ENDGAME
A Study On Revelation (Week #199)

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Revelation 19 _____

- Crowd In Heaven
- Destruction of Babylon
- Wedding Feast and Celebration
- Angelic Interaction
- Fifth horseman
- Banquet of the Beasts
- Beast and False Prophet captured
- Fiery lake of burning sulfur

Revelation 19:20 And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast—miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. Both the beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. *(NLT)*

Revelation 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone *[burning sulfur]*. *(NASB)*

Revelation 19:20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. *(NKJV)*

- Eschatological Timeline According To A Literal Hermeneutic
  - Church Age (current).
  - Harpazo (Rapture) of the Church. (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
  - Seven-year Tribulation (Daniel 9:27; Revelation 6-18)
  - Return of Christ (Revelation 19:11-16).
  - Immediate judgment on the beast/false prophet to the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20).
  - Satan bound; Millennial reign (Revelation 20:1-6).
  - Final rebellion; Satan cast into the lake (Revelation 20:7-10).
  - Great White Throne: unbelieving dead judged and cast into the lake (Revelation 20:11-15).
  - New heavens and earth (Revelation 21-22).

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- Belief that after the Last Judgment the damned (including Satan and demons) are totally destroyed and their consciousness is extinguished, rather than suffering eternal torment.
  - It is also closely related to conditionalism, which teaches that a soul is not immortal unless it receives eternal life.

_____ Of The Beast And False Prophet

- Historical-Literary Context
  - Revelation 19 records Christ's climactic return as the true King.
    - Answering the anticipatory prayers of the martyrs (Revelation 6:9-11).
    - It fulfills prophecies in Psalm 2, Isaiah 63:1-6, and Daniel 7:13-14.

Isaiah 63:1 Who is this who comes from Edom, from the city of Bozrah, with his clothing stained red? Who is this in royal robes, marching in his great strength? "It is I, the Lord, announcing your salvation! It is I, the Lord, who has the power to save!" **2** Why are your clothes so red, as if you have been treading out grapes? **3** "I have been treading the winepress alone; no one was there to help me. In my anger I have trampled my enemies as if they were grapes. In my fury I have trampled my foes. Their blood has stained my clothes. **4** For the time has come for me to avenge my people, to ransom them from their oppressors. **5** I was amazed to see that no one intervened to help the oppressed. So I myself stepped in to save them with my strong arm, and my wrath sustained me. **6** I crushed the nations in my anger and made them stagger and fall to the ground, spilling their blood upon the earth." *(NLT)*

Daniel 7:13 As my vision continued that night, I saw someone like a son of man[a] coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence. **14** He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey him. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed. *(NLT)*

- Verses 11-16 present the conquering Messiah.
- Verses 17-18 describe the angelic summons to the "great supper of God," contrasting it with the Lamb's wedding supper (19:9).
- Verse 19 shows the beast and the kings of the earth assembling to wage literal war against Christ—identical language to Psalm 2:2 and Revelation 16:14,16 (Armageddon).

Psalm 2:2 The kings of the earth prepare for battle; the rulers plot together against the Lord and against his anointed one. *(NLT)*

- Verse 20 delivers God's instantaneous verdict.

- _____ Of The Beast And False Prophet
  - The beast:
    - First unveiled in Revelation 13:1-8, a final world ruler empowered by Satan (the dragon, 12:9).
    - Daniel 7:23-26 foreshadows this empire, identifying a blasphemous leader who will be destroyed by divine judgment.

Daniel 7:23 Then he said to me, "This fourth beast is the fourth world power that will rule the earth. It will be different from all the others. It will devour the whole world, trampling and crushing everything in its path. **24** Its ten horns are ten kings who will rule that empire. Then another king will arise, different from the other ten, who will subdue three of them. **25** He will defy the Most High and oppress the holy people of the Most High. He will try to change their sacred festivals and laws, and they will be placed under his control for a time, times, and half a time. **26** "But then the court will pass judgment, and all his power will be taken away and completely destroyed. *(NLT)*

  - The false prophet:
    - Introduced in Revelation 13:11-18, a religious-political accomplice who performs counterfeit miracles (13:13-15), compels idolatry, and enforces the mark (Greek charagma) for economic survival.
  - The pair operates as a satanic parody of Christ and His prophet-witnesses.

