



LESSON 42

God will judge the world

REVELATION 19:11–20:15



Jesus will come again to defeat His enemies.



“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war” (Rev 19:11).

Supporting Truths

1. Jesus is coming back one day.
2. Jesus is God's Warrior, conquering the wicked.
3. Jesus is the great King, controlling the wicked.
4. Jesus is the great Judge, condemning the wicked.
5. Jesus destroys Satan and everything evil.

Objectives

1. Describe what Jesus will look like when He returns.
2. Describe what happens to both armies that try to fight against Jesus.
3. State that Jesus will rule over the earth for 1,000 years with a rod of iron.
4. Identify who is cast into the lake of fire and why.
5. Explain how the fate of the wicked motivates true faith that does not give up.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

God will judge the world • Revelation 19:11–20:15



Lesson Summary

One day, Christ will return, not as a baby born to suffer and die, but as God's invincible Warrior King. He will slaughter all those who fight against Him, then He will imprison Satan and rule for 1,000 years in perfect righteousness. After that, He will release Satan, defeat him, and throw him into the lake of fire forever. Then Christ will condemn all those whose names are not in the Book of Life and cast them into the lake of fire.

Spotlight on the Gospel

Revelation is such an important book because it motivates us to live godly lives today. It shows us the end so that we will have godly fear and unwavering hope. Revelation 19–20 warns us to submit to Christ now, because when He returns, He will kill and judge all His enemies. But it also encourages us to stay loyal to Christ even when wickedness surrounds us, because He will not allow the wicked to go unpunished.

LAST WEEK



**John sees the worthy
Lamb**

Revelation 5:1–14

THIS WEEK



**God will judge the
world**

Revelation 19:11–20:15

NEXT WEEK



**God creates a new
heaven and new earth**

Revelation 21:1–22:21

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Commentary

Jesus will come again to defeat His enemies.

Sometimes the news we hear is so wicked that it sickens us. The innocent suffer unjustly and the guilty press on unrestrained. We wonder how long the wicked will go unpunished (Ps 94:3–7). When injustice prospers, it is easy to become discouraged and wonder, “Is it even worth it to live a godly life?” (Ps 73:13). That is why we need Revelation. We need to see that God does in fact see what the wicked are doing, and one day He will execute justice (Gen 3:15; Deut 32:35). When we see that righteousness will win in the end, we find new strength to stay true to Christ to the very end (Rev 1:1–3).

The Second Coming: Christ returns as God’s righteous warrior (19:11–21)

It is good to stay true to Christ, because He will come again to accomplish His mission as God’s conquering King (Rev 19:11; Matt 24:30). He rides a white horse, a sign of purity and righteous victory. He is called “Faithful and True,” because He is keeping His promise to return and execute the wicked (Matt 24:50–51). Unlike the beast, who waged war with boasting and blasphemy (Rev 13:5–7), Jesus will judge and make war in righteousness.

The King’s appearance matches His mission (Rev 19:12–13a, 16). His eyes are like fiery flames because He judges with burning purity and nothing is hidden from His sight (Heb 4:13). Many crowns are on His head, and the name “King of kings and Lord of lords” is on His robe. Both of these show that He has absolute authority over all the earth (Dan 4:37). He also has a name written on Him that no one knows, because no one knows all that will be revealed about Him. Because of that, no one—not even the Devil—is able to control or overcome Him. Finally, His robe is stained with blood, showing what will happen to any who oppose Him (Isa 63:1–3).

The King’s rank matches His mission (Rev 19:13b–14). Because He is the **Word of God**, He functions as God’s agent, the one who does God’s will. He is God’s agent in judgment (John 5:19–22), and because He is God’s chosen agent, He is also the great Captain of all the armies of heaven. While this may include angels (Matt 25:31), this verse is especially about redeemed humans (Rev 17:14), the raptured church (19:8), who ride with Jesus to witness His victory.

The King’s weapons match His mission (19:15). A double-edged sword comes out of His mouth, since with His breath He will slay the wicked (Isa 11:4). After this slaughter, He will shepherd the nations with an iron scepter, shattering those who oppose His kingdom (Ps 2:9). He will swiftly judge all sin and force rebels to submit (Zech 14:17–19). In the end, He will crush all who oppose God, like someone trampling grapes to make wine (Isa 63:3–6).

With the description of the King complete, an angel announces the coming battle (Rev 19:17–18; Ezek 39:4, 17–20) and the beast gathers the ten kings for war (Rev 17:12–14; 19:19). But the battle is over before it begins. The **beast—the Antichrist** (Rev 13)—becomes the first to be tossed into the lake of fire, along with his false prophet (19:20). Christ slaughters the rest single-handedly (19:21). For most people, Christ’s second coming will be terrible (Matt 24:28, 30).

