20
CHAPTER

WORKBOOK STUDY COMPANION · REVELATION 20

The King Reigns *from Jerusalem*

REVELATION 20

Scripture written out in the NASB95, every question answered in one sentence, cross references, verse-by-verse commentary from three trusted teachers — and for each question, a point of critical thinking and a key question to carry into the week.

Amir Tsarfati
REVEALING REVELATION

John MacArthur
GRACE TO YOU

David Guzik
ENDURING WORD

01 CAPTURE THE SCENE

What do I see?

The workbook opens with the millennial Jerusalem — living water, a highway from Egypt to Assyria, long life — then says "Read Revelation 20:1-15" and asks seven numbered questions. Gold chips are the workbook's own "Read…" blocks; black chips are its numbered questions.

READ **Revelation 20:1-15**

Revelation 20:1-3 NASB95

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

IN MY WORDS

The chapter the prophets celebrated has arrived — Satan is locked away, the King reigns from Jerusalem for a thousand years, and it all ends at a great white throne with two kinds of books open.

CROSS REFERENCE **Isaiah 65:20** in that kingdom "the youth will die at the age of one hundred" — people still die, so this is not yet eternity.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

The binding of Satan is the hinge that opens the door to the literal, earthly kingdom promised to Israel throughout the Old Testament — a real thousand years with Jerusalem as its center and Messiah reigning from David's throne. This is the moment every prophet from Isaiah to Zechariah was pointing toward.

CRITICAL THINKING

The workbook opens the lesson with geography — water flowing from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea, fruit trees on barren land, a highway from Egypt to Assyria. Before it asks a single doctrinal question, it wants you to picture the Millennium as a place, because a kingdom you can map is much harder to allegorize away.

KEY QUESTION

When I say "Your kingdom come," am I picturing anything as concrete as fishermen on a living Dead Sea?

1 How long will Satan be bound in the abyss?

Revelation 20:2 NASB95

And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

IN MY WORDS

One thousand years — bound, thrown into the abyss, shut in and sealed over for the length of Christ's earthly reign.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 20:3** "he must be released for a short time" — the sentence has a term, and then a sequel.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

The angel who subdues Satan is anonymous — not Jesus, not Michael, not any named archangel — a dramatic declaration that Satan is not God's equal or opposite. And the elaborate care taken — bound, cast down, shut up, sealed — points to the total cessation of his influence, not merely a curbing of it.

CRITICAL THINKING

Four verbs pile up in two verses — laid hold, bound, threw, sealed — and not one of them describes a struggle. The being who demanded worship from the Son of God in the wilderness is handled by one unnamed angel with a chain.

KEY QUESTION

Do I fight the devil as if he were God's rival — or resist him as a creature already measured for a chain?

2 How long will the tribulation saints reign with Christ?

Revelation 20:4 NASB95

Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

IN MY WORDS

A thousand years — the same span Satan is bound, the martyrs who refused the beast reign with Christ.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 20:6** "they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years."

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

These are the very saints who refused the mark of the beast under unimaginable pressure, and now they are raised bodily to reign — literal thrones, literal judgment, a literal kingdom, exactly as promised through David's line.

CRITICAL THINKING

The men the Antichrist beheaded for refusing a mark on the forehead are given thrones and judgment. The instrument of their shame — a public execution — becomes the credential of their office; in this kingdom the record of loyalty is worn openly.

KEY QUESTION

What has my faith actually cost me lately — and would the martyrs on those thrones recognize me as one of their own?

3 How many years will pass before the rest of the dead are raised?

Revelation 20:5 NASB95

The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.

IN MY WORDS

A thousand years — the unbelieving dead stay in their graves through the whole Millennium and are only raised afterward, for the Great White Throne.

CROSS REFERENCE **John 5:28-29** all in the tombs will hear His voice — "a resurrection of life" and "a resurrection of judgment."

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

John 5:28-29 gives us two resurrections — one to life, one to condemnation — and this passage tells us they are separated by a thousand years, not simultaneous. That gap is fatal to any view that flattens the resurrections into a single general rising.

CRITICAL THINKING

"The rest of the dead" is the quietest terrifying phrase in the chapter — a thousand years pass on a renewed earth while an entire category of humanity simply waits, and their next conscious moment is the throne.

