



SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

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New Heaven and New Earth

OPENING & PRAYER:

Today, we journeyed through the final chapters of God's redemptive plan, tracing the timeline from the millennial reign of Christ to the dawn of the new heaven and new earth. We began by remembering that we are living in the church age, awaiting the rapture—a moment when Christ will call His people to Himself. The rapture, I believe, will precede the tribulation, a period marked by Israel's peace treaty and the rise of the Antichrist, culminating in the abomination of desolation and the outpouring of God's judgments. While the world endures tribulation, the saints will be with Christ, returning with Him at His revelation to establish His thousand-year reign on earth.

"Father, I thank you for Your word and Your promises. I ask for guidance and direction as we study what is coming and how we as Christians are to prepare for it. In Jesus' name I pray, amen."

SCRIPTURE:

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; **Revelation 20:1-2**

and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. **Revelation 20:3**

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. **Revelation 20:4**

But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. (Great White Throne) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. **Revelation 20:5-6**

Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. **Revelation 20:7-8**

They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. **Revelation 20:9-10**

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. **Revelation 20:11-12**

The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **Revelation 20:13-14**

And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:15

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. **Revelation 21:1**

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, **2 Peter 3:10-11**

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 3:12-13**

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. **Revelation 21:2-3**

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." **Revelation 21:4-5**

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 21:6-7**

But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." **Revelation 21:8**

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." **Revelation 21:9**

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

Revelation 21:10-11

But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. **Revelation 21:22-23**

And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). **Revelation 21:24-25**

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. **Revelation 22:1-2**

And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. **Revelation 22:3**

GO DEEPER:

During the millennial reign, Jesus will rule from Jerusalem, and believers in glorified bodies will reign with Him. Yet, even in a world governed by Christ's perfect justice, human hearts will still be tested. At the end of the thousand years, Satan will be released for a short time, deceiving many who, despite living under Christ's rule, will choose rebellion. This final uprising will be swiftly crushed, and Satan will be cast into the lake of fire forever.

We then considered the sobering reality of the great white throne judgment. All who have rejected Christ will stand before Him, judged not by faith but by their works, and ultimately separated from God for eternity—the second death. Yet, for those whose names are written in the Book of Life, there is no fear of this judgment. Instead, we look forward to the promise of a new heaven and new earth, where righteousness dwells, and God Himself will dwell among His people.

In this eternal state, all sorrow, pain, and death will be gone. The New Jerusalem, radiant with God's glory, will be our home—a place of unending blessing, light, and life. The invitation remains open: to be born again, to have your name written in the Book of Life, and to set your heart on eternity with Christ. This is not just a warning against judgment, but a call to embrace the hope and inheritance prepared for all who overcome through faith in Jesus.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

The Two Deaths and Two Births: Every person faces the choice of being born once and dying twice, or being born twice and dying only once. Physical death is the separation of soul and body, but spiritual death is eternal separation from God. The new birth in Christ secures us against the second death, anchoring our hope in eternal life rather than eternal separation. **[11:45]**

The Millennial Reign Reveals the Human Heart: Even under the perfect rule of Christ, with Satan bound and righteousness prevailing, the human heart's capacity for rebellion remains. When Satan is released, many will still choose deception over truth, showing that true transformation comes not from external rule but from a heart surrendered to God. **[16:45]**

The Finality and Justice of the Great White Throne: The great white throne judgment is not a place for believers, but for those who have persistently rejected God's grace. Here, every deed is accounted for, and those not found in the Book of Life are separated from God forever. This is not about God's unwillingness to save, but about honoring the choices people have made regarding Him. **[23:50]**

The New Creation and the End of Evil: God's promise is not merely to renovate the old but to bring forth a new heaven and new earth where righteousness dwells. Evil, pain, and death will be forever banished, and only those made righteous in Christ will inhabit this new creation. This assures us that our eternal home will be unmarred by the brokenness of this world. **[32:21]**

The Glory and Invitation of the New Jerusalem: The New Jerusalem is described as a place of unimaginable beauty, light, and blessing, where God Himself is present and every tear is wiped away. This is the inheritance of all who overcome by faith, and the invitation remains open to all who will call on Jesus to be saved. Our hope is not just to escape judgment, but to dwell forever in the presence and love of God. **[37:46]**

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. The sermon talks about being “born once, die twice” or “born twice, die once.” What does this mean, and why is it important for understanding our eternal destiny? **[11:45]**
2. In Revelation 21, what are some of the characteristics of the new heaven, new earth, and the New Jerusalem? **[34:57]**
3. The millennial reign shows that even in a perfect environment, people can still choose rebellion. Are there areas in your life where you find yourself resisting God’s rule, even when you know His way is best? What would it look like to surrender those areas to Him? **[16:45]**
4. The promise of a new heaven and new earth is that all pain, sorrow, and death will be gone. When you face suffering or loss now, how can this hope encourage you? Is there a specific situation where you need to remind yourself of God’s future promise? **[34:57]**
5. The invitation to have your name written in the Book of Life is open to all. If you have already accepted Christ, how can you help others respond to this invitation? What practical steps can you take this week to point someone toward Jesus? **[43:28]**

CLOSING PRAYER:

“Father, thank you for the opportunities to grow in our faith. As we read through what is to come, we put our faith and trust in You. There may be questions, but when we lean on You, those questions seem small and insignificant. Thank you for guiding us through this world and guiding us to You. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”