**Book of Revelation Sermon VIII**

**The New Heaven and the New Earth**

Last week’s sermon: 666, Armageddon and the Millennium, Oh My!

Revelation 13 The Beast out of the sea and the beast out of the earth.

Rev 13:1-8

The Beast out of the Sea is the wealth and mercantile power of Rome.

10 horns, 7 heads nd ten crowns.

v. 3 One of the heads seemed to have a fatal wound. That is Nero.

Domitian is Nero reborn—persecution reborn.

I did not make this up. Revelation 17:6-11

v. 10 The seven heads are seven kings (Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, Nero, Vespasian, Titus)

The Beast is the eighth king. He is Domitian! He is attacking the church but…

Rev 13:11-18 The Beast of the Sea represents the religious power of Rome.

Which supported the political and military power of Rome.

False miracles, religious deception. Made people worship Domitian.

The “mark of the beast (666) was probably an official document declaring that the holder had made obeisance to Domitian.

Revelation 16:15-21

16:16-19 The seventh (and last) bowl. The final judgment on Rome.

16:16 A (spiritual) war is about to be fought at Har Megiddo Armageddon. The Mountain or the city of Megiddo.

Armageddon is a symbol of the great spiritual battle between Jesus and Rome.

Revelation 17-20 The Victory of the Lion/Lamb

Rev 18: Rev 18:2 Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!--Rome

Rev 19 The Beast (the political power of Rome) and the False Prophet (the religious power of Rome) are judged and destroyed.

Rev 20 The Serpent/Satan judged and destroyed.

**Revelation 20:1-10. Satan/The Serpent in judged.**

Rev 20:1-6 What is the thousand year reign?

What the 1000 year reign is:

v. 2 It is a period during which the power of Satan to attack God’s people is significantly reduced (bound) which will last for an unknown but relatively long period of time, which began at a time near when John wrote Revelation.

How is Satan bound? He no longer had the Beast and the False Prophet working on his side. This is, in fact, historically, exactly what happened after AD 325 (Constantine).

Today’s sermon is actually in two parts.

I. Judgment Day

II. The New Heaven and the New Earth

Rev 20:11-15 Judgment Day (parallel: Daniel 12:2-4 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.)

This is kind of a big deal!!!! This is VERY DRAMATIC

The earth and the heavens fled from his presence. All eyes are on the throne!!!!

This is literally the moment of truth.

What do we have here:

The dead, both great and small.

God on a great white throne.

That’s it!!! This is the moment of truth.

Q: Are you ready???

There will be no favoritism on Judgment Day. 1 Pet1:17 “Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.”

The “big wigs” get equal treatment.

The rich man and Lazarus are treated the same.

The ground is level on Judgment Day.

The beautiful girl and the homely girl—no difference.

The PhD and the guy who struggled through life—equal.

The Lord and the peasant. God is impartial.

Two books:

A “works” book

A grace book.

The dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books.

It is all recorded!!!! Would you like us to play your life—the good the bad and the ugly? There are some things I am ashamed of in there…

For those in the lamb’s book, are their works even shown? Not sure.

Death and Hades (the good and bad side of Hades?) were destroyed.

Rev 20:15 Those not found written in the book of life were thrown into the lake of fire—the second death. Q: What happens to them there? Rev 20:10 Will they, like the Serpent, be tormented forever and ever?

I do not know. I do not need to know. I do not want to be there, I do not want you to be there. I do not want anyone to be there.

Q: What will you and I do about that?

Who will suffer the second death? Rev 20:15 Anyone whose name is not written in the lamb’s book of life.

Rev 21:8 gives us a partial list (note the interesting insertion of cowardice in the list, and its appropriateness to the Roman persecution), as does 21:27 (and 22:15)

**Revelation 21-22 The New Heaven and the New Earth**

**The New Jerusalem. Jerusalem being the place where people come to meet with God.**

Rev 21:1-8 Perfect fellowship with God.

Rev 21:9-26 Perfect protection by God.

Rev 22:1-5 Perfect provision with God.

