

Seeing the Big Picture: God's Eternal Purposes and End-Time Plans

I. LOYALTY TO THE SCRIPTURE

- A. We cannot dismiss biblical ideas because they are new to us and because they were not taught by the church or denomination that we grew up in. We must be like the Bereans who searched the Scriptures daily to see if the new ideas that Paul preached to them were biblical (Acts 17:11).

¹¹ ***They (Bereans) received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. (Acts 17:11)***

- B. Do not quickly accept my views. Truth is not hurt by careful scrutiny but rather it is confirmed. I encourage you to boldly challenge all the ideas in this session. Refuse any that you cannot see in Scripture for yourself. We will not have time to go deep in each theme covered in this session. We have articles on our website that provide a more in-depth scriptural basis for each theme. There you will be able to ask questions and to find recommended books. See www.IHOP.org.
- C. The theme that challenges some the most, relates to the nature of God's Kingdom on earth in context to the natural realm and human processes. Understanding what Scripture says about the Kingdom on earth in the Millennium is a dynamic source of *hope* that is necessary to live right now and in the Tribulation as Jesus prepares the earth to receive His Father's glory. We must be loyal to what Scripture says about this, rather than to religious traditions.
- D. The most controversial teaching is that the Church will go through the Tribulation (in great victory and power). This differs from the popular pre-tribulation rapture view that teaches that the Church will be raptured at any minute and will thus, miss the great End-Time revival and crisis. *The Church will be raptured at the end of the Tribulation*, rather than at its beginning. I honor the godliness and wisdom of many who hold the different views from those presented here. We can disagree in a spirit of love and meekness without a spirit of debate and pride.

II. THE CENTERPIECE OF GOD'S PURPOSE: BRING HEAVEN AND EARTH TOGETHER

- A. The centerpiece of God's eternal purpose is for Jesus to come back to establish His Kingdom rule over all the earth as He joins the heavenly and earthly realms together. This is the interpretive key to understanding the End-Times. Without this revelation, confusion is inevitable.

⁹ ***Made known to us the mystery (hidden plan) of His will...10 that He might gather together in one ALL things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth. (Eph. 1:9-10)***

- B. *Heaven* speaks of the supernatural realm where God's presence is openly manifest. It is where believers go when they die (from the cross to the Second Coming). It is a "temporary holding place" for disembodied spirits. The saints do not have a resurrected body in heaven because they do not need one to relate to the environment of heaven.
- C. *Earth* speaks of the physical realm as the place where natural process, human emotion and physical sensation reach full expression, thus, requiring a resurrected body.

- D. In Gen. 2-3, God walked with Adam in face to face fellowship as spiritual and natural realms operated together. A veil was created between these two realms when Adam sinned. Today, there is a separation between things in heaven and on earth. This veil will be lifted at Jesus' Coming as things in the heavenly and earth realms will be brought together in the Millennium.
- E. The Millennium speaks of a literal 1000-year period (Rev. 20:4-6) in which Jesus rules all the nations on earth as He rules every sphere of life including political, social, agricultural, economic, spiritual, etc. (For more teaching on the Millennium see www.IHOP.org).
- F. The properties of the earth will continue to consist of tangible substances (gold, steel, wood, food, animals, etc.). On the Millennial earth, the natural human processes will not be suspended, but significantly enhanced by the supernatural dimension of the Spirit. We see aspects of this when Jesus appeared to His disciples for 40 days in His resurrected body (Jn. 20-21; Acts 1).
- G. God's purpose has always been to live together with His people face to face in the natural realm on this earth. God determined from the beginning to make the earth His home forever. The earth will continue forever (Ps. 37:29; 78:69; 104:5; 105:10-11; 125:1-2; 1 Chr. 23:25; 28:8; Isa. 60:21; Ezek. 37:25; Joel 3:20).
- ³ ***Behold, the Tabernacle (House) of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. (Rev. 21:3)***
- H. God dwelling with man in the natural realm is the most difficult yet ultimate reality that God determined to accomplish through Christ. The dilemma is that God's blazing holiness consumes all that is unholy and God will not violate man's free will to establish this purpose.
- ²⁰ ***He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." (Ex. 33:20)***
- ⁴ ***They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. (Rev. 22:4)***
- I. In the Millennium, Jesus' primary mandate is to prepare the earth for the Father's coming by bringing the nations to mature righteousness (1 Cor. 15:24-28). Righteousness will be substantial in the Millennium then perfect afterwards on the New Earth. God will finish purging the earth at the end of the Millennium to complete its preparation (2 Pet. 3:10-13; Rev. 20:11).
- J. Ancient Greek philosophy (Platonism) viewed the spirit realm as good and the material realm as bad. This philosophy continues in the Church today. It leads some to think wrongly about heaven on earth. If we do not think rightly of heaven on earth, we end up not thinking of heaven at all.
- K. As Gentiles, we think of worshipping Jesus in the supernatural conditions of heaven emphasizing His deity as the Son of God. The Jewish paradigm focuses on reigning with the Messiah in the natural conditions of the earth emphasizing His humanity as the Son of David (Son of Man). Historically, Israel has focused on the earthly dimension of the Kingdom without the heavenly. The Church has done just the opposite by focusing on the heavenly dimension without the earthly. Jesus is both King of the nations and Head of the Church as fully God and fully man.

