

INTRO

We're now into the **home stretch** in our study in Rev.

Chs 17 & 18 were the last turn on the track of the Great Trib as they showed the destruction of what's called "Babylon" The age-old satanic conspiracy to unite the world in rebellion against God.

Ch 17 described the fate of the 1-world religious system at the **mid-point** of the Trib.

Ch 18 is the fate of the 1-world political/economic system at the **end** of the Trib.

Both of these systems, the religious and the political, have been long in the design and manufacture.

The seeds of **ecumenicalism**, of bringing the religions of the world together in 1 Faith, were planted in the soil of 19th C **liberalism**.

Many groups have been at work for decades bringing the religions of the world to common ground.

For 30 yrs, the UN has labored to bring about a **global spirituality**.

The **Earth Charter** is the brain child of a group of Globalists like **Mikhail Gorbachev & Steven Rockefeller**.

The Earth Charter is a Constitution for Global Government, yoking mankind in a religious, political, & economic union.

Once the Earth Charter was written, it was placed in what's called the **Ark of Hope**.

A **replica** of the **Ark of the Covenant**.

As you know, the Ark was the center of the Jewish Temple & represented **the throne of God**.

Here it is – [pictures]

During the 1st ½ of the Trib, as the antichrist moves to consolidate control, he'll **use** religion as a way to solidify his rule.

Once all the pieces are in place at the mid-point of the Trib, w/the temple in Jerusalem rebuilt, he'll enter the Holy of holies, set up an image of himself there & demand the world worship him.

He'll sweep away any religious leadership that opposes him & commandeer all property.

The long battle between religion & state ends w/their merging into 1 overarching system.

The State becomes God, **embodied** in the antichrist.

But this arrangement only lasts 3½ yrs. Then God says, "Okay, that's enough."

Ch 19 tells us **that** part of the story . . .

¹ After these things . . .

These words mark a **change**.

The bulk of Rev. so far has been visions of God's judgments of a rebellious world.

Some of that judgment is just the **results/consequences** of foolish choices; people reaping what they've sown.

Other judgments are the **direct action** of God's wrath letting loose catastrophe.

But the **point** of it all has been to **confront rebel mankind** w/the folly of rejecting God.

Now the **theme** of Rev. **changes** as it moves to speak of God's plan **for His own**.

When John says, "After these things..." he means after God's judgments stretching all the way back to ch6.

¹ After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power *belong* to the Lord our God!" ² For true and righteous *are* His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants *shed* by her."

All of heaven breaks out in worship & praise because the great pretender has been put down.

18:20 said -

"Rejoice over her, O heaven, and *you* holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!"

Here in ch19 is where that rejoicing happens.

³ Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" ⁴ And the 24 elders and the 4 living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" ⁵ Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!" ⁶ And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

We covered these vs a few weeks ago, so we'll be more summary with them tonight.

The hosts of heaven praise God because the All-powerful God is the Lord who reigns!

They worship **loudly** because that oft spoken prayer of the people of God from the dawn of time day is finally answered.

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

If you've ever been to a major league baseball game, you have an illustration of the tension & excitement building in heaven.

When you go to the game, you don't go for the **pre-game** stuff.

There's batting practice; special guests who get to walk the field & throw some balls.

The grounds-keepers drag the infield & wet it down.

Then, the announcer introduces the starting line up & you know the 1st pitch is minutes away.

But when he says, "Everyone please rise for the singing of the National Anthem," you know the **next** thing is the game.

In ch19, all the preliminaries have taken place.

The field of Earth is prepped. // All the major players have been introduced.

And now we have the heavenly choir singing the **Universal Anthem** - "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

All that's left is for Jesus to walk to the plate and hit one over the Center Field stands & deep into the parking lot.

And now we get to the vs we covered this **last** Sunday.

⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

The imagery here is of a Jewish Wedding Ceremony, which we covered in depth Sunday.

Such wedding imagery was for Jews a **familiar image** of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus **frequently** used it in His parables of the Kingdom.

As we come to v10, John is **overwhelmed** by all he's seen.

¹⁰ And I fell at his feet to worship him.

Think of John at this point. How utterly wrung out must he be?

Think of all the emotion of seeing 13 chs of the most intense judgments & all the hideous wickedness conducted by the antichrist & his allies during the Trib!

Then, the relief when it's all done and Jesus returns.

Can't you **feel** John's relief & gratitude evil has finally been put down & Jesus' victory is assured.

So he falls at the feet of the 1 speaking to him & begins to worship.

