**Sermon Notes June 25, 2023**

**Series**: Revelation

**Sermon**: Doxa, Experienced

**Scripture**: Revelation 16:17, 21:1-27, John 19:30, Romans 8:28, 32, Ezekiel 8:4, 9:3, 10:4, 18, 11:23, Haggai 2:3, 7-9, Luke 2:9–14, 1 Corinthians 6:19–20.

**Summary**: The Revelation is concluding with a final vision of the marriage of heaven and earth. An angel shows John a stunning bride that symbolizes the new creation that has come forever to join God and his covenant people. God announces that He's come to live with humanity forever and that He's making all things new.

**Read**: Revelation 21

As we start winding down our journey through Revelation, we begin preparing ourselves for the grand conclusion… eternity. We’re introduced to a “new heaven” and a “new earth.” Next, we’ll see the “New Jerusalem”. Finally, all the struggles of earth are over, and the glory of God is with redeemed mankind. This is a brand-new universe. It is “paradise restored!”.

1. **Eternity**
   1. Beyond the Tribulation and the Millennial Kingdom lies eternity.
   2. God will dwell directly with His people.
   3. Unfortunately, many Christians find this topic irrelevant as they are overwhelmed by their earthly existence and the “here and now.”
   4. The word “new” used in the text implies a new kind of heaven and earth, not simply a replacement.
2. **The New World Order**
   1. All judgments have been concluded.
   2. Revelation 21:4
      1. No more death or sorrow.
      2. Human history has run to completion.
   3. John’s words, “Then I saw.”
      1. Revelation 21:1
      2. Reminds us that this is a future vision, that has not yet to come to pass.
      3. John is writing the inspired words of God in the vocabulary, language and descriptive terms of his own time and culture.
      4. Sometimes the words represent things beyond our comprehension.
   4. Seven “new” things in the eternal state.
      1. New heaven
      2. New earth
      3. New Jerusalem
      4. New world order
      5. New temple
      6. New light
      7. New paradise
3. **The New Jerusalem**
   1. Revelation 21:2
      1. A bride adorned for her husband.
   2. Revelation 21:9-10
      1. The bride, the wife of the Lamb.
   3. The Holy City
      1. The Bride-City represents two characteristics of the New Jerusalem.
         1. God’s personal relationship with His people.
         2. The life of His people in communion with Him.
      2. Revelation 21:3
         1. The dwelling place of God is with Man
   4. Revelation 21:4-5
      1. The former things have passed away.
      2. Behold, I am making all things new.
   5. This is not a repair job but a complete overhaul… a restoration to the way things were originally untended, in the Garden.
   6. Seven things will not be in the eternal state.
      1. Sea (21:1)
      2. Death (21:4)
      3. Mourning (21:4)
      4. Crying (21:4)
      5. Pain (21:4)
      6. Curse (22:3)
      7. Night (21:25)
4. **The Ultimate Promise**
   1. Revelation 21:6
      1. It is done.
         1. Speaks of finality
   2. Revelation 21:7
      1. Inherit these things.
         1. This is the only reference to the believer’s spiritual and eternal inheritance in Revelation.
5. **The Holy City**
   1. The most dominant and important characteristic of the holy city is the presence of God’s glory.
      1. Doxa – ancient Greek references this word as reputation.
      2. The full expression of God’s glory will be in the New Jerusalem. The “glory” symbolizes God’s presence with His people. The fact that He is there is far more significant than the dazzling description of the city itself.
   2. What the city looks like.
      1. A great deal has been written about whether this language is literal or symbolic or phenomenological. In truth, it combines all these elements. The whole book is filled with symbolic language.
   3. It is also obvious that John is attempting to describe the indescribable. Human language, though inspired, is not fully adequate to describe the glories he is seeing.

What is clear is that John is describing a real place where the saved, and only the saved, will dwell with God forever. The unsaved are totally and completely excluded from this city. Satan and those he has deceived are all in Hell… the lake of fire… and there is no escape. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life can live in the holy city.

Is your name written in the Lambs Book of Life?