

The Eternal Age & New Jerusalem

I. Understanding The Ages To Come

- a. In the last session we talked about the transitional period from this age into the millennial age (1,000 year reign of Christ on earth). After the Great Tribulation (the final 3 ½ years of this age), there will be an additional 75 days where the bowls of wrath are poured out to destroy the antichrist kingdom (this takes place in 30 days), and the rest of the wicked are killed initiating the “Great Feast of God”, and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Takes place in the additional 45 days).

(Daniel 12:11-12 NASB) “And from the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. Blessed is the one who is patient and attains to the 1,335 days!”

- b. At the end of the 75-day transitional period, the millennial age will begin. During this age, resurrected glorified believers will rule and reign with Christ on earth for 1,000 years. There will be real “jobs” that we’ll carry out, related to the increase of God’s governmental influence on the Earth in order to prepare the it for the next age. There will be non-glorified humans left on the earth that will populate the millennial kingdom. These are the “resisters”, who during the “age of man”, did not receive salvation, or take the mark of the beast.

(Revelation 20:6 NASB) “Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him for a thousand years.”

- i. During this period of time, Satan will be imprisoned, but will be released after 1,000 years and allowed to deceive the non-glorified believers. Though he will deceive many, Jesus will easily destroy Satan and cast him into the lake of fire for eternal judgment.

(Revelation 20:7-8, 10 NASB) “When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, 8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. 10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

- ii. A second resurrection will take place at the end of the millennium. Some of those “resisters” who populate the millennial earth will remain faithful to The Lord, and have their names found in the book of life. They will take part in this second resurrection and be glorified in order to take part in the age to come.

(Revelation 20:12,15 NASB) “And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 15 And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

- c. After Satan is judged, we will transition into the “eternal age”, where the first heaven and earth will pass as the New Jerusalem rests fully on earth, creating an entirely new existential experience.

(Revelation 21:1-3 NASB) “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,”

II. The New Jerusalem's Two-Fold Descent

a. The New Jerusalem will descend in two stages:

- i. *The first descent* takes place at Jesus' second coming when the heavens are opened up. All throughout the millennial age, the New Jerusalem will be accessible to glorified believers.

(Revelation 19:11 NASB) "And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war."

(Revelation 21:9-10 NASB) "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God"

(Revelation 21:24-27 NASB) "The nations will walk by its [the New Jerusalem's] light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. 25 In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; 26 and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; 27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life."

- ii. *The second descent* takes place at the end of the millennial age, when we enter the eternal age. This age is briefly described in *Revelation 21*. There is an ultimate sense of "newness" related to the eternal age that speaks of the restoration of all things. In the New Jerusalem, the fullness of the Godhead will dwell among glorified men and women!

(Revelation 21:2, 4-8 NASB) "2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband...4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." 5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." 6 Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give water to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life, without cost. 7 The one who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. 8 But for the cowardly, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and sexually immoral persons, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

(Revelation 21:3 NASB) "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,"

III. The Structure of the New Jerusalem

- a. The city is laid out as a square, and is 12,000 stadia = 1,380 miles (*From Russell KS to Los Angeles CA*) in length, height, and width. Based on how the text reads, it seems that the New Jerusalem is a cube (*some believe it's pyramid/mountain*). To put the size of this city into perspective; Airplanes fly about 6-8 miles above sea level, the lowest satellite in orbit is 104 miles above earth, The international space station is 248 miles above earth.

(Revelation 21:16 NASB) "The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, twelve thousand stadia; its length, width, and height are equal."

- b. There 12 foundation stones that seem to function as "floors" in the New Jerusalem. On these "floors" are the names of the 12 apostles and are decorated with certain stones (*Revelation 21:19-20*). The same stones are mounted on the breast piece of the high priest's ephod in the book of Exodus (*Exodus 28:15-21*).

(Revelation 21:14 NASB) "And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."

(Revelation 21:19-20 NASB) “The foundation stones of the city wall were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; 20 the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.”

- c. The city has the glory of God and is radiating His brightness, like a crystal clear jasper (vv. 21:11). The city is “*pure gold, like clear glass (vv. 21:18)*” and the streets of the city are “*pure gold, like transparent glass (vv. 21:21)*”. We should think of this city as sort of a MASSIVE shining building with different floors expressing the glory of God.
- d. The city has a “*great and high wall*”, with 12 gates, each having an angel standing guard, and written on the gates are the 12 tribes of the sons of Israel (vv. 21:12). There are 3 gates on each side of the city (vv. 13), and the gates always open (vv. 25). Each gate is made of a single pearl (vv. 21). The wall of the city is 144 cubits = 216 feet thick (vv.17), and made of jasper (vv.18).
- e. The city has the “*river of the water of life*” coming from God’s throne, right down the middle of the main street (Revelation 22:1-2). On each side of the river is the tree of life (*likely stretching throughout the entire city*), which bears 12 kinds of fruit each month (vv.2). The leaves of the tree of life provide healing for the nations during the millennial kingdom (vv. 2). The New Jerusalem greatly resembles the garden within Eden.

(Revelation 22:1-2 NASB) “And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, 2 in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

- f. The temple sort of gets an “*upgrade*”. John see’s no temple in the New Jerusalem, because The Father and Lamb are the temple. There is no sun or moon to shine on this city because it’s brightened by the glory of God. During the millennia kingdom, the nations will walk by the light of the glory of God. There will be no night in this city.

(Revelation 21:22-27 NASB) “I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illuminated it, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. 25 In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; 26 and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; 27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”

(Revelation 22:3-5 NASB) “There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; 4 they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. 5 And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illuminate them; and they will reign forever and ever.”

IV. Jesus’ Final Message

- a. Coming to the end of this revelation, Jesus says that “*He is coming quickly*” and in light of that reality, there’s a blessing promised for the one who “*keeps the prophecy of this book*”. To “*keep this prophecy*” means to carefully observe and study it. Jesus ends the prophesy by saying that anyone who adds to this prophecy will have the plagues added to them, and those who take away from it will have his part taken from the tree of life and the holy city.

(Revelation 22:7-9 NASB) “And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book. 8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 And he said to me, “Do not do that; I am a

fellow servant of yours and of your brothers the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!”

(Revelation 22:18-19 NASB) “I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.”

- b. The book of Revelation was written for you and I to understand. John was commissioned to “*not seal up the words of this prophecy*”, because the timing of His return is near. Studying the book of Revelation awakens us to the urgency of the hour in which we live and calls us to live with purpose, in light of eternal rewards. We are called to partner with the Holy Spirit and live a lifestyle that hastens the day of His return.

(Revelation 22:10 NASB) “And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.””

(Revelation 22:12;17 NASB) “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to reward each one as his work deserves. 17 The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires, take the water of life without cost.”

- c. The book of Revelation should provoke righteous living. When we think rightly about the “ages” to come, we will make the right decisions at the heart level right now. There are eternal rewards for those who make righteous decisions in this age.

(Revelation 22:11-15 NASB) “Let the one who does wrong still do wrong, and the one who is filthy still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous still practice righteousness, and the one who is holy still keep himself holy.” 12 “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to reward each one as his work deserves. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” 14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life, and may enter the city by the gates. 15 Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral persons, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.”

- d. Studying the return of Jesus is always the most relevant thing we can study, because His return is inevitable and bound to happen soon. Studying the “ages” come, puts right perspective to this current age. There is eternal significance to every decision made in this age. Jesus is eager to return to be with His bride, and we must live a lifestyle that provokes His return.

(Revelation 22:20-21 NASB) “He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.”