

The New Heaven and the New Earth - Teacher's Notes

Goal: The students will literally understand the revelation of the new heaven and new earth

Praxis: The students will be able to explain these trustworthy words to others

- Two beatitudes of Revelation - 1:3
 - Blessed is the one who reads aloud
 - Blessed - “great, prosperous” = spiritually happy
 - the one who reads aloud
 - a public reader would read this book out loud to each of the seven churches
 - people did not have personal copies of the Scripture
 - blessed are those who hear and keep
 - hear and keep are both Present Active Participles which emphasize the continuous action
 - the ones hearing are blessed if they keep (do) what they heard
 - what is written - the Perfect Passive Participle has the sense of “stands written” = permanent
 - time - “season” = appointed time
 - The book of Revelation is meant to be read and understood. People cannot be blessed if they cannot understand the text they are reading.
- new - 21:1 = new in kind, quality - implies a totally new molding of the elements
- heaven - all that surrounds the earth out into the ends of the universe
- had passed away -
 - in 20:11 the heaven and earth fled using the same word
 - II Peter 3:10-13 explains the destruction of the old heaven and earth
 - the day of the Lord - the incomparable time devoted entirely to the Lord
 - will come - this verb is in the emphatic position at the head of the sentence
 - like a thief - suddenly without warning causing great surprise
 - the heavens - everything in space other than the earth
 - will pass away - similar to word used in Revelation 21:1
 - with a roar - implies a whizzing rapid sound
 - the heavenly bodies - “elements” = atomic structure (the Lord holds these elements together - Colossians 1:17 - “...in him all things hold together”)
 - burned up - be consumed by heat. Medical term used for the heat of fever
 - dissolved - “loosed” - the loosing of the elements will be like a huge atomic explosion as everything flies apart
 - the earth and the works = all earthly things and life
 - will be exposed - there are textual variations
 - KJV and NASB = “burn down”
 - ESV = “discover”
 - vv. 11-13 contain exhortations to be holy and godly
 - his promise - An example is Isaiah 66:22 - new heavens and new earth
 - we are waiting - “await, expect”

- new heavens and a new earth - this is a good literal translation
- the sea was no more - the new earth is formed so that all of it can be used. There will still be large bodies of water on earth in the Millennium - Exekiel 47:1ff
- v.2 - new Jerusalem - Some propose that the new Jerusalem hovers over the earth during the Millennium as a place for the resurrected saints. There is no scripture that states this idea
- prepared...adorned - having been prepared...having been adorned
 - adorned - the word from which we get the English word “cosmetic”
 - John 14:2-3 - the place the Lord Jesus is preparing for us. The word means a “place to stay” = abode, room, inn
 - Hebrews 11:10, 16 - the inhabitants will include the saints of all ages
- v.3 - dwelling place...dwell - “will tabernacle”
 - refers back to the Shekinah glory of the O.T. tabernacle
 - all of the O.T. symbolism is now reality
- his people - literally = “his peoples” - many nations will partake of this city from all ages
- God himself - emphatic expression to show that God will be there
- v.4 - wipe away every tear - Literally - “shall wipe out every tear out of their eyes” - like a mother wiping the tears out of her child’s eyes
- death shall be no more - eternal life with Christ
- mourning - sorrow manifesting grief
- crying - “clamour or wailing” associated with grief
- pain - associated with injury or death
- former things - literally “the first things” - these all passed away with the first heaven and earth in verse 1
- passed away - same word as in verse 1
- v.5 - all things new - same as v. 1
 - nothing is left from the former existence
 - “all things brand new” in our vernacular
 - new in nature or quality rather than new in time = better
- Write...these words are trustworthy and true - the information in the book of Revelation is designed to be recorded, read and understood
- v.6 - it is done
 - the text implies “they have been finished” or “they have come to pass”
 - these words are as if they had already happened
 - “done” is a collective plural
- Alpha and Omega
 - the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet
 - Literally - “**the** Alpha and **the** Omega”
- water of life
 - Isaiah 55:1 - the water of life is free
 - John 4:10, 13-14 - the woman at the well
- v.7 - the one who conquers
 - the one who conquers the Devil through the grace of Christ as a Believer
 - Romans 8:37 - we are more than conquerors....

- will have this heritage - we get all of “these things” in Christ

- God...son
 - literally - I will be to him God and he shall be to me a son
 - a son inherits all things from his father
 - Hebrews 12:23 - we are members of the “assembly of the firstborn” - this plural word implies priority in rank as a firstborn son
- v.8 - But - in stark contrast to the Believer of v.7
- cowardly
 - they fear to take God at His word
 - Matthew 8:26 - Christ called those in the boat cowardly
- the faithless - these are untrustworthy
- the detestable
 - defiled by emperor worship and other heathen practices
 - literally - “having become foul” or “feeling nausea or loathing for food” = disgust
- sexually immoral - rampant in this day we live
- sorcerers - poison others or addicted to drugs
- all liars - they follow their father, the Devil - John 8:44
- portion
 - “part of the whole”
 - compare to the rooms (John 14:2) in the Heavenly City for the Believers