III. THE FULLNESS OF GOD: MAY ONLY OCCUR AS HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE JOINED

- A. God created the universe in two distinct realms. The material or natural world is dynamic yet inferior to the spirit world (Heb. 11:3). God requires both realms to come together to express His fullness, that is, to express the fullness of His purpose and personality.
¹⁹ It pleased the Father that in Him (Jesus) all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself...whether things on earth or things in heaven... (Col. 1:19-20)
- B. God determined that we experience the fullness of His personality and purpose (Eph. 1:22-23; 3:19; 4:13; Col. 1:19-20; 2:9-10; Jn. 1:16; Rom. 11:12, 15). This happens in the age-to-come. God planned this setting for human beings with material yet spiritual bodies to fully experience His fullness. Jesus ate in His resurrected body to show it was both spiritual and material (Jn. 20).
¹⁹ To know the love of Christ...that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:19)
¹³ Until we all come...to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ... (Eph. 4:13)
- C. The Father gave all authority to Jesus and then gave Jesus to the Church. The Church is God's chosen vehicle to release His fullness throughout the earth for eternity.
²² He (Father) put all things under His (Jesus') feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Eph. 1:22-23)
- D. The four aspects of Jesus' Kingdom necessary for the fullness of God to be experienced are Heaven (New Jerusalem) with the supernatural spirit realm, the Garden of Eden as a material paradise of pleasure on earth under the political authority of the Kingdom or Throne of David with one King uniting all the governments of the earth to establish a Holy of Holies (Temple) on earth as the context for the worshipping Bride to be in intimate partnership with Him.

IV. GOD'S ORIGINAL PLAN: A ROYAL FAMILY FILLED WITH LOVE

- A. From eternity, there was a yearning in the Father's heart to have a family that would live before Him in love as His beloved children. Why did God create the earth and the human race? What was the original plan before the fall? It was for deep relationship with Him.
¹⁸ I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters... (2 Cor. 6:18)
⁶ His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father... (Isa. 9:6)
⁹ The mystery which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God... (Eph. 3:9)
- B. He determined to give us every spiritual blessing from the heavenly realms as we rule the earth with Jesus as His eternal partner and cherished Bride.
³ Blessed be the God and Father...who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons...according to the good pleasure of His will... (Eph. 1:3-5)

- C. The Father wanted a family who would voluntarily love Him and choose holiness (Ps. 110:3). God's plan was to have a family who possessed the authority to rule over all His works.
- ²⁶ *Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion...over all the earth...28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion...over every living thing that moves on the earth." 31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. (Gen. 1:26-31)*
- ³ *When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers... 4 What is man that You are mindful of him... 5 You have...crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet... (Ps. 8:3-6)*
- ²¹ *All things are yours 22 whether Paul or Apollos...the world or life...or things present or things to come--all are yours. 23 You are Christ's, and Christ is God's. (1 Cor. 3:21-23)*
- D. The Father was thinking of you when He prepared the foundations of the world for you.
- ³¹ *When the Son of Man comes...He will sit on the Throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered...34 The King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" (Mt. 25:31-34)*
- E. Jesus came to reveal the Father and to make relationship with Him possible by the cross. He brought the Father's blessing to us by restoring His original plan for us to rule with Him over the earth in intimate partnership. Our message is more than calling people to avoid hell.
- F. The Spirit reveals the Father to us and gives us confidence with God by crying in us, "Abba Father". The name "Abba" or "Papa" is a term of endearment that is respectful yet intimate. As we see our destiny to experience the Father's tenderness and Jesus' love we are filled with joy.
- ¹⁵ *You received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." (Rom. 8:15)*