The Millennium: Christ reigns as God’s supreme king (20:1–6)

After the battle, the Devil and all demons are imprisoned for a thousand years (20:1–3). During that time, the earth will flourish, since the Devil will no longer be able to deceive, harass, tempt, and devour (2 Cor 4:4; 11:14; 12:7; 1 Thess 3:5; 1 Pet 5:8). With the Devil’s kingdom ended, a new kingdom comes with new rulers (Rev 20:4). The rulers include the martyrs who stayed true to Christ during the tribulation (6:9; 18:24; 19:2). Their rule shows that even in the worst suffering, it is worth it to stay faithful, because God keeps His promise (6:9–11).

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In order to reign with Christ, the martyrs must first be **resurrected**, brought back to physical life with new bodies (Job 19:26; 1 Cor 15:53; Phil 3:21). But there are two kinds of resurrection (Rev 20:5; John 5:29). The first resurrection is the resurrection to eternal life, and those who are part of this resurrection will not suffer the second death, which is hell (Rev 20:6, 14). The resurrected believers will rule with Jesus as the supreme King during the **millennial kingdom**, when Jesus rules from Jerusalem over the whole earth for 1,000 years (Isa 24:23).

The millennial kingdom will be a time of righteousness and peace (11:3–5; 32:17), since no one will be able to harm another (11:9). Spiritually, it will be a time of joy (12:3–4; 61:3, 7), when the remnant of Israel is restored to God and to the land promised to Abraham (Jer 30:5–8; Rom 11:26; Gen 15:18). Gentile nations will also worship the King, although not all will want to (Mic 4:2; Zech 14:16–19). Physically, the curse is neutralized (Isa 11:7–9; 35:1–2, 7), so that the earth is rejuvenated, food is plentiful (Joel 2:21–27), and people enjoy good health and very long lives (Isa 33:24; 35:5–6; 65:20).

The Last Battle: Christ conquers as God's promised seed (20:7–10)

After this, Satan is released and many unbelievers follow him (Rev 20:7–8). This is to show, first, that humans are desperately wicked. Even without Satan's deceiving influence, they still rebel against Christ's perfect reign, and they quickly follow Satan (20:8–9). Thus, humans have no excuse for rebelling against God (Rom 1:18–20), and God is perfectly just when He finally judges (3:4). Second, Satan's release shows that he is powerless before Christ (Job 1:8–12). Christ destroys Satan and his army in a moment, and Satan becomes the third to be cast into the lake of fire (Rev 20:10). This is exactly what God said would happen (Ezek 39:6–7).

The Great White Throne: Christ condemns as God's appointed judge (20:11–15)

After the Devil's defeat, it is time for all unbelievers to be judged. A righteous throne appears, with God the Son sitting as judge (Rev 5:1, 7, 13; 21:5–6; John 5:22–29). From His presence earth and heaven flee away (20:11). They cease to exist, or as Peter described it, they dissolve and melt with intense heat (2 Pet 3:10–13). Now the second resurrection occurs—the resurrection of the dead. The dead are gathered from the sea, from Death, and from Hades and brought back to life to be judged according to their deeds (Rev 20:12–13). The weight of their sin will crush them, because they will have nothing to say in their defense (Rom 3:19).

The place where all the condemned are thrown is the **lake of fire** (Rev 20:14). Before, Jesus had compared this place to Hell, or Gehenna (Luke 12:5), a valley of Jerusalem where trash was thrown and continually burned. The picture of constantly burning fire, foul smoke, and festering maggots provides a glimpse of what hell will be like. Its torment will last forever (Matt 25:41). After all, the beast and the false prophet are still burning after a 1,000 years (Rev 20:10). Sadly, this is the eternal destiny of all those whose names are not found in the book of life (20:15).

So when you look at the world today, and it seems like the wicked have all the advantages, think again. The God of heaven and earth will rise up and judge His creation. He will repay the proud and avenge His holy name (Ps 94:1–2). So how should you live today? What kind of person should you be (2 Pet 3:11)? Only those who overcome—only those who stay true to Christ to the very end—will escape the coming judgment.

THINK ABOUT IT

God's record books will expose every sin, even so called "secret sins" (Eccl 12:14)—every wrong motive, every impure thought, every unkind word, every selfish action.



Lesson Outline

Jesus will come again to defeat His enemies.



AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE

Do not be discouraged by evil because . . .