KEY QUESTION

Which resurrection am I scheduled for — and on what evidence do I say so?

4 Do you believe that the 1,000 years are literal or figurative?

Revelation 20:6 NASB95

Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

IN MY WORDS

Literal — John repeats "a thousand years" six times in one chapter, and I take the number the way I take the rest of the book's plain statements.

CROSS REFERENCE **2 Peter 3:8** "with the Lord one day is like a thousand years" — a simile about God's patience, not a rule for reading John's calendar.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

Take the numbers plainly. Six times in this short chapter John repeats "a thousand years" — that is not the language of poetry, it is the language of a calendar. Every attempt to turn this into something already happening in the church age has to explain away six deliberate repetitions of a number.

CRITICAL THINKING

The workbook's answer to the 2 Peter 3:8 objection is worth keeping: consistency is not in how specific *words* must always be interpreted, but in how specific *genres* must be interpreted — Peter writes a simile, John writes a numbered sequence of events.

KEY QUESTION

Do I hold my position on the Millennium because I have investigated it — or only because it is what I was handed?

5 If you see them as figurative, what, then, do they represent?

IN MY WORDS

I don't take them as figurative — but those who do say the thousand years stand for the present church age, with Christ reigning spiritually from heaven rather than bodily from Jerusalem.

CROSS REFERENCE **Psalm 90:4** "a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it passes by" — the verse the figurative view leans on.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

The amillennial reading has real history behind it — from Origen's allegorizing through Augustine it became the church's majority view for centuries. But a binding of Satan that still leaves him prowling as a roaring lion is not the total shutting up and sealing this text describes.

CRITICAL THINKING

The workbook's fifth reason cuts deepest: if the second coming ushers in eternity directly, then Isaiah 65:20's hundred-year-old sinners must die in "eternity" — so there has to be an age between this one and the eternal state where people still die. The figurative view has no shelf to put that verse on.

KEY QUESTION

Can I state the strongest form of the position I reject — and answer it from the text rather than from my camp?

6 What is the ultimate destiny of the devil?

Revelation 20:10 NASB95

And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

IN MY WORDS

The lake of fire — thrown in after his final rebellion and tormented day and night forever and ever, never released again.

CROSS REFERENCE **Matthew 25:41** "the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels" — the address was his before it was anyone else's.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

This closes a circle that opened in Genesis 3 — the serpent who first deceived is now permanently and finally removed. Every promise of a secure, undisturbed kingdom now rests on solid ground, because the one who has always sought to disrupt it is gone forever.

CRITICAL THINKING

Hell was not built for people. Matthew 25:41 says the eternal fire was prepared for the devil and his angels — every human being who ends up there arrives, in effect, at someone else's sentencing.

KEY QUESTION

Do I take my enemy seriously enough to resist him — and lightly enough to remember his sentence is already written?

7 On what basis are the people judged at the Great White Throne judgment?

Revelation 20:12 NASB95

And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

IN MY WORDS

According to their deeds as recorded in the books — while the Book of Life decides the destiny, the record of works measures the judgment.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 7:10** "The court sat, And the books were opened" — Daniel saw the same courtroom more than six centuries before John.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

This is sentencing, not a trial — the facts are already in, and no one standing here has anything left to say. Salvation has never been by works, but where a name is missing from the Book of Life, works become the irrefutable evidence of a life lived apart from God.

CRITICAL THINKING

Two kinds of books sit on one bench — the many books of deeds and the single Book of Life. The deeds books determine what the judgment looks like; the Book of Life determines whether you face it at all. Confusing the two books is the oldest religious mistake there is.

KEY QUESTION

If my deeds were read aloud today, would I want them heard as evidence — or covered as forgiven?

READ **Revelation 20:1-3 — and the three views of the Millennium**

Revelation 20:3 NASB95

and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

IN MY WORDS

Like Solomon dealing with the old guard before taking the throne, the new King first removes the opposition — and then the workbook pauses the study to defend, in seven reasons, why we read the thousand years literally against the post-millennial and amillennial views.