- The _____: A Decisive, Effortless Capture
  - Unlike prior divine judgments mediated through seals, trumpets, or bowls, no intermediate agency is cited.
    - The victorious Christ personally captures both leaders (Greek elēphthē, "was seized").
    - Their militaries are slain (19:21)
  - The beast and false prophet receive a unique, immediate sentence.

- _____
  - THE FIERY LAKE OF BURNING SULFUR
    - Λίμνη τοῦ πυρὸς τῆς καιομένης ἐν θείῳ
  - This "lake" (limnē) differs from Hades/Sheol (Revelation 20:13).
    - It is the final, eschatological locus of punishment prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41).

- "Burning sulfur" (theion) evokes Genesis 19:24 (Sodom and Gomorrah) and Isaiah 30:33, underscoring divine justice and irreversible devastation.

Matthew 25:41 "Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons." *(NLT)*

Revelation 20:13 The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave *[Hades]* gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. *(NLT)*

Genesis 19:24 Then the Lord rained down fire and burning sulfur from the sky on Sodom and Gomorrah. *(NLT)*

Isaiah 30:33 Topheth—the place of burning—has long been ready for the Assyrian king; the pyre is piled high with wood. The breath of the Lord, like fire from a volcano, will set it ablaze. *(NLT)*

- _____ And _____: "Thrown Alive"
  - The Greek participle zōntes ("alive") stresses conscious, personal entry—no annihilation, no prior physical death. Revelation 20:10 affirms their continuing existence "a thousand years later," dismantling any annihilationist reading and supporting eternal conscious torment.

Revelation 20:10 Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. *(NLT)*

- _____ And _____
  - The text explicitly places them inside before Satan himself is cast in; after the millennium, they are still present, corroborating the doctrine of everlasting punishment (cf. Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:46).

Daniel 12:2 Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. *(NLT)*

Matthew 25:46 "And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life." *(NLT)*

- Comparative _____ Witness
  - Daniel 7:11

Daniel 7:11 I continued to watch because I could hear the little horn's boastful speech. I kept watching until the fourth beast was killed and its body was destroyed by fire. *(NLT)*

- Isaiah 66:24

Isaiah 66:24 And as they go out, they will see the dead bodies of those who have rebelled against me. For the worms that devour them will never die, and the fire that burns them will never go out. All who pass by will view them with utter horror." *(NLT)*

- 2 Thessalonians 2:8

2 Thessalonians 2:8 Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming. *(NLT)*

- The prophetic stream converges: a final human-satanic regime, divine intervention, eternal fiery judgment.

- Theological _____
  - Vindication of divine holiness: God judges unrepentant evil swiftly and publicly.
  - Certainty of prophecy: Predictions spanning centuries connect—underscoring Scriptural inspiration.

2 Peter 1:19 Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts. **20** Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, **21** or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God. *(NLT)*

- Christ's unrivaled authority: Only Jesus directly consigns beings to the lake of fire.

Luke 12:5 But I'll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell. Yes, he's the one to fear. *(NLT)*

- Eternal moral accountability: Leaders who deceive the masses face stricter judgment.

James 3:1 Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. *(NLT)*

- Archaeological And Historical _____
  - First-century Roman imperial cult inscriptions (e.g., Priene Calendar Inscription, Asia Minor) illustrate the real-world backdrop of mandated emperor worship mirrored in the beast's image.
  - Jewish apocalyptic fragments (4Q385, Dead Sea Scrolls) anticipate fiery judgment for eschatological rebels, affirming continuity in Second Temple expectation.
  - The seven churches of Revelation (Revelation 2-3) occupy verifiable locations with archaeological remains (e.g., theater at Pergamum)—anchoring the narrative in history, not myth.

