

Parson to Person

1 Corinthians 15 (The Resurrection) – Part 20 (The Millennial Age)

It is unclear to the Old Testament student that there is a distinction between the Millennial Kingdom and the New Heaven and New Earth.

For example, look at Isaiah 65:17–25, where we read, *“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, and her people a joy. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people; the voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, nor the voice of crying. No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; for the child shall die one hundred years old, but the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth children for trouble; for they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent’s food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, says the LORD.”*

In Isaiah 66 we read, *“For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me”* (vs. 22a).

Furthermore, in 2 Peter we read, *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells”* (2 Peter 3:10–13).

In Revelation we read, *“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’ Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ And He said to me, ‘Write, for these words are true and faithful.’ And He said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son’”* (Revelation 21:1–7).

If you carefully read these passages, you can see that there are blurry lines in Isaiah but clarity comes into view as we read 2 Peter and Revelation. This is the result of Progressive Revelation. In fact,

as the result of New Testament material, it is likely that we know more about the end times than Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, et al.

Thoughts:

- 1) In the New Heaven and New Earth, *“the former shall not be remembered or come to mind”* (Isaiah 65:17). Therefore, this earth (and the present conditions of the heavens) will be blown into history by a completely new beginning in which *“righteousness dwells”* (2 Peter 3:13)—which may include the total wipe of thoughts that render the “thinker” pain, sorrow, and/or hurt. Moreover, there will be no more death. *“God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away,”* and as the Lord said, it is then that he will *“make all things new”* (see Revelation 21:5).
- 2) The New Heaven and New Earth *“shall remain before Me,”* said the Lord (Isaiah 66:22a). Therefore, the New Heaven and New Earth will be eternal—not limited to time, not a part of the present creation, not subject to the temporal future, and is in no way limited to the 1000 years associated with the Millennial Kingdom.
- 3) In the New Heaven and New Earth, the *“New Jerusalem [will be seen] coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband”* (Revelation 21:2). Yet we know that the New Jerusalem is nothing like the Ezekiel Temple that will be the dwelling place of God during the 1000-year Kingdom or our Lord (see Ezekiel 40-48).

So much can be and should be said here. However, space is limited—as you know. Therefore, stay tuned to the “live, in person, Sunday studies.”

I love you all,
Pastor Paul