Four Portraits, One *Savior*



That you may have *life*

A Glimpse of New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:1-2; 9-18; 21-27

1. *The next age will begin with God doing a new thing – the present earth and present heaven will be transformed, i.e., made new.*

Rev 21:1-2, 9-11.

A. *From God. V21:2.*

B. *First earth, first heaven, passed away. 21:1-2*
   - *Annihilation vs renewal/restoration?*

C. *New earth prophecies help us.*

If there is one thing we might want different in the new earth, what about the curse of Gen 3:17?

- ***Gen 3:17*** *Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat from it; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.*
- *Rom. 8:20-23 for the creation itself was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope* [21] *that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.* [22] *For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.*



- *Do these passages imply that God will make new, rework, present earth to bring us "new earth"?*

- *Isaiah 65:17 For behold I create a new heaven and a new earth, ... [24] "It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.... They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain,"*
- *Isa. 11:6-9 And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them. [7] Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And the lion will eat straw like the ox. [8] The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. [9] They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.*

And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them. Isa 11:6f



Do you think Rev 21:24, 26 contemplates the fulfillment of another OT prophecy?

- *Rev. 21:24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it… [26] and nothing unclean shall ever come into it … but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.*
- *Isa. 19:23-25 In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrians will come into Egypt and the Egyptians into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. [24] In that day Israel will be the third party with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, [25] whom the LORD of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance."*



Monarch butterfly caterpillar ("first" earth, "first" heaven)



Monarch butterfly (“new” earth; “new heaven”). Continuity through transformation.



2. *The “bride” (the Church) is pictured as the “wife” of Christ. She is “new Jerusalem” come down, positioned on a new earth, made secure.*

Rev 21:10-18, 24-25

A. New earth is new, secure, HOME.

B. “Wife.” V21:9.

- *“Come here, I will show you” :*
- *A city? 21:10*

Notice the continuity of the first earth by the history continued in the new earth:

A. *Gates: 12 tribes of Israel. V21:12*
   - *Ezek 48:30-35*

B. *12 Foundation stones: Apostles.*

C. *Redeemed people of Jesus are one:*
   - *Eph 2:14-16*
   - *Gal 3:26-29*

D. The believers of the whole earth are God's people.

1 Cor. 2:9 but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."



3. *God has made it His habit to come to us. So He will do with the new Jerusalem, come down, from God.*

Rev 21:22- 26

A. *Dwells with us. V22.*
   - *Not in heaven but new earth*
   - *No Temple? v22*
   - *No Tree of Knowledge of good and evil? Gen 2:17*

B. *Gates always open. V 25.*
   - *Angels – welcome vs security?*
   - *Kings bring their glory into it. v24, 26*

C. *Are you living your life today with a view to the next? CS Lewis*

Call to Action.

1. *The amazing thing about eternal life is John's gospel says it begins with knowing God in the present. John 17:3. Have you taken that step of faith?*
2. *One of the prophecies of the New Earth is that the earth will be filled with the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea. Isaiah 11:9. How can you take one step of faith to make God more a part in your daily life choices and obedience's?*