- Practical And Pastoral _____
  - Urgency of allegiance: Neutrality is impossible; worship belongs to the Lamb or to the beast.
  - Comfort for the persecuted: God will judge persecutors decisively.
  - Evangelistic mandate: While grace is available now, a time comes when judgment is final.

2 Corinthians 6:2 For God says, "At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you." Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation. *(NLT)*

  - Warning against deception: False miracles can sway the undiscerning; Scripture remains the unerring plumb line.

Acts 17:11 And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth. *(NLT)*

- _____
  - Revelation 19:20 unveils the definitive, eternal fate of the beast and the false prophet.
    - Immediate seizure by the returning Christ and conscious consignment—alive—into the everlasting lake of fire.
  - The verse affirms God's justice, Christ's authority, the reliability of prophetic Scripture, and the immutable reality of eternal consequences.

_____ Context

- Immediate Literary Context
  - The verse stands at the climax of Revelation's "war section" (16:12–20:3). It follows the rider on the white horse (19:11–16) who is unmistakably Christ returning as conquering King.
  - The beast and false prophet, earlier introduced in 13:1–18, reach their appointed end before the millennial reign (20:1–6) is unveiled.
  - John purposefully frames the scene as the decisive overthrow of counterfeit power immediately before the public vindication of God's Messiah.

- Historical Setting of _____(AD 95–96)
  - External witnesses (Irenaeus, Against Heresies 5.30.3; Eusebius, Hist. Ecclesiastes 3.18) and internal data (references to the temple's destruction as past, 11:1–2) place Revelation late in the reign of the emperor Domitian (AD 81–96).

Ecclesiastes 3.18 I also thought about the human condition—how God proves to people that they are like animals. *(NLT)*

  - Domitian demanded to be called "dominus et deus" ("lord and god," Suetonius, Domitian 13) and enforced the imperial cult with new vigor in Asia Minor—precisely where the seven churches lived (1:11).

- _____ Imperial Cult and the Beast Imagery
  - Archaeology from Ephesus, Pergamum, and Smyrna reveals dedicated altars, coins, and statues portraying the emperor with divine attributes. One Ephesian inscription (IvE 724) hails Domitian as "son of the divine" and commands sacrifices in his honor.
  - John's "beast out of the sea" (13:1) mirrors Rome's self-promoting iconography: seven heads and ten horns visually echo the seven-hilled city and vassal kings in alliance.
  - By portraying the beast as doomed, Revelation reorients persecuted believers: the seemingly invincible empire will be judged.

- The False Prophet and Provincial _____
  - Asia Minor's "Asiarchs" and "high priests of Augustus" (Acts 19:31) orchestrated festivals where images of the emperor paraded on a mobile platform ("eidolon"), incensing crowds to shout "Caesar is Lord."

Acts 19:31 Some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, also sent a message to him, begging him not to risk his life by entering the amphitheater. *(NLT)*

- Revelation 13:13–15 reports calling fire from heaven—an ironic twist on priests who used concealed pipes to release burning incense, making bronze images appear to breathe *(Philo Mechanicus, Pneumatica 1.14)*.
- John labels this machinery of deception "the false prophet," exposing the religious engine behind Rome's political beast.

Revelation 13:13 He did astounding miracles, even making fire flash down to earth from the sky while everyone was watching. **14** And with all the miracles he was allowed to perform on behalf of the first beast, he deceived all the people who belong to this world. He ordered the people to make a great statue of the first beast, who was fatally wounded and then came back to life. **15** He was then permitted to give life to this statue so that it could speak. Then the statue of the beast commanded that anyone refusing to worship it must die. *(NLT)*

- Roman Triumph _____ as Backdrop
  - Captured enemies of Rome were displayed, mocked, and finally executed—often by being thrown into the Tiber or burned.
  - Josephus recounts Titus parading Jewish captives before their execution.
  - Revelation inverts the scene: the true King leads the triumph, and Rome's own representatives are the captives.

