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# REVELATION STUDY

## SESSION 14

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### Questions arising?



Unforgiven Sin – why can't those who die in their sin still go to heaven?

In our message on Sunday we wrestled with the coming judgment, and in particular, what alternatives may have been available to God (not that we should have a say). I suggested that apart from the path God chose, which is to take the penalty for our sin upon Himself, forgiving those who receive Salvation through faith in Jesus, punishing those who reject it. These other options are available:

Alternative 1: God can indulge the sin of the world and allow it to go on forever. Discuss:

Alternative 2: God can force servitude. Discuss [There is still the problem of unrepented sin which will make up a question in a moment]

Alternative 3: God can withdraw Himself [Discuss] See especially Colossians 1:15 – 17 & Revelation 22:2

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. (Col 1:15 – 17)

In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (Revelation 22:2)

The Gospel tells us that Jesus has paid the price for our sin – He only needed to do that once, and it was sufficient to pay the debt for every sin. And if we accept His salvation – our debt is covered.

So – if God were to simply ‘overlook our debt’ and allow us into heaven – some say He wouldn’t be true to Himself – and that is true – but there may be a more pressing problem. Read and discuss what Exodus 33:18 – 23 teaches us about the problem of sin:

Exodus 33

18 Moses responded, “Then show me your glorious presence.”

19 The Lord replied, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will call out my name, Yahweh, before you. For I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose. 20 But you may not look directly at my face, for no one may see me and live.” 21 The Lord continued, “Look, stand near me on this rock. 22 As my glorious presence passes by, I will hide you in the crevice of the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will remove my hand and let you see me from behind. But my face will not be seen.”



What are the various thoughts about the age of accountability?

Passages like 2 Samuel 12:23 provide assurance that there is an age of accountability before which a child who dies without a personal faith in Christ will still inherit Eternal life:

But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.” (2 Samuel 12:23)

Other passages also give comfort and input especially to those who have lost loved ones at an early age:

15 Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings. (Isaiah 7:15 – 16)

‘Moreover your little ones and your children, who you say will be victims, who today have no knowledge of good and evil, they shall go in there; to them I will give it, and they shall possess it. (Deuteronomy 1:39)

Discuss

## How does this relate to children and the rapture of the church?

Even among those who agree with a Pre-Tribulation Rapture (or pre-wrath for that matter) there are differences in views regarding what happens to children below an age of accountability or even unborn.

1. All children, alive and unborn below the AOA are raptured
2. Only the children of believers
3. No children unless they have made a personal profession of faith

Remembering that the primary reason for the Rapture of the church is to remove the Bride of Christ before the time when God brings righteous judgment to the earth. Ask the question “Who is Jesus coming to judge?” Discuss