

Revelation Series

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Why is the world in such a mess? – Part I

Intro: It may seem an odd way to begin with the fifth chapter of Revelations. However, if we are to understand the magnitude and the magnificence of this event recorded in this chapter, we have to answer the question posed, “Why is the world in such a mess?”

A typical question posed by the unsaved and the uniformed saved people in their response to a major catastrophe be it nationally or on a more personal note is, “Where is God in all of this?” Why is this world getting exponentially worse? Crime is up regardless of the nature of the crime, atrocities taking place in North Korea and China, the hatred in the middle East and here in America our educational system is going to pot and civility becoming almost non-existent. God gets blamed for a lot of things that He does not do! Amazingly, when we don’t like something or the outcome of something, we blame God. No one likes evil regardless of the who, the when, the where or the why, we just typically blame God. After all, we don’t want to point fingers at ourselves – so, blame God, after all, He could have stepped in if He is so powerful.

By way of introduction, we are going to look at four statements concerning this line of ill-logical thinking and explain some things that I believe few stop and meditate on when reading their Bible, or if they read their Bible at all.

Item #1. Genesis 1:26 – 27. God gave Adam the _____ of this world. (Dominion)

- A. There is no reason whatsoever for any of us to _____ God for any of the evil in this world.
1. This word _____ means to rule, to dominate, to subjugate.
 2. Man was made in the image of God and yet we have no idea what God looks like.
 3. God does use anthropomorphic associations to help us to understand Him & His meaning.
 4. This we do know, God _____ in all of His creation and Adam was created by God,
 - a. To reign over this world, to have dominion.
 - b. Adam was to be God’s _____ authority with absolute authority over it.
 - c. Adam was _____ to have dominion over this earth and all that is in the earth.
 - d. Adam was created for this _____, to exercise godly authority over this world.
 5. It is said that Einstein used 15% of his brain while the average person used 10%.
 - a. Adam would have had used a far greater percentage and would have been the most Intelligent man in the world.
 - b. Imagine how much more so if he had remained in an unfallen state.
- B. How does this answer the question, “Where is God?” Adam was given the intelligence and the authority to rule over this world or, “God _____ Adam this world to rule over!”

Item # 2. Genesis 3:17 – 19 – Adam _____ consul when he chose to disobey God.

- A. When we use the word “consul” it means an official appointment by a government (God’s) to live in a foreign city to promote that sending governments interest there.
- B. Adam forfeited his position as God’s consul here on earth and God _____ this earth.
- C. This statement of fact is not a trivial matter nor was it a trivial event in human history.
 - 1. It was an event that _____ the whole course of human history and the earth’s state.
 - 2. In Eden there was no turmoil, no upheavals, life was easy compared to what was to come.
 - 3. The curse changed the _____ of the earth – Gen. 3:17 – 19.
 - 4. The curse changed man’s _____ with God and the earth.
 - 5. Man now must _____ hard and what once was a friend to man, now it would be his enemy.

Item #3. Ezekiel 28:11 – 19 – Satan _____ control over of the world.

- A. This text of Ezekiel is some symbolic and an apt description of Satan which goes beyond King of Tyrus.
 - 1. Note verse 13, the king of Tyrus had never ever _____ in the Garden of Eden, Satan had.
 - 2. Verse 14 – is the clincher, Lucifer is his first name, now it is Satan.
 - 3. Matthew 9:34; 12:24. Ephesians 2:2 – Prince, also John 16:11.
 - 4. Jesus did not _____ Satan in the wilderness tempting, why? Adam turned the earth over to Satan.
 - 5. Does Satan own it? Absolutely _____, does he have absolute power? For the time being, _____!
 - a. So if you need to blame someone for the evil in the world, the rapes, murders, wars etc. blame Satan, this is his mess which is typical when man _____ to follow God.
 - b. Satan is in charge, at least for the time being.
 - 6. When man chooses to live independent of God’s _____, then he has Satan’s rules to contend with.
 - a. Satan cracks his whip without mercy seeing Adam abdicated his place of authority.
 - b. Adam was God’s representative authority until he surrendered his right.
 - 7. While man obviously doesn’t like it, the fact is God created us to _____ & glorify Him.
 - 1. We are going to serve someone, either God or Satan.
 - 2. We will never be our own boss because we were created to serve.

Item #4. God wants His earth _____! And He is going to take it back.

- A. The first Adam forfeited it through _____, but the second Adam will take it back, (Rom. 5:12-19)
- B. The earth was lost through disobedience and _____ through obedience. (John 8:29) (Obedience)
- C. Adam threw it all away, Christ is going to seize it back!
- D. How does this fit into the book of Revelation?
 - 1. We often think of the Tribulation being about _____ the unsaved, though it will do that.
 - 2. we often think of the Tribulation as _____ the unsaved, and well it should.
 - 3. Foremost it is putting Satan on notice that God is _____ this earth back from Satan.
 - 4. At the end of this struggle, God establishes His throne in Jerusalem and this world will be ruled by its rightful owner, the Son of God which is what Revelation chapter 5 is about!

Which we will look at next week, the Lord willing.