

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## REVELATION 20:1-15

As a child my favorite movie was a Disney film, “[The Swiss Family Robinson](#).” The story is about a family who gets shipwrecked on a south seas island. With little hope of being rescued they make the most of their situation, and create a tropical paradise. They build an elaborate treehouse, invent a system for running water, and add many other conveniences. After a tangle with pirates the Robinson family lives happily ever after.

As a kid I watched the movie and imagined myself marooned on an exotic island... *Swims in the lagoon. Life in a tree hut...* What an easy-going, carefree kind of life - in a pristine, unspoiled, garden Shangri-La.

Even as an adult it doesn't sound so bad, *does it?*... No more 8 to 5s - no more bills and bosses - no more car repairs and traffic snarls - no more income tax and corrupt politicians - no more deadbolts and burglar alarms - no more war and crime. Movies like [The Swiss Family Robinson](#) are popular because they play on a deep-down longing in every human heart... CS Lewis once observed, “[If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is I was made for another world.](#)” Here's a truth: **God made you and I for the garden.**

Adam and Eve began life in a garden paradise. Sin got them evicted, but ever since, humans have desired to return. Whether we realize it or not, **we long for the garden**, and in all we do we're attempting to return.

Right now, it's a jungle out there! Our world is chaotic and out-of-control. But when the King of the Jungle takes possession, He'll reign and rule. He'll tame the beasts and transform the jungle into a luscious garden.

One day, yet future, God will fulfill our deep longing, and return mankind to the garden from which we fell.

This Earth is due for *an extreme makeover*. God will repair the damage caused by sin and its judgment, and restore the fallen planet to a paradise. We call it [The Kingdom Age](#), and it is the theme of Revelation 20...

And God begins by ridding us of our arch-nemesis. The Apostle John writes, verse 1, “[Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the](#)

bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished.”

At the end of Chapter 19 John is near Jerusalem. He has provided a play-by-play of the mother of all battles. The nations rally to Armageddon to fight against the Christ. But Jesus returns despite their opposition. With *His breath* and *His brightness* He kills all His enemies.

And there are leaders who orchestrate this revolt. The Antichrist and False Prophet are chief culprits. They ordered the execution of everyone who worships Jesus and refuses their mark. Chapter 19 forecasts their capture and punishment in the lake of fire...

But the real ringleader - the mastermind behind the rebellion - is the devil himself... And now in Chapter 20 God sends an angel *with a chain* to incarcerate Satan.

The Bible teaches there are two spiritual places of punishment - *one temporary, the other permanent*. Hades is where unbelievers are today. It has the characteristics of fire and brimstone, but it's **interim**. Whereas, the lake of fire is **eternal**. According to verse 14, in the end, Hades is cast into the lake of fire.

At the close of Chapter 19, the devil's two stooges, the Beast and False Prophet enter their eternal torture. They're "*cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.*" Yet here, Satan is held over in Hades, or "*the bottomless pit.*" He's chained in hell's holding cell.

And at the end of verse 3, John explains why, "*But after these things he must be released for a little while.*" Evidently, God isn't through with Satan. He still has a use for him. Verse 8 explains his final purpose...

Yet this brings up an interesting sidebar... Satan's existence - even his mischief - has always been at God's allowance. Not that God approves of the Devil's specific acts. He doesn't. Far from it, the evil Satan authors and the pain it causes grieves God's heart. Nevertheless, God permits Satan some latitude.

And God uses the trials and temptation Satan stirs up to strengthen our faith. Temptation has no real teeth without a Tempter. So at the end of the age, Satan "*must be released for a little while*" for the same reason he wreaks havoc today, *He'll test the faith of mankind.*

Notice also, the duration of Satan's incarceration - "*a thousand years.*" In Latin, it's the term, "*Millennium.*" This is why you'll hear terms like "*The Millennial Reign of Christ,*" or "*Millennial Kingdom,*" or just "*Millennium.*"

In Revelation 19 Jesus returns to destroy the armies who oppose Him. The first word in Chapter 20, *“then,”* implies that what follows is chronological. *Here’s what comes next...* in Chapter 20 **Satan is chained** and **Jesus will reign**. Both last for a thousand years. After His second coming, Jesus’ sets up a Kingdom on Earth that will reign and rule this universe for a Millennium.

