

## 20231210 God dwells with us

Revelation 21:1-7

(Back to the future Part 31)

<sup>1</sup> Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

<sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

<sup>4</sup> ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

<sup>6</sup> He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

<sup>7</sup> Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

### The character of God’s message: Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

<sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us

**the ministry of reconciliation:**

<sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, **not counting people’s sins against them.** And he has committed to us **the message of reconciliation.**

### Paradise on earth: The Millennial Kingdom of God

Isaiah 11:6-10

<sup>6</sup> The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;  
and a little child will lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow will feed with the bear,  
their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The infant will play near the cobra’s den,  
and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest.

<sup>9</sup> They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

### The final revolt of humanity

Revelation 20:7-9

<sup>7</sup> When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison  
<sup>8</sup> and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth - Gog and Magog - and to gather them for battle. **In number they are like the sand on the seashore.**

<sup>9</sup> They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God’s people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

### Final judgment: The great white throne judgement

Acts 10:42

<sup>42</sup> He (God) commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he (Jesus) is the one whom God appointed as **judge of the living and the dead.**

Revelation 20:12-13

<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and **books** were opened. **Another book** was opened, which is **the book of life**. The dead were judged according to what they had done **as recorded in the books**.

<sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and **each person was judged according to what they had done.**

#### **Two things notice in the final judgement:**

1. Just like the rewards for the believers are different, the punishment for the unbelievers will be different.
2. The unbelievers' eternal destiny will be the same.

Revelation 20:15

<sup>15</sup> Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

#### **ETERNITY: The new Jerusalem, the city of God coming down out of heaven**

John 14:1-3

<sup>1</sup> Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

<sup>2</sup> **My Father's house** has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

<sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Revelation 21:24

<sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.

Revelation 21:9

<sup>9</sup> One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you **the bride, the wife of the Lamb.**"

<sup>10</sup> And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

Ephesians 5:29-32

"No one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church, for we are members of his body. For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery - but **I am talking about Christ and the church.**"

Ephesians 2:6-7

<sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

<sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

#### **Take home lesson: Remind ourselves of our calling in Christ**

Matthew 28:19-20

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- What to do: Go and make disciples of all nations
- How to do: Baptizing (membership of God's family), Teaching them to obey (living in God's life principles)
- The promise: Jesus is with us (His power and anointing available)