

Revelation 21 Part 1

Hi, this is Richard Oliver, and we are looking at Revelation chapter twenty-one, this is part forty in our series on the book of Revelation.

Verse one, *'And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.'*

The book of Revelation is, of course, symbols, and chapters twenty-one and twenty-two bring out the commination and completion of all things that have gone through the bible. And I'll give an example with this first verse.

We talk here of a new heaven and a new earth. It isn't that it's a new planet. You know, the earth is still there. But for us to be ready for the new kingdom we had to be water baptized and we had to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit which is fire. The planet earth was water baptized at the flood and it was baptized with fire at the final destruction at the time of Armageddon.

He tells us also that there is no more sea. Well, we know that sea means multitudes and masses of languages and people and so on. Whether there is physically no more water as seas or oceans I honestly don't know, it'll be a shame because I quite like the beach and I like the sea. But the other thing is there will be no mass of people trying to control everything and trying to run everything. This is God's kingdom, this is God's world run by Him.

Verse two, *'And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.'*

Now, once again, let's bring a couple of things in together here. The New Jerusalem. You know, Abraham searched for a city whose builder and maker was God. Why did he do that? Why did he? Because he met the King. He met King Melchizedek. He knew there was a city that was built by God. He searched for it for the rest of his life. He didn't know it was still in heaven, and will come down at the end of all time. But that's what it is.

And she's a bride. She's *the* bride. She is the body of Christ and He is her head. The bible starts with a love story. It starts with God creating Adam, and from Adam came Eve. Now, it says that Adam was the image of God. Well, if that's so, then everything that Adam was and did is a picture of God, is a picture of Christ. Adam was first created as a spirit. And then, in chapter two of Genesis, Adam was made a body, God made a body, took the elements of the earth and placed that spirit life in him. Adam needed a wife. He looked around. All the animals had a female part and a male part, and they were all matched together nicely. But he didn't have that. So God put Adam to sleep and from his side He took what was necessary to make a bride, to make Eve. But Adam is the image of God. Therefore if Adam needs a bride, God wants and needs a bride. And God is spirit. Adam was spirit. So God created a man out of the elements of the earth or a body for that spirit of Adam to live in. God created a fertilised egg in the womb of Mary, somewhere where He could live. And then to get the bride Adam had to be put to sleep. Jesus was put to sleep on the cross. Adam had to have his side open so that Eve could be taken out. Jesus Christ had a spear stuck in His side so that blood and water flowed mingled down and the church was born, His bride was born. Then, of course, Eve fell. She brought a false life into the world. And she came back to Adam with the information, 'Look, I know how to make life', and Adam recognised that this was wrong. Eve did not recognise that this was wrong. You know, in spite of political correctness and all the rest of it, men and women are

different. You leave them alone and they are different. They see different things, they understand different things and they act in different ways. They perceive the world in different ways.

When God took Eve from Adam He took some of Adam out of him. Kept it separate. And some parts of Adam are still there and weren't transferred to Eve. There is a definite difference. And one of the differences is recognising the true and the false. Not in the sense of what is right or wrong, that's not the issue. Spiritually. This is a spiritual thing. Eve honestly believed that she had found a wonderful way to create life, which, of course, was through sex. So she came back to Adam and explained to him, and he realised – it says that Eve was beguiled or deceived or seduced, but Adam was not seduced. He knew what was going on. But because of his love for Eve he took her and made her to become one with him. In other words he married her. She and him were therefore one. If God was going to bring judgement on Eve He would have to kill Adam as well. And Adam's love was so great that he was willing to die for his wife, just to be with her. And that's it once again. Adam is made in the image of God. And that's exactly what God has done. We have all sinned. We have all failed. All of mankind has made a right mess of things, but God loves us so much that if we will allow Him to become one with us then we are part of Him. And in spite of all the problems, we have the covering of the Lamb and we are safe.

But remember, it's that final difference, the recognition of what is spiritually true and correct, that's the difference between men and women. That is why women should not preach. They will do the best they can, they can be even better than men at doing that sort of thing, but that's not the point. They can be deceived and shouldn't be in that position of power. If she says something that is completely wrong or false God cannot hold her responsible, she just hasn't got the ability to know the difference. But a man does know. He might be willing to have himself be deceived for gain, but he can tell the difference. She can't.

God's love for us is so great that He was willing to die for us. That is the picture that we have in the seals of the book of redemption, being lost, being held who is worthy to take the book, and the Lamb stepped forward as it had been slain, and where did He come from? From the throne of God. God Himself comes and pays the price. In doing so He redeems the book of life, He redeems His people, He redeems His bride.

But how is He going to call His bride? Exactly the same as Abraham found the bride for Isaac. He sent a messenger. He sent a message – he didn't go himself but he sent a messenger back to where he came from originally to call a bride. And the servant simply asked 'Lord, show me which is the girl I'm supposed to choose, and when she comes to the well here I will say to her please give me to drink and she will give me to drink and then I'll know that this is the one'. And, of course, Rebekah did just that. She came up immediately and said 'Not only will I draw water for you but I'll draw water for the camels'. Now camels drink a lot of water. This was hard physical work, but she was willing to serve. And that is the sign of the bride. Willing to serve. It isn't just a case of being in church. It isn't just a case of believing the right things, the message things and wearing your hair long or not wearing shorts if you're a man, or whatever. It isn't that. It's the willingness to serve. Mind you, if you've got the Spirit of God you will wear and dress accordingly, the way to please your Lord. But the point is, it's the willingness to serve, to allow God to be in charge.

In our day, of course, God has sent a messenger to call out the bride for Jesus Christ His Son. The Son, of course, is the Word, the expressed thought. The thought was the original thing, the Father, if you like, of the Word. And Jesus Christ the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and died for us.

We've basically run out of time on this session, so we'll go into the next session and we'll start with King Ahasuerus and Esther, and we'll also look at Ruth and Naomi, as they tie in with the bride of Christ.

So, the Lord be with you. God bless you. See you next time.