And Jesus won’t just rule by Himself... John writes in verse 4, *“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them.”* The army that rode with Jesus from Heaven now helps Him rule on Earth.

Which includes you and me - the Church - *but not just the Church...* For *“Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands.”* Believers martyred in the Tribulation will also serve in Jesus’ administration. They were mocked and martyred for Him. Now they’ll sit on thrones and help Jesus rule a world made new!

Verse 4, *“And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”* The first message Jesus preached was *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* Jesus came to establish God’s Kingdom on Earth.

Yet in Jesus’ day, *in fact even today*, no one is able to point to God’s Kingdom on a map. His reign has no borders or buildings. It’s an invisible, spiritual kingdom. His reign is known only in the hearts of believers.

In Luke 17:20 Jesus said, *“The kingdom of God does not come with observation (that is, fanfare or outward demonstration); nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”*

Yet still the OT is packed with prophecies of a coming King... Who’ll sit on an earthly throne... Who’ll rule visibly and tangibly - over a geographic kingdom.

**2 Samuel 7** tells us that a descendant of David, from Israel’s throne, will rule the world. This is the prophecy the angel quoted to a virgin named Mary when she discovered she was with Child... *“He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever...”*

The OT predicts that God will put an end to the governments of man and establish a physical, political Kingdom on planet Earth. His throne will be in Jerusalem. All the world will come and bow before Him. He’ll rule with a rod of iron. *Jesus will be the police!*

And the fulfillment of these promises occurs here in Revelation 19-20. In His model prayer Jesus told us to pray, *“Your kingdom come. Your will be done. On earth as it is*

in heaven.” Now here in Chapter 20 at Jesus’ second coming this prayer is finally and fully answered.

Imagine, Jesus’ inauguration day, in Jerusalem, on the Temple Mount. He’ll address throngs of people from across the planet, and articulate the goals of His new administration. His first term He reigned spiritually. Now in His second term He’ll rule legally and corporally. On the cross Jesus redeemed or purchased planet Earth. Here He returns to take possession. One day soon our world will be **under new management**.

Revelation 20 provides us only the duration of Jesus’ Kingdom - *“a thousand years.”* But there are a host of OT prophecies that foresee many other details... We’re told of *the quality of life... changes in the earth’s ecosystem... even the lifestyle of folks in the Kingdom!*

Remember one of the plagues in the Tribulation is the poisoning of the waters. Ezekiel 47:8-9 describe how the Earth’s waters will be healed and rejuvenated.

Isaiah 30:23-26 tells us there’ll be longer periods of sunshine to revitalize the planet’s vegetation. Under Jesus’ administration the Earth will be restored to the garden paradise it once was. We’ll live in **“Eden again.”**

Isaiah 11 tells us how God’s kingdom will even impact the animal kingdom. He’ll resolve the hostility between animals - even between man and animals. Verse 6 tells us, **“The wolf shall also dwell with the lamb...”** Natural born predators will no longer exist. God will alter the food chain. Animals will no longer be carnivores... Imagine, *bulldogs won’t be at odds with gators, and yellow jackets won’t try to sting bulldogs!*

Isaiah 11 implies that God will remove the fear that protects humans from animals, and vice versa. Verse 8, **“The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den.”** Mom, your baby’s favorite pet will be a copperhead.

Isaiah 35:5-6 says there’ll be no birth defects... No down syndrome, or cleft palates, or spina bifida...

Isaiah 65:20 comments on longer life-spans - a man 100 years old will be considered a child. The Bible tells us that before Noah’s flood men lived to old ages: 600, 700, 900 years old. The phenomena of aging is a mystery. We really don’t know what triggers the aging process. Whatever it is, Jesus will lift it in the Kingdom.

