12/11/22

Sunday pm

Last Days Series: “What Should We Expect?”

Sermon: “The New Heaven and New Earth”

Revelation 21:1-22:5

Layout of series:

When Death Comes (8/28/22)

Signs As We Near the End (9/4/22)

The Rapture, p1 (9/18/22)

The Rapture, p2 (9/25/22)

The Post-Rapture Church (10/16/22)

Tribulation Overview (10/23/22)

Tribulation, p2: 144,000 and 2 Witnesses (10/30/22)

Tribulation, p3: Antichrist (11/6/22)

The Return of Christ (11/20/22)

The Millennial Kingdom (11/27/22)

Last Battle/Resurrection of the Lost/Great White Throne Judgement (12/4/22)

New Heaven and New Earth (12/11/22)

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* What happened to the old one?
  + Destroyed?
    - That’s what Rev 20:11 and 2 Peter 3:10-12 seem to suggest at first reading
    - But consider this:
      * “New” in 2 Peter 3:13 = New in quality, not in existence. Gives a sense of renewed and refreshed
      * Illustration in 2 Peter 3:1-7 (cleansing flood and cleansing fire)
      * Also, creation is “groaning” Romans 8:18-23
      * Isaiah 9 = blood-stained boots and garments will be fuel for the fire.
* New Heaven and Earth (Earth and universe – it was all affected by the fall and tainted by sin). Qualities and characteristics:
  + No sea
    - Approx. 71% of the Earth is covered by oceans. In the New Earth, it will not be necessary.
  + No tears, crying, mourning, pain, or death (v4)
  + The new creation is defined by righteousness (2 Peter 3:13)
  + God Himself dwells here with man (Rev 21:3). Heaven on Earth. Pre-fall conditions
  + New Jerusalem
    - Capital city of Heaven, descends to Earth (21:2, 10)
    - Radiates with the glory of God (described as a most rare jewel)
      * Something our natural bodies couldn’t handle.
    - Cube
      * 1,400 miles high, wide and deep (approx. 2 million square miles of ground space)
    - 3 gates on each side, 12 total
      * Twelve tribes of Israel inscribed on the gates
      * Each gate made of a single pearl
        + Consider how a natural pearl is formed, by wounding. What a great reminder of the Way, the Door, Jesus, by which we enter
      * 12 foundations of the wall – on them were the names of the 12 apostles. Adorned with all kinds of jewels
      * Wall jasper, or clear like diamond
      * The city, pure gold, like clear glass
      * The street was pure gold, like transparent glass
      * No light of the sun needed in the city, the Lord Himself is the light, never night there
    - River of life flows from the throne (perhaps symbolizes the continual flow of eternal life from the throne to its inhabitants)
    - Tree of life
      * Yields 12 different kinds of fruit – sustenance and blessing and abundance
      * Leaves beneficial for healing of the nations (somehow beneficial and enrich life…”therapeutic” comes from the word for “healing”.
    - We will see His face. And we will have His name on our foreheads. We will reign with Him forever!