



Biblical Theology

Lesson 13 – The 2nd Coming & The New Jerusalem (Revelation)


1. The book of Revelation is structured into 7 sections. The first section deals with 7 historical churches and letters are written to those churches and these letters give us a picture of what the church will be like between the comings of Christ – degrees of apostasy and heresy, complacency, lukewarmness, some doing well, some doing poorly, etc. Jesus warns us of false prophets who are wolves in sheep's clothing (Matthew 7:15) and Paul warns the elders of Ephesus that fierce wolves will come in among them (Acts 20:29). He warns the church of false apostles who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ (2 Cor. 11:13). Peter warns the church of false teachers among them who will bring in destructive heresies (2 Peter 2:1).

+ _____ Rev. 1-3 _____ 


2. The next section focuses on the seven seals that enclose the scroll of God on His throne. The one who is worthy to reveal and fulfill the decrees of God is the Lamb who was slain (Rev. 5:6). Revelation 6:12-17 describes the 2nd coming in terms of the Day of the Lord of the Old Testament with the sun darkened, the moon turned to blood, and the Earth being re-made. Revelation 7 shows all of the elect of God (symbolically pictured as 144,000) gathered in and Jesus is in their midst and God is wiping away every tear from their eyes which is what happens at the end of time.

+ (Rev. 5:6) _____ Rev. 4-7 _____ (Rev. 6:17-7:17) 


3. Revelation 8-11 brings the seals to an end and transitions to the 7 trumpets. In Revelation 11, the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of God (11:15), which is language of consummation and completion at the return of Christ. This is followed by worship in heaven about the wrath of God coming and the time for the dead to be judged and rewarding the saints.

+ _____ Rev. 8-11 _____ (Rev. 11:15-18) 


4. Revelation 12-14 moves from the spiritual battle on earth to the spiritual battle in the heavenly/spiritual realm. It begins with Jesus' birth depicted as a woman giving birth with a dragon waiting to devour the newborn child. In Revelation 14, the worldly system depicted as Babylon falls, and the earth is harvested unto salvation (Rev 14:14-16) or judgment (Rev. 14:17-20). It ends with 144,000 just as Rev. 4-7 ended with 144,000 which represents the fullness of God's elect gathered to Him and worshipping Him around the heavenly throne room.

+ (Rev. 12:1-6) _____ Rev. 12-14 _____ (Rev. 14:14-20) 

5. Revelation 15-16 focuses on the 7 bowls of God's judgment which culminates in Armageddon and the voice of God declaring, "It is finished" (Rev. 16:17). Babylon falls (again!) and the cup of God's wrath is drunk by unbelievers in the final judgment with a remaking of the earth (Rev. 16:20).

+ _____ Rev. 15-16 _____ (Rev. 16:17-21) 

6. The next section – Revelation 17-19 – begins with Babylon being described as a prostitute. Babylon falls again (!) in Revelation 18 with Revelation 19 talking about the marriage supper of the Lamb and the battle of Armageddon all over again. Jesus comes forth as the rider on the white horse with a sword in His mouth and He slays all those who are opposed to Him.

+ _____ Rev. 17-19 _____ (Rev. 19:11-21) 

7. So in essence, Revelation 1-19 all focus on the time between the first coming and 2nd coming of Christ which a description of the war in heaven and on earth between Satan and those aligned with him and the Triune God and those aligned with Him, with God pouring out His wrath on all His enemies. All of this occurs throughout the time period between Christ's comings which is the same time period covered by the Gospels, Acts, Paul's letters, and the "catholic" letters.
8. Revelation 20-22 does the same thing but it extends beyond the 2nd Coming into the Great White Throne Judgment, the New Heavens & Earth, and the New Jerusalem.

+ _____ Rev. 20-22 _____ (Rev. 20:7-10) 

9. This is the great consummation at the Day of the Lord that the Old Testaments prophesied about. This is the great harvest that Jesus talks about in Mark 13:24-30 when the wheat and weeds are separated or, alternatively, the sheep and goats are separated in Matthew 25:31-33. The church of all God's elect are perfected in glory and God's glorious presence will be in the midst of His people forever, with unbelievers being excluded from such blessing.
10. The Kingdom that was both already here with the first coming of Jesus but "not-yet" here in its fulness now is made manifest in its fulness. God's Kingdom will descend so that heaven and earth meet and God's kingdom in its fulness is on earth and God reigns over all and all enemies have been subdued, both the seed of the serpent as well as the serpent himself (Rev. 20:14-15, 21:8).
11. The Bridegroom now dwells with His Bride and there is a great marriage feast with celebration and rejoicing. Together they dwell in a kingdom-temple-city where there is the tree of life that was in the original garden of Eden (Rev. 22:1-2; Gen. 2:8-9).
12. RTS Professor Chuck Hill says, "In the course of reexperiencing the visions John saw on Patmos, John's audience witnesses not only the salvation of man, God's image, but also the reclamation of the heavens, the earth, and the subterranean regions (i.e., the sea, the abyss, hades, foundation of water), the domains of man's dominion as originally given in Genesis 1-3."

13. Hill goes on to say, “God’s promise that He will be our God and that we will be His people is the essence of the covenant promise, the source and basis of the intimate fellowship experienced by His people here on earth ever since it was first uttered to Abraham (see Gen. 17:7-8; Ex. 20:2; Lev. 26:11; Deut. 5:2-6; Jer. 24:7, 30:22, 31:33, 32:38; Ezek. 11:20, 37:26ff; Zech. 8:7-8, 13:9; 2 Cor. 6:16). No longer is sin any hindrance to this divine fellowship, which now blossoms eternally in consummate perfection.”
14. Christopher Ash concludes, “The Bible story is about every hostile power surrendering to Jesus who will make them a footstool for his feet, and it is about this Jesus handing back the whole created order to the Father, “so that God may be all in all” (1 Corinthians 15 v 24-28). And when God is again all in all the song of the New Creation can begin in earnest, to be sung ever fresh for all eternity.
15. And so the tree of life which Adam and Eve were not allowed to partake of because of their sin against God is now made available to all who come to Jesus by faith as the Bread of Life and through Him access is granted once more to the tree of life in a restored creation that has not been touched by sin. God brings His story of remaking His handiwork to an end through Jesus Christ, His Son. The promise to Adam that the seed of the woman will defeat the serpent and his seed is accomplished. The promise to Abraham that through him all the nations of the earth will be blessed is accomplished. The promise to David that he will have a descendent on the throne forever is accomplished. All is accomplished by God in Christ Jesus and by faith we are caught up in this story and God has made known to us how His story (with us included in it) ends.