

Title of Study: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ”

Theme of Revelation: The majesty and glory of the warrior lamb, King Jesus, who is coming again to rule and reign forever.

Purpose: To encourage and give hope to the persecuted church and call the church to faithful obedience.

Title: “Book of Deeds or Book of Life?”

Main idea: God will judge all unbelievers!

### 3 Facts

#### 1. There will be nowhere to hide!

- vs (11) “Then” marks another vision and immediately follows Satan being thrown into the “Lake of Fire”.
- vs (11) “throne”
  - Mentioned some 50 times in Revelation.
- vs (11) “great”
  - Because of its significance and possibly its size
- vs (11) “white”
  - Points to God’s righteousness.
  - That fact that it is mentioned may be a reminder that the judgment that comes from it will be righteous.
- God’s judgment is righteous!
  - Romans 2:5
  - Psalm 9:7-8
  - In the Millenium all judgments will be righteous and here at this judgment it will be the same.
- vs (11) “Him who sat on it”
  - Who is this? Is it the Father? Is it Jesus?
  - Revelation 7:10 God is on the throne (Father)
  - Daniel 7:9-10 The Ancient of Days is the Father.
  - However!
  - Daniel 7:13-14
  - Revelation 3:21
  - Revelation 22:1
  - Revelation 22:3
  - Clearly here both are on the throne. So who is judging?
  - John 5:22
  - John 5:26-27
  - Acts 17:30-31
  - Acts 10:42

- Romans 2:15-16
  - 2 Timothy 4:1
  - Jesus is the one who judges.
- vs (11) “earth and heaven fled away”
    - There is much debate over what this means!

## 2 Primary views

- A. Earth and heaven are completely destroyed during this time and they cease to exist.
- In this view they are completely replaced with a new heaven and earth.
  - vs (11) “found no place for them” because they ceased to exist and are completely destroyed.
  - 21:1 Then John saw a new heaven and a new earth.
  - Psalm 102:25-26
  - Luke 21:33
  - 2 Peter 3:7
  - 2 Peter 3:10-13
- B. The heaven and earth will be renewed or restored.
- Ecclesiastes 1:4
  - Psalm 78:69
 

(It should be noted that the Hebrew word here “forever” is sometimes used to mean something other than eternity: Deuteronomy 15:17)
  - Revelation 20:11 “new” is the Greek word Kainos which means new in quality, while if he wanted to say new (totally new and not simply changed) he would have used Neos.

\*So which is it? First of all, I don’t think we can prove either one beyond a shadow of a doubt.

\*However, let’s look at some things that might help us in where to lean.

## Problem with A

- 2 Peter 3:7 What is the context?
- 2 Peter 3:4-7
- He is comparing the first destruction of the earth to the next time.
- The first time was by water the second will be by fire.
- Was the earth completely removed and replaced the first time that it was destroyed? No!
- 2 Peter 3:10
- The terms “melt with fervent heat”, “burned up” (vs 60), “dissolved” (vs 11), “dissolved, being on fire” (vs 12), “melt with fervent heat” (vs 12) don’t necessarily mean annihilated (ceased to exist).
- It is possible the fire will be used to cleanse the current earth of all the effects of the curse and then refresh it.
- The word “pass away” (vs 10) and “fled away” (Revelation 20:11), while more difficult to explain, still could mean pass away as it is currently seen and fled away in order to be cleansed with fire!

Problems with B

- See the above reference to the words “pass away and fled away”
- The argument of using Kainos instead of Neos.
- I once used this argument but have changed my mind.
- It is true that new (Kainos) can mean new in quality, made fresh, renewed.
- It is true that new (Neos) can mean new in reference to age as in replacing the old with the new.
- But here is what my recent study concluded.
- One of my Greek dictionaries used the word “freshness” to describe both Kainos and Neos.
- That led me to study how each word is used in the New Testament.
- Overwhelmingly, Kainos refers to new in quality and Neos to new totally replacing the old.
- But I found some exceptions.
- In scripture New Covenant is Kainos, which by definition is refreshed.
- Hebrews 8:13
- It replaced the old one.
- In 2 Corinthians 5:17 the new man is the (Kainos) man.
- In Colossians 3:10 the new man is the (Neos) man.
- Luke 5:37-39
- Verses 37-38 call the “new” wine Neos.
- Verse 39 calls the new wine Kainos.

\*I don't think we can use the argument that Kainos in Revelation 20:11 has to mean refreshed or renewed.

\*So now what?

My view

- I do believe that Ecclesiastes 1:4 and Psalm 78:69 are troublesome for view A that the earth is completely annihilated.
- However, I argue for B more from a theological standpoint.
- Let me walk you through this!
- Romans 8:18-22
- This passage personifies creation (this is not humans, angels, demons, or Devil).
- In vs (19) creation is earnestly expecting deliverance from the curse of sin.
- Literally is up on tip-toes expecting, looking!
- Why?
- vs (20) “futility”
- vs (20) “in hope”
- There was always hope for the creation to be delivered.
- vs (21) “will be delivered from the bondage of corruption”
- vs (22)
- There is hope for the creation! It will be delivered!

\*Now some say well this will happen during the millennium. It will be perfect then and later destroyed.

\*But why? If it's perfect then why destroy it?

\*And if the earth is personified in these passages, and it is, then the earth longs for deliverance, gets it for 1,000 years, and then gets annihilated. Is that hope?

\* Also, I argued last week, in our look at the millennium, that there will still be sin and death in the millennium. The curse is not fully removed. There is peace and justice and right judgment but the curse is not completely gone.

\*I also believe if God doesn't take back the earth and restore it then in some way Satan got a victory.

\*To me, restoration of the earth fits within the theological story of the Bible.

- In Genesis all creation is perfect and then cursed. From that point forward, we see God's story of redeeming man back to Himself.
- It shows us man's failure throughout the Old Testament in Israel, Jesus' success in the New Testament and God making a way through the cross.
- The rest of the New Testament is about God reconciling people to Himself through Jesus and people living for His glory.
- Then the Bible is bookended with the story of sin and Satan being completely defeated and man living with God in a perfect place with a new heaven and new earth, where there is no more curse.
- It stands to reason that just as God restored man and made him new (new in quality, refreshed, regenerated) that He would do the same for the rest of creation.

\*Why mention in vs (11) "fled away"?

- It seems to imply there will be nowhere to hide.
- It will be just the Lord and each individual.
- That's a scary thing.