

Session 30 | Dr. Randy White | The Eternal Age | Revelation 20:7-21:8

## The End of the Millennium Involves the Test of Allegiance | Rev. 20:7-15

- Every dispensation has ended in a test for humanity.

Dispensation	Test	Punishment
Innocence	Eat from the fruit	Cast from the Garden
Conscience	Conquer sin	Flood
Government	Punish evildoers	Dispersed at Babel
Promise	Trust God's Promise	Egyptian Slavery
Law	Obey the Law	Tribulation
Grace is a unique parenthetical age		
Kingdom	Worship the King	Second Death

- The test for the Kingdom age comes when the devil is released for a short time.
- The failure is seen by the masses of people who go to the battle of God and Magog.
- What we can learn from this episode: *the depravity of man runs deep.*

## The New Heaven and New Earth | Revelation 21:1-8

- Verse 1 –
  - The word new *καινὸν* [*kainon*] is new in quality, not just time.
  - The new heaven and earth is a necessary conclusion to Rev. 20:11.
  - **There was no more sea** - There is no reason in the grammar to take this as anything other than literal.
- Verse 2 –
  - **The holy city** –finally, we have the city for which Abraham sought (Heb. 11:10).
  - **Prepared as a bride** - The fact that Jerusalem is **prepared as a bride** is not enough evidence to claim Jerusalem is the bride. However, other Scriptures confirm her as the bride. (See 21:9)
- Verse 3 –
  - **The tabernacle** - At least since the departure of God's glory from the Temple, the Tabernacle of God has been in Heaven.
  - **He will dwell** - With this, Paradise has been restored. There are no more people who have rejected Him.

- Verses 4-5 –
  - **no more death** - An interesting, but unanswered question: will there be any more birth? There will not be pain in childbearing, if there is any childbearing at all.
  - **the former things are passed away** - These and following verses are often used to describe Heaven as it exists now. However, they are actually a description of the New Heavens and New Earth. The state of our loved ones who have preceded us in death is not given, other than to be "with the Lord."
- Verse 6 – **the water of life** - Since the earliest days, humanity has been searching for the "fountain of youth," by whatever name. It is a fruitless search. There is no reason to spiritualize the **fountain of the water of life** any more than there is to spiritualize the Tree of Life.
- Verses 7-8 – He that overcometh
  - Verses 7-8 are spoken to those living in the days of the coming Tribulation.
  - Like the rest of the book, this is clearly written with people in mind who are not living in the Age of Grace.
  - Without gross spiritualization of words, **overcome** is not a word that is free from personal effort. (The opposite of the *overcomers* is given description in v. 8).
  - In the Age of Grace, we become children of God by grace through faith, not by overcoming.

## The Description of New Jerusalem | Rev. 21:9-22:5

- Verse 9 - Note that what John is about to be shown has been seen in a general sense in v. 2. Now it will be shown in more detail. Note also that the Lamb's wife (the Bride of Christ) is not the church, unless there is some radical spiritualization of terms.
- Notable aspects of the city:
  - The 12 Tribes of Israel are commemorated – v. 12
  - The 12 Apostles (eleven plus Matthias) are remembered – v. 14
  - The city is a square of 12,000 furlongs (1500 miles).
- There is no sun, moon, or stars - The sun, moon, and stars had four roles at creation: signs (information), seasons (agriculture), days (rotation) and years (revolution). There is now no further need since all information has been revealed, agriculture is now provided through the tree of life and fountain of life, and time is no more. There is a return to the glories of days 1-3 of creation.
- The curse is removed! (22:3). Paradise is restored at last.