



THE BOOK OF REVELATION

FROM EDEN TO ETERNITY

From Eden to Eternity - Part 3

Pastor Christopher Miller – September 20, 2020

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Two weeks ago, we began our new series entitled, “From Eden to Eternity” during which we discussed the Creation of the Earth and the Chaotic Earth which is the Gap Theory based upon Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. We discussed about the darkness being upon the face of the deep, the ice age recorded in Job 38, and the subsequent Restored Earth that is outlined from Genesis 1:3 to Genesis 2:3.

We discussed the 7 days of creation, Lucifer's fall outlined in Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14, and the Antediluvian Age. We discussed the Biblical record of Genesis chapter 6 when the "Sons of God" came to the earth and took unto themselves the daughters of men therefore creating the Giants of the Old Testament; a few names we discussed last Sunday was Og King of Bashan and Goliath and his four brothers.

The Antediluvian Age came to a tragic ending when Noah entered the Ark and God judged the inhabitants of the Earth; man, beast, and giant alike. Obviously, the seed of the Giants survived the flood because of the famous battle of David and Goliath; David gaining the title of Giant Slayer after that faithful day! But it was Noah's Flood that marked the end of the Antediluvian Age.

And it is the ending of Noah's Flood that transitioned us into the Present Age section that leads into the Post Diluvian Dispensation beginning at the Tower of Babel which signifies Human Government, which then gave way to the Patriarchal Dispensation of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob which gave birth to the Twelve Tribes of Israel. After the Patriarchal Dispensation, we transition into the Legal Dispensation which began with the Moses receiving the Law and penning the Torah and runs all the way to first Advent of Christ. The Legal Dispensation spans the time frame from Moses to Christ! Literally from Exodus to the Gospel of Saint Matthew! And it is Christ's First Advent from which we will begin our study today.

The First Advent of Christ annotates the strategic placement in the Historical Timeline when God became man and was born from the virgin womb of Mary; when the Christ Child was born into the World! Most of Christendom focuses on His Life, His Death, and His Resurrection. But few ever dive into what happened during Christ's Three Days of Death much less what happened during the forty days leading up to His subsequent ascension. It was what happened from the Time that Christ was Crucified to when He ascended on High to be seated at the Right Hand of the Father that brings the story full circle. What happened from the Cross to the Throne? **(Graphic)**

1. The First Question we have to ask is, "Was Jesus in the tomb for 3 full days and nights; 3 full 24-hour periods?"
 - a. Matthew 12:40 - "For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."
 - b. Jonah 1:17 - "And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights."
 - c. And it is the Words of Christ that conflict with the time line of Good Friday and Sunday Morning when it comes to Resurrection Sunday.

d. If He died Friday afternoon by 3pm then rose Sunday Morning at 6am, that is only 39 hours which is only a hair over a day and a half which creates a significant problem; that conflicts with the very words of Christ Himself. Jesus was Crucified and Died on a Wednesday and was buried before 6pm that evening. Remember the Hebrew thought on time outlined in Genesis 1 where it says “evening and morning and that was the first day”? Let’s apply this principle and see how it unfolds. Jesus said Three days and Three nights so it has to be three full 24 hour periods. So with the evening to evening time scale in place, let’s look at this on a weekly calendar scale. If they found the tomb empty on the first day of the week, which in the Hebrew mind is Sunday, then let’s work this in a timeline of scale:

- i. Wednesday evening to Thursday evening equals (1) 24 hour period
- ii. Thursday evening to Friday evening equals (1) 24 hour period
- iii. Friday evening to Saturday evening equals (1) 24 hour period
- iv. Thus you have three full 24 hour periods from Wednesday evening to Saturday evening.

- v. And remember that Saturday is the Sabbath day and Sunday is the First Day of the Week. Now why is that important?