- Old Testament _____
  - Daniel 7:11

Daniel 7:11 I continued to watch because I could hear the little horn's boastful speech. I kept watching until the fourth beast was killed and its body was destroyed by fire. *(NLT)*

- Describes God's eschatological foes (Ezekiel 38–39) consigned to burning pitch and sulfur.
- These texts provide the template for Revelation's lake of fire, rooting the vision in a consistent prophetic trajectory.

Isaiah 30:33 Topheth—the place of burning—has long been ready for the Assyrian king; the pyre is piled high with wood. The breath of the Lord, like fire from a volcano, will set it ablaze. *(NLT)*

Isaiah 34:9 The streams of Edom will be filled with burning pitch, and the ground will be covered with fire. **10** This judgment on Edom will never end; the smoke of its burning will rise forever. The land will lie deserted from generation to generation. No one will live there anymore. *(NLT)*

- Second Temple Jewish _____
  - 1 Enoch 54:5–6 and 90:26 picture rebellious kings cast into "a deep valley burning with fire and brimstone."
  - John's wording reflects familiar apocalyptic motifs circulating among first-century Jewish readers, strengthening the case for Revelation's Jewish-Christian authorship.

- Archaeological and _____ Corroboration
  - The Arch of Domitian foundations in Ephesus display reliefs of the emperor flanked by personified virtues, supporting the claim that Ephesus functioned as neokoros ("temple warden") of the imperial cult (IvE 27).
  - Pergamum's altar of Zeus (Revelation 2:13, "where Satan's throne is") stood above the city. In the first century it hosted sacrificial flames visible for miles—an apt local image for the balefire awaiting the beast.

- 'Lake of Fire' and Sulfur: _____ Resonance
  - People mined sulfur (theion) around the Dead Sea, where natural asphalt seeps ignited in antiquity. Strabo and modern core samples document layers of bitumen and sulfur, supplying a physical analog to biblical judgment on Sodom (Genesis 19:24).
  - The Valley of Hinnom (Gehenna), southwest of Jerusalem, functioned as a refuse dump where fires smoldered continuously; rabbinic tradition used it to symbolize final judgment.
  - John blends these geographic memories into a universal furnace for unrepentant idolatry.

- _____ Witness
  - Irenaeus cites Revelation 19:20 to argue for the literal personal destruction of Antichrist (AH 5.29.2).
  - Hippolytus (On Christ and Antichrist 28–29) interprets the beast as the final empire arising from Rome, confirming that second- and third-century Christians read the imagery historically and prophetically.

- Theological Significance for the _____ Churches
  - By showing the beast defeated first, the vision answers the pastoral cry, "How long?" (6:10).
  - It assures believers that Rome's threats—economic (13:17), social (2:13), and lethal (6:9)—will expire, while faithfulness secures eternal reward (20:4).

- Modern _____ and Apologetic Value
  - Totalitarian regimes of the last century mirrored Rome's fusion of state and cult, validating Revelation's portrait of political idolatry.
  - The verse thus serves as a timeless caution and comfort, grounded in the historical precedent that God judges oppressive powers.

- _____
  - Revelation 19:20's imagery draws from Rome's imperial cult, Old Testament judgment oracles, Second Temple apocalyptic writings, and tangible geographic realities familiar to first-century readers.
  - Archaeological, epigraphical, and manuscript evidence cohere to show that John's vision is neither arbitrary nor mythical but firmly rooted in identifiable historical contexts—contexts that strengthen confidence in Scripture's prophetic precision and the certainty of Christ's ultimate victory.

_____

- ☑ For what is the horse a symbol?
- ☑ In what way is the white horse in verse 11 different from the white horse in Revelation 6:2?
- ☑ Who is the Word of God?
- ☑ Where else in Revelation is the appearance of our resurrected Lord described?
- ☑ What insights can we gain from these descriptions?
- ☑ Who makes up the armies of heaven?
- ☑ Who is the animal or the beast?
- ☑ Who is the false prophet?
- ☑ Who is in the lake of fire when the beast and the prophet are sent there?
- What is the lake of fire?
- How can we disprove the doctrine of annihilation from this chapter?
- Who are the "rest" in verse 21?