But he said to me, "See *that you do not do that!*"

Note all the *italics* in that exclamation.

Those words are added by translators to give better sense in English.

But sometimes those attempts at giving the **sense** of the text obscure the original **emphasis**.

Literally, the messenger said, "**Hora may = See not!**"

This is a quick-intense command "Knock it off! Get up! What are you doing?"

I am your fellow servant, & of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

The messenger was just a fellow believer. Worship is to be given to God **alone!**

The last phrase of v10 is crucial: "The testimony of Jesus **is** the spirit of prophecy."

The core & goal of **all** true prophecy is to promote the message of Christ.

When we began our study in Rev, we made the point that John calls it the Rev, the unveiling of what?

The last days? Judgment? Catastrophe? Earthquakes, plagues? It's the Rev of *Jesus Christ!*

The Book of Daniel is called the **Revelation of the OT**.

The core of the prophecies in Daniel are the Coming Messiah.

We must ever bear in mind all **genuine prophecy** aims at the exaltation of Christ & promotion of the Gospel.

Psychic hotlines & astrological charts are bogus because they **ignore** Jesus.

¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, & behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful & True, & in righteousness He judges & makes war.

This is it: The 2nd Coming.

It's fitting John sees a **white horse** emerge from heaven.

This was the mount a victorious general rode in the victory parade thrown when He returned triumphant from battle.

Jesus is **GOING** to war here. But there's no doubt about the outcome.

The deciding blow was dealt at the Cross & this is merely the mop-up operation.

John sees no need to name the Rider. His identity is obvious.

He's the Faithful One. The True One.

And the war He wages is just; it's righteous.

This is a **just war** because it finally & forever brings an end to evil.

¹² His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, & on His head *were* many crowns.

This is why the War He wages is righteous; because nothing escapes His sight & as the Sovereign One, He executes perfect justice.

Romans 2:16 speaks of the day Jesus judges the **secrets** of men.

God looks beyond our actions to the motives behind them.

He knows what's in our hearts, & **that** is the basis of His judgment.

In **Heb 4:13** we read that there is no creature hidden from God's sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

When an ancient ruler wanted to extend his territory into an **empire**, he conquered surrounding regions, capturing & wearing the crowns of the vanquished rulers.

Once he had several, he'd remove the gems, melt the gold & fashion a new crown that combined them all.

John sees Jesus as the King of kings who possesses **ALL** authority.

All those kingdoms the devil offered him a shortcut to in the temptation in the wilderness, have now been secured by His obedience to the Father.

He had a name written that no 1 knew except Himself.

Precisely what John means here is uncertain.

Most commentators believe this name isn't given at this point because John only has a vision of this future event.

The name can't be known until the 2nd Coming.

Remember that in the ancient world, the **use** of a name indicated intimacy & participation.

A man didn't address just any woman by her first name because that was reserved for her immediate family; he instead used the respectful but less personal, "**Woman.**"

A king had special names & titles only certain people familiar w/him could use when speaking **to** him or even **about** him.

In the 2nd Coming, Jesus will reveal to us a name for Himself that will mark our special connection to Him.

Maybe a bit like pet-names lovers use for each other they would never dare let any1 else know.

¹³ He *was* clothed w/a robe dipped in blood, & His name is called The Word of God.

In ch14, we read of Jesus trampling the wine-press of God's wrath.

His vesture, His garment is splattered by the blood of His enemies.

That's what we see here.

¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white & clean, followed Him on white horses.

In vs7&8, fine linen clothing is for the Bride of Christ, the Church, believers.

When the Lord comes again, He comes w/the saints, His warrior bride.

Note here there's no mention that the saints are taken up FROM the Earth.

No. When Christ comes again, He comes WITH the saints, not for them.

¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them w/a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness & wrath of Almighty God.

Many ask, did John see an **actual** sword coming out of Jesus' mouth?

Possibly. But if so, he understood it as **symbolic** of God's Word.

The **point** is that Jesus won't wage **physical** war.

He won't come swinging a sword or axe, mowing down his enemies by lopping off heads.

His spoken Word of command is enough to affect His will.

The 1 Who spoke & Creation leapt into existence will speak & His enemies will fall.

Then He will rule w/a rod, that is a **scepter**, of iron.

Meaning His rule is sovereign & unimpeachable.

Jesus will not preside as a **constitutional monarch**.

The Kingdom of God is no **democracy**.

It's not a **republic** where we elect officers.

Jesus won't have to get His rule **ratified** by a Parliament or Congress.

