



## **Week 25: Understanding the New Testament: The End of the Story**

**MV:** *"Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband." (Rev 21:1-2)*

**Salvation past: "it is finished" (justification) (John 19:30)**

**Salvation present: "be holy" (sanctification) (1 Peter 1:16)**

**Salvation future: Jesus is coming! (glorification) (Heb 9:26-28)**

*"Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, 28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him." (Heb 9:26-28)*

There are many "interpretations" to end times events

Premillennial; amillennial, post millennial

Pretrib; Midtrib; post trib

The key point in all the debates is this:

### **Jesus is coming back to rule and reign!**

Revelation 1 shows us the difference in His first and second coming

*"I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. 15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance." (Rev 1:12-16)*

He came meekly 2,000 years ago. Next time He's coming as a warrior, conquering king.

*"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil 2:9-11)*

Then creation will be restored as in the beginning.

*"Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem,*

*coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband." (Rev 21:1-2)*

The garden and the temple were places where God met with humanity and that is the imagery used for the future.

In the new creation, God himself is the temple.

*I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple." (Rev 21:22)*

We will have perfect communion with God. All the old JUNK is gone!!!

*"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away (Rev 21: 4)*

But there is a flip side to this beauty...a horrifying judgment for those who have rejected God and opposed His people

*"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done." (Rev 22:12)*

*"Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire." (Rev 20:11-15)*

Because of this picture of the end, our mission is URGENT!!!

Revelation should alter how we live our lives

The message of Revelation is that despite what is going on around us in our world, God is reigning and in control.

Revelation calls for the lost to repent before it's too late.

Revelation calls the saved to persevere to the end.

*"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)*

*"He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus." (Rev 22:20)*

**Now it is time to pass on what you have learned....**

**What did you learn? What does God seem to be saying? What questions do you have? How should the truth be applied to your life?**