

## LESSON 8

# Age of Future

- Objective** : To make students get prepared with hope to second coming of Jesus Christ.
- Bible Portion** : Isaiah 11, 12; Revelation 20, 21
- Memory Verse** : Revelation 21:3-5

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

## **Introduction :**

Commonly people are not happy, content and peaceful in this world. What is the reason for that? People are sad due to poverty, sickness, injustice, violence, cruelty and so on. Even the creatures like animals and birds are in pain on this cursed land. Man/woman is incapable of making changes to this situation. Therefore everyone is looking for the redemption of their body and this world. Study about the changes taking place upon the second coming of Jesus will make hope and happiness within us.

## **The Age of Future can be divided into three**

1. Bridal days in the heaven and Tribulation in earth (Seven Years)
2. Millennium Rule
3. Eternity

### **a) Honeymoon days**

Upon the end of the dispensation of Grace the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (1 Cor. 15:52-54; 1 Thes. 4:16-17). This incident is called the rapture of the church. Followed by we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil (2 Cor. 5:10). Saved Christians will be judged on the basis of what they have done for the Lord. Crowns like Incorruptible crown (1 Cor. 9:25), crown of rejoicing (1 Thess. 2:19), crown of rejoicing (2 Tim. 4:8), unfading crown of glory ( 1 Pet. 5:4) and crown of life (Rev. 2:10) will be given as rewards. All works will be burned (1 Cor. 3:11-15). Then the glorified church will clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints, join the groom. This stay will be for 7 years.

### **b) Great Tribulation**

When the church is on rapture, the people of the earth, especially the Israelites will be in great trouble. In this time the church and Holy

Spirit are being taken from the earth and Satan is descended. The wrath of God will be poured out on people who despised the salvation by grace. This time is called the time of Jacob's trouble (Jer. 30:6-7). No peace will be on earth. Great famine and natural calamities will take place. In this age when Anti-Christ is ruling the leadership of nominal churches and Jews will come on agreement with him. Then the anti-Christ will sever his agreement with both and torture them like anything (Rev. 17:16; 13:14-16). Then the Jews will pray for the coming of Messiah and God will send two witnesses to them (Rev. 11:3-6). Upon the completion of their witness the anti-Christ will kill them. Three and half day later they resurrected and taken to heaven (Rev. 11:11-12). The Jews will repent and look unto whom they pierced. In this occasion Lord in His splendor with all saints will appear on the Mount Olive (Rev. 19:11-16; Zech. 14:4; 2 Thess. 1:6-11). Anti-Christ will gather his army in the valley of Megiddo (Armageddon). But Lord Jesus in the splendor of His appearance will destroy the army of the mystery of iniquity doth already work (2 Thessalonians 2:6). Anti-Christ and the false prophet will be casted alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. Also the Satan will be chained for 1000 years in a hole without bottom.

### **Millennium Rule**

Lord Jesus Christ after his glorious appearance will rule this world centering in Jerusalem for 1000 years as king of kings. This rule is known as the Millennium Rule (1000 year Reign). The happiness and experiences of Adam in Eden will be given back to humanity. In Isa. 11 we read about the condition of the then world.

No sin will be there since the Satan is chained at the very outset of the rule. Also the curse due to sin will be cured. Cruelty will not be there even in the world of animals (Isa. 11:6-8). The earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (Isa. 11:9).

### **Condition of Israel**

At the beginning of the Millennium rule the Lord will gather all Jews in Jerusalem by His angels (Isa. 11:11; Matt. 24:31; Jer. 16:15). All will be saved by accepting Jesus Christ as their savior (Zec. 12:10; 13:1; Rom. 11:26-27). The Jews will build a temple in Jerusalem and offer worship (Eze. 40-45). Israelites will be blessed both spiritually

and materially. They will have marriage and increase. Though death exists no pre-mature death will take place.

### **Glorified Saints**

The saints who resurrected and transformed in the second coming of Jesus Christ and the martyrs of great tribulation who resurrect on the appearance on cloud will become spiritual beings and rule the world with Christ. The prophecy, "Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One" (Dan. 7:27) will be fulfilled like this.

The church (saints), Old Testament saints, literal Israel and gentiles will be there in the millennium earth. After the millennium rule Satan will be freed from the captivity and he will captivate numerous gentiles and will make a final attempt to destroy Christ and His people. But fire from heaven will consume them. Satan will be casted alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone forever.

### **3. Eternity**

After the millennium rule Christ will sit on the white throne and judge people (Rev. 20:11-15). All who were not given participation in the first resurrection will resurrect and stand before the throne. All who are not given eternal life by the faith in Christ will be casted to the lake of fire. Word of God clearly teaches that the hell is eternal and those who fall into it has to undergo trouble in continuous fire (Matt. 18:8; 25:41; Mark 9:44; Rev. 20:10; 20:15, 21:8)

### **Cleansing of earth and emergence of new earth and sky**

2 Peter 3:10 says what will happen in earth when the final judgment take place in heaven. The heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. New heaven and new earth will come up in its place. No seas will be there (Rev. 21:1-5). Abraham in his life waited for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. It's about the mansions in this city was told by Jesus to his disciples (John 14:2-3). The holy city, New Jerusalem is ascending from heaven to earth as a bride adorned for groom. A narration about this city can be found in

Rev. 21:1-22:5. The roads of this city are adorned by beautiful pearls. The width and length of this city is 2400 kms each. The God, the lamp and lord lights the city. Trees which produce separate fruits in each month are planted in both sides of river flowing from the throne of lamp. The servants of the Lord will worship him day and night. In eternity God's children will be glorified and rule with son of God. Do examine, are you partakers of this hope?

## **Questions**

1. What is meant by the rapture of the Church? What is the major incident take place in connection with the saints after the rapture?
  2. Why the great tribulation is known as the trouble of Jacob?
  3. How the great tribulation will come to an end?
  4. What is meant by the millennium rule? Explain the peculiarities of that rule.
  5. Where will be the saints in eternity? Narrate the glory of that place.
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