**FOCUS** in 2020

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**REVELATION**

***Keep The End in Mind–*** Revelation 20



As a Pastor, I have officiated more funerals than I have weddings.   
And I have often said to myself when attending funerals, “That   
will be me one day.” I have wondered what words my wife and   
kids will place on my tombstone should I have one.

What will be on your tombstone? Have you ever thought about that?

Is death even something we should think about?

The scripture has something to say about it:

What is your life? For you are a **mist that appears** for a little time and **then vanishes**. James 4:14

It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for **death is the destiny of everyone**; the living should **take this to heart**. Ecclesiastes 7:2 NIV

So teach us to **number our days** that we may get a **heart of wisdom**. Psalm 90:12

Scripture indicates that:

It is wise to have the **end** in mind.

And here is why…

Your picture of **tomorrow** impacts the way you live **today**.

In Revelation 20 John gives us a glimpse off the end …   
and it can help us keeping this end in mind.

**Revelation 20**

Satan is bound - Rev 20:1-3

The first resurrection - Rev 20:4-6

Satan’s demise - Rev 20:7-10

Great Throne judgment – Rev 20:11-15

Then I saw an angel… holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And **he seized the dragon**… who is the devil and Satan… and **threw him into the pit**, and **shut it and sealed it** over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer…After that he must be released for a little while. Rev 20:1-3

Satan is bound and not able to have any influence on people or   
the nations for a period known as the Millennium.

4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded…and those who had not worshiped the beast… and had not received its mark… **They came to life** and **reigned with Christ** for a thousand years. Rev 20:4-6

During the Millennium, those who are appointed judges, Christians who have been beheaded for the Gospel, and those who did not   
accept the mark of the beast are a part of what is called the First Resurrection, and they reign with Jesus for the Millennium period. There are many views on this Millennial period in regard to when it happens and if one thousand years is a literal thousand years or if it represents completeness. But regardless, after this period is over,   
Satan will be released for a little while to deceive one again and   
build up for a battle against God’s people.

And when the thousand years are ended, **Satan will be released** from his prison and will come out **to deceive the nations**… to gather them for battle... Rev 20:7-8

And they marched up…. and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but **fire came down** from heaven and **consumed them**… Rev 20:9

…and **the devil** who had deceived them was **thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur**…and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Rev 20:10

It does not turn out to be much of a battle as God consumes those   
who wage war against His people with what John sees as fire from Heaven. In the end,

**Satan** and all that is evil will rule no more.

After this John sees a great white throne …

And I saw the dead… standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened which is the book of life.

And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. Rev 20:11-12

There is an accounting for all our deeds in Heaven written in “the books.” How do you live today knowing that there is account for  
 all your deeds?

Another book is mentioned called the Book of Life. Those whose names are not in it will be sentenced to the same fate as Satan, death, and the grave.

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire… And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Rev 20:14-15

This is also a clear indication that:

**God** and all His people reign forever.

No more deception, no more pain, no more death. It was what we all long for in our lives. And if your name is written in the Book of Life you will have eternal life with the God who made you, loves you, and wants to satisfy every longing and need you have.

This picture of tomorrow impacts how we live today. When things feel confusing, out of control, and like they are falling apart around us, we can have incredible courage to persevere with hope and reassurance, knowing that as God’s people we will overcome. God is in control.

But is your name written in the Book of Life?

This picture of tomorrow can impact how you live today …  
if you believe in Jesus.