In Romans 8 we're told that today creation groans as it awaits its redemption. Julie Andrews use to sing, "[The hills are alive with the sound of music.](#)" But they play in a minor key. Creation groans over man's fall.

When mankind sinned he threw a wrench into the gears of life. A capriciousness appeared within nature. The gentle rains that water your lawn, can also flood a city. The breeze that lifts a kite, can splinter a house.

After the fall, twisters and hurricanes went on a crime spree - *random acts of violence*. Nature went nuts. Today, Mother Nature has a terrible case of PMS. In a fallen world nature is now *a mix of beauty and brutality*.

Every time I hear a tree creak, or a dog howl I wonder if they're not expressing their angst over the conditions they're forced to endure in a sin-harmed world. Yet one day the curse of sin will be lifted. When Jesus reigns over planet Earth the natural order will be restored to its former, and perfect, and peaceful state.

Yet the greatest benefit of living in the Kingdom Age will be the unlimited access we'll have to Jesus. Isaiah 2:2-4 describes how people will flow to the King in Jerusalem, and Jesus will teach us His ways.

Isaiah 2:4 tells us, "[They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.](#)" Under the influence of King Jesus this war-torn world will finally know peace.

And peace won't just be global, but local. In the Millennium there'll be no dead bolts or security systems. Crime will be reduced to a minimum... And there'll be no Satan. He's chained for a thousand years... Jesus will enforce what's right and punish evil.

And realize during the Millennial Kingdom of Christ a strange mixture of people will occupy planet Earth. [Mortal men will live alongside resurrected believers.](#)

There'll be humans who survive the Tribulation. People are born in the Millennium who will continue to marry and give birth. With improved conditions and longer life-spans a population explosion will occur. These survivors and their offspring will retain a sin nature, and even without the devil's influence, from time to time need the Lord's correction. *And they'll be saved the way we've been... by grace through faith.*

But along with the Earth's population of mortals, the Church - along with the OT and Tribulation saints - will also live on planet Earth. After we descend with Jesus at His second coming - we'll hang out and help Him rule. 2 Timothy 2:12 tells us, "[If we endure, we shall also reign with Him.](#)" 1 Corinthians 6:2 asks, "[Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?](#)" *The implication is we will!* Think of the lessons we'll be able to teach mortals in the Kingdom. Through trials, and tears, and heartache we've



learned the *effects of sin* and *need for faith*. When people living in God's Kingdom need to be reminded why it's wise to obey the Lord, we'll have firsthand knowledge we can share.

Remember what Jesus said to the faithful servant in Luke 19, "**Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.**"

Authority and position in God's kingdom are one of the rewards we'll receive for our current faithfulness. Hey, I'm serving the Lord now, hoping I'll get assigned a few tropical islands to rule over in the Kingdom Age.

In the Millennial Kingdom we'll live among the mortals on Earth, but according to **1 Corinthians 15** by this point we'll have an immortal, incorruptible body. For at the rapture we'll receive resurrected bodies.

Which means **our bodies will have the same capacities Jesus had after His resurrection...** Recall how He'd pop in and out on His disciples. His body wasn't confined materially or spatially. He was able to dematerialize and reappear. The disciples thought He was a ghost until they touched Him, and felt the scars of His crucifixion. And we'll have the same type of resurrected body. I like to say, we'll travel *at the speed of want...* Desire to go to Hawaii for the day... *presto!*

As we talk about this future Kingdom you should know, not all Bible teachers agree with its literalness...

Some Christians teach an "**A-millennialism**" or "**no millennium.**" A-millennialism assumes the thousand year reign of Christ is merely symbolic of the Church Age. And one day Jesus will just return to wrap it all up.

Other people advocate "**Post-millennialism.**" Jesus returns only after mankind brings about a golden age on Earth. The job of the Church is it to create a utopian society that'll usher in the second coming of Jesus.

