

022



The Father Knows Best

School of the Bible Class

Isaiah

Isaiah at 28-35
Catch Up Lesson

022

Sept. 25, 2022

Donald L Goertzen Presenter
Indian Hills Community Church

Continuing

Clues in Isaiah for the Detectives

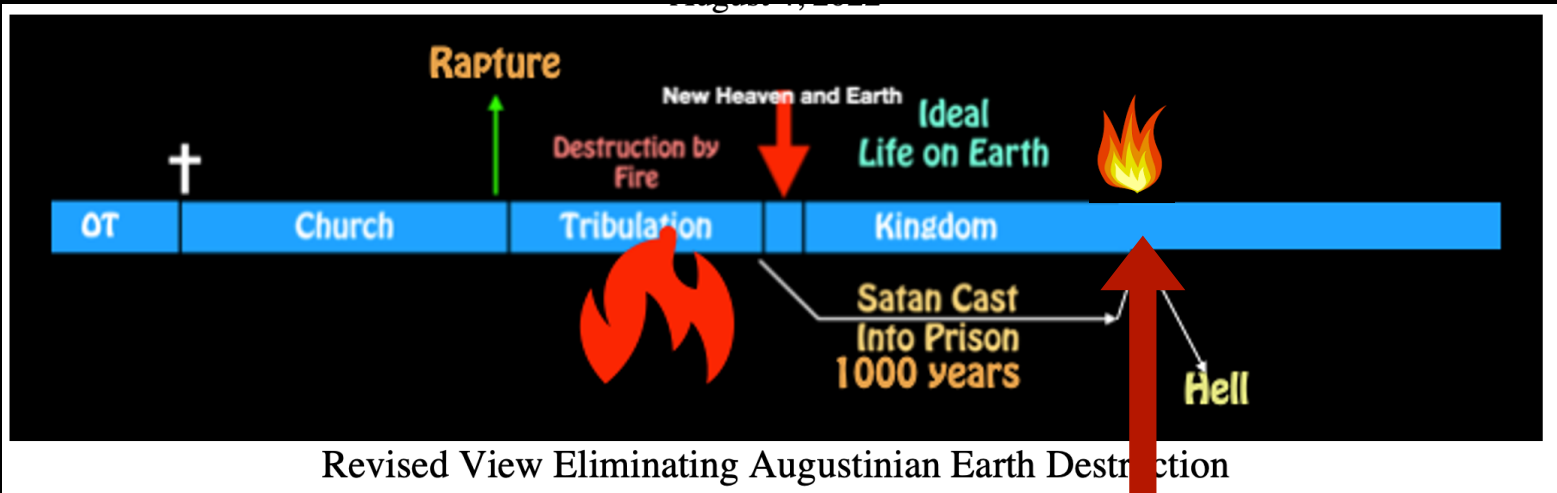


Our Selective Isaiah Study

- We pick up our lesson after a four week break—
- We are studying Isaiah in a cherry picking style.
- (Review) We have made some adjustments in the widely accepted (dispensational) eschatology, because Augustine's idea has not been purged, that of the destruction/annihilation of the earth. This is an accommodation of the Greek ideal that matter is evil.
- That the earth is evil and cannot be salvaged— it needs annihilation—this is not supported in the Bible.
- “The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.” (Psalm 24:1) God will not annihilate what He made.

Our Selective Isaiah Study

- Since Isaiah 24-27 is the apocalypse of the Old Testament, it is comparable to apocalyptic Revelation.
- Dispensational assumption: Revelation (or any book) will not contradict what has been “established” in the Old Testament.
- There are no contradiction in the New. If there are then we have an error in our understanding— our understanding of the New Testament needs to be adjusted.
- Critical point. The New Testament reveals information as mysteries as beyond the OT. (Church and related topics)
- So we must stick with the Old Testament eschatology as revealed and understood by the Jewish faithful.



