

Babylon the Great -- and the New Jerusalem

John records two visions in the latter part of Revelation (Rev 17:1 to 20:10, and 20:11 to 22:11).

One vision shows the downfall of Babylon the Great. The angel said to John, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute” (Rev 17:1). The demise of Babylon is fully accomplished with the White Horse judgement. The last verse in the vision says, ‘And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown’ (Rev 20:10).

The other vision shows the establishment of the New Jerusalem. God created his holy city to last forever. The White Throne judgement determines who will be allowed to enter the Kingdom of God, and who will be excluded. The judgement is crucial in establishing God’s uninterrupted rule for all of eternity.

Rev 17:1 to 20:10

Rev 20:11 to 22:11

A vision of Babylon the Great 17:1 to 19:10	A vision of The New Jerusalem
<p>“Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute” Rev 17:1</p> <p>White Horse Judgement 19:11 to 20:10</p> <p>(1) The Beast, (2) the False Prophet, and (3) Satan are destroyed in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. (19:20 and 20:10)</p>	<p>White Throne Judgement 20:11 to 21:8</p> <p>Human beings are judged as to whether they share in God’s kingdom -- or are cast out.</p> <p>(1) Death, (2) the grave, and (3) the wicked are cast into the fiery lake of burning sulphur. (20:14-15 and 21:8)</p>
<p>AFTER THE JUDGMENT BABYLON NO LONGER EXISTS</p>	<p>AFTER THE JUDGEMENT JERUSALEM IS ESTABLISHED</p> <p>The New Jerusalem 21:9 to 22:11</p> <p>“Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” Rev 21:9</p>

The vision of Babylon the Great concludes with the **White Horse** Judgement.

Babylon ceases to exist.

The vision of the New Jerusalem commences with the **White Throne** Judgement.

Jerusalem is established forever.

The **White Horse** Judgement is not followed by a separate **White Throne** Judgement. They are two accounts of the same judgement. It is one judgement – with the appropriate and relevant details being recorded in each vision.

The White Horse Judgement

(Satan is the central focus of this judgement)

Rev 19:11 to 20:10

Key Events

Rev 19:11-16

Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords destroys the wicked at his Second Coming.

19:17-19, 21

The birds eat their flesh.

19:20

The Beast and the False Prophet are thrown into **the fiery lake of burning sulphur**.

20:1-3

Satan is bound with a great chain, he is thrown into the Abyss and locked-in -- with the angel's key.

Satan – a prisoner

The symbolism used in these verses presents Satan as a prisoner bound in chains and thrown into a dungeon where he is locked-up. Satan was the perpetrator of evil for so long, now he is a prisoner to be judged for his wickedness.

For long eons, Satan has stood in opposition to God. He has willingly sought to influence men to evil. He has led wicked men against the people of God. He led the leaders of Israel and the political leaders against Jesus, and against God's faithful servants. These faithful ones he has imprisoned, wrongfully condemned, and killed. See the following examples.

Jesus captured, bound, and crucified

Mark 14:43, 46, 53

A crowd came to Jesus at night armed with swords and clubs. They were sent by the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders. The men seized Jesus and arrested him. They took Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together.

Peter and John seized, and imprisoned

Acts 4:3

They seized Peter and John – and because it was evening -- they put them in jail until the next day.

James killed -- Peter seized, bound, and imprisoned

Acts 12:2-7

King Herod had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared ...

Paul and Silas flogged, bound, and imprisoned

Acts 16:23-26

Paul and Silas were severely flogged. Then they were thrown into prison, the jailer put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. All the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose ...

Rev 20:4

After Satan is imprisoned, he is judged.

20:5

The wicked are resurrected.

20:7 (3, 7)

Satan is released for a short time.

20:8-9

Satan again deceives the wicked. Together they set out to attack the camp of God's people. And fire comes down from heaven and destroys the wicked ones.

20:10

Satan is thrown into **the lake of burning sulphur** (where the Beast and the False Prophet had already been thrown 19:20).

Satan's history according to Revelation

Satan is formally introduced (into the narrative) in Rev chapter 12, and his two agents (the Beast and the False Prophet) are introduced in chapter 13.

In the account of the sixth plague (16:13-16), the Dragon (Satan), the Beast, and the False Prophet deceive the wicked and unite them against God. They gather them for the battle of the great day of God Almighty (Armageddon).

Satan is Cast-out

Firstly, he is cast out of heaven. Then he is judged on earth, and here also -- he is cast out.

1. He is cast-out of heaven.

Rev 12:7-9

War broke out in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down -- that ancient serpent called the devil, and Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

2. He is cast from the earth.

Rev 20:4, 10

Then I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And following the judgement, Satan was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur.

No-one -- having been cast into **the fiery lake of burning sulphur** -- ever rises to life again. In the Millennial Judgement Satan is finished.

Non-repentant Sinners are Cast-out

Rev 21:8

They will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulphur. (This is recorded in the narrative of the White Throne Judgement.)

The Judgement is not all bad news

It is GOOD NEWS for all who place their trust in God.

Rev 21:3-5

“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, no more mourning, no more crying, no more pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Appendix

The Layout of the **Four Visions** of Revelation

Introduction	The Prologue	Rev 1:1-7
1st Vision	On Earth -- Jesus Encourages His Wayward Church	Rev 1:8 to 3:22
2nd Vision	From Heaven -- Jesus Reveals the Broader Controversy	Rev 4:1 to 16:21
3rd Vision	‘Babylon the Great’ is Punished	Rev 17:1 to 20:10
4th Vision	‘The New Jerusalem’ is Established	Rev 20:11 to 22:11
Conclusion	The Epilogue	Rev 22:12-21

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