One current form of "**Post-millennialism**" is "**Kingdom Now**" theology. Rather than expect Jesus to return, Christians are encouraged to take over earthly institutions now. Christianize society and government; create a political, social kingdom here and now! Yet this was the mistake first century Jews made when they tried to fashion Jesus into a political Messiah. He refused to cooperate. His earthly kingdom is still future.

A major problem with *Post and A-millennialism* is if the Church is God's Kingdom, and we're currently in the thousand year reign of Christ, **why isn't Satan bound?** Take one look at the filth on the internet, or the violence in our streets... and if we're currently in the Kingdom; then Satan must be on a pretty long leash!

For me *A-millennialism* and *Post-millennialism* fall flat on two counts... **First**, they put too much emphasis on man's work and wisdom. If humans can solve the dilemmas facing our planet then please do so, but their inability proves the ultimate answers are with God.

And **second**, these schools of interpretation take the unfulfilled promises God made to Israel and apply them to the Church. And this denies the Bible's literalness. God's OT promises to Israel are **factual and actual**.

This is why I believe in **"Pre-millennialism."** The Bible teaches that *Jesus will literally and physically return to planet Earth... usher in God's glorious kingdom all by Himself... reign 1000 years... restore all that sin has damaged... and in the process, fulfill every single promise God made to the nation of Israel...*

Well, back to our text. verse 5, **"But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection."** As John does here, in John 5 Jesus spoke of two resurrections. **"For the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth - those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."**

**Believers** are raised to life and **unbelievers** are judged. Both resurrections are found here in Revelation 20. What Jesus didn't mention in John 5 is that a thousand years separate the two resurrections.

And the first resurrection occurs in three waves... It **began** the first Easter. This is why the NT calls Jesus **"the first fruits of the resurrection."** Our Lord was *the first of the first* to overcome death never to die again. Then the Church joins the resurrection at the rapture. Followed by the OT believers and Tribulation martyrs who join in at the end of the age - *the first resurrection*.

While, at *the second resurrection*, **"the rest of the dead"** are resurrected as the thousand years ends. Jesus says in John 5, God will resurrect unbelievers to condemnation. We see this happen in verse 11... At the Great White Throne of Judgment, the bottomless pit empties out, and **"the rest of the dead"** appear before their Maker, to receive their eternal sentence.

Here's the moral of the story... *be part of the first resurrection, not a member of the second*. For we're told in verse 6, **"Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."**

In verse 7 the plot thickens, “**Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison.**” *And it’s not difficult to guess what Satan does.*

Remember Satan has been chained a thousand years. He’s had time to take a personal inventory. He’s thought it through - considered his mistakes. If ever he wanted to turn over a new leaf, this is it... *but NO!*

The moment he’s released he returns to his rebellion and lies. Like a criminal rebuffing rehabilitation, as soon as he hits the street again, he’s out for revenge. Satan goes “**to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog (players in an earlier war discussed in Ezekiel 39), to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.**” The current conflict in the Middle East between Israel and Iran may be the early stages of Ezekiel 39. Only time will tell, but at the end of the Millennium they have a second act. Satan is loosed to stir up old allies for one final attempt at a revolt against the Creator..

Did you hear about the devout Christian lady who was dirt poor. She lived hand-to-mouth. Yet she trusted God for all her needs, and the Lord always supplied. Of course her atheist neighbor couldn’t figure her out. *If her God existed why was she always in need?*

One day, he overheard her desperate prayer. “**Lord, please, I’m hungry.**” The atheist decided to teach the woman a lesson. He went to the grocery store and loaded up several bags of food. He then set them on her doorstep, rang the doorbell, and hid in the bushes.

