

Revelation 20:11-15

The Great White Throne Judgment

Introduction

This passage deals with the event referred to as The Great White Throne Judgment. For those who know Christ as savior, judgment is passed. We who are saved will appear before the Judgement Seat of Christ, Ro. 14:10-12, 1Co. 3: 10-15, 2Co. 5:10. The event in Rev. 20 is a real event, that will happen, and we will probably be observers. We will know some of the people who are being judged.

When does this judgment take place? It will occur after the millennial reign of Christ. Time line: The Rapture, seven years of Tribulation, the millennial reign, then this judgment. Those who are judged are the "dead." This does not just refer to being physically dead, but to spiritual death. These are the unsaved from all ages. We will see that their judgment and condemnation is based on their works, and not the finished work of Christ. So, as God's people, we know the future! If the Rapture took place today, this event would occur in approximately 1007 years. We know this will happen, but what will we do with this knowledge. We need to be actively involved in the work of the Lord. We need to be giving the gospel, praying for the lost, setting a proper example for the lost. This passage will give us a very clear understanding of exactly what will take place.

I. The Power of the Throne, Rev. 20:11

It is obvious that the powerful one on the throne is Jesus Christ. He has all power in the universe, and now he is exercising his authority to judge man. The throne has the idea of power, authority, and respect. Who is on this throne?

A. It is the Son

According to Jn. 5:19, the Father has committed all judgment to the Son. The same Christ that many of these people mocked and laughed at will judge them. The Christ they rejected for works, religion, feelings, and popularity will judge them. The Christ they hated will now judge them. At this judgment all of the lost will acknowledge that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Savior of the world, Phil. 2:5-11.

B. It is the Savior

We are told in Heb. 1:1-3, that Christ is now on the right hand of God. This is the place of honor, respect, and glory. Jesus is worthy to sit there because he has finished the work the Father sent him to do. He went to the cross, died, was buried, and is now the resurrected Lord. He has provided salvation for mankind; he died for the entire world. Since he has no sin, even though he was tempted, he is worthy to judge lost man. It is Jesus who is on the throne.

II. The People at the Throne, Rev. 20:12-13

There is a great multitude of people here. The great, small, they come from the sea, the grave, and from hell. They have two conditions that stand out.

A. They are dead

They are dead physically. These are the dead from the beginning of time. It would include Cain, Ahab, Jezebel, Hitler and many more. There will be preachers, deacons, Sunday School teachers, people of good moral character, and many people there that we know. There will be liars, murderers, rapist, and thieves. These people are not only physically dead, but more importantly, they are spiritually dead. They have been separated from God in hell since the time of their death. The reason they are here is because they rejected the gospel of Jesus. Now is the time for the final judgment.

B. They are doomed

At this time this group will be judged by their works. Works can never justify man. Scripture teaches that salvation is by grace through faith, Eph. 2:8-9, Gal. 2:16, 3:21-25. Today man needs the gospel more than ever. Many false religions exist, and they all teach that salvation comes by works. People who try to be saved by works will end up here, and the verdict will not be good!

III. The Proclamation from the Throne, Rev. 20:13-15

Each of these people will have their day in court! That will be very unfortunate for them, because all at this judgment will be found guilty. Notice the sentence.

A. Separation

They are "cast into the lake of fire," v14. These people have come into the presence of the Lord, they have confessed that he is Lord. Now they will realize they have made a huge mistake, but it is too late. They are physically thrown in to the lake of fire. This is a place of eternal suffering, separated from the one who loved them enough to die for them.

B. Suffering

Hell is a terrible place. These people will be immersed in flames forever. What happens when you fall into a lake? You sink! Imagine sinking into fire and brimstone forever. Luke 16, gives us a graphic picture of the reality of hell. These people will spend eternity in that place.

Conclusion

We know that the Great White Throne Judgment is coming. Who do we know right now that will possibly be there? Jesus is "not willing that any should perish." So, what can we do? We can witness, pray, live a life controlled by the Holy Spirit, and be faithful to the Lord. People need to be warned about this coming judgement, what will you do with this knowledge?