Rev 21:1-8 Perfect Fellowship. The imagery here is principally from the Tabernacle. Heaven is the redeemed living in the Holy of Holies with God.

The Holy of Holies has come to the earth.

We do not “go to heaven,” Heaven comes to us.

21:1 No more sea. No more separation. We are totally in! For John on Patmos the sea was what separated him from all he loved. This must have been particularly poignant for him.

21:3 The dwelling (Tabernacle) of God is with men, and he will live with them.

21:4 Tears wiped away. No more death or crying.

Q: How can this be? Can there be joy without suffering? Apparently so.

21:5 All new. New bodies. New relationships. Clean slate.

Will I be hanging out with my buddies? My husband? My parents?

1 Cor 2:9 What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived—the things God has prepared for those who love him.

Isaiah 65:17 Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. Maybe that is why there are no more tears in heaven.

21:6 I am the alpha and the omega. You can count on it!

21:7 He who overcomes/are victorious (who does not worship the beast, who say no to the world, who stay faithful to the end) will inherit all this. This is true for all of us, but it is particularly addressed to the Christians in the early church.

Rev 21:9-26 Perfect Protection.

21:12 Twelve gates. (21:15 the gates never shut) Lots of access. Gates are used to keep bad out. No more.

21:15 Measuring = protecting. High and thik walls. Symbols, obviously.

12,000 stadia. Very big…. God’s people. Walls 12x12 (200 feet) cubits thick!!! Perfect protection.

21:21 Pearly gates. Literal? Pearl the only jewel produced by suffering.

v. 22 No temple, no sun. Not needed.

v. 25 Gate never shut. Again…. Safety.

22:1-6 Perfect Provision. My favorite part. Garden metaphor. The Bible begins and ends with a garden. How fitting.

Parallel to Ezekiel 47:3-12 and Zechariah 14:8-11.

What do we need? Water, food and health. All are given in this garden.

Rev 22:1 water: Crystal clear water flowing from the throne (Ezek 47:3-12)

Food: v. 2 On each side of the river, the tree of life, yielding fruit every month.

Health: v. 2 leaves for healing

We will have everything we could ever want or need. We will have fellowship, protection, provision, and an opportunity to serve our God.

What will we “do” in heaven? 22:3 We will serve God. 22:4 We will see God.

Rev 22:5 We will reign with God for ever and ever.

22:7-21 Epilogue.

Rev 22:17 Come!

Rev 22:20-21 Amen, come, Lord Jesus

[v. 7 I am coming soon (in judgment on Rome)

John testifies to the reality of what he is writing down. V. 10 do not seal it up. In other words, publish this book for the disciples.

22:11 a bit odd. Parallel Daniel 12:10.

22:12 I am coming soon—the things written in this book will happen soon.

22:13 You can count on it.

22:17 Come!!! This is your evangelism passage. Like Daniel 12:3. If you come, you will receive the water of life (the Holy Spirit).

22:18-19 Relevant for the immediate recipients. Do not dare to add to or subtract from this book! (This was commonplace in apocalyptic literature).

Amen, come Lord Jesus.

End of class:

At the end of Revelation, what do we know? Summers: “Come what may, Christ is supreme and no power can take from him the victory that is rightfully his.”]

Sermunion:

Rev 4:6 Jesus is “a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain.”

Where is he? “at the center of the throne.”

I have heard it said that Jesus will be the only one in heaven with scars.

Jesus is at the center of the throne, in the real, heavenly Tabernacle, right now, pleading for mercy for you.

Why? How?

Rev 12:11 Because we have triumphed over Satan by the blood of the lamb.

And this is no ordinary sacrificial lamb. He was led knowingly and willingly to the slaughter. Not so, the lambs!!!

Revelation 13:8 Jesus is “the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.”

As far as God is concerned, it is as if Jesus was killed before the world was created. That is why Abraham, David, Moses, Deborah, Esther will be with us in the New Jerusalem.

Jesus was slain for us. Let us celebrate this.