

The Apocalypse

Chapter 21, part 1

I. Introduction

- a. The scene is set
 - i. The Tribulation period ended 1000 years prior
 - ii. The Lord has reigned during the Millennium while Satan was bound
 1. After this, Satan was released for a short while to gather a great number of people to rebel against the Lord
 - a. He is quickly defeated and cast into the Lake of Fire
 - b. The rebels are judged along with the rest of the lost and cast alive into the Lake of Fire
 - iii. Today, we see the eternal ages begin

II. Commentary

a. Verse 1

- i. A new heaven and a new Earth is seen here
 1. The word translated “new” really means something similar to “fresh”
 - a. It is not as though the Lord is going to destroy the Earth itself
 - i. However, this Earth will be completely rejuvenated
 2. We could say this is the regeneration of the Earth
 - a. The present Earth is tainted by sin (**Isa. 24:5**)
 - b. The Earth must be cleansed (**2 Pet. 3:10-13**)
 - i. Here, we see the cleansing of the Earth described in a similar way that we were made a new creation in Christ
 - ii. It will be cleansed by fire
 1. The same is true of our works at the Judgment Seat of Christ
 - c. This will return the Earth to its original creative state
 - i. The problem with the Earth today is not the way God created it – it’s the result of what man has done with it
 3. Remember, this is not the Millennium state
 - a. This time speaks of the eternal ages which follow the Millennium
- ii. There will be no sea throughout the eternal ages
 1. Today about 70% of the Earth is water
 2. Today, we need water to survive
 - a. Blood is made up of water, mostly
 - i. However, we won’t have blood running through our veins throughout eternity
 3. Animals need water to survive
 - a. Because of this, some believe there will be no animals throughout eternity
 - i. Yet, the “seas” seems to refer to the oceans only

- ii. There surely is no reference which states there will be no animals throughout eternity
- 4. We do know there will be water somewhere throughout eternity (**Rev. 22:2**)

b. Verse 2

- i. This is the first time that John refers to himself in the 1st person
 - 1. He is stressing that he, being the last of the apostles, actually saw this with his own eyes
- ii. We have a glimpse of the New Jerusalem
 - 1. This is the place that Christ went away to prepare for His Bride (John 14:1-3)
 - 2. This is the place that the church looks forward to dwelling in (Heb. 11:10,16; Heb. 12:22,23)
 - 3. This city is spoken of "*as a bride adorned for her husband*"
 - a. It seems that this is the place where the Lord's Bride (true NT churches) will dwell with Him eternally
 - i. Saints outside the church will dwell in the renovated Earth
 - 1. Surely, they will be able to visit
 - a. However, they will not reside there

c. Verse 3

- i. Throughout eternity, God will dwell with man
 - 1. Throughout time, God has related with man through various ways
 - a. Throughout eternity, His actual dwelling will be with man on the renovated Earth
 - 2. Today, God's throne is in Heaven
 - a. In the eternal state, He will move His throne to Earth (Lev. 26:11)
 - b. We will be able to fellowship with God in a better way than Adam was able to originally
 - i. This fellowship will be unbroken
 - 1. Because of our shortcomings, our relationship with the Lord is not always consistent
 - a. Throughout eternity, it will be

d. Verse 4

- i. We see five things that have affected all mankind put away forever in this verse
 - 1. No more tears
 - a. In this, we see the affection that God has for His people
 - 2. No more death
 - a. Christ overcame death
 - b. Death has been cast into the Lake of Fire
 - 3. No more sorrow
 - a. No kind of sorrow whatsoever
 - i. This is difficult for us to comprehend
 - 4. No more crying

- a. This is surely related to having no tears, but not exactly the same
- 5. No more pain
 - a. This is impossible for us to think about
 - i. Most of us have some sort of pain so constantly that we have learned not to notice it
 - 1. We cannot imagine perfect health
 - ii. *"...the former things have passed away"*
 - 1. Literally, everything we know and have known will be gone at this time
 - a. Everything will be new to us
 - i. Surely, we will be as excited as a child going on vacation
 - 1. However, our excitement will never end!
 - ii. Can we really imagine a time when nobody will have to fear death?