He rules as the Sovereign Authority that can't be gainsaid.

¹⁶ And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

This is **besides** His mystery name that will only be revealed at the 2nd Coming.

V12 says Jesus will wear many crowns.

Not only did a conqueror claim the **crown** of a vanquished foe, he gained their **titles**.

Jesus is the King over all kings; Lord of all lords.

¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; & he cried w/a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come & gather together for the supper of the great God, ¹⁸ that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses & of those who sit on them, & the flesh of all *people*, free & slave, both small & great."

As we saw in an earlier study, Jesus returns at the height of the Battle of Armageddon which He brings a swift & decisive end to.

The carnage will be so vast it provides a feast for scavengers.

But this is more than just a divine invitation to the scavengers to come feast.

To be left unburied, to be left for wild beasts to consume was the ultimate dishonor that could be done to the people of the ancient world; especially to the Middle Eastern & Oriental mindset.

And that's the point here.

These people united behind the antichrist in their desire to achieve significance apart from God.

They might be able to find some kind of **perverted dignity** by dying in battle.

But only if they were buried & a monument was erected over them to memorialize their sacrifice.

Nothing could be more tragic, in their minds, than dying & being picked apart by a vulture's beak.

¹⁹ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, & their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse & against His army.

Note how the battle plays out now

²⁰ Then the beast was captured, & w/him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast & those who worshiped his image. These 2 were cast alive into the lake of fire burning w/brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were killed w/the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled w/their flesh.

There's no real battle when Jesus comes.

Jesus speaks, & it's over, just like that.

The antichrist & false prophet are taken, judged & thrown into the Lake of Fire, which is what we know as **hell**.

The rest of the combatants are immediately slain.

Their spirits wait to be judged at the Great White throne judgment a thousand years later.

CHAPTER 20

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit & a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil & Satan, & bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, & shut him up, & set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. John sees **an** angel comes from heaven.

There's no mention of **which** angel it is.

The power of Satan is revealed in the fact when it comes time to put him away, it isn't God who deals with him, nor is it 1 of the major heavenly heavyweights like Michael.

It's some nameless angel.

He carries a key & chain.

The key is to the bottomless pit.

We first encountered this pit in ch9 where it was opened & creatures like locusts came out.

They had power to inflict torment on people for 5 months during the Trib.

When we studied ch9, we saw that the bottomless pit seems to be a kind of spiritual **holding bin**, a **prison** for malevolent & especially wicked demons.

It serves that purpose once **again**, as this angel unlocks the pit, wraps the devil in a great chain, & seals him in.

In v2, a seal is set on the devil; meaning on the pit that holds him.

Satan's incarceration in the bottomless pit isn't for **punishment**; it's to shut him up.

For a thousand yrs, the devil's influence will be banished from Earth.

Though it's not stated explicitly here, most commentators believe the devil's binding & stay in the pit includes the demons as well.

All spiritual influences of evil will be removed from earth & locked away in this spiritual prison for a thousand yrs.

But then, as it says at the end of v3, the devil will be released once more for a short time – for reasons that become clear later.

⁴ And I saw thrones, & they sat on them, & judgment was committed to them.

The "they" here is determined by the closest previous reference; & that's found in 19:14 = The saints who return w/Christ.

This is the Church, that glorious Bride of Christ who comes forth from her Bridal Chamber in Heaven when Christ returns.

To this number **more** are added -

Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus & for the Word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, & had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived & reigned w/Christ for a thousand yrs.

In Rev6, when the 5th seal was broken, John saw the souls of the martyrs, under the heavenly altar.

They asked how long it would be till their blood was avenged on the earth-dwellers.

They were told to wait till their full number was reached, then they'd be vindicated.

Here's that promised vindication.

They're raised & given authority to rule w/Christ for the duration of the Millennium.

What a **turnaround** from the horrors they experienced during the Trib.

Because they refused to worship the A/C & take his mark of loyalty, they were executed.

They rejected the short-lived & pitiful kingdom of rebel man in favor of the eternal Kingdom of Christ.

The devil scraped together a rule of only 3½ yrs Jesus will reign **for a thousand!**

And His people will rule w/Him.

The question is: **Rule what?**

Over Earth.

Over those who managed to survive the Trib.

When Jesus returns, those who've received the mark of the beast will be judged & wiped out.

All that will be left are those believers who managed to survive; & those few who somehow escaped taking the mark.

In Matt 25, Jesus speaks of the judgment of the nations.

That's not a judgment for salvation.