As soon as she opened the door and saw the food, she shouted, “**Praise the Lord, God heard my prayer.**”

That’s when the atheist jumped out, and scoffed at the lady, “**God didn’t bring you those groceries, I did.**” The woman answered, “**Praise the Lord! God heard my prayer, and sent the Devil to make the delivery.**”

Martin Luther once described Satan as “**God’s ape.**” Like an organ grinder’s monkey, the devil exists for the Master’s purposes. Even Satan’s rebellion plays into God’s hands. He is the puppet on God’s string...

Think of the cross. I’m sure Satan relished the pain he inflicted on Jesus - *the beating, the nails, the rejection*. Yet it’s by His stripes we’re healed. He was bruised for our iniquities - wounded for our transgressions. He was rejected so we can be accepted. At the cross Satan played into God’s hands.

*And here’s another example of how he unwittingly serves God’s purposes.* For the last several decades the debate in psychology has been over **nature or nurture?**



Which is the greater determiner of human behavior? Is our corruption the result of a *genetic defect* or a *deficient environment*? If my problem is me, I have nobody to blame but myself. But if it's my environment I can blame everyone and everybody.

This is why **our culture says nurture**. I'm a sinner because *I had bad parents, or grew up on the wrong side of the tracks, or had a poor education, or evil friends, or I couldn't find a job - excuses, excuses*.

But at the end of the thousand years, God steps into this debate. He ensures that no one walks off into an eternity in hell thinking they have a legitimate excuse.

At this point, for a thousand years, mankind will have existed in a perfect environment. Jesus has occupied the throne. The world has been made brand new. Peace and prosperity, holiness and happiness reigns across the globe. Folks have been treated flawlessly. Yet people who populate the planet are still sinners at heart. Like men today, they're born with a sin nature. With Jesus on the throne they've lived by His rules. *They're the better for it*, but they've only conformed to an external standard. They haven't been transformed by the Holy Spirit. These people need to be born again!

And this reality doesn't hit home until Satan is let loose for a season. For all of sudden, these people are confronted with a choice. They're tempted, "*Who needs God anyway? Make your own rules. Be your own god.*"

**We've heard this all before!** It started in Eden. But the people at the end of the Kingdom Age will be hearing it for the first time. And sadly, it'll enflame the rebellious nature that's been simmering inside them. Even after a thousand years in a perfect world humans will still rebel, **because it's in their nature to do so**.

Here God proves for all time, that humans have sin in their heart. The old adage is true, "*Sinning doesn't make you a sinner. You sin because you are a sinner.*"

Selfishness and rebellion are imbedded in human nature. What happens at the end of the Millennium proves **that at the heart of man's problem is the problem in his heart!** Mankind is a rebel by nature!

Verse 9, "*They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city.*" This flimsy coup d'état dares to lay siege to Jesus' capitol city. This is **the final insurrection**. *How dare anyone attack Jesus after He's been so good?*

The revolt gets put down in short order. "*Fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.*"

*And now the instigator finally gets his due!* Verse 10, "*The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are.*"

And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever..." Jesus told His disciples "the lake of fire" wasn't created for humans, but for Satan and his angels. Here Satan is sent to his ultimate destination.

Verse 11, "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it..." What an ominous sight this is... "White" is the color of holiness and purity. A "throne" speaks of authority. And "great" has the sound of permanence. I believe its Jesus Christ who sits on this throne.

We learn in verse 12 this is a throne of Judgment. And recall, the long list of people who judged Jesus while on earth: *Caiaphas the Priest, Herod the king, the Jewish Sanhedrin, Pontus Pilate Rome's governor, the mob that screamed "crucify Him, crucify Him..."*

Imagine each of them now appearing at this throne to be judged **by** Jesus. The roles are reversed. There'll be a lot of squirming going on. The reason folks appear here is because they rejected Jesus and judged Him as unfit to follow. Now it's His turn to judge them, and see how they stack up to God's righteousness...

Verse 11, "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them." After a thousand years of renovations - after renewing all that sin had worn out - God decides to ditch the Earth and physical universe, and start new.

