

Through the Millennium and Beyond

The Future, Session 10

Original Design

- Gen 1:26, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”
 - To what extent did Adam & Eve originally have authority over the earth?
 - What caused them to stop ruling all the earth?
 - Is there any evidence God’s intent in this matter has changed?
 - Can we conclude God’s plan includes having redeemed people exercise authority over the earth?

We’ll Reign with Jesus

- Luke 19 – Parable of the ten minas
 - vv 12-13, ¹² “A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. ¹³ So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. ‘Put this money to work,’ he said, ‘until I come back.’”
 - 1st servant: “Sir, your mina has earned ten more.”
 - v 17, “Well done, my good servant! Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.”
 - 2nd servant: “Sir, your mina has earned five more.”
 - v 19, “You take charge of five cities.”
 - Who does the man of noble birth represent in this parable?
 - In what way did he become king in a foreign country?
 - Who do the servants represent?
 - What do the minas represent?
 - v 17, “take charge” literally means “have authority”
 - How is the servants receiving authority over cities relevant to us?
 - How is their receiving authority in proportion to their faithfulness relevant to us?
- Rev 2:26-27, ²⁶ “To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations – ²⁷ ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery’ – just as I have received authority from my Father.”
 - “rule” (Gk, v, *poimaino*): (1) rule, govern; (2) shepherd, herd, tend, guide
 - “nations” (Gk, n, *ethnos*): ethnic group or nation
 - To whom does Jesus apply this Messianic prophecy?
 - According to verse 26, how should we prepare ourselves now?
- Rev 3:21, “To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.”
- Rev 5:10, “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”
- Rev 20:6, “... they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.”
 - When will Jesus reign for a thousand years?
 - What will be the extent of his kingdom during that period?
 - Does this verse mean we’ll begin reigning during the same period?

- 1 Co 6:2, “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?”
 - “judge” (Gk, v, *krino*): (1) determine legal innocence or guilt; (2) evaluate; (3) come to a conclusion; (4) prefer; (5) rule, govern
 - “world” (Gk, n, *kosmos*): physical world, world system, entire physical universe
- 1 Co 6:3, “Do you not know that we will judge angels?”
 - “judge” (Gk, v, *krino*)
 - Which angels will we judge/rule – God’s or Satan’s?
 - When will we judge/rule them?
- Scriptural principle: Proving oneself faithful with limited responsibility qualifies for increased responsibility
 - Parables of minas and talents: servants proved themselves faithful at one level, received greater responsibility; that’s a biblical principle
 - Mt 25:21(b), “You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.”
 - We currently are learning to use our spiritual authority over our earthly domains
 - The degree to which we learn to use our spiritual authority properly in life likely determines the level of authority we receive initially over humans in the millennium – towns, cities, regions, nations
 - During the millennium, we’ll learn to use our spiritual authority over our larger earthly domains
 - My opinion: What we learn in this life determines our starting point in the millennium. What we learn then determines our initial responsibilities in eternity. We’ll continue learning and developing in eternity, qualifying for advancement in Father’s kingdom.

End of the Millennium

- Rev 20:7, “When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison.”
- v 9, “But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.”
- v 10, “And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”
- v 11, “Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.”
 - The great white throne judgment: all the spiritually dead will stand before Jesus for judgment
- v 13(b), “... and each person was judged according to what he had done.”
- v 15, “If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”
 - Book of life: lists the people who received spiritual life through Jesus
- 2 Th 1:8-9, ⁸ “He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.”

New physical universe

- Rev 20:11, “Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.”
- New heaven, new earth
 - Isa 66:22, God declares “the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me.”

- What does mean for the new heavens and earth to endure before God?
- 2 Pet 3:13, “But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.”
- What is characteristic of the old or current heaven & earth?
- What will be characteristic of the new heaven & earth, according to 2 Pet 3:13?
- Rev 21:1, “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.”

People born in eternity

- Eze 37:26-27, ²⁶ “I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. ²⁷ My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.”
 - How do you think God will increase their numbers, as he said in verse 26?
 - Gen 1:28(b), “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”
 - Is there any reason to believe the populations of gentile “nations” won’t also increase?
- Rev 21:4, “There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”
 - If people are born in eternity but never die physically, will they “grow up” as people do now? Explain.
- If each generation of humans produces another generation, how quickly will earth’s population increase?
- Will the new heavens and new earth accommodate a continuously increasing human population for eternity?

New Jerusalem

- Rev 21:2-4

² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ 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.
- Rev 21:5-8

⁵ 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.” ⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. ⁸ But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

- Rev 21:9-11

⁹ 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.” ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.
- Rev 21:12-21, description of New Jerusalem
 - the city is laid out like a square, 1400 miles on each side!
 - v 16: the city is “as wide and high as it is long”
 - Isa 2:2, “... the mountain of the Lord’s temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills.” (also Mic 4:1)
 - Isa 2:3, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord.” (also Mic 4:2)
 - New Jerusalem’s walls either are 200 feet thick ($\frac{2}{3}$ length of football field) or 200 feet high (height of 20 story building)!
- Rev 21:22-27

²² I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵ On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. ²⁷ Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

 - The only people who can enter the city are those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life
- Rev 22:1-5

¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Conclusion

- This life is not about this life. It’s about preparing for our eternal destiny, which is to look and be like God, delight in who he is, share in all he has and participate in all he does. We’re apprentices being prepared for our ultimate duties. Understanding our eternal destiny is vital to living a God-pleasing life.