Clarence Larkin 1919

Classical Dispensationalist have kept the annihilation of the earth after 1000 years at which time the New Heaven and Earth are created and the New Jerusalem comes down from heaven to the newly created earth.

The Amillennial destruction of the earth as taught by Augustine

Corrected Eschatology

- **The Classic View (Larkin):** The earth will undergo extensive destruction (annihilation ? Renovation) at the end of the "Millennial Kingdom," after which the Eternal State begins—with the New Jerusalem.
- **However—**
- **There is no direct textual support for a earth wide conflagration (annihilation) after 1000 years of the eternal Kingdom.**
- **However, three verses are used that are said to imply it.**

Corrected Eschatology

- Rev. 20:9, "fire came down from heaven and devoured them."
- Rev. 20:11 "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them." Also,
- Rev. 21:1 "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea."

Corrected Eschatology

- But these verses do not reveal earth's destruction by conflagration— at the end of 1000 years.
- Each can be easily understood in their contexts—
(20:9) **fire devours the rebels**, not the earth,
- (20:11) the **presence of Him sitting on the throne is greater than anything He created**,
- (21:1) the former world order (heaven and earth in judgment) **ends with the coming Messianic Kingdom**.

Corrected Eschatology

- **Summary:** It is on, this questionable leg and a second one coming up that a "post-millennial conflagration" stands.
- **Disputed meanings:** Remember we are talking about an event (annihilation ? of earth) that is greater than the flood event. It will not do to build our case on possible nuanced meanings of the text. (We have perspicuity !)
- **The Bible is not a puzzle but an answer book on major questions. Tradition is a hard argument to buck.**

Corrected Eschatology

- The second leg: The "post-millennial conflagration" proponents appeal to a chronology advocating that Revelation 20 and 21 are consecutive.
 - Do chapters not follow chapters?—yes but maybe not the chronology.
- The second leg argument—since Rev. 20 mentions 1000 years 6x, most assume that all of **it happens in the time before Revelation 21.**
- However—that may not be true, there are known gaps in Revelation.
- Because then if 21 follows 20, **major time adjustment have to be made in Isaiah. That is Isaiah must be reordered to agree with Revelation.**
- But then the tail wags the dog. We warned against this.

Chronology—

What is needed then is a reliable chronology.

Corrected Eschatology

- What is needed is a standard biblical chronology.
- The chronology must be found in the Old Testament.
- The New Testament cannot add (supplement) the Old Testament because N.T. additions are all called out as mysteries. To wit: As the church, the Rapture, death— but there is no “mystery” unlocked for the "conflagration."

Corrected Eschatology

- Remember: Is it wrong to assume a chronology based on nuances and illusions. It is problematic, **especially if a precise Old Testament chronology can be shown.**
- The clearest is displayed at the end of Isaiah.
 - Starting with 65:17 to the end of the book. (65:17-25. 66 elaborates)
- This chronology agrees with the New Testament as in 2 Peter 3:1-13, where the Tribulation (10-12) precedes the expected New Heavens and Earth (13).
- This order is found in many Old Testament passages, e.g., Is. 24-27.

Corrected Eschatology

- The chronology is found around a "common event" in both the Old and New Testaments. That common event is the "New Heaven and Earth."
- There are only four such uses (NHE) in the Bible. All are without dispute, **pointing to the same thing.**
- Complete: The most decisive passage is (1) **Isaiah 65:17** to the end of (2) **66**. (3) **2 Peter 3:12** uses the same expression— the NHE after the Tribulation. Finally, (4) **Rev. 21:1ff** describes the Lord making all things new /renovation (v. 5). Then follows the description of the New Jerusalem. (Seventh Bowl Angel announces the Bride.)

What the Jews Expected

- Without any adjustments or ambiguity in the chronology, the significant events are
- 1) Tribulation.
- 2) The 2nd Coming.
- 3) The New Heaven and Earth and the coming down of the New Jerusalem.
- 4) The Eternal Kingdom.