*And why would God do that?* Well, I don't pretend to know all His reasons, but perhaps He wants us to know this world, and all that's in it, has simply been a stage. Stuff we've valued are but props and symbols. What truly matters are the things that last forever.

2 Peter 3:10 tells us of this future inferno, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."

Physics teaches that "like charges" repel. Yet at an atom's center is a cluster of bonded protons. Scientists explain this mystery with terms like "atomic glue" or "a God particle." Their understanding is vague, but the Bible is quite clear. Colossians 1:17 says that in Christ "all things consist" or hold together. This world is in the hands of Jesus and one day He'll *let go* - "the elements will melt with fervent heat." A meltdown is coming. In that day all that will be left will be man and his Maker.

Then everyone in the bottomless pit - all unbelievers from all the ages - every rebel who rejected God's salvation will stand before Jesus and answer for their decision. Verse 12, **"And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and 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."**

These books contain every deed ever done. At the Great White Throne all is exposed. Nothing will remain hidden. Every person who rejected Christ, will be judged by their own deeds - the merits they mustered.

Realize, the four judgments in Scripture... First, is **the cross**. On Calvary, in the person of Jesus, God judged our sin. The punishment due *us*, was taken out on Jesus. He bore our judgment, so God could forgive us. When you trust in Jesus your sin is judged forever.

Second, is **the judgment seat (or bema seat) of Christ**. In 1 Corinthians 3 the issue is not our sin, but our service. The believer's works are judged to see what reward we'll receive. Our motivation gets tested. Good deeds, done out of love for God, will be valued as gold and silver, but service done out of pride or selfishness will be burned like wood, hay, and stubble.

Third, is **the judgment of nations**. This occurs at Jesus' second coming in the Valley of Jehoshaphat. Joel 3 and Matthew 25 tells us that Jesus will separate *the sheep* from *the goats*. How the nations treated God's people, Israel, is the criteria for this judgment.

Then the fourth judgment is **the Great White Throne Judgment**. This is *not* for believers. In Revelation 4 believers gathered around a multi-colored throne. It represented God's manifold grace. It was surrounded by a rainbow (*a symbol of His faithfulness*), and four living creatures each representing a different aspect of Jesus' ministry! Yet what a contrast here. This throne is large, looming - and it's stark white! It represents God's unapproachable holiness. *Unforgiven sinners beware!*

If you're in Christ your sin is judged at the cross. But notice folks under scrutiny here are **"judged according to their works."** And the last thing you want, is to stand before God on the merit of your own works. Who, but Jesus, lived a life good enough for a holy, sinless God?

Isaiah 64:6 tells us that in God's sight all **our** righteousness is as filthy rags. If judged according to my efforts I'm in big trouble! I'm resting, not in my works, but in the work of Jesus Christ upon the cross!

Verse 13, “The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.” “Hades” opens its hatches and all the unbelieving dead are condemned before God. Nobody stands a chance. Romans 3:23 will be the verdict, “For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God...”

Remember “Hades” is like a county jail - it’s temporary holding. It’s where the spirits of unbelievers are today. In Luke 16 the rich man suffers in the flames of “Hades,” but it’s not his permanent punishment.

“Gehenna” or “the lake of fire” is the super-max prison. The Lake of fire is the final assignment. Once you’re found lacking at the Great White Throne you’re sent to THE LAKE. And despite popular lore, there’re no keg parties, or wild orgies, or beer buddies at the lake, only fire and brimstone... *scorching regret*.

Verse 14, “Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.” Physical death is the first death. But *the lake* - eternal damnation - is the second. There’s an saying, “Born once die twice. Born twice die once.” Come to Jesus, be born again, and you’ll face only physical death... The first death is not the one to fear. “The second death” is “the lake of fire.”

Chapter 20 closes, “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” Here’s the most pressing question you’ll ever be asked, “Is your name written in the Book of Life?” Do you trust in the cross of Christ, or do you point to your own merits?

There’re only two futures: **the garden** or **the fire!**