CROSS REFERENCE **1 Kings 2:1-9** David's charge to Solomon — establish the throne by dealing with the opposition first.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

God could silence Satan at any moment; He simply chooses not to, because even in his evil Satan unwittingly serves God's purposes. When those purposes are complete, the binding takes one verse.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

God needs no elaborate argument to restrain Satan; He simply does it, at the moment of His own choosing, by the hand of a single unnamed angel.

CRITICAL THINKING

The workbook's honest amillennialist — the retired pastor who admitted he held his position because he was taught it — is the real lesson of this excursus. Rick Yohn's point was not that amillennialists are fools but that most people, on every side, have never examined why they believe what they believe about the Millennium.

KEY QUESTION

"However, I might be persuaded differently after I read this Bible study" — when did I last let a Bible study actually persuade me of anything?

02 ANALYZE THE MESSAGE

What does it mean?

"We've just given you an overview of the end times all the way through to the new creation. But we are not there yet in our text in Revelation. So let's back up a bit and analyze chapter 20." Six numbered questions, transcribed as the workbook asks them.

1 What is meant by 1,000 years?

Revelation 20:4 NASB95

… and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

IN MY WORDS

The Millennium — the literal thousand-year reign of Christ on this earth, from His return at the end of the tribulation until the Great White Throne.

CROSS REFERENCE **Isaiah 65:20** an age of long life where death still exists — distinct from both this age and eternity.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

This is not a symbol for the church age; it is a real thousand years with Jerusalem as its center and Messiah reigning from David's throne — the literal fulfillment of Israel's covenant promises. Watching Israel today matters precisely because this is where all of it lands.

CRITICAL THINKING

The Millennium is the only era in history that answers Eden's question: what would the world look like with a perfect King, a restrained devil, and ordinary people still in mortal bodies? God runs the experiment for a thousand years so no one can ever say He never gave the earth a fair chance.

KEY QUESTION

Am I living now in a way that would make a thousand years of serving this King feel like a promotion or an interruption?

2 Who are the "souls who had been beheaded" (verse 4)?

Revelation 20:4 NASB95

And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

IN MY WORDS

The tribulation martyrs — believers executed under the Antichrist for their testimony of Jesus and their refusal to worship the beast, his image, or take his mark.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 6:9** the souls under the altar, "slain because of the word of God" — here is their answer.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

These refused the mark under unimaginable pressure, and now they are raised bodily to reign — the resurrected righteous ruling with the Messiah they refused to deny.

CRITICAL THINKING

Verse 4 names both what they did and what they did not do — they held a testimony, and they withheld a worship. Faithfulness under the beast is described as much by refusals as by acts; some of the most decisive obedience in Scripture is a declined signature.

KEY QUESTION

What am I currently being pressured to endorse that faithfulness would have me quietly refuse?

3 Describe the order of the first resurrection as you understand it (1 Corinthians 15:20-28).

1 Corinthians 15:22-24 NASB95

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

IN MY WORDS

Christ the first fruits, then those who are His — the church at the rapture, then the Old Testament and tribulation saints at His return — each in his own order, all before the thousand years begin.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 12:2** "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life..."

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

The first resurrection is a resurrection of blessing, of power, and of privilege. Whether it names a single event or, as Barnhouse argued, a retrospect over all three phases — previously dead believers, the raptured church, and the tribulation martyrs — it is a class of resurrection, not merely a moment, and every believer belongs to it.

CRITICAL THINKING

Paul's phrase is agricultural — "each in his own order" pictures a harvest coming in waves, not a single reaping. First fruits guarantee a crop; Christ's empty tomb is God's down payment on every grave that belongs to Him.

KEY QUESTION

Do I grieve and plan like a man waiting on a harvest that has already begun?

4 What is the city that God loves (Revelation 20:9)?

Revelation 20:9 NASB95

And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

IN MY WORDS

Jerusalem — the beloved city, the capital of the King's millennial reign and the target of the final rebellion.

CROSS REFERENCE **Psalm 87:2** "The LORD loves the gates of Zion More than all the other dwelling places of Jacob."

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

Jerusalem is the city where all of it lands — the prophets' promises, the King's throne, and, at the last, the enemy's final march. That the last battle in history is fought over this one city tells you everything about why the world can never leave it alone now.

CRITICAL THINKING

After a thousand years of Christ visibly reigning there, Jerusalem is still called "the beloved city" — not the obvious city, not the conquered city. God's attachment to Jerusalem is affection, not strategy, and Scripture never apologizes for it.

