

Revelation 21:1-4 “Emmanuel”

1. Introduction:

a. The context and timing of our text for today is found in Revelation 20:7-10 where John wrote, “And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. ⁹ And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, **but fire came down from heaven and consumed them**, ¹⁰ and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

- 1) Discussion: What is the historic understanding of the thousand years (millennium)?
- 2) The exact meaning and origin of Gog and Magog is unknown. Dr. Brighton says that they refer to the forces gathered against God and godliness at the last battle.
- 3) Discussion: Revelation 20:8-9 is a vision of Armageddon. How does this battle end?
- 4) Discussion: According to verse 10 what happens to the devil?

b. Additional context is provided in Revelation 20:11-15 where John writes, “Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and **books were opened**. Then another book was opened, **which is the book of life**. And **the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done**. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ **And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**”

- 1) Question: What time in history does this scene depict?
- 2) Question: What stands out to you as you read about this scene shown to John?
- 3) Question: What is John being shown in verse 11 where he writes, “Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them”?
- 4) Question: In verse 12 John writes that the books were opened. What do you think these books contain? What other book is also opened in verse 12?
- 5) Question: According to verse 15 what is the significance of the book of life?

2. **Read:** Revelation 21:1-4 “Then I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, **new Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘**Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man**. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.’”

a. Discussion: What is being made new in verse 1?

b. Discussion: What is being made new in verse 2?

c. Discussion: What does the holy city represent?

d. Discussion: When are these things being made new?

e. Discussion: Verse 3 says the dwelling place of God is with man. Why is this important?

f. Discussion: What was another time when God’s dwelling place was with man?

g. Discussion: Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, “From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ**, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

h. Discussion: When are the things Paul speaks about to happen?

i. Discussion: What does it mean to be regarded according to the flesh?

j. Discussion: What is the significance of NOT being regarded according to the flesh?

k. Discussion: What does “being in Christ” mean?

l. All of this fulfills Matthew 1:23 which is a quotation from Isaiah saying, “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which means, God with us.”