The second leg

**Questioning/confirming the
chronology of the Revelation 20-21.**

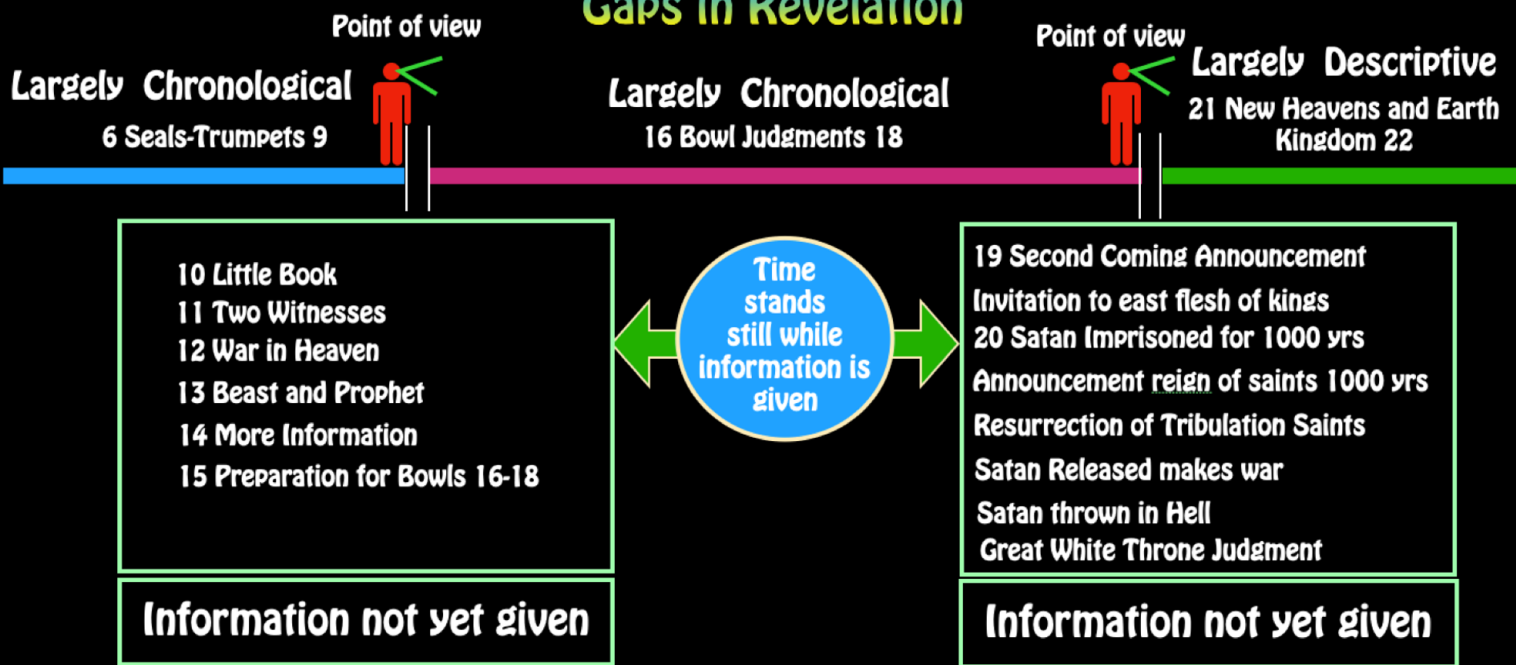
What can be demonstrated?

Solution to Chronology

- Tracing the chronology of Revelation.
- It shows that it stops time even for chapters length sections, stopping to give information.

- 1. Introduction
- 2-3. The Churches represented all ages
- 4. Heavenly scene
- 5. Opening the seals (for the Tribulation)
- 6-9. Seals, Trumpet judgments
- **10-15 Time stops: New information is given for the Bowls event.**
- 16-17 Bowl Judgments, (18) destruction of Babylon.
- 19. The Second Coming of Christ follows the Tribulation in chronology.
- **20 Time stops: New information is given for the Kingdom event.**
- 21. The Kingdom begins with the Messiah ruling on an earth made new, and when the New Jerusalem comes down to the world to fulfill Jewish promises.