Revelation 20:1-10 The Millennium

Introduction

The period of time known as the "Millennium" is the one thousand year reign of Christ on the earth. Scripture does not go into detail about this time, but it does give some general descriptions. It will be a time like never before! Jesus will be the ruler of the world. His capital will be in Jerusalem, those who are saved will be with Him, and there will be no Satan.

There are three major millennial views. This is a review, but necessary in order to avoid confusion.

1. The Amillennial view- This view teaches that there is no literal 1,000 year reign of Christ. Prophecy to to amillennialist is symbolic, it is not literal. The literal fulfillment of hundreds of prophecies discredits this view.
2. The Post millennial view- This view states that Christians will win the world to Christ, and that things will continue to get better and better. Once the world is right, then Christ will return. Scripture, however promises the opposite, 2 Tim. 3:1, 13.
3. The Premillennial view- This view states that Christ will return to earth, destroy his enemies, then set up his kingdom.

I. The Characteristics of the Millennium, v1-6

This passage does not give much detail about what this time will be like. Many other passages in the Old Testament give greater detail.

- A. Peace- Isaiah 11, 6-9, Micah 4:2-4, Zeph. 3:14-17
- B. Change- Isa. 35, Zech. 14:6-11
- C. Holiness- Isa. 11:9, 25:9, 66:23, Hosea 2:14-23, Zech 13:2, 14:16-20
- D. Health- Isa 65:20
- E. Sanctification-Isa. 65:21-25
- F. Israel in the Land- Joel 3:18, Amos 9:14-15, Micah 4:1-7, Zech. 8:2-9
- G. Joy- Isa. 9:3-4, 12:1-6, 30:29

II. The Rebellion in the Millennium, v 7-10

The question most often asked about this passage is "Why is the Devil set free?" We are not told why this happens. The ones deceived are the ones who are born during the Millennium. They seemingly have never accepted the Lord and are rebellious by nature. Satan will deceive the nations, and lead a great multitude to rebel. Satan and his followers are ultimately defeated and will be cast into the Lake of Fire forever.

Conclusion

The Millennium will start great, and it will end with tragedy, because of sin. Man and Satan have completely proven that without the gospel they will continue in rebellion to Christ.

Revelation 21:1-27

The New Creation

Introduction

This chapter describes the new heaven and earth. According to 2 Peter 3:12-13, the earth and heaven will be destroyed with fervent heat. This will lead to the creation of the new heaven and earth. These new creations will not be duplicates of what we now know. It has even been suggested by some that this creation will be just like it was in the beginning. We really do not know, because the description in this passage has more to do with the New Jerusalem, than the heaven and earth.

I. The New Creation, v1-8

John is given a vision of the New Creation. This event will take place after the Millennium, and after the Great White Throne Judgment.

A. The Description of the Creation, v1-2

Notice that the word "new" is used three times in these verses. This word does not simply mean to be renewed, but totally new. The only real description given of the earth is that there is no sea. We know from Rev. 22, that there is at least one river, but the world as we know it will be changed. This new creation also includes a new Jerusalem. This new city is described in detail in verses 9-27.

B. The Creator, v3-8 The Creator is Jesus Christ this passage shows us three things about Him:

1. His desire, v3-4 Jesus has a desire to have close fellowship with His people. This is impossible now because of sin. However, in the new creation, there will be no sin, and no hindrance to fellowship. The sorrow and pain caused by sin will also be gone.
2. His description, v5-7 He is the one who purifies all things, and gives new life. He is the giver of eternal life, and because He is faithful and true, He will never fail. Eternal life is freely given from Jesus, because he paid for it with His blood.
3. His declaration, v7-8 Jesus makes a twofold declaration. He first states that those who overcome will be victorious. We overcome through faith in His finished work. He also states that those who reject Him for their sins will spend an eternity in hell. This idea of hell is repeated many times in this book, 14:10-11, 21:27, 22:15

