

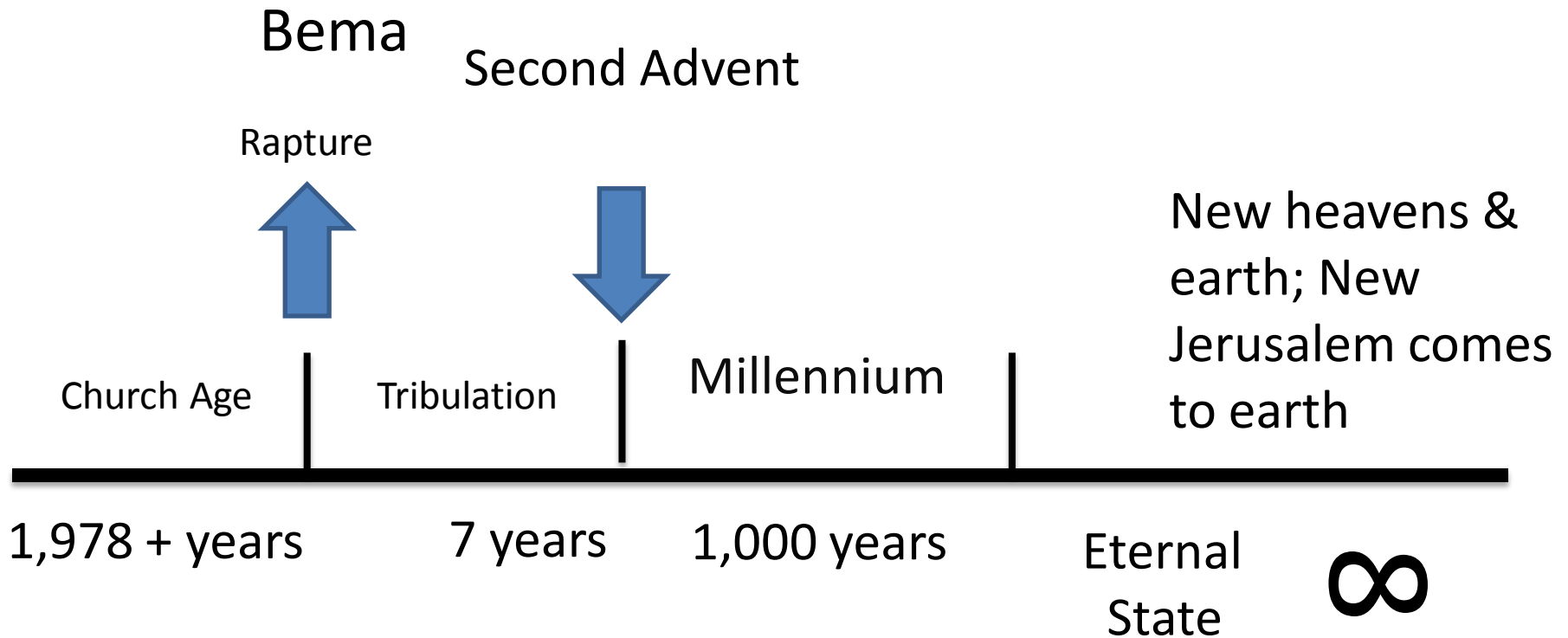
# Any questions on our current series?

These slides are available at  
[www.fbcweb.org/sermons.html](http://www.fbcweb.org/sermons.html)  
by Undershepherd Don Hargrove

# Theological-Doctrinal Foundations : Eschatology (18)

## Life in the Eternal State

When Heaven and earth come together for Eternity



# The New Jerusalem in the Eternal State

## Open the Word of God to Revelation 21:1-3

- The last and greatest image of the new creation—the marriage of heaven and earth—in the Bible is found in Revelation 21-22. It is odd that these chapters on eternity are not well known or pondered. What is more important vindication or truth?
- Note how drastically different this is from all those “Christian” ethereal scenarios.
- Rev 21-22 is the ultimate rejection of all types of Gnosticism, of every worldview that sees the final goal as the separation of the world from God, of the physical from the spiritual.
- This is the final answer to the Lord’s Prayer, that God’s kingdom will come and His will be done on earth as in heaven.

# Preparation for Bible Class – Spiritual Life Foundations

## #1: Salvation

Christ is the only issue in salvation. Rejection of Christ is the only sin for which Christ could not die.

**John 16:8** "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

# Preparation for Bible Class - Spiritual Life Foundations

## #2: Fellowship – The need for cleansing

**James 1:21** Therefore putting aside (ἀποτίθημι) all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to deliver your souls/lives.

**1 Peter 2:1** Therefore, putting aside (ἀποτίθημι) all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, <sup>2</sup> like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

# Preparation for Bible Class – Spiritual Life Foundations

#3: Maturity: Fellowship + BD leads to Spiritual Maturity

**Psalm 1:1** How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> And he will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season, And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers (נִלְוָה = advances, thrives, succeeds).

- ✓ The need to be serious about Bible Doctrine
- ✓ God's wonderful promises of being firmly planted.

