

Episode #447 The Final Stages 3 – The New Heaven and the New Earth – The Final (?) Time

I. We have considered the reality of the coming Kingdom of God on earth. This kingdom ends with a great test of all who are on earth, a test which results in many who fail participating in a revolt against the kingdom. The Lord Jesus Christ puts down this revolt when He returns to earth for a thousand-year reign called the “Parousia.” This is followed by a “little season” wherein Satan is loosed to deceive the nations. After that comes the Great White Throne, wherein all the dead, small and great, are judged. After this there is still one more Biblical time period to consider: The New Heaven and the New Earth.

II. Revelation 21:1. A New Heaven and a New Earth.

- A. This is the fourth time in Scripture this is mentioned.
 - 1. Isaiah 65:17. It is so great, no one would ever look back with regret or think to commemorate the former heaven and earth.
 - 2. Isaiah 66:22. They will remain, never to be replaced with “newer.”
 - 3. II Peter 3:13. Righteousness dwells there. Wickedness is no longer a problem.
- B. The present heaven and earth are gone (fled away at the Great White Throne?).
- C. No more sea. Literal? Think how much more land mass would be on earth if our oceans were greatly reduced! Yet the “mass of humanity” is also the sea.

III. Revelation 21:2-8. All things new.

- A. Verse 2. The supernatural city, the New Jerusalem, comes from God.
- B. Verse 3. What does it mean that the “tabernacle of God is with men”? A tabernacle is a center of activity, like a commander in the field would act from his tent. God will center His activities elsewhere in creation from among men on earth.
- C. Verse 4. God wipes away tears. How does He do this? Not by removing their tear ducts! By fixing the things that caused the sorrow.
- D. Verse 5. In the New Heaven and New Earth everything will be made new.
- E. Verse 6. His great, long work is done! He is the beginning and the end. The water of life is available for all who thirst.
- F. Verse 7. The one who overcomes in the Revolt will have his portion in all the blessings John has seen. The Lord will be his God, and he will be His son or representative, representing Him in whatever way He sees fit for him to do.
- G. Verse 8. The wicked will not have a portion. Their part is in the lake of fire, which is the second death. They never make it to this New Heaven and New Earth.

IV. Revelation 21:9-27. The New Jerusalem.

- A. Verse 9. He is about to see the Bride, the Lamb’s Wife.
- B. Verse 10. It is not the “church,” it is the Holy Jerusalem from heaven.
- C. Verse 11. What greater thing could be said about the city?
- D. Verse 12. This city will be populated by Israelites.
- E. Verse 13. There is a gate for each tribe, three on each side, in perfection.
- F. Verse 14. Doubtless these twelve men will dwell there. Matthias replaced Judas.
- G. Verse 15. The angel who is talking with John is going to measure the city.
- H. Verse 16. The city is a cube, with equal length, breadth, and height. A stadion was the length of a stadium, about 600 feet. Twelve thousand stadia is 1,364 miles. How could a city have such a height? There would be no atmosphere at the top. It would throw the earth out of orbit. Will the laws of physics be different on the New Earth? I

think the point is that this perfect cube represents the perfection of the city. There can be no better Jerusalem. There is no room for improvement. This is the ultimate city.

- I. Verse 17. 144 cubits is at least 216 feet thick. A city wall was the protection and safety of the city. No power on earth could threaten this city.
- J. Verse 18. Symbols. Gold symbolizes the heavenly glory of the city.
- K. Verse 19. The twelve precious stones connect the city with the twelve tribes.
- L. Verse 20. Twelve is the number God uses for perfection in government.
- M. Verse 21. The streets of gold again symbolize its heavenly glory. Do people honestly think they will be able to grab golden gravel off the streets and then go into stores and spend it? The streets probably will be gold, but the importance is the heavenly glory.
- N. Verse 22. There is no need for a temple, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are right there in the city.
- O. Verse 23. This does not necessarily say there will not be a sun or moon, but that they are unnecessary for the city. The Lamb is its light. Notice He is the glory of God!
- P. Verse 24. The nations blessed to exist then will bring their glory into the city. Some wonder how things can be perfect if there are rulers? But why not? Some seem to get their idea of perfection more from Karl Marx than from the Word of God.
- Q. Verse 25. The gates are not shut by day, and there is no night. Since there are no wicked around to threaten the city, the gates need never be shut.
- R. Verse 26. The city shall be the glorious center of the New Earth.
- S. Verse 27. Does this mean there are things that defile or cause an abomination or a lie outside the city? Some seem to picture groups of wicked men hanging around outside the walls of the New Jerusalem like packs of wild dogs because of this verse.
 - 1. These show short attention spans and hard heads. Remember verse 4. How could there be no death, sorrow, or crying in the New Heaven and the New Earth if there are defilements, abominations, and lies there? These cause pain and death. If they are gone, there cannot be wicked men there.
 - 2. Remember verse 8. Wicked men and all liars have been destroyed in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone. How, then, could they be hanging around outside the walls of the New Jerusalem?
 - 3. Remember verse 25. The gates are never shut. How, then, could wicked men be kept out of the city if they are hanging around outside its walls? Does this not show that all on the New Earth are welcome there?
 - 4. This verse is just reinforcing the glory of the city by telling us not a particle of wrong will ever enter it. That does not mean there is such wrong on the earth!

V. Revelation 22:1-5. Yet more glories.

- A. Verse 1. A pure river flows from Their Throne. A similar river is in the premillennial kingdom, Ezekiel 47:1-12, and in the Parousia of Jesus Christ, Zechariah 14:8. It symbolizes the life of God flowing from His throne to all.
- B. Verse 2. The tree of life is restored, and brings perfect healing to all injury.
- C. Verse 3. The effects of sin and the fall shall be ended. His servants serve freely.
- D. Verse 4. All see His face, and His character is stamped on them.
- E. Verse 5. Of all the glories listed, the near presence of God is the greatest!

V. Conclusion: After the Revolt Against the Kingdom comes the Parousia of Jesus Christ, the Little Season, and the New Heaven and New Earth. This time is so advanced from what we experience that much of it is hidden to us. Yet we can praise God for His marvelous plan!