KEY QUESTION

Do I love what God says He loves — or do I keep a polite distance from His attachments?

5 What is the basis of God's judgment at the Great White Throne?

Revelation 20:13 NASB95

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.

IN MY WORDS

Their deeds — every one of the unbelieving dead is judged from the written record of what they did, because they stand there without the covering of the Book of Life.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 20:15** "if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

The books opened here are a perfect, uncontestable record. Salvation has never been by works, but for those outside the Book of Life the works are the evidence, and the evidence is complete.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Great in status and power, white in purity and holiness, a throne in kingly sovereignty — every word in the phrase carries weight. Believers never stand here, not because we can hide from it, but because our sins were already judged at the cross; we stand instead at the judgment seat of Christ of 2 Corinthians 5:10.

CRITICAL THINKING

Verse 13 empties three containers — the sea, death, and Hades — before the judging begins. No grave is too lost, no drowning too deep, no death too ancient for the summons; the resurrection of the unjust is as thorough as the resurrection of the just.

KEY QUESTION

Am I resting my whole case on the Book of Life — or quietly padding my file in the books of deeds?

6 Describe, to the best of your ability, the meaning of Hades.

Revelation 1:18 NASB95

and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

IN MY WORDS

Hades is the temporary holding place of the unbelieving dead — conscious, in torment, claiming the soul while death claims the body — until it is emptied for the Great White Throne and itself thrown into the lake of fire.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 20:14** "Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire."

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Death is the result of sin, and it is gone; Hades is the result of death, and it too is gone — the last vestiges of sin's unlawful domination are done away with forever. As Alford wrote, as there is a second and higher life, so there is a second and deeper death — and after that death there is no more life.

CRITICAL THINKING

Hades is a jail, not a penitentiary — a remand cell where the sentence has not yet been read. That it must "give up" its dead shows even the grave holds its prisoners only on loan, and Jesus holds the keys.

KEY QUESTION

Does the word "temporary" make Hades feel less serious to me than Scripture means it to be?

03 COMPARE THIS CHAPTER WITH THE REST OF SCRIPTURE

Is this supported by other passages in Revelation, John's other books, the Old/New Testaments?

Six numbered questions, then the workbook's "Read Revelation 20:7-10" teaching on Gog and Magog.

1 There are three times that individuals will be thrown into the lake of fire.

a. Who will be the first occupants (19:20)?

Revelation 19:20 NASB95

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.

IN MY WORDS

The beast and the false prophet — thrown in alive at the second coming, before the Millennium even starts.

b. Who will be the next occupant (20:10)?

Revelation 20:10 NASB95

And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

IN MY WORDS

The devil himself — cast in after the final rebellion, a thousand years behind his two puppets.

c. Who will be the occupants after that (20:14-15)?

Revelation 20:14-15 NASB95

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

IN MY WORDS

Death and Hades themselves, and every person whose name is not found written in the Book of Life.

CROSS REFERENCE **Matthew 25:41** the fire was "prepared for the devil and his angels" — mankind enters it only by refusing the alternative.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

Notice this is not annihilation — the beast and false prophet, thrown in a thousand years earlier, are still there, still conscious, still being tormented when Satan joins them. "Forever and ever" means exactly what it says.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

The presence of the beast and false prophet in the lake of fire after a thousand years argues powerfully against annihilationism: in eternal punishment, a thousand years is only the beginning. As Walvoord noted, no language could state everlasting punishment more emphatically than "day and night" joined to "forever and ever."

CRITICAL THINKING

The lake of fire fills in a courtroom order — the deceivers first, their master second, the deceived last. God sentences the sources of the lie before He sentences anyone who believed it; no one at the throne can say the architects of their ruin went unpunished.

KEY QUESTION

Do I speak about hell with the same seriousness Jesus did — or have I quietly stopped mentioning it?

2 What comes out of the abyss in Revelation 9:1-3?

Revelation 9:2-3 NASB95

He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit. Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

IN MY WORDS

Demonic locusts — a tormenting horde released out of the smoke of the abyss at the fifth trumpet.

