

**"The Eternal State"**

**Revelation 21:1-22:5**

**Part 1**

**Introduction:** In our study of Revelation 20 we were able to see some of the blessings of the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ. We looked at the binding of Satan, the resurrection of the saints, the coronation of the saints and the reign of Jesus Christ on the earth. The Kingdom will be a most blessed time when the earth will be restored back to the way in which it was before sin entered into the world. The landscape will all be changed for the Bible tells us that in the Tribulation every island and every mountain will be moved out of its place. The land masses will all be connected as they were before the flood. There will also be harmony among the animal kingdom and between man and animals. It will be a time of perfect justice under a perfect economy.

**Isaiah 65:20-25**

*<sup>20</sup> There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.*

*<sup>21</sup> And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.*

*<sup>22</sup> They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.*

*<sup>23</sup> They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.*

*<sup>24</sup> And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.*

*<sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.*

It will be in the Kingdom that God's promises to Israel will be fulfilled. This is but a small look into the Millennial Kingdom.

But there is something that is far better that is coming and that is the Eternal State. It will be the home of all believers from the beginning of time until the last person is saved in the Kingdom.

As great as the Kingdom will be the Eternal State will be greater for in the Kingdom there will be sin and death but in the Eternal State there will be no more sin and no more death.

Let's get to Revelation 21 where we shall see the Eternal State.

## I. The New Creation

### Notice Revelation 21:1

Here in this verse we see a New heaven and a New earth. This is not a renovated earth, but this is a new creation. When we looked at the Great White Throne Judgment last week John told us that the heaven and earth fled from the face of Jesus Christ.

### Notice Revelation 20:11

The Old Testament prophets spoke of this new heaven and new earth.

### Isaiah 65:17

<sup>17</sup> For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

### Isaiah 66:22

<sup>22</sup> For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.

Now before we continue there is something that I need to make clear. In the Old Testament there are prophecies that include the Millennial Kingdom and the Eternal State and there are some who will use these to confuse you if you are not aware. Let me give you an example.

### Isaiah 65:17-20

<sup>17</sup> For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

<sup>18</sup> But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

<sup>19</sup> And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

<sup>20</sup> *There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.*

Here in these verses we see that 17-18 refer to the Eternal State but verses 19-20 refers to the Millennial Kingdom. You ask, "How do we know this?" Because in the Eternal State there will be no death. It is not unusual for the prophets to speak of two different events when giving a prophecy. Here is an example.

**Daniel 12:1-2**

*And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.*

<sup>2</sup> *And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

There is a 1000-year gap in verse 2.

Now let us get back to the new heaven and the new earth.

Jesus even spoke of the passing away of this earth.

**Matthew 24:35**

<sup>35</sup> *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

Peter also told of the destruction of this earth.

**2 Peter 3:7, 10-11**

<sup>7</sup> *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

<sup>10</sup> *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

<sup>11</sup> *Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

Notice what the Psalmist recorded:

**Psalm 102:25-26**

<sup>25</sup> *Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.*

<sup>26</sup> *They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed:*

Notice what Isaiah wrote:

**Isaiah 51:6**

<sup>6</sup> *Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.*

This then is not a "regeneration" of this earth, but this is an entirely new creation. The Millennial Kingdom was a "regeneration".

**Matthew 19:28**

<sup>28</sup> *And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

The Kingdom is referred to as a regeneration but what we have in Revelation 21 is a NEW CREATION. Listen to the words of Seiss on this new creation:

*"An earth which no longer groans and smokes under the curse of sin,—an earth which needs no more to be torn with hooks and irons to make it yield its fruits,—an earth where thorns and thistles no longer infest the ground, nor serpents hiss among the flowers, nor savage beasts lay in ambush to devour,—an earth whose sod is never cut with graves, whose soil is never moistened with tears or saturated with human blood, whose fields are never blasted with unfavorable seasons, whose atmosphere never gives wings to the seeds of plague and death, whose ways are never lined with funeral processions, or blocked up with armed men on their way to war,—an earth whose hills ever flow with salvation, and whose valleys know only the sweetness of Jehovah's smiles,—an earth from end to end, and from center to utmost verge, clothed with the eternal blessedness of Paradise Restored!*

**Application:**

This thought of earth and everything in it passing away should have an impact upon how we live our lives. We are to use what we have but we are not to hold tightly because there will be a day when it will all be burned up.

