

“THE HOLY, CITY NEW JERUSALEM” – AND “THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH”

All Scripture is KJV: Revelation 20&21

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY?

This morning I would like to preach on “The New Heaven & New Earth” that is spoken of in the bible.

- Last week was about the Millennium and the reasons for it.
- ❖ **I asked the questions to you: Why is the Millennium necessary?**
 1. Firstly it will be necessary to judge all nations?
 2. Secondly it will be necessary to defeat the enemy?
 3. Thirdly it will be necessary to restore the earth to its former glory before the flood.
 4. Fourthly it will be necessary to restore man and the animals DNA. To live longer.
 5. Fifthly it will be necessary to teach the Law of God to His people.
 6. Sixthly it will be necessary to fulfil the scriptures?
 7. Then lastly God wants to show us how creation was meant to function in a sinless world.

Well today’s message is what happens after the millennium.

- THIS IS AFTER THE 1000 YEAR REIGN OF JESUS - in Jerusalem.
- AND AFTER THE BATTLE OF GOG AND MAGOG
- AND THE LAST Judgement which is “THE WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT”.

Revelation 20 King James Version (KJV)

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

⁶ Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

⁷ And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison.

⁸ And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

⁹ And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

¹⁰ And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

- So Revelation 20 is dealing with those who are not found written in the book of life. They are cast also into the Lake of Fire where the beast and the false prophet are.
- But just prior to this judgement which is the great white throne judgement Satan is let loose for a “little season” meaning a short period. And in that short period Satan goes out to deceive the nations of the earth in the “four quarters” of the earth, to rise up to do battle with the Lord.
- This battle is what is known as the “Battle of Gog and Magog”.

- Its impossible to understand who these nations are today, because this wont take for another thousand year into the future after the Lord has come. So it is unrealistic to “Guess” who this might be.
- But the great news is what happens after this battle of God and Magog.
- ❖ This is what brings in the “New Heaven and the New earth, and the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21: King James Version (KJV)

1. And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Question: What does it mean that the first earth was passed away or the first heaven was passed away?

1. Well when we turn to scripture we can easily find the answer.
2. First of all when we consider the new earth it’s not that this earth will cease to exist, but that the scripture says that God is going to make all things new.
3. Is the same as when you say I am going to get a new bathroom or a new workshop or something else. It does not mean that your bathroom or workshop is going to cease to exist. But that you are going to make it like new.
4. This is the same example of what God is going to do with this earth.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, **he is a new creature: old things are passed away;** behold, **all things are become new.**

5. As we look at 1 Corinthians 5:17, we can see that when a man believes in Jesus he is not simply done away with and somehow recreated.
 6. But instead he is made or “transformed” into a new person. In this case the words used is that he is made “New”. It does not mean he was recreated as a different person, but was simply “changed” and made “New”. He has become a new creature.
 7. When you believe in Jesus you still continued to exist as the same person but you were somehow changed. That change meant that “old things are passed away” – But yet you did not die or cease to exist.
 8. So therefore to understand what God says about the new heaven and the new earth is the same in context. God is going to “fix” or change or make all things “new” in the same way that we were changed.
- ❖ But this is the same – with when we receive our new glorified bodies. As we see mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4.

Where it says – behold I show you a mystery we shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed. In a moment in the twinkling of any eye we shall all be changed. We will receive our glorified bodies. But we will still be the same person. But we will have a new body.

1 Corinthians 15:51-55 King James Version (KJV)

⁵¹ Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed**,

⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

⁵⁴ So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

9. So it's not a different earth but a fixed up earth is what we will be seeing.

10. The same goes for the new heavens. God is going to fix those to. Think of it. No more space debris floating around the heavens for example. And anything else man has had his hand in.

11. God is going to put back everything the way he made it. But he is going to change a few things.

12. For example there won't be any more sea. Perhaps this is to provide the additional space that so many people will need to occupy.

❖ Then there are other scripture like Psalm 102:5-6 and Ecclesiastes 1:4.