CROSS REFERENCE **Luke 8:31** the demons begged Jesus "not to command them to go away into the abyss" — they know the address.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

The abyss is the prison of demons — the place the demons of Luke 8 dreaded, the pit that opens in judgment in chapter 9, and the cell that receives Satan in chapter 20. Scripture treats it as a real location with a real key.

CRITICAL THINKING

In chapter 9 the abyss opens to let torment out; in chapter 20 it opens to shut the tormentor in. The same door swings both ways in Revelation, and both swings happen at God's command — even the pit's traffic runs on His schedule.

KEY QUESTION

Do I actually believe the unseen realm is this governed — keys, seals, and schedules — or do I picture it as chaos?

3 What goes into the abyss in Revelation 20:1-3?

Revelation 20:2-3 NASB95

And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed...

IN MY WORDS

Satan himself — the dragon, the serpent of old — bound and sealed into the very prison his demons came out of.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 9:1** the key that opened the pit in judgment now locks it in victory.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

The purpose clause is the point — "so that he would not deceive the nations any longer." Deception is Satan's one indispensable weapon, and the Millennium is what earth looks like when it is confiscated.

CRITICAL THINKING

The abyss releases its locusts under the Antichrist and receives its king under the true Christ — the reversal is exact, and the workbook set these two passages side by side so you would see it. Judgment and salvation in Revelation frequently share the same furniture.

KEY QUESTION

If deception is the enemy's chief weapon, what am I doing — concretely — to be hard to deceive?

4 What do the following passages tell us about the Book of Life?

a. Philippians 4:3

Philippians 4:3 NASB95

Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

IN MY WORDS

Ordinary believers — Paul's fellow workers — have their names in it now, in this life.

b. Revelation 3:5

Revelation 3:5 NASB95

'He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

IN MY WORDS

Jesus promises the overcomer his name will never be erased — and that He will confess it before the Father.

c. Revelation 13:8

Revelation 13:8 NASB95

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

IN MY WORDS

It belongs to the slain Lamb and was written from the foundation of the world — and those not in it will worship the beast.

d. Revelation 17:8

Revelation 17:8 NASB95

"The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.

IN MY WORDS

Being absent from the book leaves a person open to the beast's deception — the unwritten are the ones who marvel at him.

e. Revelation 20:12

Revelation 20:12 NASB95

And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

IN MY WORDS

It is opened at the Great White Throne — a separate book from the records of deeds, present at the final judgment.

f. Revelation 20:15

Revelation 20:15 NASB95

And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

IN MY WORDS

It is the deciding book — absence from it, and nothing else, is what sends a person to the lake of fire.

CROSS REFERENCE **Luke 10:20** "rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven" — Jesus made the registry itself the reason for joy.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

There is no third category, no middle ground, no purgatory of second chances — only those written in the book and those who are not. That is precisely why the offer of the gospel, while it is still being made, is the most urgent word any of us can carry to another person.

CRITICAL THINKING

Trace the six passages in order and the book moves from a membership roll (Philippians) to a promise (3:5) to a dividing line (13:8; 17:8) to the verdict itself (20:12, 15). Scripture's doctrine of the Book of Life was built across sixty years of writing — and every entry was made before the foundation of the world.

KEY QUESTION

Is my deepest joy still that my name is written there — or has something smaller replaced it?

5 In Luke 16:19-31, Jesus tells a parable about a rich man and Lazarus. Both die, and the rich man ends up in Hades.

a. Describe what Hades is like.

Luke 16:23-24 NASB95

"In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. "And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.'

IN MY WORDS

A place of torment, flame, thirst, and agony — with sight of a comfort that cannot be reached.

b. Is there consciousness in Hades? Explain.

Luke 16:25 NASB95

"But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.

IN MY WORDS

Yes — the rich man sees, speaks, feels agony, remembers his life and his brothers, and even argues; nothing about him is asleep.

c. When the rich man asks Abraham to help his five brothers to avoid Hades, what does Abraham say to the rich man?

Luke 16:29, 31 NASB95

"But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' ... "But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

IN MY WORDS

They have Moses and the Prophets — and if they will not hear Scripture, they would not be persuaded even by a man risen from the dead.

