

THE HOPEFUL INCLUSIVISM OF REVELATION'S CLOSING IMAGES

Early Hearings of the Letter from Patmos (Handout 1)

Revelation 20.7-8—When the thousand years are over, the satan will be released from his prison and will go out to DECEIVE THE NATIONS in the four corners of the earth—GOG AND MAGOG—AND TO GATHER THEM FOR BATTLE. In number they are like the SAND ON THE SEASHORE. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But FIRE came down from heaven and CONSUMED them. And the DEVIL, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where THE BEAST and THE FALSE PROPHET had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Revelation 19.19—Then I saw THE BEAST and THE KINGS OF THE EARTH and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army.

Revelation 19.20—But THE BEAST was CAPTURED, and with him the FALSE PROPHET who had performed the signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the MARK of the beast and worshiped his IMAGE. The two of them were thrown ALIVE into the LAKE OF FIRE of burning sulfur. And THE REST were slain by the sword of the rider on the horse, the sword that came from his MOUTH and ALL THE BIRDS GORGED THEMSELVES ON THEIR FLESH.

Revelation 19.15—Coming out of his MOUTH is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will REIGN OVER [rather than “break” as in Psalms 2] them with an iron SCEPTER [rather than rod]

All Will Be Reconciled

Philippians 2.8-11—He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Annihilation

Isaiah 33.14—Who among us can live with the devouring fire? Who among us can live with everlasting flames?” Those who walk righteously and speak uprightly, who despise the gain of oppression, who wave away a bribe instead of accepting it, who stop their ears from hearing of bloodshed and shut their eyes from looking on evil, they will live on the heights; their refuge will be the fortresses of rocks; their food will be supplied, their water assured

“That the world may be healed.” — John 3.17

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Eternal Torment

Revelation 14.9-10— . . . Those who worship the beast and its image, and receive a mark on their foreheads or on their hands, . . . will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast.

Revelation 22.2—Down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the **HEALING** of THE NATIONS.

Genesis 14.3-10—All these latter kings joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Dead Sea Valley). For twelve years they had been subject to Kedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled. In the fourteenth year, Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him went out and defeated the Rephaites in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzites in Ham, the Emites in Shaveh Kiriathaim and the Horites in the hill country of Seir, as far as El Paran near the desert. Then they turned back and went to En Mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and they conquered the whole territory of the Amalekites, as well as the Amorites who were living in Hazazon Tamar. Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboyim and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) marched out and drew up their battle lines in the Valley of Siddim [Dead Sea Valley] against Kedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goyim, Amraphel king of Shinar and Arioch king of Ellasar—four kings against five. Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits, and when the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some of the men fell into them and the rest fled to the hills.

Genesis 19.23-28—By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the LORD out of the heavens. Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, destroying all those living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land. But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the LORD. He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace.

Genesis 13.10-11—Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, toward Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company:

Herb Montgomery
Renewed Heart Ministries
PO Box 1211 | Lewisburg, WV 24901 | 304.520.0030
herb@renewedheartministries.com
www.renewedheartministries.com



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Early Hearings of the Letter from Patmos (Handout 2)

Ezekiel 16.35-50—Therefore, you prostitute, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because you poured out your lust and exposed your nakedness in your promiscuity with your lovers, and because of all your detestable idols, and because you **GAVE THEM YOUR CHILDREN'S BLOOD . . .** Your mother was a Hittite and your father an Amorite. Your older sister was Samaria, who lived to the north of you with her daughters; and your younger sister, who lived to the south of you with her daughters, was Sodom. You not only followed their ways and copied their detestable practices, but in all your ways you soon became **MORE DEPRAVED THAN THEY**. As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, your sister **SODOM AND HER DAUGHTERS NEVER DID WHAT YOU AND YOUR DAUGHTERS HAVE DONE**. Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen.

Deuteronomy 29.22-27—Your children who follow you in later generations and foreign-ers who come from distant lands will see the calamities that have fallen on the land and the diseases with which the LORD has afflicted it. The whole land will be a burning waste of salt and sulfur—nothing planted, nothing sprouting, no vegetation growing on it. It will be like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboyim, which the LORD overthrew in fierce anger. All the nations will ask: “Why has the LORD done this to this land? Why this fierce, burning anger?” And the answer will be: “It is because this people abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their ancestors, the covenant he made with them when he brought them out of Egypt. They went off and worshiped other gods and bowed down to them, gods they did not know, gods he had not given them. Therefore the LORD’s anger burned against this land, so that he brought on it all the curses written in this book.

Isaiah 1.10—Your country is desolate, your cities burned with fire; your fields are be- ing stripped by foreigners right before you, laid waste as when overthrown by strang- ers. Daughter Zion is left like a shelter in a vineyard, like a hut in a field of melons, like a city under siege. Unless the LORD Almighty had left us some survivors, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah. Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom; listen to the instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

Isaiah 34.8-10—For the LORD has a day of vengeance, a year of retribution, to uphold Zion’s cause. Edom’s streams will be turned into pitch, her dust into burning sulfur; her land will become blazing pitch! It will not be quenched night or day; its smoke will rise forever. From generation to generation it will lie desolate; no one will ever pass through it again.

