

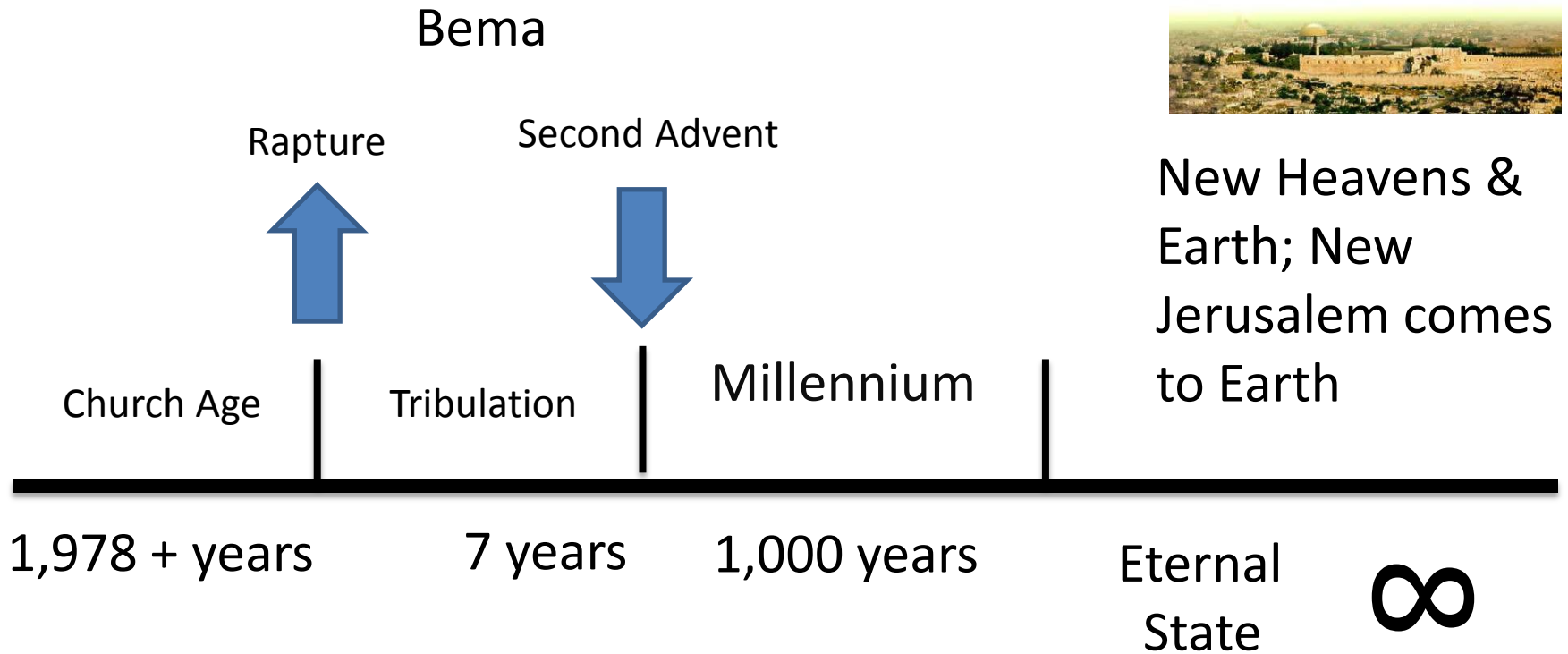
Any questions
on our current studies:
historiography and resurrection,
death, the two-stage afterlife,
interim state, heaven?

These slides are available at
www.fbcweb.org/sermons.html
by undershepherd Don Hargrove

Theological-Doctrinal Foundations –Overall POG: Eschatology (16)

Life in the Eternal State

The New Jerusalem – When Heaven comes to Earth



The New Jerusalem in the Eternal State

Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them,



Preparation for Bible Class - Foundations

Personal issue #1: Salvation

The Last Invitation to Salvation in the Bible

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

- ✓ The Bible's final movement in its great concerto.
- ✓ "Come" is all about volition and faith.
- ✓ There is thirst and then there is the will. The former is universal but the latter is not. "Wishes" is only those with + vol.
- ✓ John 6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."
- ✓ "Without cost" is the adverb δωρεάν and refers to a gift: something that is gratis, freely given, undeservedly given.
- ✓ Salvation is free on our end.