Because of Luke 24:1-3

1. Luke 24:1-3 records, “But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

2. The Second Question we have to ask is, “Did Jesus go into Sheol or Hell for that three day period?” (Graphic)

- a. Paradise and Hell were once on the same plane of existence before the resurrection of Christ; Notice Luke 16:19-31...

i. Luke 16:19-31 - ¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. ²³ The rich man also died and was buried, ²⁴ and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

²⁴ And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’

²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—²⁸ for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’

- ii. There are some who have said that this text is a parable but the Bible does not annotate it as such nor does Christ define it as such. The Text is clear that there was a specific rich man and a specific poor man named Lazarus.

iii. Parables never assign names to individuals because names are not important to the narrative nor the lesson; therefore, this. Bottom line is that both of these men died and one went unto Abraham's Bosom and the other into the torments of Hell.

- b. Paradise before Christ's Death and Resurrection was the abode of the souls of the "righteous dead" until Christ's Resurrection. After His Resurrection, it was emptied and transitioned from the same plane as Sheol to being transitioned to Heaven. **(Graphic)**
- c. After Christ's Resurrection, Paradise was relocated and is where the Souls of the "Righteous Dead" are since His Resurrection.

i. Ephesians 4:8-10 - ⁸Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."
⁹(In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?^[b] ¹⁰He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

ii. Revelation 1:17-18 - ¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last,¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."

3. After His resurrection, He ascended to the Heavens to cleanse the Heavenly Temple with his own blood, which is the reason why Jesus told Mary to not touch Him in John 20:17 and then appeared to His disciples for 40 days before He ascended to be seated at the Right Hand of the Father leading up to the Day of Pentecost.

4. Establishment of the Priesthood of Christ (Graphic)

a. Hebrews 9:15-28, ¹⁵“Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. ¹⁶For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” ²¹And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²²Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no

forgiveness of sins.²³ Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.²⁴ For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own,²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.”

- i. This outline provided to us in Hebrews 9 is based upon the outline provided for the acts of the High Priest in Leviticus 16. You can read more about the High Priest on the Day of Atonement regarding cleansing the temple, etc. in Leviticus 16.

- b. Mark 16:19 - ¹⁹ So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.
- c. Romans 8:34 - ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.
- d. Hebrews 4:14-16 - ¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

It was this establishment of Christ as High Priest after the Order of Melchizedek, His cleansing of the Heavenly Temple, His atonement for man's sin, and His seating at the right hand of the Father that established Christ as Priest, Prophet and King. This is why Jesus is the only Way, the only Truth and the only Life! Because Jesus is the only one who could have done what He has done! And it is His accomplishments in this arena that established the Ecclesiastical Dispensation which was the Birthing, Establishing, and Propagating of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Earth from then to now!

5. Ecclesiastical Dispensation

a. Mystery Form of the Kingdom

- i. Matthew 13:10-17 - ¹⁰Then the disciples came and said to him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” ¹¹And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹²For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ¹³This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: “You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.” ¹⁵For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.’ ¹⁶But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

His point, in this last sentence, was the fact that the prophets from ages past and those who died in Faith wished they could have seen the birthing and establishing of the Kingdom of God in the Earth! In Matthew chapter 13 Jesus uses 7 parables to explain the Kingdom, The Citizens of the Kingdom, The Value of the Kingdom and the Impact of the Kingdom; The Mystery Form of the Kingdom. Note the following:

1. The Parable of the Sower
2. The Parable of the Weeds
3. The Mustard Seed and the Leaven
4. Prophecy and Parables
5. The Parable of the Weeds Explained
6. The Parable of the Hidden Treasure
7. The Parable of the Pearl of Great Value
8. The Parable of the Net

And it is the Ecclesiastical Dispensation, or otherwise known as the Church Age, comes to its end when the Fullness of the Gentiles is complete and the Rapturing of the Church takes place which leads us right into The Tribulation period upon the Earth. So next Sunday we will be discussing the Rapture of the Church and diving into The Great Tribulation!