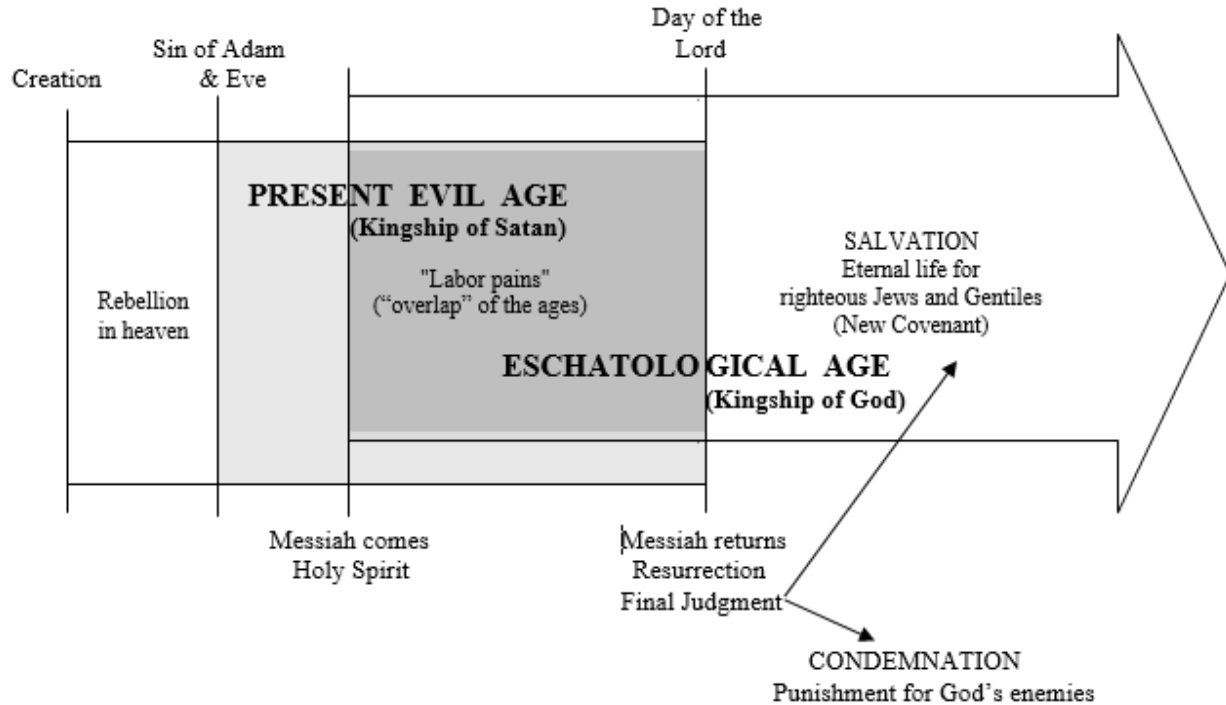


APOCALYPSE OF JOHN

Session 21: The Binding of Satan, Millennium, and Judgment (Revelation 20)

STRUCTURE OF JOHN'S THIRD VISION OF THE FUTURE (Rev. 12:1-22:6)



A. The "Labor Pains" (Revelation 12-13):

1. Satan (the dragon) makes war against Christ (the male child) and is defeated (Revelation 12)
2. Satan (the dragon) makes war against Christians (the rest of the woman's offspring) through:
 - a. Political powers (the beast from the sea) (Revelation 13:1-10)
 - b. Religious powers supporting the political (the beast from the land) (Revelation 13:11-18)

B. Images of the Final Judgment, which brings the Salvation of God's covenant people and the Destruction of his enemies (Rev 14:1-22:6)

1. Salvation: The song of the redeemed and announcement of the Final Judgment (14:1-13)
2. Destruction: The harvest of the earth and grapes of wrath (14:14-20)
3. Destruction: The seven last plagues or seven bowls of God's wrath (Revelation 15-16)
4. Destruction: The fall of Babylon (17:1-19:4)
5. Salvation: The wedding supper of the Lamb (19:5-10)
6. Destruction: The victorious Christ and great supper of God (19:11-21)
7. Destruction and Salvation: Climax (20:1-22:6)

THE ELEMENTS OF REVELATION 20

A. CONTEXT/ELEMENT#1: Christians' _____ in _____ (Revelation 17-19)

B. ELEMENT #2: The _____ of _____ (Revelation 20:1-3):

¹And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ²He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

Compare:

