

## 20 - Consummation – Part 2

**Scriptures:** ● Revelation 21-22

**Focal Point:** ● The Eternal State

**Principal Characters:** ● God  
● The Saved of All Ages

**Primary Events:** ● The New Heaven and New Earth  
● God, “All in All”

1. God not only has a purpose for the new earth, but He also has a definite purpose for the new heaven. Revelation 21:1
  - If there is a purpose for the new earth, there has to be a purpose for the new heaven. God doesn't do anything without a purpose. What is that purpose?
2. God's purpose for the new heaven involves the church, the body of Christ. He's been calling it out for the past 2,000 years. What does God say about us? Look what God says about us in Ephesians 2:6-7.
  - The moment we trusted Christ, God raised us up and gave us a position in Christ. But where? The Bible says, “*in heavenly places.*”
  - The word “sit” means “to sit down; set; appoint; to settle; hover or dwell.” It is also translated “to tarry” in other places.
  - So God has appointed us to dwell, or to tarry, in the heavenlies. But why? Ephesians 2:7 reveals that we will be placed on public display in the ages to come (eternal ages) to show all the kings and nations on the new earth what His grace has done. They will look up into the heavens and see living testimonies of the grace of God.
  - We must remember that we have been made one with Jesus Christ. We are His body (Ephesians 5:30). Now look at Ephesians 1:20-23, and let's see some amazing things:
    - Jesus was raised from the dead and seated in heavenly places. “Set” is the same word used for **us** in Ephesians 2:6!
    - Remember, this word “set” means “to continue; to tarry.” So, Christ was raised from the dead and is set in heavenly places to continue there, to tarry. Now notice verse 21 says that He is seated in heavenly places for the world which is to come.
    - But in Revelation 22:3, Christ is in the New Jerusalem on the new earth. How can this be? How does Christ maintain an exalted position in the heavenlies and still have an exalted position in the New Jerusalem on earth?
    - Notice verses 22-23. Through us! We are His body. We are one with Him. We will **fill** the heavens with **His** fullness and glory (Romans 8:18). Right now, we represent Christ as His ambassadors on earth, but in eternity we will represent Him in the heavens.
  - Let's look at one more passage, Colossians 1:15-20.

- According to verse 16, there are "things" that are created in the heavens. There is a ruling structure up there. He created it to be run and ruled by Jesus Christ.
  - Verse 18:+ He is the Head of which we are the body. Why did Christ take this position as Head of the Church and not just the position of king over Israel? Why? "... *that in all things He might have the preeminence.*"
  - He will definitely have preeminence on earth when that throne is established on earth. But God isn't satisfied with Him just being glorified in the earth. God desires the heavens and all that's in them to glorify His Son.
  - God's purpose for us is to be part of God's plan to reconcile the heavens to Himself (vs. 20). When He glorifies us and fashions us like unto Christ's glorious body and then when He sets us in these heavenly places, it's so the heavens will reflect the glory of Jesus Christ. It's God's will that He be preeminent in all things (whether things on earth or in heaven).
  - Through Israel, He will be preeminent on earth, but there was a hidden purpose that through us (the body of Christ) the heavens will be reconciled unto God and the glory of His Son revealed.
3. God's purpose for the new heaven involves the church, the body of Christ.
- Our eternal blessings are said to be located in the heavenlies. Ephesians 1:3
  - Our conversation (citizenship) is in the heavenlies. Philippians 3:20
  - We have an eternal house (residence; abode) in the heavens (eternal abiding place). 2 Corinthians 5:1-2
  - We are part of a heavenly kingdom. 2 Timothy 4:18
    - This is why God raptures us out. He calls us off this earth because His purpose for us is in the heavens. He doesn't come to the earth, but meets us in the heavens.
4. A few other thoughts about the Church's eternal inheritance in the heavenlies:
- In eternity, we will display God's wisdom to the angelic host in heavenly places. Ephesians 3:10
  - In eternity, we will rule and reign over God's angelic creation (1 Corinthians 6:2-3). There will be a lot to do in eternity. There is a governmental structure on earth and in the heavens that must be run.
  - We will be occupying the heavens of the New Jerusalem. This is 7,920,000 feet up and that much wide and long. That is a lot of heavens! We will be occupying those places.
    - Remember, God is called "*the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth.*" God's eternal kingdom not only covers land where the earth will be ruled, but it also covers the air where the heavens will be ruled.
    - This is why God gives you the height of the city. Because the heavens will be ruled from this central location, just as the earth will be ruled.

- Will we be coming to the earth at all? Remember when Jacob saw the angels on the ladder? What were they doing? They were ascending and descending. Some were going to report to God on assignments and some were going out on assignments. I assume the same will be true of us.
- We will help to give light to the New Jerusalem and to the entire earth. Revelation 21:23-25, 22:5
  - There is no night in the New Jerusalem. Why? The glory of God and the Lamb light it and it is enough light for all nations of the earth. There is no sun or moon in New Jerusalem.
  - Does this mean one incredible, blinding light coming from the physical body of Jesus for eternity? I don't think so.
  - Remember, we are one with Christ; we are His body. It is Christ's body that will shine forth His glory in the heavens for eternity, lighting the new earth and the New Jerusalem. Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Colossians 3:4
  - Several times we are referred to as "*children of light*."
  - An interesting passage is 1 Corinthians 15:41-44, 49. This is teaching that we will be resurrected from the dead and bear Christ's image in eternity. We will shine for Jesus! But how bright? Notice verse 41. Just as stars differ in glory and brightness, so also is the resurrection of the dead.
  - It appears that how brightly we shine in eternity will be determined by how we live unto Christ right now on earth.
  - Did you notice in Revelation 21:23 it says there will be no moon or sun, but there is no mention of stars. **We** will be the stars in the heavens that will shine forth the glory of Jesus for all eternity.
  - How you are living right now will matter in eternity.