Jeremiah 49.17-18—“Edom will become an object of horror; all who pass by will be ap- palled and will scoff because of all its wounds. As Sodom and Gomorrah were over- thrown, along with their neighboring towns,” says the LORD, “so no one will live there; no one will dwell in it.”

Ezekiel 16.53-55—“However, I will **RESTORE** the fortunes of Sodom and her daughters and of Samaria and her daughters, and your fortunes along with them, so that you may bear your disgrace and be ashamed of all you have done in giving them comfort. And your sisters, Sodom with her daughters and Samaria with her daughters, **WILL RE- TURN TO WHAT THEY WERE BEFORE**; and you and your daughters will return to what you were before.

“That the world may be healed.” — John 3.17
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Zechariah 14.9—On that day there will be no sunlight, no cold, frosty darkness. It will be a unique day—a day known only to the LORD—with **NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN DAY AND NIGHT**. When evening comes, there will be light. On that day **LIVING WATER WILL FLOW OUT FROM JERUSALEM**, half of it east **TO THE DEAD SEA** and half of it west to the Mediterranean Sea, in summer and in winter. **THE LORD WILL BE KING OVER THE WHOLE EARTH**. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.

Ezekiel 47.1-2—The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side.

Ezekiel 47.8-12—He said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where **IT ENTERS THE DEAD SEA**. When it empties into the sea, the **SALTY WATER THERE BECOMES FRESH**. Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; **SO WHERE THE RIVER FLOWS EVERYTHING WILL LIVE**. People will fish along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds—like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea. But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. **FRUIT TREES OF ALL KINDS WILL GROW ON BOTH BANKS OF THE RIVER**. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. **EVERY MONTH THEY WILL BEAR FRUIT, BECAUSE THE WATER FROM THE SANCTUARY FLOWS TO THEM. THEIR FRUIT WILL SERVE FOR FOOD AND THEIR LEAVES FOR HEALING.**”

Revelation 20.11-15—Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and **HADES** gave up the dead that were in them, and everyone was judged according to what they had done. Then **DEATH AND HADES WERE THROWN INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE**. The lake of fire is the second death. *All whose names were not found written in the book of life were thrown into the lake of fire.*

Jude 7—In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an **EXAMPLE** of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

2 Peter 2.6—If he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an **EXAMPLE** of what is going to happen to the ungodly.



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Early Hearings of the Letter from Patmos (Handout 3)

Luke 16.24—So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

Revelation 21.1-4—Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. **THERE WILL BE NO MORE DEATH**’ or mourning or crying or **PAIN**, for the **OLD ORDER OF THINGS HAS PASSED AWAY.**”

Revelation 21.5—He who was seated on the throne said, “**I AM MAKING EVERY- THING NEW!**”

Revelation 21.6 —He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. **TO THE THIRSTY** I will give water without cost **FROM THE SPRING OF THE WATER OF LIFE.**

Revelation 21.7-8—Those who are victorious will inherit all this [new heaven and new earth], and I will be their God and they will be my children. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—**THEY WILL BE CONSIGNED TO THE FIERY LAKE OF BURNING SULFUR. THIS IS THE SECOND DEATH.**”

Revelation 21.9-10—One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you **THE BRIDE**, the wife of the **LAMB.**” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me **THE HOLY CITY, JERUSALEM**, coming down out of heaven from God.

Revelation 21.22-27—I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. **THE CITY DOES NOT NEED THE SUN OR THE MOON TO SHINE ON IT**, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp **THE NATIONS WILL WALK BY ITS LIGHT**, and **THE KINGS OF THE EARTH WILL BRING THEIR SPLENDOR INTO IT. ON NO DAY WILL ITS GATES EVER BE SHUT**, for there will be no night there. **THE GLORY AND HONOR OF THE NATIONS WILL BE BROUGHT INTO IT.** Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

“That the world may be healed.” — John 3.17

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Revelation 22.1—Then the angel showed me the **RIVER OF THE WATER OF LIFE**, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. **ON EACH SIDE** of the river stood the **TREE OF LIFE**, bearing twelve crops of fruit, **YIELDING ITS FRUIT EVERY MONTH**. And the leaves of the tree are for the **HEALING OF THE NATIONS**.

Revelation 22.3-5—**NO LONGER WILL THERE BE ANY CURSE**. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. **THERE WILL BE NO MORE NIGHT**. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22.14—Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. **OUTSIDE ARE THE DOGS, THOSE WHO PRACTICE MAGIC ARTS, THE SEXUALLY IMMORAL, THE MURDERERS, THE IDOLATERS AND EVERYONE WHO LOVES AND PRACTICES FALSEHOOD**.

Revelation 22.17—The Spirit **AND THE BRIDE** say, “Come!” And let those who hear say, “Come!” **LET THOSE WHO ARE THIRSTY COME; AND LET ALL WHO WISH TAKE THE FREE GIFT OF THE WATER OF LIFE**.

Revelation 21.25—Its gates will **NEVER** be shut . . .

Revelation 15.4-5—Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

Daniel 7.13-14—“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