**2 Peter 3:10-14**

<sup>10</sup> *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

<sup>11</sup> *Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.*

<sup>12</sup> *Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

<sup>13</sup> *Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

<sup>14</sup> *Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

**Notice Revelation 21:1 again.**

This new creation has no sea. We are not told why but many have speculated. Many believe there will be no sea because the sea in the Bible is symbolic of chaos and in the eternal state there will be no chaos. Something else to consider is that the sea has much to do with our weather and in the eternal state there will be no more storms. No hurricanes, no tornadoes no flooding and no blizzards. The seas today also act as a purifier and in the eternal state there will be no contamination so there will be no need of purification.

So that is the new creation.

## II. The New Jerusalem

**Notice Revelation 21:2**

As amazing as the new creation is there is now another scene that catches the attention of John. It is the New City of Jerusalem. John sees it descending out of heaven. John tells us that this City is PREPARED. This is the dwelling place which Jesus spoke of when speaking to His disciples.

**John 14:1-3**

*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

<sup>2</sup> *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

<sup>3</sup> *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

Something else that is interesting is this is the very city which Abraham was looking for.

### Hebrews 11:8-10

<sup>8</sup> *By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.*

<sup>9</sup> *By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:*

<sup>10</sup> **For he looked for a city** *which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

John tells us this city is "**prepared as a bride adorned for her husband**". The question is, "Why does he describe the city this way?" I believe he picks the most beautiful thing he can think of which is a pure spotless bride coming down the isle to be presented to her groom.

In John's eyes this city is beautiful. It is spotless, and it is holy. This is so different than the cities of the world today. The cities of the world are filled full of sin and evil. They are contaminated with murder, prostitution, injustice, and many other unspeakable sins. But this city is different. This city is pure. It has no sin and it has no contamination. There is no darkness in this city. This by the way is our eternal home. There are no back alleys to avoid. There are no ghettos or slums. There are no courthouses or divorce courts. There are no funeral homes or hospitals.

We will get greater details of this city later in the chapter.

### III. The Presence of God

#### Notice Revelation 21:3

This is an amazing verse. In the eternal state God will dwell among His people. Listen to the words of one writer:

*"Such an unveiled view of God is impossible for mortal men. No living person has ever seen God in the fullness of His glory; He is invisible and "dwells in unapproachable light", exposure to which would mean instant death for any living person. But in heaven, "the pure in heart . . . shall see God", since they will be perfectly holy."*

We shall dwell with God as we live in this eternal state forever. The fact that we are told "the tabernacle of God is with men" is very interesting. In the Old Testament the Tabernacle was the meeting place between sinful man and God.

The use of the word Tabernacle here in Revelation 21 speaks of the close intimate fellowship we shall have with our God in this eternal state. There will not be a Tabernacle

there. That is not the meaning. The meaning is God will live with His people. There will be no sin to break our fellowship. We will be perfectly holy after we receive our glorified bodies.

In the Old Testament Tabernacle there was the Holy of Holies where the high priest met with God once a year on the day of atonement. **Now listen to this, in the eternal state the New Jerusalem will be the Holy of Holies. We shall live forever in the presence of God Almighty.**

Today our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit, but this is not the ultimate communion.

### **1 Corinthians 13:12**

*<sup>12</sup> For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

The communion we have now is a blessing, but it is only a foretaste of what is yet to come.

### **Conclusion:**

### **Notice Revelation 21:22**

We are told there is no temple in the eternal state, but we are told that God Almighty and the Lamb are the Temple. So, the question is, "Why is there no Temple?"

If there was a Temple/building there we would need to go there to meet with God. But there is no Temple because God will live with us in the Holy City of Jerusalem. Is it any wonder why Abraham was looking for the City? It will be a place of unbroken communion with our God. It will be a time of joy and bliss that will never end. There will be no boredom there will be no unfulfilled desires. We will experience complete satisfaction and contentment.

This is what awaits us in the future.