Preparation for Bible Class - Spiritual Foundations

Personal Issue #2: The Absolutes of Fellowship

1 John 1:5-6 And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

- ✓ No amount of proof-texting and exegetical gymnastics can remove the absolute nature of God's righteousness and how that relates to fellowship with God.
- ✓ The person who does not understand this does not understand the essence of Christianity—relationship!

Preparation for Bible Class - Foundations

Personal Issue #3: Spiritual Maturity & + Happiness

Philip 4:11-12 Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. ¹² I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

- ✓ Three types of happiness or contentment: -H (FSH as per Ecc.); neutral/establishment happiness (enjoying DOL and creature comforts; unstable), +H (inner spiritual happiness regardless of the circumstances of life; this requires spiritual growth).
- ✓ In +H life continues to get better and better regardless of the circumstances of life. This is supergrace!

Resurrection Special #16: The Two-Stage Post-mortem Life

1. The Gospel accounts of the resurrection.
 - ✓ Phenomenal—they are simple, brief, and clear, yet complex and perplexing. They are dense and tight and defy all naturalistic hypotheses.
 - ✓ They are without antecedent or parallels: Why women? Why no mention of the Christian hope? The portrayal of Jesus breaks all boundaries. Why lack of parallels with 1st century Judaism? Why lack of theologizing? All agree, yet so different in focus—just like eyewitness testimony. Free from all interpretations or embellishments.

2. The OT established the fact that when a person dies physically, he continues to exist in an interval state awaiting the resurrection. This resurrection was the great hope. This is important because when a “dead” person is described in the Bible as coming alive or waking up at the resurrection (cf. Dan 12:1-3), one should not infer that they had been non-beings or non-existent. The point is that they “come alive” *physically* again at the resurrection.

3. In the OT theology we are not given many details on this interim status (between death and resurrection).
- ✓ **Genesis 25:8** And Abraham breathed his last and died in a ripe old age, an old man and satisfied *with life*; and he was gathered to his people.
 - ✓ **Luke 16:22** "Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.
 - ✓ **Luke 23:43** And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

4. Post-mortem life in the Bible is a two-stage process: life after death which would be followed resurrection which was life after life after death.
5. This two-stage view, which was grounded in the OT, flourished in the intertestamental period, the NT, and the *early* church fathers. Those in the interim state (stage 1) are always looking forward to their resurrection bodies (stage 2).
6. The Platonic views of the soul and body run counter to the OT and NT views (even in regard to the nature of immortality). Later gnostic writings were heavily influenced by Plato—this lead to depreciation of body.

7. Illustration of OT resurrection as understood in intertestamental period, 2 Mac. 7 (124 B.C.).
- Seven Jewish brothers are tortured and executed brutally for their defiance of the Seleucid king who ordered them to eat pork. In turn, each have the skin on their heads removed, their tongues cut out, their hands and feet severed, and finally placed in a very large hot pan and fried alive. Each faces the consequences of defying the king with great boldness.

- The 1st brother proclaims he is ready to die rather than transgress the law.
- The 2nd brother, after being tortured, uses his last breath to tell the king that God will raise them up in spite of his actions against them.
- The 3rd brother defiantly sticks out his tongue and hands and tells the king he will receive them back.
- The 4th brother is tortured like the others and tells the king that he looks forward to the resurrection.
- The 5th brother tells the king he will be tortured.
- The 6th also promises punishment for the king.
- The 7th tells the king that he will be punished by God.
- While they all believed they would continue to exist after death, their focus was on their resurrection bodies.

8. Examples of NT two-stage post-mortem life.

- **John 11:25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"
- **1 Thess 4:14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. . . . For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

- **Stage 1: Philip 1:21** For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² But if *I am* to live *on* in the flesh, this *will mean* fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. ²³ But I am hard-pressed from both *directions*, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better;
- **Stage 2: Philip 3:20** . . . we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹ who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.
- Other examples include Enoch, Elijah, Moses, & Jesus.