Gaps in Revelation



Hermeneutical Lesson

- Let's say that we follow these arguments but have trouble accepting leg one or leg two. How to break the impasse?
- First Step. **Determine that there is a correct chronology.**
- As in a 'story problem.' You have been given the answer, but the story is not clear (not wrong). Now construct the math to make it work out. That is to read the "story" in such a way as to **render the right answer.** Or flip to another scenario to make the story produce the right answer.
- **In this case the answer is a knowable chronology.** This may take some imagination since tradition is hard to break.

Objections?

- **Prophecy is not knowable. (An amillennial argument.)**
- **Because prophecy is given to confuse people, to keep them dependent and off balance.**
- **Since prophecy goes back and forth nothing except wide brush strokes can be given with certainty.**
- **Revelation overrides the Old Testament even Peter!**
 - **An Augustinian eschatology is the answer forcing a false story.**
- **We have to wait until it happens to see how it works out.**
- **But—prophecy is not hidden it has its enemies but it shares in the benefits of perspicuity—IT IS KNOWABLE.**

Serendipities

- **Note: Isaiah 24:21-22 mentions Satan's "incarceration," paralleled in Rev. 20; Isaiah 25 gives six details that agree with Isaiah 65:17ff and Rev. 21:1ff. All are in play in the first 1000 years of the Kingdom, which continue into eternity.**

Satan in Prison for 1000 yrs then in Hell

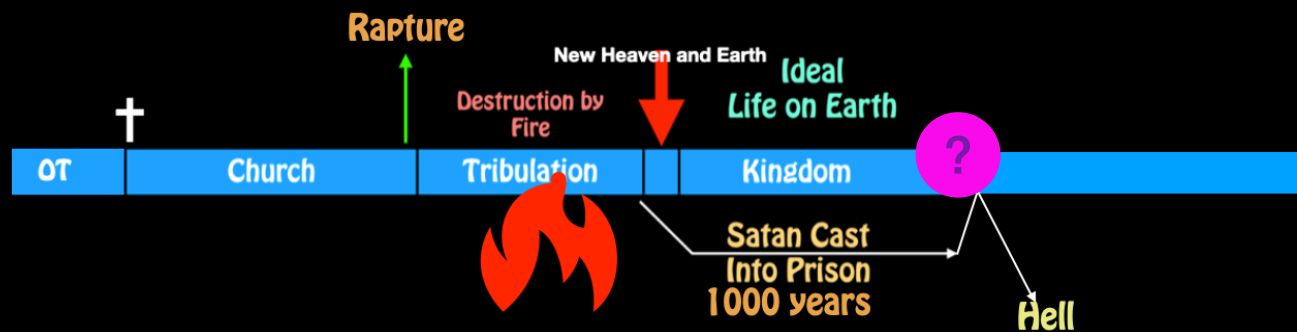
- “So it will happen in that day, That the Lord will punish the **host of heaven on high**, And the kings of the earth on earth. They will be gathered together **Like prisoners in the dungeon**, And will be confined in prison; And after many days they will be punished.” (Isaiah 24:21–22)

Establishing the Correct Chronology (It can be done)

- Line up the four passages that talk about the New Heaven and Earth. Allow the chronology as stated in these passages. Basic order is given in the order of book.
- Allow that Revelation 20:1-6 is a "coming" that needs to be understood as a kingdom (1000 yrs+), time does not move forward. Starts again in 21 aligns with Isaiah 65:17ff.
- Passages do not go back and forth but are straight forward and a chronology can be established with certainty.

This is the answer now make everything else work out

The Proposed Certainty



Questions about the timing and extent of the New Heaven and Earth includes the New Jerusalem.