1. Christ will defeat the wicked in battle (19:11–21).
2. Christ and His followers will rule over the wicked (20:1–6).
3. Christ will defeat wicked Satan and his followers (20:7–10).
4. Christ will send the wicked to hell (20:11–15).



AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE

1. **The Second Coming: Christ returns as God's righteous warrior (19:11–21).**

- Jesus comes as God's righteous warrior King (19:11–16).
- Jesus casts the beast and false prophet into the lake of fire (19:17–21).

2. **The Millennium: Christ reigns as God's supreme king (20:1–6).**

- Jesus locks Satan up for 1,000 years (20:1–3).
- Jesus reigns with His followers for 1,000 years (20:4–6).

3. **The Last Battle: Christ conquers as God's promised seed (20:7–10).**

- Satan is released and gathers the nations for battle (20:7–8).
- Fire burns up the army, and Satan is cast into the lake of fire (20:9–10).

4. **The Great White Throne: Christ condemns as God's appointed judge (20:11–15).**

- Those not recorded in the book of life are judged by their deeds (20:11–12).
- Death, Hades, and the unredeemed are thrown into the lake of fire (20:13–15).



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

God will judge the world • Revelation 19:11–20:15



Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

1. **What will Jesus use to kill the huge army that fights against Him?**
A sword coming out of His mouth—His own word or breath.
2. **Will anyone be able to do evil when Jesus is King on earth?**
No. If anyone does not want to obey, He will make them obey.
3. **Where will Satan go after the last battle?**
He will be thrown into the lake of fire forever.
4. **What will happen to everyone whose name is not in the book of life?**
They will be thrown into the lake of fire forever.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

1. **What is Jesus riding when He returns?**
A white horse, a sign of purity and righteous victory.
2. **Why is Jesus' robe stained with blood when He comes again?**
It shows that He is coming to defeat all His enemies.
3. **What will happen to Satan?**
He will be locked up for a 1,000 years, then he will be defeated and cast into the lake of fire.
4. **What will Jesus' 1,000-year reign be like?**
He will reign from Jerusalem over the whole earth. He will enforce perfect justice. There will be peace, prosperity, health, and long life. All Israel will worship Him and live in the Promised Land.
5. **What are the two kinds of resurrection?**
The first resurrection is when believers are given immortal bodies to live with God forever.
The second resurrection is when unbelievers are given immortal bodies to suffer in the lake of fire forever.
6. **What does Jesus do when He sits on the Great White Throne?**
He acts as Judge and condemns all those whose names are not in the Book of Life.
7. **How will unbelievers be judged?**
They will be judged according to their deeds.
8. **What should we learn when we see what Christ will do to His enemies?**
To stay true to Christ to the very end, even when wicked people seem like they are winning.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



THE GUEST BOOK

Ask the children to write their names in a guest book on their way in to class. Ask them only once and do not remind them. At the beginning of the lesson, open this book and read all the names written in it. Is everyone's name there? In today's lesson, we're going to learn about the Book of Life. This book contains the names of every Christian. Use this book later in the lesson as an illustration of the Book of Life.

DONKEY AND HORSE

Do the children remember the type of animal that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on? Hold up a stuffed donkey (Matt 21:5). Can anyone remember what this taught us about Jesus? That He came to earth the first time as a humble king in order to die on the cross for sinners. But in today's lesson, Jesus returns to earth a second time. What kind of animal do you think He rides this time? Show a picture of a white horse (Rev 19:11). What do you think this teaches us about Jesus? That when He comes to earth a second time it will be as a conquering king.



VISUAL AIDS

Use the following props to bring the lesson to life: white horse, crowns, red robe, sword, scepter (metal rod), grapes, stuffed birds, water-based ink stamp (mark of beast), flame (lake of fire), key, chains, toy dragon, calendar, number 1 (first resurrection), number 2 (second death), crown on globe (Christ's earthly reign), throne, two books.

SATAN REMOVED FROM POWER

Bring in a bowl and fill it with cereal. Add small metal nails or screws or metal shavings to the cereal. Show it to the children and ask them how the metal can be removed. Explain that it's wrecking your cereal. Using a magnet, remove all the metal from the dry cereal. Use this illustration to show how Satan and the demons' evil influence will be removed during the millennial kingdom when they are bound, removed from the earth and thrown into the pit.



JESUS WILL REIGN

See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2.

Materials: Craft sheet, craft stick, glue, stickers, tape.

Directions: Color the crown and use to tape to close it. Make a cross with the craft sticks and tape it in the back of the crown. Décor the crown with stickers.