9. Examples of orthodox views of church fathers on resurrection. They are very close to OT/NT teachings.
- ✓ Clement makes it clear that the temporary abode of Peter and Paul is a blessed, glorious, and holy place.
 - ✓ 1 Clement on the two-stage post-mortem life, “Enter into your chambers for a very little while . . . God will raise you from your graves.”
 - ✓ Polycarp, speaks of the intermediate state as he goes through the fire in martyrdom.
 - ✓ Tertullian has developed treatises on the 2 stages.
 - ✓ Virtually all early church fathers taught the two-stage post-mortem life of continuum. They are well within the OT and NT framework. They rejected the Platonic view of body and soul—and creation.

10. Examples of Platonic influences on later gnostic writings.
- ✓ Acts of Thomas teaches that what matters is the soul, not the body.
 - ✓ Gospel of Thomas teaches that the physical body constitutes the clothes and that one should seek to divest oneself of it, trampling it underfoot as something to be despised.
 - ✓ The Book of Thomas heaps woes on those who hope in the flesh.
 - ✓ Gospel of Philip teaches that the soul is a precious thing that comes in a contemptible body.
 - ✓ With the influence of Plato on the Gnostics, the gnostics rejected the goodness of the material realm (earth and the body) and in so doing they reject the world of the OT, NT, and Judaism.

11. After the final resurrection of unbelievers after GWT, heaven will descend to earth in the form of the New Jerusalem, Rev 21:1-4; 22:1-5. This is likely the place Christ is preparing for us and the city that Abraham was looking forward to (cf. Heb 11:22-23; 12:22-23; Isa 65:17-19). This is the marriage of heaven and earth.
- ✓ Prior to Rev 21:1, the entire physical universe is dissolved, purified by fire and reduced to nothing as it was before creation ex nihilo.
 - ✓ The New Jerusalem will be aglow with the glory of God, no sun or moon, 21:23. The new earth will be lit by the glory of God.
 - ✓ The New Jerusalem will be like a satellite city.

Christ's Exaltation of Women

1. Christ rejected all male chauvinistic boundaries as He exalted women in a time when women were depreciated and disrespected by pagan society and Judaism, cf. Luke 8-1-3; Acts 16 with Josephus.
2. Both men and women are equally created in the image of God:
 - ✓ **Genesis 1:27** And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- ✓ **Matthew 19:4** And He answered and said, "Have you not read, that He who created *them* from the beginning made them male and female,
- ✓ **1 Corinthians 11:12** For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man *has his birth* through the woman; and all things originate from God.

3. The fact that God has appointed women to the role of being submissive to their husbands does not imply inferiority anymore than submission of Christ to the Father implies His inferiority to the Father:

- ✓ **1 Corinthians 11:3** But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.

4. Women are equal with men because of redemption, Gal. 3:28. There are no second-class citizens in God's kingdom; redemptively, all are on the same spiritual level.
- ✓ **Galatians 3:28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

5. Jesus Christ not only broke with society's general negative view of women, He also broken with "traditional" views of women in marriage. He raised women to a totally new level in the Christian marriage. This has resulted in wonderful benefits throughout civilization. It was Christ who made the conscious decision to mandate husbands, to lead, protect, and honor their wives, Eph. 5:23-31; 1 Pet. 3:7.

6. It was Christ who reestablished the standards of marriage by going back to original creation:

- **Matthew 19:4** And He answered and said, "Have you not read, that He who created *them* from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, 'For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh '?
- ❖ One Flesh! What is Satan's objective in any marriage?

- ✓ We now live in a time when gender roles and family are under assault on an unprecedented level. The idea that men and women have different roles is scoffed at in the public square. Kids are suffering terribly due to the breakup of families. Polyamory is the next sexual movement vying for “liberation” from what they see as narrow-minded traditional monogamous relationships.

- ✓ A great number of major companies support lewd Gay Pride parades and openly brag about their openness and diversity, but would never be open and diverse enough to support a parade for traditional family values, monogamy, faithfulness, teenage (and unmarried adult) abstinence, or support for the unborn. Starbucks and Kraft are two of the most egregious examples of being anti-family and narrow minded about the traditional family.

7. How does a Christian husband's attitude toward his wife reflect his attitude to BD?
- ✓ What is the issue?
 - ✓ Is it possible for a husband to grow into the man God wants him to be apart from being the spiritual leader of his family? Why?
 - ✓ What is the kind of man God wants him to be in marriage?
 - ✓ If he is not growing into the man God would have him be, what are the effects on the wife?