II. The New City, v9-27

John gives us a description of a city that is really beyond imagination. It is largely built out of materials that man would consider too precious for such a use, but to the Lord it is just material. The use of the number 12 is prominent in this city. There are 12: gates, angels, tribes, apostles, pearls, the wall is 144 cubits, 12 x 12. The gates also have the names of the 12 tribes of Israel, and the foundation levels have the 12 apostles. This shows that even in the future, that the

Church and Israel still exist, they are still together but distinct. The description of the city is broken down into four areas.

A. The light, v11- The light for the city is provided by the glory of God. This light is described as a precious stone. The jasper is probably a diamond type material.

B. The wall, v12-14/17-19, We are told that the wall is high, we are not told how high. It has 12 gates, three on each side. In v17 we find that the wall is 144 cubits or 216 feet. This measurement is probably the width of the wall. The material for the wall is jasper. The city is built from pure gold. Here are two of the most valuable items known to man, and God builds with them!! The gates are made from pearl material and the streets of pure gold, that is clear.

C. The size, v15-16, The city is measured and found to be a cube shape. It is the same height, width, and length. The approximate size is 1,500 MILES by 1,500 MILES by 1,500 MILES!!! The city occupies 3,375,000,000 cubic miles!!!! This place is huge, and it is made of pure gold.

D. The foundation, v19-21, The foundation is also made up of precious materials. Each of these has a unique color:

1. Jasper- diamond, 2. Sapphire- blue, 3. Chalcedony- green, 4. Emerald- deep green, 5. Sardonyx- red, 6. Sardius- gold/yellow, 7. Chrysolyte- sea green, 8. Beryl-beryl, 9. Topaz- topaz, 10. Chrysoprasus- gold/green 11. Jacinth- violet, 12. Amethyst- purple. All of the colors will be enhanced by the light of the city.

III. A New Center for Worship, v22-27

This new Jerusalem is the center for worship in the future. Notice that there is no temple here. There was a temple in Rev.14:8. Jesus is the temple now! The presence of God with His people has eliminated the need for a physical temple. The things of the earthly temple were always just shadows of things to come!!! With the removal of sin, there can now be complete fellowship between God and man. This will be a time of great fellowship between God and man, and nothing will be allowed to defile it.

Conclusion

Scripture does not speak much about what heaven and eternity will be like. It does however, in this passage give a complete description of what part of it will be like. This new creation and new city are definitely something to look forward to, but the best part will be unhindered fellowship with our Savior forever!!!!

Last Days Time Line

Heaven



Judgement Seat of Christ / Marriage and Supper of the Lamb

Christ in the clouds



Ascension

Church Age



Rapture

Tribulation 3 1/2 yrs.

Great Tribulation 3 1/2 yrs.

2 witnesses, 144,000

Sealed, Re. 7:1-8 / 11:1-13

Tribulation
Events



Seals

Mid Point Events

Seals

1. Re. 6:2

1. 2 witnesses killed

2. Anti-Christ breaks peace

treaty with Israel,

desecrates Temple

3. Spiritual Babylon falls

2. Re. 6:3-4

3. Re. 6:5-6

4. Re. 6:7-8

5. Re. 6:9-11

6. Re. 6:12-17

7. Re. 8:1-4

Trumpets

1. Re. 8:7

2. Re. 8:9

3. Re. 8:10-11

4. Re. 8:12-13

5. Re. 9:1-12

6. Re. 9:13-21

7. Re. 11:14-19

3 Woes
Re. 8:13

Woe
Woe
Woe

Boys

1. Re. 16:2

2. Re. 16:3

3. Re. 16:4-7

4. Re. 16:8-9

5. Re. 16:10-11

6. Re. 16:12-16

7. Re. 16:17-21

Anti-Christ at Peace

Anti-Christ at War

Last Days Time Line