*Jesus Will Reign
See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2*



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

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AGES 6–8



INTRODUCE

FIRST VERSUS SECOND

While the children listen, read Luke 2:1–7. Now, with that in mind, ask them to compare what they just heard with Revelation 19:11–16. Are there any similarities between these two passages (both describe Jesus coming to earth)? What are some differences (one describes His first coming and the other His second; Jesus came as a child first and a conquering king second; Jesus came alone the first time but was followed by the armies of heaven the second; etc.)? Today we'll learn about His second coming.

BREATH OF YOUR MOUTH

Give each child a balloon. After all the balloons have been inflated, see who can keep their balloon in the air the longest using nothing but the breath of their mouth. Can the children think of anything else they can do with just their breath? In today's lesson, Jesus obliterates His enemies with the breath of His mouth (Rev 19:15, 21).



ILLUSTRATE

EARTHLY REIGN

Bring several paper crowns. Ask the kids what responsibilities they have at home or at school: cleaning room, clearing dishes, caring for pets, etc. Write a word on each crown for these various responsibilities, and let the kids wear them. Explain that humans were given a job to rule over the earth (Gen 1:26), but we have failed. God's plan for humans and the world will only be finished when Jesus, as a man, perfectly reigns on earth for 1,000 years.

I THOUGHT GOD WAS LOVE?

God is a God of love. He loves perfectly. However, He is perfect in every other area too. God cannot allow sin to go unpunished because He is perfectly holy and just (Rom 3:24–26). Illustrate justice by asking the children if it would be fair if their parents did not punish a sibling for anything he did wrong. What if he hit you or took something that wasn't his? It would only be right to punish him. God punishes sinners too. However, God does offer forgiveness. If we trust Jesus as Lord and Savior, God punishes Jesus in our place. Christ is the only way to escape God's just wrath and judgment.



APPLY

JESUS THE JUDGE

See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2.

Materials: Craft sheet, Craft stick, crayons, tape, coffee cup lid, paper bag.

Directions: Color the image and cut it. Use a craft stick to reinforce the judge hammer, and use tape to keep it together. Cover the coffee cup lid with the paper bag and taper it in the back of it.

Jesus the Judge

See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 2



AGES 9–11

**THAT'S NOT FAIR!**

Have you ever seen someone cheat at school or in sports and get away with it? How did that make you feel? Does it make you feel discouraged for trying to do things the right way? Does it tempt you to try to cheat too? Do you begin to feel bitter against the cheaters and want to pay them back? The lesson today shows us we can be encouraged to do what is right and not pay back on our own, because one day Jesus will make everything right.

CLASS-MADE GRAPE JUICE

Set a bunch of red grapes in a clear tub and let those who want to squish them with bare feet. Be careful not to stain clothing and be ready to clean off feet. Pour out the grape juice into another clear container. Do any of the children want to drink it (don't let them)? Describe how a winepress works. Explain that this is a vivid image of what Jesus will do to those who keep resisting Him (Isa 63:3–6).

**PERMANENT RECORD**

Have you ever done something embarrassing in front of someone else? Have you ever had an embarrassing moment recorded by someone on their phone or other device? Did they show this video to others? Did they post it to their social media site? Did you know that everything you've ever done is seen and known by God? In fact, the Bible says that God will judge unbelievers "according to what they had done" (Rev 20:13). Unbelievers will have no excuse before God, and because they will be judged "by what was written in the books" (20:12), their judgment will be fair.

SATAN

Satan was once one of God's angels; however, he rebelled against God, so God threw him and many other rebellious angels out of heaven. Satan is an evil angel who continues to fight against God. He wants to be just like God and opposes everything God wants. Satan does not know everything like God does, cannot be everywhere like God is, and is not all-powerful like God is. He is very powerful, though, and constantly tries to deceive believers. He is a liar and an accuser, charging believers with sin when he talks to God.

**THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT!**

Is this a true statement? Can we really blame Satan for our sin? No! Today's lesson provides clear proof. Despite the removal of Satan's deceiving influence during the millennial kingdom, there will still be many who reject Christ during His righteous 1,000-year reign. And these Christ rejecters will be quick to follow Satan upon his release (Rev 20:8–9). We sin, but not because the Devil makes us. We sin because we have wicked hearts (Jer 17:9). However, that does not mean that the Devil and his evil world system do not provide us with opportunities to sin. Satan is our enemy. He is like a lion, prowling around looking for someone to devour. But we are able to resist him as we depend on God and rely on the power of His Spirit that lives within us (1 Pet 3:8–9).