

God's Plan for the Ages

Understanding the Dispensations

Lesson 11 – All Things New

The Time We conclude our study with a look at the eternal state, which begins after the close of the seventh and final dispensation and continues into eternity. It is here that we discover God Plan for the Ages, how He will finally deal with the problem of sin, bring everything to conclusion and “make all things new” (Revelation 21:5)

The Scripture The Scripture portion which describes the final judgment, the new heaven and earth and eternal state is found in Revelation 20:10 to Revelation 22:5.

Introduction

In this study we have been examining the Bible from a dispensational framework in order to understand Gods plan for His creation and for mankind throughout the ages. The Scriptures, when rightly interpreted and divided show us that God has worked with mankind in different ways at different times in fulfilling His purposes. God is consistent in His nature and character but has interacted with to man through a series of dispensations (economies/stewardships) each with their own blessings, responsibilities, ruling factors and judgments for disobedience.

What have the dispensations revealed to us?

- a. **The _____ of God** (His Sovereignty, Goodness, Wisdom, Grace and Righteousness)
- b. **God's _____ toward man.** (objects of God's affection, above any other created being - responsibilities).
- c. **Man's _____ to God** (God gave man the ability to choose – to obey, trust God or to disobey, reject)
- d. **The problem of _____** (Man's continued failure due to sin.)

How will God conclude His plan for the ages?

Ephesians 1:10 *“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:”*

Revelation 21:5 *“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.”*

1. **God's Final Judgment for Sin** (Revelation 20:10-15)

God will deal with the problem and presence of sin in concluding His plan for the ages, through judgments on each of the affected realms of His Creation.

a. _____ and demons (v10)

Satan, originally Lucifer, was an angel of the highest order, created by God to worship and serve Him. Puffed up in pride, Lucifer rebelled against God, was cast out of heaven with 1/3 of the angels who rebelled with him. (Isaiah 14:12-15, Ezekiel 28:13-18, Revelation 12:9). They have been the enemies of God and mankind ever since and God will deal with them once and for all.

Matthew 25:41 *"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, **into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:**"*

2 Peter 2:4 *"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but **cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;**"*

b. Fallen _____ (v11)

The entrance of sin into the world (through Satan and Adam/Eve) brought with it a curse on God's perfect creation (Genesis 3:14-18). This curse affected every part of creation, and although we marvel in its beauty, decay and death has tainted this world and the universe.

Romans 8:22 *"For we know that the **whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.**"*

God must therefore deal with this fallen creation and He will do this by removing it, eliminating the created universe completely.

Revelation 20:11 *"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, **from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.**"*

2 Peter 3:10-12 *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which **the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.** ¹¹ Seeing then that all these things **shall be dissolved**, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, ¹² Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein **the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"***

God is going to dissolve this current creation completely, to be replaced by a new heaven and a new earth.

c. _____ **Mankind (v11-15)**

Those who have rejected God's rule, His offer of salvation and His provision for it will finally stand before Him in judgment for their sin. Every unbeliever from every dispensation, unable to hide, will stand for before God at His great white throne to receive the final judgment for their sin.

Hebrews 4:13 *"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."*

Every unbeliever will be judged from the contents of two books, one containing their works, and another called the Lamb's book of life (Revelation 21:27). Their works will prove their sin and their rejection of God's salvation through Christ mean's that their name will not be found in the Lamb's book of life. Every person here, great and small will 'have their day in court' and will be found guilty before God.

Romans 3:19 *"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: **that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.**"*

Their judgment will be to be cast into the lake of fire, which is referred to as the second (eternal death). This is not annihilation, but eternal torment and separation from God.

d. _____ **conquered. (v14, 21:4)**

Death (physical and spiritual separation) is God's judgement for sin (Romans 6:23a). It came into the world as a result of man's sin, (Genesis 2:17, 3:19, Romans 5:12). Now, with sin having been finally dealt with so will death.

1 Corinthians 15:24-26 *"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. ²⁶ **The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.**"*

God will eliminate death in His eternal Kingdom along with all the pain and sorrow associated with it. For the redeemed, there will be no more separation from God or one another.

2. All Things New (Revelation 21:1-22:5)

God, now having judged and dealt with sin completely will then conclude His plan for the ages by making all things new. God will make:

a. A New _____ (21:1)

God will not restore, but create a new heaven and a new earth, one that is fit for eternity. The new heaven and earth will be different from His first creation. Unlike Eden, the new heaven and earth will be united, rather than separated.

b. A New _____ - Jerusalem (21:2, 10-27)

Jerusalem, in the Scriptures had been God's place of focus and presence for much of human history. God however has been preparing a place for us to dwell with Him for eternity, called the New Jerusalem, the holy city.

This glorious city will be the central place of the new heaven and earth. The brief description of it in verse 10-27 reveal its glory.

- Its glorious appearance – a walled city, clear as crystal (v10-14)
- Its immense dimensions – a cube of (12000 furlongs - 2400km)
- Its construction – gold, precious stones, pearl gates (v17-21)
- Its worship - no Temple (no need for one – God is the Temple) v22
- Its light source – the glory of God and the Lamb (v23)
- Its accessibility - the gates are always open (v25)
- Its activity – worship and service (24,26)

c. A New _____ (21:3-4)

God, we know is omnipresent (everywhere), but in times past heaven has been a separate dwelling place for the presence of God (Isaiah 57:15). In the eternal state God's presence will dwell with man continually. Mankind will experience with joy the personal presence of all three members of the Godhead, able to perfectly worship, serve and love God with nothing to hinder our relationship with Him (or one another).

Isaiah 65:17 *“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and **the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.**”*

d. A New _____ (22:1-5)

Extending from the New Jerusalem will be a new kingdom, one in which life and blessing and abundance shall flow. At the centre of this kingdom will be the Throne of God and the Lamb ruling and reigning together. This was God's plan from ages past.

1 Corinthians 15:27-28

*“For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. **And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.**”*

This new kingdom is a kingdom of:

- Life, with the river of life and tree of life (v1,2)
- Healing, abundance and blessing (No more curse - v3)
- Light – no darkness or fear (v5)
- Worship, Fellowship and Service (v4)

Conclusion

God’s plan for the ages is to bring all things together and make all things new. At present we live in anticipation of that day.

Understanding God’s plan for the ages, through a dispensation framework highlights the unfolding purpose of God, revealing to us His glory, wisdom, power and majesty.

As we live during this dispensation of grace, we can be assured that God is in each dispensation, working all things together for His glory (and our good).

“Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”

Ephesians 3:21