CROSS REFERENCE **John 11:43–12:11** a Lazarus did rise — and the leadership's response was a plot to kill Jesus, and Lazarus too, proving Abraham's point.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

The rich man's theology improved the moment he died — suddenly he believed in torment, in evangelism, and in repentance — but Hades hosts no conversions. Every request he makes is denied, because the time for both mercy and mission was on the other side of the grave.

CRITICAL THINKING

Abraham's answer is a verdict on sign-seeking: Scripture heard is mightier than a resurrection witnessed. Jesus told this parable before His own resurrection — and the empty tomb proved Him right, because most of those who rejected Moses rejected the risen Christ too.

KEY QUESTION

Am I waiting for God to move somebody with a sign He has already addressed with a Scripture?

6 Unbelievers who die today end up in Hades, but that is not their final destiny. Hades claims the soul while death claims the body. Their final day of judgment will be the Great White Throne judgment. So when "Death and Hades" give up the dead in them, they will appear before God for the final, eternal judgment (Revelation 20:13). Who do you know that is headed for Hades and then the lake of fire? Take time to pray now for that person and ask the Lord to open the opportunity for you to share Christ with that individual.

Revelation 20:13 NASB95

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.

IN MY WORDS

I can put a real name here — and I am asking the Lord now to open a real conversation with that person before the only thing left to pray about is their memory.

CROSS REFERENCE **Acts 4:12** "there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

The certainty of the coming throne is exactly why watching the signs and sharing the gospel cannot be treated as optional. The door of grace is open now, in this age — prophecy is meant to produce urgency, not curiosity.

CRITICAL THINKING

The workbook does not ask whether anyone you know is headed for Hades — it assumes it, and asks *who*. The question's grammar refuses the comfortable fiction that everyone we love is probably fine.

KEY QUESTION

Have I ever prayed for my person by name and then actually asked God for the opening — or do I keep the burden vague on purpose?

READ **Revelation 20:7-10 — why this is not Ezekiel's Gog and Magog**

Revelation 20:7-9 NASB95

When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

IN MY WORDS

This battle is not Ezekiel 38–39 — different timing (end of the Millennium, not the tribulation's doorstep), a different gatherer (Satan, not God), and a different ending (fire from heaven with no fighting at all).

CROSS REFERENCE **Ezekiel 38:22** God ends Ezekiel's battle "with hailstones, fire and brimstone" — a torrential judgment, where Revelation's ends with a single fall of fire.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

John borrows the names Gog and Magog as a symbol for a final, worldwide rebellion at the very end of the Millennium. What should sober us is this: even after a thousand years with no Satan, no crime, and Messiah reigning visibly from Jerusalem, multitudes still choose rebellion the moment the opportunity is given.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

This is the clearest possible proof that man's problem is not his circumstances but his nature. A thousand years of literally ideal conditions, and at the first opportunity the human heart still turns to rebellion — total depravity on final, undeniable display.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

For all of human history, man has wanted to blame his sinful condition on his environment. Here God grants a thousand years of a perfect one — and still the nations rebel. Man, whatever his advantages, apart from the grace of God and new birth, remains at heart at enmity with God.

CRITICAL THINKING

The rebels are people *born during* the Millennium — raised under a perfect King, never tempted by Satan, and still unregenerate. The last battle in history is God's closing argument that no environment, education, or government can convert a heart; only new birth can.

KEY QUESTION

Where am I still expecting a changed environment to do for me — or my family — what only a changed heart can?

04 EXECUTE

So what? How does this affect my life?

Principle: **What matters is that your name is in the Book of Life.** "How can you be sure that your name is in the Book of Life? If you have invited Jesus Christ into your life as Savior, then your name is there." Read Revelation 20:11-15.

1 Can you point to a time in your life when you recognized that you invited Christ to become your Savior and Lord?

> **Revelation 20:11-12 NASB95**
>
> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

> **IN MY WORDS**
>
> Yes — I can point to the season I stopped assuming and actually surrendered, inviting Christ to be my Savior and Lord, and that moment is the whole reason this throne holds no terror for me.

CROSS REFERENCE **Romans 10:9** "if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

> **John MacArthur** GRACE TO YOU
>
> Assurance does not rest on remembering a date; it rests on the present reality of faith in Christ. But an examined life should be able to say how it knows — the "blessed and holy" of verse 6 is written for people who are sure.

