

LESSON 24

Seven New Beginnings

Objective: To learn about the new beginnings prepared for the people of God who received new birth through Jesus Christ and lead a holy life with that blessed hope.

Bible References: Rev. 21:1 – 22:5

Memory verses: (NKJV) 2 Pet. 3:11-13

Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Introduction:

What do you do when your house becomes uninhabitable for any reason? You will try to build a new house in its place. The earth in which we live has become uninhabitable, cursed, turbulent and ripe for destruction because of man's sin (Isa. 24:4-6, 19-20). Its sin has become heavy for it to bear. It will fall and not get up. The whole creation is waiting eagerly for a new beginning (Rom. 8:20-22). The loving God has planned to make everything new. First of all, He makes every man a new creation through Jesus Christ. Then He is preparing seven new things for the new men in Christ. These are described in the closing chapters of Revelation.

1. New heaven and (2) New earth:

A new age begins with the end of the Millennium and the end of Satan and his hosts. It is necessary that this earth that is cursed because of man's sin and the space enveloping it are renewed. The first earth and heaven will pass away. There will be no more sea, too (Rev. 21:1). We read

that by the word of God, the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men (2 Pet. 3:5-7). It is further explained in the following verses: “The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him” (2 Pet. 3:10-14). Jesus Christ has also foretold about the passing away of the heaven and the earth (Matt. 24:35). The same thing is prophesied in Isa. 65:17 and Psa. 102:25-26. The surface of the earth and atmosphere around it will be burned by fire and the seas will be dried up. A new earth and a new firmament will be created where righteousness will dwell. With this, all sorrows, cries, death and suffering disappear forever. The earth will be filled with justice, holiness and blessings. Let us wait for that blessed experience with holiness and fear of God.

3. New Jerusalem (Holy City) (Rev. 21:2,9,10):

John writes: “I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband” (Rev. 21:1). Then in Rev. 21:9-10, an angel tells John, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb” and shows him the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. Hence, we can conclude that New Jerusalem is the dwelling place of the Church, the Bride of Christ. Old Testament saints also will dwell there. Twelve foundations of the City are named after the apostles and twelve gates are named after the tribes of Israel. The omnipotent Lamb is its Temple. The saints of God worship Him, seeing Him face to face. As the City is illuminated by the Lamb, sun and moon are not needed there. This beautiful City made with different kinds of precious stones is the inheritance of the children of God. We will dwell there with our Lord and Master forever. As the City is made of pure gold, as pure as glass, there is no place for any impurity or uncleanness in it. No one whose name is not found in the Book of Life of the Lamb will enter the City. Think about your position in relation with the Book of Life.

4. New nations:

“The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it” (Rev. 21:24). In the Millennium, there will be people who are saved by the work of Israel and who live a holy life. They will enter into the new earth with transformed bodies and will be the subjects of the kingdom. The saints will rule over them (Luke 22:28-30). There will not be any families.

5. New river:

John sees the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the City. On each side of the river stands the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month (Rev. 22:1-2). There are hints about this river in Psa. 46 and Ezek. 47.

6. New trees of life:

Trees of life stand on both sides of the river. The fruits that were denied to Adam and Eve are available now to people who are redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ. They are the portions of the victors (Rev. 2:7).

7. New throne:

New earth is now the place where the throne of God and the Lamb are established (Rev. 22:3). The perfection that results from the establishment of the abode of God are mentioned in this passage: Fullness of holiness (22:3), fullness of reign (22:3), fullness of worship (22:3), fullness of vision (22:4), fullness of identity (22:4), fullness of daytime (22:4) and fullness of glory (22:5).

Eternity:

There are no biblical evidences to definitely estimate the duration of the age of the new heaven and new earth. It could be fifty thousand years. This age declares that Christ fulfilled the plans that God had in His mind for mankind. He has destroyed all dominion, authority and power and He hand over the kingdom to God the Father (1 Cor. 15:24). As Jesus declared while on earth, He will be glorified “with the glory I had with you before the world began” (John 17:5). We will enter into eternity in heaven as Christ hands over the kingdom to the Father. The events of eternity have not been fully revealed to us. New Jerusalem will be taken to heaven. There we will dwell forever with Triune God and the multitude of saints. It has been foretold that in the fullness of time, all things

in heaven and on earth shall be brought together under one head, even Christ (Eph. 1:10). The same prophecy will thus be fulfilled.

We have learnt about the seven new beginnings that are prepared for God's children and the eternity that is in store for us. Are we waiting for the new beginnings? The redemption of this world is at hand. Let us be awake and raise our heads in preparation.

Questions:

1. What are the new things mentioned in the closing chapters of the book of Revelation?
2. What is 'new heaven' and 'new earth' referring to? What happens to the present heaven and earth?
3. Describe the Holy City of New Jerusalem.
4. Which are the nations dwelling in the new earth?
5. What are the attributes of the new river or the river of the water of life flowing through New Jerusalem?
6. Describe the trees of life on the new earth.
7. Describe the experiences of perfection resulting from the establishment of the Throne of God on the earth. Quote relevant verses.
8. Where will the saints spend their eternity after the age of perfection on the earth?