⁴And secondly the Lord said to Raphael (an angel), "Bind Azaz'el [i.e. Satan] hand and foot [and] throw him into the darkness!" And he made a hole in the desert which was in Duda'el and cast him there; ⁵he threw on top of him rugged and sharp rocks. And he covered his face in order that he may not see light; ⁶and in order that he may be sent into the fire on the great day of judgment. (1 Enoch 10:4-6; compare Isaiah 24:21-22; 1 Enoch 18:12-19:1; 21:1-10; 54:1-6; 67-69; Testament of Levi 18:12; Jubilees 5:10)

. . . God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment. (2 Peter 2:4; compare Mark 3:26-27; Jude 6)

C. ELEMENT #3: The _____ of Christians, the "new Israel" or New Covenant People of God (Revelation 20:4a; compare 6:9-11):

^{4a}I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ

Compare:

¹The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. ²In the eyes of the foolish they seem to have died, and their departure was thought to be an affliction, ³and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴For though in the sight of men they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; ⁶like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. ⁷In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. ⁸They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them for ever. (Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-8, RSV; compare Daniel 7:9-10)

I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Matthew 19:28)

Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? . . . Do you not know that we will judge angels? (1 Corinthians 6:2-3)

To him who overcomes, I will give to sit with me on my throne. (Revelation 3:21; compare 4:4; 5:10; 11:16; 22:5)

D. ELEMENT #4: The “Millennium” or _____ Reign of Christ and Christians (Revelation 20:4b-6):

... ^{4b}[They came to life and reigned with Christ] a thousand years. ⁵(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

1. The “first death” (see v. 4a) =
2. The “second death” (see 20:14-15; 21:8; compare 2:11) =
3. The “first resurrection” (see vv. 4-5) =
4. The “second resurrection” (see vv. 5, 12-13) =
5. Temporary 1,000-year earthly reign of Messiah prior to the Final Judgement—compare:

For behold, the time will come, when the signs which I have foretold to you will come to pass; the city which now is not seen shall appear, and the land which now is hidden shall be disclosed. And everyone who has been delivered from the evils that I have foretold shall see my wonders. For my son the Messiah shall be revealed with those who are with him, and those who remain shall rejoice four hundred years. And after these years my son the Messiah shall die, and all who draw human breath. And the world shall be turned back to primeval silence for seven days, as it was at the first beginnings; so that no one shall be left. And after seven days the world, which is not yet awake, shall be roused, and that which is corruptible shall perish. And the earth shall give up those who are asleep in it; and the chambers shall give up the souls which have been committed to them. And the Most High shall be revealed upon the seat of judgment...." (4 Ezra 7:26-33a)

E. ELEMENT #5: God’s Defeat and Judgment of _____ and _____ (Rev. 20:7-17):

⁷When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. ⁹They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

¹¹Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. ¹⁴Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Gog and Magog symbolize those who _____ and his people (see vv. 8-9; compare Rev 13:7, 11-17; 16:12-16; 17:12-14; 19:17-21; Ezekiel 38-39).

F. ELEMENT #6: Appearance of the _____, which is a _____ where God is _____ with his covenant people (Revelation 21:1-22:5):

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God... ²²...the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple....

1. The Holy City symbolizes the _____ of God come in its fullness.
2. Compare Isaiah 65:17: "Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth."

G. QUESTION: Why this unusual sequence of events?

1. Normal Sequence: "Labor Pains"—Resurrection—Final Judgment—God's Reign
2. Sequence in Revelation 17-22: Labor Pains as "Babylonian Exile"—Binding of Satan—Resurrection—Messiah's 1000-year Reign—Final Judgment—God's Permanent Reign as "New Jerusalem"

ANSWER: John patterns his vision after _____.

COMPARISON OF JOHN'S VISION WITH EZEKIEL'S VISION

A. CONTEXT/ELEMENT#1: Jews' _____ in _____ (Ezekiel 1:1-3)

B. ELEMENT #2: Vision of _____, which symbolizes the "resurrection" of Israel as a nation after the "death" of the nation in Babylonian Exile (Ezekiel 37:1-14):

¹The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "O Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! ⁵This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

¹¹Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' ¹²Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.'" (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

C. ELEMENT #3: Reign of _____ over reunited Jewish nation (Ezek. 37:15-28):

¹⁵The word of the LORD came to me: ¹⁶"Son of man, take a stick of wood and write on it, 'Belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him.' Then take another stick of wood, and write on it, 'Ephraim's stick, belonging to Joseph and all the house of Israel associated with him.' ¹⁷Join them together into one stick so that they will become one in your hand.

