

11049-E June 12, 2011
The New Universe. Part 2
Revelation Chapter 21:1-8

I. John 14:1-7

- A. Your heart is troubled, calm it down.
 - 1. Tarraso = agitated, disrupted
- B. Your faith is crucial, put it in me.
 - 1. No other religious leader ever says this.
 - 2. They either point to their teaching or to God, but not to themselves. Jesus *is* God, that's why.
- C. Your future is secure; I am preparing it for you.
 - 1. Your life is conditioned by what you believe about your future.
 - 2. He deliberately points to that future as tangible hope.
 - 3. He is preparing that future *by going to the cross*.

“The words presuppose that the ‘place’ exists before Jesus gets there. It is not that he arrives on the scene and then begins to prepare the place; rather, in the context of Johannine theology, it is the going itself, via the cross and resurrection, that prepares the place for Jesus’ disciples.”

(Carson PNTC 489)

- D. *The destiny of the universe has been changed by the cross of Christ.*
 - 1. This is news. This is the gospel. Has this news changed your destiny?

II. Revelation of Jesus Christ is the vision of that ultimate destiny. 6 things:

- A. It reveals the supreme lordship of Jesus Christ over the universe.
 - 1. Jesus is Lord, the One who was dead and is alive forever. ch.1
- B. It reveals the spiritual war behind the scenes of human history
 - 1. A struggle for ownership of the universe and humanity.
 - 2. False trinity: Satan/Serpent; Antichrist; False Prophet
- C. It reveals the violent rebellion of humanity against God.
 - 1. The Beast/Antichrist and his hooker Babylon
 - 2. All forms of human idolatry, worshipping and serving the creation.
- D. It reveals God's self-sacrifice to save the universe.
 - 1. The Slain Lamb/Lord and his Bride/New Jerusalem
 - 2. Christ, the slain and living king has authority to open history.
 - 3. John 3:16
- E. It reveals God's decision to be done with sin and death and take back his universe.
 - 1. The violent battle scenes in chapter 19.
 - 2. The judgment, the 2nd death, lake of fire. 20
- F. It reveals God's plan to restore his fallen world under his own personal leadership.
 - 1. Re-creation Phase One (Millennial Kingdom). Rev 20
 - a) A thousand years of divine rule, followed by a final rebellion and judgment of Satan.
 - 2. Re-creation Phase Two (Eternal State). Rev 21-22
 - a) New Heavens and Earth in which no evil is found and material/spiritual life is forever joined God personally.

III. Revelation 21:1-8. The New Universe.

A. The initial vision. 1-2

1. A new material creation.
2. A new “Jerusalem” coming from God into this dimension.
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.
2. It is about the reversal of the trauma of this age.

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. It is done. The transcending of time.
4. Grounded in God as Ultimate Reality. The Alpha & Omega

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.
3. To the unrepentantly evil: the lake of fire.
4. *This life is a choice between only two ways: The Gospel or Evil*

IV. The shape of the Renewed Universe. Resurrected Creation.

A. Modeled on the Resurrection of Christ. (The firstfruits 1 Cor.15:23; Col.1:15-20)

1. **Continuity:** the same, but infinitely better. (Like Jesus’ body)
 - a) What happened to Jesus will happen to the universe.
 - (1) Death, burial, resurrection
 - b) Like a resurrection body is the old body, yet new in ways that we cannot possibly imagine with accuracy
 - c) Christ’s old body had passed away (went to dust), and yet it was his old buried body that had been made new.
 - d) You will go on living in this universe, renewed.
2. **Materiality:** physical and tangible (like Jesus’ body Lk 24:36-43)
 - a) A real, material presence, yet with new dimensional reality compared to this age.
 - b) Not a platonic non-physical “world-soul.”
 - c) This material universe, the earth and what we call “space” will be inhabitable, beautiful. Eternal ...
3. **Eternality:** Not just lasting forever, but *ever new*. (Like Jesus’ body)
 - a) New = kainos = new in essence rather than new in chronology. Fresh, not Young.
 - b) Superior to the old in every way and improving always.
 - (1) This is the reversal of the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics.
 - (2) Being renewed every day (2 Cor.4:16-18; 5:17)

B. Better for having suffered. Rom.8:18; 2 Cor.4:16-17

1. *Can something be better for having suffered? Of course!*
2. Suffering creates the capacity for joy.
 - a) Two people sit down for a meal. One has never known a day of hunger in their life. The other has suffered much hunger. Which one will enjoy the meal more? Which one will have more joy?
 - b) The relief of having no death, mourning, crying and pain is immeasurably enhanced by having suffered in this age.
3. The suffering in this life is creating *larger capacities* to enjoy the renewed life.

C. Grounded in the Cross of Christ (The Slain Lamb). (Rom.3:21-4:8)

1. *Why mention the evil people being judged and destroyed?*
 - a) The implication is that these are unrepentant/unbelieving people.
 - b) They do not want the Lord and do not want to repent.
2. *Because love and goodness cannot be perfect without both love and justice.*
 - a) Evil must be judged, punished and removed for the universe to be complete.
 - b) Retribution is the moral law of the universe.
3. *Eternal Love, Goodness, and Justice meet at the Cross of Christ where the Lamb was slain!*
 - a) The Lord brings the living water for free to us because he paid for it with his own blood, supplying both justice and mercy at one event.

V. So we come full circle, back to the Cross—the essence of the Gospel. God became one of us in order to redeem us and the entire universe. By bringing you to Christ, the Lord transforms you, beginning with Spirit regeneration and continuing in Spiritual growth, through death itself and into the renewed universe.