It's a judgment to see who will be allowed into the Millennial Kingdom.

The unworthy will be executed while the worthy will be allowed **into** the Millennium.

Because Earth will be restored to a state of paradise, life spans will lengthen as they were before the Flood & people will have lots & lots of kids.

These will in turn mature & have their own families.

Earth will see a new population boom.

It's over all these the saints will rule.

⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand yrs were finished.
These are those who died without faith in Christ.

It includes all those from the dawn of creation right up to the 2nd Coming.

This *is* the 1st resurrection. ⁶ Blessed & holy *is* he who has part in the 1st resurrection. Over such the 2nd death has no power, but they shall be priests of God & of Christ, & shall reign w/Him a thousand yrs.

The word “**first**” might confuse us because in English its *primary* meaning speaks of a *sequence* & points to a single point in time.

But the **first resurrection** isn't a 1-time event; it's not the 1st of many resurrections.

The **first** rez refers to the transition from the mortal body to the eternal immortal body of **ALL** those who are saved.

This includes OT believers, the Church, Trib saints, even Millennial believers.

Jesus's resurrection was the **very first** (1 Cor. 15:20,23).

The Rapture will be the **next phase** of the First Rez.

Then at the 2nd Coming there'll be another round for the Trib martyrs will rise, as we read in v 4.

Those who participate in the 1st rez are blessed because they'll never see the 2nd death; eternal separation from God.

Born once, die twice. Born twice, die once.

5 times in vs 1-6 John speaks of a thousand years as a *block of time* in which the devil is locked away & the saints rule Earth.

The Bible has many other references to the millennial reign of Christ.

Tragically, throughout history the Church has often ignored the promise of the Millennium.

The early church **universally** believed in an earthly, historical reign of Jesus, initiated by His visible 2nd Coming.

It wasn't until the late 4th C when a guy named **Tyconius** said the Millennium was to be understood as only a **spiritual** realm.

He advocated the view that the Millennium began w/the Ascension of Christ & that it would stretch on for a long time; not a literal thousand yrs.

His view was adopted by **Augustine**, who influenced most of the Church for the next 1400 years.

But the earthly reign of Christ with His people is plainly taught in the Old & New Testaments.

There are more than 400 vs in 20 different passages in the OT which speak to this.

Psa 72, Isaiah 2 & 11, Jer 23 are some of the hallmark passages of the OT.

In the NT, the Millennium is found in Luke 1, Matthew 5, Luke 19 & others.

As we piece the various passages together we find that during the Millennium –

1) Israel will be the “superpower” of the world. (Isa 2:1-3, Eze 17:22-24)

Jerusalem will be the “capital” of the Messiah's govt.

2) The citizens of Earth will acknowledge & submit to the Lordship of Jesus. (Isa 2:1-5)

It'll be a time of perfectly administrated & enforced righteousness.

3) There'll be no more war. (Isa 2:1-5 Psa 2)

There will still be conflicts between individuals, but they'll be decisively resolved by the Messiah & those who reign w/Him.

4) The way animals relate to each other & humans will be transformed. (Isa 11:6-9)

A child will be able to lead a wolf, leopard, lion or bear.

The danger from predators like cobras & vipers will be gone.

5) King David will have a prominent place in the Millennial Earth, likely ruling over Israel. (Isai 55:3-5, Jer 30:4-11, Eze 34:23-31 & 37:21-28, Hosea 3:5)

6) There'll be blessing & security for national Israel in the millennial earth (Amos 9:11-15).

7) The Millennium will be a time of global holiness & devotion to God (Zech 13:1-9).

8) There'll be a rebuilt temple as a memorial to God's work in the past. (Eze 20:39-44; 40-48; 37:26-28, Amos 9:11).

9) Resurrected saints will be given responsibility in the Millennial Earth according to their faithful

service (Luke 19:11-27, Rev 20:4-6; 2:26-28; 3:12,22, 1 Cor. 6:2-3).

So; **is** this a **literal** thousands yrs or should we take this number to be **symbolic**?

Following the rules for interpreting scripture, we take a number literally unless there's a clear & compelling reason to do otherwise.

The Bible's frequent reference to the Earthly reign of the Messiah demands we understand the Millennium literally.

Not only that, here in vs3&5, John **prefaces** the word "thousand" w/the definite article "**the**"– which in Greek puts **emphasis** on the "thousand" as something to be understood as REAL!

The Millennium is important as an historical epoch because it demonstrates Jesus' victory & worthiness to rule the nations.