¹⁸"When your countrymen ask you, 'Won't you tell us what you mean by this?' ¹⁹say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am going to take the stick of Joseph—which is in Ephraim's hand—and of the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah's stick, making them a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand.' ²⁰Hold before their eyes the sticks you have written on ²¹and say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. ²²I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms. ²³They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding, and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their God.

²⁴"My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. ²⁵They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children's children will live there forever, and David my servant will be their prince forever. ²⁶I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. ²⁷My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. ²⁸Then the nations will know that I the LORD make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever.'" (Ezekiel 37:15-28)

D. ELEMENT #4: God's Defeat of _____, King of _____ (Ezekiel 38-39):

^{38:1}The word of the LORD came to me: ²"Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal; prophesy against him ³and say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal...'

⁷"Get ready; be prepared, you and all the hordes gathered about you, and take command of them. ⁸After many days you will be called to arms. In future years you will invade a land that has recovered from war, whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them live in safety. ⁹You and all your troops and the many nations with you will go up, advancing like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land...

¹⁷"This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Are you not the one I spoke of in former days by my servants the prophets of Israel? At that time they prophesied for years that I would bring you against them. ¹⁸This is what will happen in that day: When Gog attacks the land of Israel, my hot anger will be aroused, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹⁹In my zeal and fiery wrath I declare that at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. ²⁰The fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the beasts of the field, every creature that moves along the ground, and all the people on the face of the earth will tremble at my presence. The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble and every wall will fall to the ground. ²¹I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares the Sovereign LORD. Every man's sword will be against his brother. ²²I will execute judgment upon him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him. ²³And so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD (compare Revelation 8, 9, 16)."

...^{39:4}On the mountains of Israel you will fall, you and all your troops and the nations with you. I will give you as food to all kinds of carrion birds and to the wild animals...

¹⁷"Son of man, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Call out to every kind of bird and all the wild animals: 'Assemble and come together from all around to the sacrifice I am preparing for you, the great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel. There you will eat flesh and drink blood. ¹⁸You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth as if they were rams and lambs, goats and bulls—all of them fattened animals from Bashan. ¹⁹At the sacrifice I am preparing for you, you will eat fat till you are gluttoned and drink blood till you are drunk. ²⁰At my table you will eat your fill of horses and riders, mighty men and soldiers of every kind,' declares the Sovereign LORD (compare Revelation 19:17-21).

...²⁸Then they will know that I am the LORD their God, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind. ²⁹I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD." (Ezekiel 38:1-3, 7-9, 17-23; 39:4, 17-20, 28-29)

E. ELEMENT #5: Vision of a New _____ Built in _____ (Ezekiel 40-48):

¹In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth day of the month, in the fourteenth year after the fall of the city—on that very day the hand of the LORD was upon me and he took me there. ²In visions of God he took me to the land of Israel and set me on a very high mountain, on whose south side were some buildings that looked like a city. ³He took me there, and I saw a man whose appearance was like bronze; he was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring rod in his hand. ⁴The man said to me, "Son of man, look with your eyes and hear with your ears and pay attention to everything I am going to show you, for that is why you have been brought here. Tell the house of Israel everything you see." (Ezekiel 40:1-4)

And the name of the city from that time on will be: THE LORD IS THERE. (Ezekiel 48:35b)

CONCLUSION: STRUCTURE AND MEANING OF REVELATION 17-22

A. John's vision in Revelation 17-22 is patterned after Ezekiel's vision in Ezekiel 37-48:

Ezekiel 37-48	Revelation 17-22
1. Old Covenant Jews in captivity in Babylon	1. New Covenant Christians in captivity in 2 nd Babylon/Rome
N/A	2. Temporary binding of Satan prior to Final Judgment
3. Resurrection of Israel as a nation	3. Resurrection of Christians from the dead
4. Davidic king reigns over reunited Israel	4. Davidic King/Messiah reigns over reunited Christians
5. Defeat of Israel's enemy Gog, king of Magog	5. Defeat and Final Judgment of Gog and Magog who make war against Christ and Christians
6. New Temple built in Jerusalem	6. New Jerusalem, which is a Temple

B. JOHN'S MAIN POINT:

The Resurrection, the Final Judgment, and the coming of God's Kingship will be like a _____ for Christians, the New Covenant people of God.