V. JESUS' THRONE OF GLORY: 2 DIMENSIONS (EARTHLY AND HEAVENLY)

- A. At Jesus' Second Coming, He sets up His Throne of Glory on earth in Jerusalem.
- ³¹ *When the Son of Man comes in His glory...then He will sit on the Throne of His glory. 32 All the nations (currently on earth) will be gathered before Him... (Mt. 25:31-32)*
- ¹⁷ *At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. (Jer. 3:17)*
- B. Jesus' Throne of Glory in Jerusalem will be in the Holy of Holies of the Millennial Temple.
- ¹² *Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! from His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the Temple of the Lord 13...and shall sit and rule on His Throne... (Zech. 6:12-13)*
- ⁴ *The glory of the LORD came into the Temple (Millennial Temple)...6 I heard Him speaking to me from the Temple...7 He said, "This is the place of My Throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever." (Ezek. 43:4-7)*

- C. Jesus' Throne will also be established in the heavenly New Jerusalem that descends to earth. In other words, His Throne is in both the New Jerusalem and the Millennial Jerusalem (Temple).
³ ***The Throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it (New Jerusalem). (Rev. 22:3)***
- D. The New Jerusalem will descend to the Millennial Jerusalem connecting the two Jerusalems (Rev. 21:2, 10; 3:12; Gal. 4:26; Heb. 11:10). Where does it go? To Jesus' Throne of Glory, which is in the Millennial Temple in Jerusalem (Jer. 3:17; Ezek. 43:4-7; Zech. 6:12-13).
² ***I...saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God... (Rev. 21:2)***
- E. Does Jesus have one Throne or two? Is it on the Millennial earth or in the New Jerusalem? Yes! His Throne is both on earth and in Heaven. ***It is clearly one Throne with two expressions.*** I suggest that Jesus' Throne of glory is a vast governmental complex with the "far north end" of it extending into the New Jerusalem and the "far south end" of it based in the Millennial Temple in Jerusalem in what I refer to as a "***Corridor of Glory***" between the two Jerusalems.
- F. I see this vast "governmental complex" joined by a "Corridor of Glory" as the governmental center of heaven and earth referred to as Jesus' Throne of glory (Mt. 19:28; 25:31).
³¹ ***When the Son of Man comes...then He will sit on the Throne of His glory. (Mt. 25:31)***
- G. The New Jerusalem descending to earth will create a new situation in which the spiritual and natural realm will operate together dynamically. This will cause an open heaven over the earth as the veil is lifted. A tidal wave of glory will spread to all nations from Millennial Jerusalem.
¹⁴ ***The earth will be filled with the...glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. (Hab. 2:14)***
- H. In Bethel, only 12 miles North of Jerusalem, Jacob saw a place in which a supernatural ladder extended from earth to the gate of heaven. He saw angels ascend and descend between the heavenly and earthly realms. Jacob's ladder reveals the connection of these two realms.
¹² ***He dreamed...a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it...17 He said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!" (Gen. 28:12-16)***
- I. The New Jerusalem will descend to the earth in two stages. In stage one, the New Jerusalem will descend to earth at the Second Coming to begin the Millennium (Rev. 21:10). In stage two, it will descend to the New Earth after the Millennium (Rev. 21:2). Stage one of the descent of the New Jerusalem is partial yet substantial. Stage two is total and ultimate after the Millennium.
- J. When the New Jerusalem comes to earth, then heaven is literally on earth. This is where resurrected saints will live. The Millennial kings will enter it to bring their glory into the New Jerusalem through a gate in the city. The leaves are for the healing of the Millennial nations
²⁴ ***The kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. 25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day...22:2 The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (Rev. 21:24-22:2)***