Psalm 102:25-26 King James Version (KJV)

²⁵ Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. ²⁶ **They shall perish**, but thou shalt endure: yea, **all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed:**

✓ And once again in the NT this promise of God is repeated word for word in Hebrews 1.

Hebrews 1:10-12 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁰ And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: ¹¹ **They shall perish**; but thou remainest; **and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;** ¹² **And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed**: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

✓ What about another promise.

Ecclesiastes 1:4 King James Version (KJV)

⁴ One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: **but the earth abideth for ever.**

13. So according to scripture both the heavens and the earth will abide forever. That means they not going anywhere. But yet we see Jesus tell us that the heavens and the earth shall pass away but that His word shall abide forever.

- i. So what does that mean?
 - ii. Is it a contradiction?
 - iii. No its not. It means that His word won't ever change, but the heavens and the earth will change.
 - iv. You see the heavens and the earth is subject to change in the latter days in the new heaven and the new earth, but Gods Word will never change. Not even then.
- ❖ The reasons why this word “pass away” is used, is for the same reason it is used of the believer. It does not mean a different one, or a different person will be created.
 - ❖ But the same person and the same heaven and the same earth will undergo a change.
 - ❖ The old pass away and it will be made new. It's just going to change. The original will still be there.

Matthew 24:35

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Mark 13:31

Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

Luke 21:33

Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

- ❖ **Further confirmation is found in Psalm 104:5**

Psalm 104:5 King James Version (KJV)

⁵ Who laid the foundations of the earth, **that it should not be removed for ever.**

Psalm 78:69 King James Version (KJV)

⁶⁹ And he built his sanctuary like high palaces, **like the earth which he hath established for ever.**

- ❖ So if that is the case, the words pass away would have to mean something other than being replaced. It would make sense then to see and to say that God is going to change what is already here.
 - ❖ Otherwise if that was not the case. Then the words which refer to us passing away, would mean that we would not be coming back as ourselves, but maybe as someone else? That makes no sense then.
- ✚ At the same time that the earth is going to undergo a change, the Lord is going to bring down the new Jerusalem.
- ✓ There New heavens and the new earth is just going to be made new. They will still be the original ones.

✓ Further to confirm that this will in fact be the case we can turn to 2 Peter 3

2 Peter 3 King James Version (KJV)

1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish**, but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in **the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.**

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

¹⁵ And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

¹⁶ As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

¹⁷ Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

¹⁸ But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

- ✓ So the earth and the heavens will stay. They will just get a complete makeover.
- ✓ But now as we said the Lord will send down the new heavenly city of Jerusalem.

² And I John saw the **holy city, new Jerusalem**, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

³ And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, **the tabernacle of God is with men**, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

What is the Tabernacle of Moses?



The tabernacle is a visual dwelling

Tabernacle means “tent,” “place of dwelling” or “sanctuary.” It was a sacred place where God chose to meet His people, the Israelites, during the 40 years they wandered in the desert under Moses’ leadership. It was the place where the leaders and people came together to worship and offer sacrifices.

The tabernacle was first erected in the wilderness exactly one year after the Passover when the Israelites were freed from their Egyptian slavery (*circa* 1450 B.C.). It was a mobile tent with portable furniture that the people traveled with and set up wherever they pitched camp. The tabernacle would be in the center of the camp, and the 12 tribes of Israel would set up their tents around it according to tribe. The instruction on how to

build the tabernacle was first given to Moses in the wilderness, who then gave the orders to the Israelites.

⁴⁸ *And let them make me a sanctuary; that **I may dwell** among them. (Exodus 25:8)*

*“Then ⁴⁵ And **I will dwell** among the children of Israel, and will be their God. ⁴⁶ And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, that **I may dwell** among them: I am the LORD their God.” (Exodus 29:45-46)*

And so God dwelled among His people in the tabernacle in the wilderness. He appeared as a pillar of cloud over the tabernacle by day and a pillar of fire by night in the sight of all Israel. The people would not set out on their journey unless the cloud lifted. It was an unmistakably powerful visual statement indicating God’s presence among them.

God knew that the Israelites needed visual evidence of His presence. When Moses went up to Mount Sinai for 40 days and the people did not see or hear from him, they grew impatient and gathered their gold to form a golden calf that they worshipped in place of God.

