

11047-A June 5, 2011
Revelation #38
The New Universe. Part 1
Revelation Chapter 21:1-8

I. John 16:31-33

- A. I will suffer first.
 - 1. They were not rescuing him. He was rescuing them.
- B. You will suffer after.
 - 1. Trauma is normal in this age.
 - 2. Not constant, but normal.
- C. I have overcome the world.
 - 1. The Lord looks past this age.
 - 2. He is already looking past the cross, to the joy set before him (Heb.12:2)
- D. You will overcome it, too.
 - 1. Take courage in Me (not yourselves)
 - 2. Tharseo: calm, firmness of purpose in the face of danger or testing

II. Revelation was written to Christians facing unprecedented trauma. 3 themes.

- A. Endurance rather than escape. (Same as Jesus)
 - 1. Overcomers are those who trust Christ no matter what. 12:11
 - a) (nikao) same as Jn.16:31-33
 - 2. *Not about escaping unscathed, but remaining unmoved.*
- B. Grounded in God's salvation rather than man's religion (Same as Jesus)
 - 1. The slain lamb and his bride rather than the beast and his harlot
 - 2. Man's religion focuses on what man does and what man gets.
 - 3. God's salvation focuses on what Christ has done and what He gives to man freely.
- C. Focused on confidence in the future rather than hope in the present. (Same as Jesus)
 - 1. These people had lost their franchise in this age.

III. Revelation 21:1-8. The ultimate overcoming of the world. The New Universe.

- A. The initial vision. 1-2
 - 1. A new material creation.
 - a) New heaven and new earth
 - b) No more sea = no more evil.
 - 2. A new "Jerusalem" coming from God into this dimension.
 - a) Mixed metaphor: a bride and a city.
 - 3. Not so much "mixed" as "blended" metaphors. Trying to get across a ton of biblical imagery to show a true material and spiritual future.

B. The interpretation. 3-4

1. It is about a dwelling place for God among us.
 - a) God will personally dwell with humanity.
 - b) *Life is good when the strong loved-one is present.*
2. It is about the reversal of the trauma of this age.
 - a) He will wipe away the trauma, the tears, dying, pain.
 - b) The former things have passed away.
 - c) In his kingdom, no evil or suffering.

C. The new order of things. 5-6a

1. All New. The Lord is making all things new (kainos)
2. Utterly True. This is faithful and true, write it down.
3. Foregone Conclusion. The transcending of time.
4. Grounded in God as Ultimate Reality.
 - a) I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

D. The promise and the warning. 6b-8

1. To the thirsty, water of life for free.
2. To the one who overcomes (conquers) this entire inheritance.
 - a) Those who continue to trust him and his victory.
 - b) Nikao, same word as John 16:33
3. To the unrepentantly evil: the lake of fire.
4. *This life is a choice between only two ways: The Gospel or Evil*

IV. How to have this hope. 2 thoughts

A. Be realistic about the present and the future.

1. We still live in the “former things”

- a) See this age for what it is:
 - (1) Broken: Death, crying, mourning, pain
 - (2) Doomed: the character traits that inherit the fire
- b) *Not for the purpose of despising this world or lusting after it, but for the purpose of having compassion on it.*
- c) *The conquerors conquer by not putting faith in this age to fulfill them, but Christ and the next age.*
- d) If you are thinking of shipping your faith in Christ:
 - (1) Your hope has been detached from him and put into something else.
 - (2) Relationship (family, romance); Career; Looks; Money
 - (3) Church (Yes, church can become an idol that obscured the Lord in our hearts)

2. But we focus on the future things. Col. 3:1-5; 2 Cor.4:16-18
 - a) Hope (expectation of future blessing) conditions your life.
 - b) *The Christian life in the present is informed by our future, not our past.*
 - c) Our culture says the opposite:
 - (1) Our present life is conditioned by your past, our culture, our victimization
 - (2) This age is all there is
 - (3) The next age is irrelevant (pit in the sky)
 - d) So when our lives run aground we look for stuff in our past to explain it. But explaining it doesn't fix it.
 - e) *Hope can transcend a lot of trauma, however!!*
 - (1) People feel much better about everything when they grasp a tangible hope for their future.
 - f) *The popular idea that focusing on the eternal future makes you less able to live in the present is complete hogwash.*

B. Drink the living water, not the salt water. (no sea?)

1. This is about the Cross, the gospel, the free gift of Life in Christ.
 - a) The future is good because something happened in the past—the cross of Christ.
 - b) Jesus Christ is Lord, the one who sacrificed himself for us.
 - c) His life, his Spirit, is the water that wells up to eternal life (Jn 4:13; 7:37-39)
2. John 4. A thirsty woman who didn't know it.
 - a) I will give you water that is better
 - (1) Our well is fine thank you.
 - b) I can give you eternal water.
 - (1) Cool. Where is it?
 - c) Where is your husband?
 - (1) Uhh ... I don't have one.
 - d) I know. You've had 5 and you're not with one now. The thirst in your soul is deeper than you think. Men are not the answer—I am.
 - e) *What you are thirsty for will not be found here in this life.*
 - f) *Do you know what you are thirsty for?*

The only way to the living water is the cross of Christ. Come to the Lord today.