- K. There are at least **five reasons** that we know that the New Jerusalem is not resting on earth, yet close to it during the Millennium: **1)**. The kings come in and out of it (Rev. 21:24); **2)**. Its leaves heal the nations (Rev. 22:2); **3)**. The angels guard sinners from entry (Rev. 21:12, 22:14-15); **4)**. It lights up the saved nations on the Millennial earth but not the unsaved ones (Rev. 21:24; 20:7-9); **5)**. The size of the Millennial Jerusalem is approximately 10 square miles (4,500 rods x 4,500 rods; Ezek. 48:30-35; 45:6; 48:15-19) whereas, the New Jerusalem is 1,380 miles (Rev. 21:16).
- L. Jerusalem will be the capital city of Jesus' worldwide government (Jer. 3:17; Isa. 2:2-4; 24:23; Ezek. 43:7; Mic. 4:7; Zech. 14:9-11). Jerusalem will be the center of the world (Ezek. 38:12).
- M. Jesus' Throne of glory is His "**Mountain-City-House**" or His vast governmental complex that includes the Millennial Temple and the New Jerusalem. This is the place of God's Temple or His glorious Resting Place on the earth (Isa. 66:1; 11:10). The New Jerusalem is approximately 1,380 miles high. Compare this to outer space being 800 miles away, the highest mountain on the earth (Mt. Everest) being only 5 miles above sea level and the ocean being 8 miles deep.
- N. Ezekiel describes the Millennial Jerusalem as on a mountain (Ezek. 40:2; 17:22; 20:40). God's mountain is raised up as the highest mountain on earth (Isa. 2:2; Mic. 4:1). This description cannot fit the hills on which Jerusalem is currently built (only 2,500 feet above sea level). The Mountain of the Lord's House in the Millennial Jerusalem connects with the New Jerusalem.
- ² **In the latter days the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills...3 Many shall say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the House of the God of Jacob...from Jerusalem. (Isa. 2:2-3)**
- ² **The LORD is great in Zion, and He is high above all the peoples. (Ps. 99:2)**
- ¹⁷ **The Lord...dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy... (Joel 3:17)**
- O. The psalmist saw into the vastness of God's purpose related to the New Jerusalem. He testified that his insight into God's Word (commandment) grew exceedingly broad.
- ¹ **Great is the Lord...in the City of our God, in His holy mountain. 2 Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion...the City of the great King... 4 Behold, the kings assembled, they passed by together. 5 They saw it and marveled; they were troubled, they hastened away. 6 Fear took hold of them there... (Ps. 48:1-6)**
- P. Jerusalem will last forever (Ps. 37:29; 78:68-69; 104:5; 105:10-11; 125:1-2;.1 Kgs. 8:13; 9:1-3; 2 Kgs. 21:7; 1 Chr. 15:2; 23:25; 28:8; 2 Chr. 7:16; 20:7; 30:8; 33:4, 7; Isa. 60:20-21; Ezek. 37:25).
- ²⁵ **David said, "The LORD...has given rest to His people that they may dwell in Jerusalem forever..." (1 Chr. 23:25)**
- ²⁵ **They shall dwell in the land I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever... 26 I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore...28 The nations also will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore. (Ezek. 37:25-28)**

VI. THE RESTORED GARDEN OF EDEN: JERUSALEM?

- A. The garden of Eden will be established on the Millennial earth as well as in the New Jerusalem (Ezek. 34:26-29; 36:8-11, 30-35; 47:6-12; Isa. 35:1-8; Gen 3:22; Mal. 4:2; Rev. 22:1-3).

³⁵ *They will say, "This land...has become like the garden of Eden." (Ezek. 36:35)*

²⁶ *I will make them and the places all around My hill a blessing...²⁷ Then the trees of the field shall yield their fruit...²⁹ I will raise up for them a garden of renown... (Ezek. 34:26–29)*

- B. The River of Life will flow through the Millennial Temple with the qualities (possibly in lesser measure) of the River of Life flowing from the New Jerusalem. The River and the Tree in both realms are two manifestations of one grand reality (Ezek. 47:1-12).

¹ *He showed me a pure River of water of Life...proceeding from the Throne...² On either side of the River, was the Tree of Life, which bore 12 fruits, each Tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the Tree were for the healing of the nations. (Rev. 22:1-2)*

VII. THE BATTLE FOR JERUSALEM: WHY IS JERUSALEM SO IMPORTANT?

- A. The Battle for Jerusalem is a spiritual, political and military battle for the control of Jerusalem. This is one of the most significant battlefronts in the spirit today. Jesus as a man will use the keys of the Kingdom to cast *Satan into prison* and call forth the New Jerusalem.

