

THE EMINENT RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

Part V

1st Thessalonians 4:13-17

From the Millennium to the New Heavens and the New Earth

Introduction: The quintessential, exciting, and exhilarating days of the Millennium consist of 1,000 ebullient years spent living on this present earth with Christ as our King, under the most salubrious conditions. This will be unprecedented and will supersede and truncate anything that we have ever imagined. However, while it is difficult to contemplate, there will be people who have enjoyed the paragon of blessings living under Christ's reign, who will join the forces of the antichrist and attempt to overthrow Christ and His divine government at the end of the 1,000 years.

I. The Millennium

- A. Changes in animal temperament. Isaiah 11:6-8, 65:25.
- B. Love and righteousness will prevail on earth. Isaiah 9:6-7.
- C. All nations left on the earth will be under Christ's reign. Zechariah 14:16-21.

II. Satan once again raises his ugly head in an attempt to overthrow Jesus Christ.

- A. Satan's doom. Revelation 20:7-10.
 1. Many people who got the chance to enter the New Millennium just because they were left on the earth after the battle of Armageddon (Zechariah 14:16) will side with Satan, being deceived by his false promises (Eve all over again). These wicked rebels, along with Satan, will be cast into the eternal lake of fire. This will finish the history of Satan, the beast, and the false prophet, and all wicked rebels on earth forever.

III. The Great White Throne Judgment

- A. Revelation 20:11-15.
- B. Unserved souls from all the ages will stand before the Heavenly Father in judgment. Romans 1:32, 2:1-5

IV. The renovation of the earth by fire

- A. 2nd Peter 3:10; Isaiah 65:17, 66:22-24.
 1. It should be noted that the word for pass away in II Peter 3:10 in the Greek is *parerchomai*, meaning, "... to go by or away from in the sense of from one condition to another." It never means total cessation. Also, "... and the elements shall melt with fervent heat." An element in the Greek in this case is *stoicheion*, meaning something orderly in arrangement, element, principle, or rudiment. I believe that this is in reference to the principle of sin and of the present world system, such as the curse, sinful nature, disease, germs, and the spirits that cause men to corrupt themselves (pornography, etc.) The meaning also includes the things which man has made that must be destroyed before the earth can be purified and loosed from its present state of bondage and corruption. Romans 8:21-22. The Greek word for melt is *luo*, meaning to loose, put off, unbind, untie, or set free. This loosing will be done with fervent heat, which is the best method of renovation and cleansing known to man.
 2. Revelation 21:1 says, "... and I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away ..." The Greek word for *new* is "kainos," meaning renewed or new, especially in freshness and character, but never new in existence. The expression "*new heavens and new earth*" has reference to this present earth being made new in character, renewed and loosed from the old curse.
 3. Only that which is an abomination will be removed. Hebrews 12:26-28.

V. The new heavens and the new earth.

- A. Revelation 21:1 - 22:5. New heavens, earth, New Jerusalem, peoples, conditions, new temple, new paradise, etc.
 1. Note the description of Isaiah the prophet. Isaiah 65:17-25.
 2. John the Revelator sees it this way. Revelation 21:1-5.
 3. Isaiah 66:22-24 gives further enlightenment.
 4. II Peter 3:13, "... we ... look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."
 5. Natural peoples will inhabit the new earth, including the Jews of Israel. Ezekiel 37:24-28.
 6. Deuteronomy 7:9, "... God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments."
 7. Psalms 105:8, "He has remembered His covenant forever, the word which He commanded, for a thousand generations ..."
 8. Genesis 8:21-22, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake ... while the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease."
 9. There will be feasts, sacrifices, offerings, David's throne, and the kingdom will be ruled by Christ.

VI. The New Jerusalem being moved from heaven to earth

- A. Revelation 21: 2, 9-10.
 1. We shall inhabit the beautiful city. Revelation 3:12, 21, 19:8; John 14:1-3.
 2. We shall rule and reign from the New Jerusalem with Christ.