God loves us (1 John 4:19), and we love Him (John 14:15), therefore, we keep His commandments (Revelation 14:12). Love is the summation of the character of God (Matthew 22:36-40), and love is the image in which we were created. Created to love, restored to love, forever in love. What a destiny! What a calling!

Revelation 22:15

Lies, dishonesty, and deception were the foundation of sin. The devil is the father of lies (John 8:44). He lied about the character God in heaven. Then, he lied about God in the garden of Eden. Eventually, all the lies about God will be exposed and all liars will be either transformed and saved by grace or forever lost along with the devil.

Revelation 22:17

All are welcome to come to Christ. All are called to join the great family reunion in the new heaven and the new earth. Whoever hears, whoever thirsts, whoever will come and take of the water of life freely, just come. You will not be cast out (John 6:37).

Summary

The book of Revelation is indeed the Revelation of Jesus Christ. It is all about His love for His bride. Whoever will, may experience the love of God for He loves us all. His love is fiery hot and cannot be quenched. He longs to fill us with this love so that we may abide in His presence forever. He has a place for us. It is a beautiful place beyond our wildest imagi-

nation, and the most important, the most valuable commodity in this place is you. People are what God is all about. Not gold, not pearls, but people. God wants you with Him more than you, yourself, want it. He will only be satisfied if you are there with Him for all eternity. Please say yes to God. Say yes to Jesus. Say yes to the Spirit and the bride. In Jesus' name, amen. ★