¹¹ *Behold, a white horse. He (Jesus) who sat on him...makes war...¹⁶ He has on His robe...a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS...¹⁹ I saw the beast (Antichrist), the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him (Jesus)...²⁰ Then the beast (Antichrist) was captured and the false prophet...these two were cast alive into the lake of fire...^{20:1} Then I saw an angel...² He laid hold of...Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit and shut him up... (Rev. 19:11-20:3)*

- B. This battle is central to the Armageddon Campaign which lasts 3½ years and ends with a military conflict around Jerusalem. Armageddon will be the military staging area in northern Israel.

¹ *Behold, the day of the LORD is coming...² for I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem...³ Then the LORD will go forth (Second Coming of Christ) and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. ⁴ In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives...⁵ Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You. (Zech. 14:1-5)*

- C. The battle for Jerusalem is primarily a *war between two men and two houses of prayer*, Jesus' and the Antichrist's (Rev. 13:4, 8, 12; 17:14; 19:11-20:3). There will be two worldwide worship movements. Jesus, the victor will be worshipped by all in the Millennial Kingdom.

¹¹ *The LORD will be awesome to them, for He will reduce to nothing all the gods of the earth; people shall worship Him, each one from his place...all the shores of the nations. (Zeph. 2:11)*

⁸ *All who dwell on the earth will worship him (Antichrist)...¹² and he (False Prophet)...causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the beast (Antichrist)... (Rev. 13:8, 12)*

VIII. JESUS RULES FROM JERUSALEM AFTER THE JEWISH LEADERSHIP RECEIVES HIM

³⁷ ***O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...how often I wanted to gather your children...but you were not willing!***
38 See! Your house is left to you desolate; 39 for I say to you, you (leaders of Israel) shall see Me no more till you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!" (Mt. 23:37-39)

- A. Jesus prophesied that He would not come back to Jerusalem until the governmental leaders of Israel voluntarily ask Him to reign over them as their Messianic King. Jesus "bound" Himself by this prophecy to only come back after Israel's leadership invites Him.
- B. Israel's political leaders are the official representatives of the nation's covenant with God and are in position to be heirs of Abraham's covenant. Also, the Father "bound" Himself to Israel's leaders by giving the land to them by covenant (Ezek. 20:42). Jesus will rule Israel and then the earth from Jerusalem ***only after*** He is invited by the Jewish leadership to be their King.
- C. King David waited for the covenantal leaders of Israel to anoint him as king over Israel. In the same way, Jesus will not forcibly take the kingship over Israel but will wait until it is given to Him by those in positions with covenantal authority over the land. The men of Judah (2 Sam. 2:4) and the leaders of Israel (2 Sam. 5:3) came to David to anoint him as king over Israel.
- D. Satan seeks to exploit the Mt. 23:39 prophecy as a "loophole" in God's plan by assuring that the leaders of Israel will not receive Jesus as King. He wants to demonstrate that Jesus' prophetic word is false. If Jesus' prophecy is shown to be a lie, then Jesus can't imprison Satan as a liar.
- E. Satan's strategy is to kill the entire Jewish race or to see that they are so offended at Jesus that they will not receive Him as their King. His strategy includes controlling Jerusalem in order to:
 1. **Deceive Israel** into taking the mark of the Beast (make an alliance with the Antichrist);
 2. **Kill the remainder of the Jewish race**;
 3. Assure that Israel is so **offended at Jesus** that they will not receive Him as their King. (Satan will not be cast into prison until the battle for Jerusalem is won and under Jesus' leadership).
- F. Satan's primary agenda is to stay out of prison in his war against Israel and the Church. The role of the prophetic Church grows in intensity and significance, the closer we get to Jesus' Coming. ***Therefore, the Church must understand this battle in order to effectively engage in it.***
- G. The Father could easily cast Satan into prison by Himself. In perfect justice, God will defeat and imprison Satan and release the New Jerusalem to earth through a Man who is 100% obedient to God's authority (*thus, fulfilling the OT covenant requirement of total obedience*). God gave Adam the legal authority over the earth and over the spiritual powers that affect the earth. Humanity's stewardship was squandered in the fall (Gen. 3). Even after the fall the destiny and redemption of the earth remains connected with the human race.

¹⁶ ***The heavens...are the LORD's; the earth He has given to the children of men. (Ps. 115:16)***