The world will see the perfection of God's righteousness.

It reveals the depths of man's depravity that even in the **midst** of a perfect environment, some will rebel.

Remember that v3 says the devil is bound for a thousand yrs, then released for a little.

That's so that **after** having a 1,000 yrs of paradise & perfect govt, the true hearts of men & women can be revealed as they're given an opportunity to rebel or remain faithful.

You see, some people believe humans are basically good, & deep down really **want** the right & good thing.

They think man is innocent, & only corrupted by a bad environment.

The Millennium will prove once & for all the problem isn't the environment or circumstances.

Man's problem is his own inner bent toward evil.

So the Millennium is crucial to vindicate the Holiness of God & all He's done throughout history.

⁷ Now when the thousand yrs have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the 4 corners of the earth, Gog & Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea.

Gog & Magog are mentioned in Eze 38&9 as part of a massive end times coalition that attacks Israel and is wiped out by God.

But that happens over a thousand years **before** this.

John says this force is **global** & uses the labels of the prior collation as a symbol **for the world** that unites against God & His people.

He does so, because like that prior attack, this 1 will meet the same fate.

⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth & surrounded the camp of the saints & the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven & devoured them. ¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire & brimstone where the beast & the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day & night forever & ever. When the Millennium is complete, satan is loosed from the bottomless pit & goes forth to deceive the nations once more.

He rallies a vast force & they come to lay siege to Jerusalem.

But there's no battle.

Having proved His point that the problem is rebel man, God ends it by sending fire from heaven that consumes the rebels.

The devil is sent to the lake of fire where the antichrist & false prophet **ARE**!

Note that.

The antichrist & false prophet were cast into hell at the beginning of the thousand yrs.

Here, a thousand yrs later, **they're still there**.

They're conscious. They haven't been **annihilated**!

I mention this because it's become fashionable in some circles to say that the lost are **annihilated**.

They think of hell as a fire that consumes & brings an end to existence.

That is not at all the picture of hell the scriptures paint.

On the contrary, Jesus often referred to it as a place of outer darkness where there's weeping & gnashing of teeth.

It's a place of conscious, eternal torment.

Those who advocate annihilation do so out of a desire to make God **look better**.

Confining people to eternal torment seems harsh & doesn't square w/their ideas of a loving God.

They've forgotten the Cross! God's love & mercy are revealed **there**.

He's done **all that could** be done to **save** people from hell.

Human beings were created in God's image & that includes immortality.

It also means being able to choose.

Without choice, love's not possible. Love must be free.

And in order for love to be free, God has to honor the choices people make.

Just as people can choose to spend eternity with Him, they can choose not to.

And God honors that choice too.

Hell is simply God giving people what they want; existence w/o Him.

The whole debate over annihilation is resolved by the concluding phrase of v10 –

And they will be tormented day & night forever & ever.

Sorry, but there's **no way** you can square annihilation of the lost w/the wording here.

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne & Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth & the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

This is it: The final judgment of the lost.

John sees a brilliantly-white royal throne.

On it sat One whose countenance was so radiant & awesome all creation shrank away.

In John 5:22 Jesus said **He's** the 1 who'll conduct this judgment.

¹² And I saw the dead, small & great, standing before God, & books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

This isn't a trial in which a judge or jury sifts the evidence & tries to determine the facts.

The facts are clear; the evidence abundant.

Books are opened.

They contain the words & works of those who stand before God.

People are judged according to what's recorded there.

John says **another** Book, the Book of Life is opened as well.

People come before God, the Book of Life is checked to see if their name is there.

If it is, they're exempt from judgment.

The way you get your name inscribed in the Book of Life is by believing in Christ.

In 21:27 it's called the **Lamb's** Book of Life.

If a name **isn't** found in the Book of Life, **their** book is opened.

Listed there are all their works.

Each & every sin will be a sufficient cause for a guilty verdict.

But I suspect listed in those books will also be the times they heard the Gospel & moved by the HS to repent and put their faith in Christ; but didn't.

¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, & Death & Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each 1 according to his works.

All the dead stand before the Great White Throne.

¹⁴ Then Death & Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the 2nd death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Death & Hades are a temporary place of internment for the unrighteous dead until the time of the final judgment.

Once they're emptied, all those who've not put their faith in Christ will be sent to the lake of fire.

This is the 2nd death; that is eternal death.

Not annihilation.

People exist. They're conscious.

But they will exist forever unable to know even a particle of satisfaction or peace.

Eternal regret w/no prospect it will ever change.