> **CRITICAL THINKING**
>
> The workbook puts the personal salvation question *after* the Great White Throne, not before it — assurance is meant to be examined in sight of the alternative. A hope that has never stood in front of this throne on paper may wobble in front of it in person.

> **KEY QUESTION**
>
> *If someone asked me tonight how I know my name is in the Book of Life, would my answer be Christ — or a churchgoing résumé?*

2 What do you plan to do about your family members, friends, and neighbors who do not know Christ? Do you sense a responsibility to pray for them and to speak to them about the Lord?

> **Revelation 20:15 NASB95**
>
> And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

> **IN MY WORDS**
>
> Yes — I sense the responsibility, and my plan is to pray for them by name and take the openings God gives instead of waiting for a perfect one.

CROSS REFERENCE **2 Corinthians 5:20** "we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us..."

> **Amir Tsarfati** REVEALING REVELATION
>
> The great white throne is reserved for those who never trusted Messiah — and that distinction should press every reader toward urgency, because the door of grace is open now, in this age, and not forever.

CRITICAL THINKING

The question pairs praying and speaking as one responsibility, not two options. Prayer without speaking outsources my assignment to God; speaking without prayer attempts God's work without His power — the workbook is asking whether I do both for the same names.

KEY QUESTION

Which name have I been praying for that God is now waiting for me to speak to?

3 If not, why not?

IN MY WORDS

When I go quiet it is usually fear of awkwardness or of damaging the relationship — which means I am weighing a moment's discomfort against an eternity I just read about.

CROSS REFERENCE **Romans 1:16** "I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..."

> **David Guzik** ENDURING WORD
>
> The chapter ends at one of two books, and every person we know is headed for one of them. Honest reluctance named out loud is far more useful than silence explained away — God works with the willing, not the polished.

CRITICAL THINKING

"If not, why not?" is the shortest question in the workbook and the hardest — it asks me to put my actual excuse in writing where I can see how small it looks next to Revelation 20:15.

KEY QUESTION

What is the real reason I stay silent — and would I accept that reason from someone who stayed silent about me?

4 If yes, what are some ways you can make opportunities arise to talk with them?

IN MY WORDS

Invite them to the table — a meal, a coffee, this very study — ask real questions about their life, share what God has actually done in mine, and let the current headlines about Israel open the door prophecy was made to open.

CROSS REFERENCE **Colossians 4:5** "Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity."

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

Watching the times is itself an evangelistic tool — when world events line up with what Scripture said long ago, people who would never open a Bible will ask questions they cannot answer, and the believer who has studied is ready.

CRITICAL THINKING

The workbook says “make opportunities arise” — an almost contradictory phrase. Opportunities are God’s to give, but the making is mine: proximity, hospitality, and honest friendship are how a sovereign opening usually finds a human doorway.

KEY QUESTION

What is one opportunity I could deliberately create this week — and who is it for?

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Chapter 19 ended with a battle that was over before it began. Chapter 20 opens with the quietest great victory in Scripture: one unnamed angel, one key, one chain — and the dragon who has stalked every page since Genesis 3 is bound, thrown, shut in, and sealed over. Then comes the age the prophets could see from a distance: a thousand years with the King reigning from Jerusalem, the martyrs on thrones, water flowing from the beloved city, and the desert bearing fruit. John repeats the span six times, as if daring us to take him at his word.

And then the strangest turn in the book — Satan is released, and multitudes born under a perfect King in a perfect world follow him one last time. The final rebellion is history's closing argument: man's problem was never his environment, his education, or his government. It is his heart, and only new birth changes a heart. Fire falls, the deceiver joins the beast and the false prophet in the lake of fire, and then earth and sky flee from a great white throne. Books are opened. Another book is opened. Every question in this chapter finally reduces to one: is the name written, or is it not?

The workbook's principle is the whole chapter in one line — what matters is that your name is in the Book of Life. Everything else on the page, even a thousand years of paradise, is context for that sentence.

"Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power."

REVELATION 20:6

You have now watched the enemy bound, the martyrs crowned, the heart of man exposed, and the books opened. One question survives the chapter: whose names around your own table are not yet written? The King reigns from Jerusalem for a thousand years — but the invitation into His book is being handed out today. Be found in the book, and take somebody with you.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

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