After ten generations of living in Egypt, it was not surprising that the Israelites mimicked the Egyptians in fashioning a visual idol of their own. This act of disobedience demonstrated their need to follow and worship a God who was visually tangible.

God’s provision of a tabernacle — itself a splendor to behold — not only allowed the people to sense His presence, but also to see their leader go in to meet with God in a concrete place and not disappear up a mountain.

The tabernacle of Moses is a lesson of unquestionable authority

The tabernacle was more than just a dwelling place. All the components of the tabernacle were part of an intricate visual aid to illustrate God's relationship with His people. One aspect of this relationship was God’s requirement for complete obedience. God told Moses to create the tabernacle exactly the way He commanded. It was not to stray from God’s blueprint.

⁴⁹ *According to all that I shew thee, **after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.**” (Exodus 25:9)*

To this end, God gave very specific instructions about the size of each component and the materials the Israelites were to use, as we will see in the following sections of this discussion. These seemingly cumbersome rules were not intended to burden the people, but to show God’s unquestionable authority and holiness, and emphasize that people could only come to God on God’s terms, not on their own.

They had to obey reverently not only in the construction of the tabernacle, but also in the way they worshipped. Any irreverence or ritual uncleanness could result from an individual being cut off from his people or in death.

For example, the anointing oil for the tabernacle and the incense for the altar of incense (made from God's own prescribed formulas of spices) were both declared holy by God and could only be used for the purpose of the tabernacle; anyone else using the same formula for their own consumption would be cut off from Israel (Exodus 30:34-38).

The special garments for the priests were holy; if they did not wear the right clothing in serving the Lord, they could die (Exodus 28:2, 43).

The wilderness tabernacle is a projection of God's redemptive plan

In the New Testament, John writes:

John 1:15 ¹⁴ *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth..”*

This word “dwelling” is the same word for “tabernacle” in the Old Testament. In other words, God came in living flesh to *dwell* or to *tabernacle* among His people.

As He walked upon the earth and lived among the Jews, Jesus Christ Himself fulfilled the picture of the **Old Testament tabernacle**. In that and many other ways, the tabernacle really was a prophetic projection of the Lord's redemptive plan for His people.

- So when we get to Revelation 21, Jesus has His plan in place.

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.’ ” (Rev. 21:3)

Revelation 21:4 ff.

⁴ And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

⁵ And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

⁶ And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

⁷ He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

⁸ But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

⁹ And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

¹⁰ And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

¹¹ Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

¹² And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

¹³ On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Ephesians 2:4-22 (shows how the saved are Gods building) – Jew and Gentile

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

⁶ And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

⁷ That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

¹¹ Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he is our peace, **who hath made both one,** and **hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;**

¹⁵ Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for **to make in himself of twain one new man,** so making peace;

¹⁶ And that **he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross,** having slain the enmity thereby:

¹⁷ And came and **preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.**

¹⁸ For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. ¹⁹ Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

²⁰ And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; **²¹ In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:**

²² In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

- The New Jerusalem is build and represents also all the saints of God, which is spoken of in Revelation 21.
- Abraham looked for that City of Jerusalem.

Hebrews 11:10 ¹⁰ For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Hebrews 12:22-23 - Mount Sion – the heavenly city. The new Jerusalem.

²² But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

²³ To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Hebrews 13:14 ¹⁴ For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

- This all speaks about what we see in Revelation 21, concerning the bride of Christ. The heavenly Jerusalem in that city is the bride of Christ.

Prayer.....

Psalm 125:1-3 King James Version (KJV)

125 They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, **but abideth for ever.**

²As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, **so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever.**

³For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity.

Psalm 78:67-69 King James Version (KJV)

⁶⁷Moreover he refused the tabernacle of Joseph, and chose not the tribe of Ephraim:

⁶⁸But chose the tribe of Judah, the mount Zion which he loved.

⁶⁹And he built his sanctuary like high palaces, **like the earth which he hath established for ever.**

Revelation 14 [Full Chapter]

And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the **mount Sion**, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. ...