8. God designed men and women to be different. In marriage a man and woman come together and are stronger and better than apart from each other. They are designed to affect each other positively.

- What are the chief differences between men & women.
- What are the beneficial effects of a husband on a wife?
- What are the beneficial effects of a wife on a husband?
- What are the beneficial effects of a mother and father (the family) on children?
- What are the beneficial effects of a traditional marriage (one man and one woman) on society?

- What are some of the benefits that the state receives in exchange for tax benefits for marriage?
- Why can't we not agree with GLBT without being called "hateful, hitlers," with phobic diseases.
- What does the Bible say about a generation where good is called evil and evil is called good? (Rom 1:32).
- Who suffers the most from GLBT?
- Who cares enough to speak out even though to do so means that you will be called all kinds of vile things?
- What is good news for transgender? Surgeries only to be followed by a lifetime of hormone treatments? What about gays? Should they be allowed to redefine marriage, normalcy? Who suffers the most?

DIVINE DESIGN BEFORE AND AFTER THE FALL

- It was not good for man to be alone so God created woman.
- ✓ Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good (לֹא-טוֹב) for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper (עֲזָרָה) suitable for him(כְּנֶגְדּוֹ)."
 - Meaning of “helper.”
 - Concept in “suitable for him”
 - **1 Corinthians 11:7-8**, . . . the woman is the glory of man. For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man;

- ✓ **Divine prophecy of the battle of the sexes:**
Genesis 3:16 . . . Yet your desire (תַּשׁוּקָה) shall be for your husband, But he shall rule (לְשַׁלֵּט) over you."
- ❖ Her desire is both negative (Gen 4:7) and positive (Song 7:10). It all depends on the SL.
 - ❖ His rulership is both positive and negative. It all depends on the SL. Historically, mostly negative as women have been and continue to be dominated, mistreated, and taken advantage of by man.

- ✓ This curse of the battle between the sexes can only be turned into blessings through a spiritual life that is undergirded by F/HS and BD, only this can create a true “Christ-centered marriage.” The key is to live and orient to the NT horizons.
- ✓ It is all about execution of the plan of God.

Only by being serious about BD and the spiritual life will the husband develop the capacity to advance in his love for his wife—a love that parallels Christ’s love for the church. There are at least 8 aspects to this love:

1. Spiritual leadership, Eph. 5:23.
2. Sacrificial giving of self, 25. How did Christ give?
3. Sanctifying her—setting her apart to God, 26.
4. Cleansing her—avoidance of moral filth, 26.

5. Nourishing her – 29. Never taking her for granted.

6. Cherishing her – 29. Real value!

7. Being one with her – 31. This includes rejecting the “advances” of all others.

8. Loving her and thinking of her as he does himself—33 . She never becomes a casual interest. How does he respond if someone attacks his body?

- ✓ No husband can expect to have a healthy, growing, and thriving marriage if he does not grow spiritually. This gives him the capacity to love, value, and cherish his wife according to the dictates of the Word of God.

- ✓ The husband who does not make spiritual growth a priority will not understand his wife. This will negatively affect his spiritual life:
 - 1 Peter 3:7 You husbands likewise, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.
 - Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be embittered against them.

- ✓ Christ makes it clear in the analogy in Ephesians that the husband must never take his wife for granted. Christ never regards his bride with casual interest or considers her of secondary importance.
- ✓ During difficult times in marriage, it is important to redouble your focus on your spiritual life. The husband who has an unresponsive or rebellious wife must focus on his continuing responsibilities. The wife who has an unresponsive husband must focus even more on the Lord, 1 Pet 3:1-6.
- ✓ The way of the OSHGEN and KD leads to cursing. But with BD and HS, any relationship can be turned around & become the most blessed relationship in life.

- ✓ With BD and the FHS, marriage does indeed get better and better and better, year after year!!!! It becomes the blessing for which it was designed.
- ✓ It requires an enormous amount of genuine humility and Bible doctrine before a marriage can be the fantastic blessing as designed by God. No one can fulfill the mandates for wife and husband apart from humility. Takes humility to submit and takes humility to love unconditionally. Of course, it takes a lot of humility to make the necessary adjustments in life.
- ✓ God's mandates were designed to be the key to blessedness. The spiritual life keeps us from destroying the most valuable earthly person in our lives.