## Resurrection Special #18:

### Women and the 4 Bedrock Historical Facts

1. Mark 15:33-16:8. Witnesses of the crucifixion (15:33-34, 40-41), Jesus' burial (42-47), and the empty tomb (16:3-5). Two current foci:
  - a) Women—and by extension marriage. The privilege we have of glorifying God in our marriages through BD. Marriage counseling . . .  
ugh!
  - b) The empty tomb – and by extension historical evidence for the resurrection of Christ.

2. The state of marriage today. Dr. Keith Ablow on *4 Reasons Why Marriage IS a Dying Institution*, “marriage is one of the leading causes of major depression in the nation.”
- The need for RMA mechanics during difficulties.
  - Do you cause depression, anxiety, or stress for your spouse? How is this related to your carnality?
  - How many spiritual blessings do you bring to your marriage and family? How is this related to +vol.
  - How does your spiritual life affect your spouse? Strong and focused, or weak and distracted with DOL? Into kosmos diabolicus (sensate life) or into Bible doctrine? Giving in marriage or just taking?



### 3. Divine prophecy of the battle of the sexes:

Genesis 3:16 . . . Yet your desire (תַּשׁוּקָה) shall be for your husband, But he shall rule (תִּשְׁלַח) over you."

- ❖ Her desire can be a sinful desire to run his life (Gen 4:7) or a positive desire of love (Song 7:10). It all depends on orientation to BD.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ All women should be grateful for Eph 5 for it is the only way to overcome battle of the sexes.

- ✓ 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 an evil/pagan mindset to reject God’s emphasis (e.g., “I know better than God”). It is also the reason for so much depression in marriage and trouble for the children.

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. The husband is the spiritual leader of the family—a man of integrity!
2. Sacrificial giving (παραδίδωμι) of self, 25.
3. Sanctifying her (ἵνα αὐτὴν ἀγιάσῃ) —setting her apart to God, encouraging here in BD, 26.
4. Cleansing her (καθαρίσας)—avoidance of moral filth, 26.

5. Nourishing her (ἐκτρέφει) – 29.

6. Cherishing her (θάλλει αὐτήν) – 29.

7. Being one with her (οἱ δύο εἰς σάρκα μίαν) – 31.  
This includes rejecting the “advances” and “flirts” of all others.

8. Loving her and thinking of her as he does himself (ἀγαπάτω ὡς ἑαυτόν) —33 . She never becomes a casual interest anymore than the church is a casual interest of Christ.

- ✓ No husband can expect to have a healthy, growing, and thriving marriage if he does not grow spiritually. Spiritual horizons and growth give him the capacity to love, value, and cherish his wife according to the dictates of the Word of God.
- ✓ This is a growing process. All marriages are moving in one direction or the other each day. Each spouse must put BD first, not friends and the various distractions of kosmos diabolicus.

- ✓ The husband who does not make spiritual growth a priority will never understand his wife—the converse is also true. Marriage of honor and love or frustration and bitterness.
- 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 (συγκληρονόμοις χάριτος ζωῆς), so that your prayers may not be hindered.
- Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be embittered (πικραίνω) against them.

- ✓ During difficult times in marriage, it is important to redouble your focus on your spiritual life. The husband who has an unresponsive or kosmic 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 wife must respond to the Lord.
- ✓ The way of the OSHGEN and KD always leads to a cursing (dying marriage)—millions start out with hopes and dreams aplenty but end with great disappointment. With BD and the HS, any relationship can be turned around & become the most blessed relationship in life: beyond all you could ask or imagine, such is the plan of God.

- ✓ 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. All marriages have their challenges due in no small part to OSHGEN and the Angelic Conflict.
- ✓ 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 the wife or husband apart from humility. Takes humility to submit and takes humility to love unconditionally.



- ✓ The greatest killers of marriage is arrogance and self-will. Arrogance turns marriage into a battle of wills instead of a life of sharing of souls, love, patience, companionship, and blessings.

# **Historiography: Nothing less than the bodily resurrection of Christ can explain the accepted historical facts**

1. There are two ways of entering into the reality of the historicity of Christ and His resurrection:
  - a) #1 Existential. Vast majority of Christians have not based their faith on the LJC on historiographical considerations. Rather, they have based their faith on an accurate presentation of the gospel (John 16:7-9). This is entirely legitimate. This is not to be confused with soft-headed liberal theologians who say evidence destroys true faith—i.e. faith means you do not have evidence or faith is opposed to facts.

b) #2. Historiography. This is also legitimate and much needed in our post-Enlightenment culture with its irrational/unlivable dogma of naturalism.

- ✓ There is only one reason people reject the resurrection of Christ: blind faith in naturalism.
- ✓ If God can create the universe out of nothing (c. Hawking), the resurrection of Jesus (i.e. the bringing back to life very single dead cell in the body and brain of Jesus) is “child’s play.”
- ✓ Given there is a God, there is no historical basis for rejection of resurrection of Jesus Christ.

2. There is no greater significant issue in life than the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 15:17** and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless (μάταιος); you are still in your sins.

- If our faith is worthless, is there a point to FBC?
- Why do we get up Sunday mornings or come on Wednesdays if our faith is worthless?
- If faith is worthless then why trust our eternal destiny to JC?
- Kalam gives us certainty of God, but the resurrection gives certainty of Jesus Christ—and falsifies all other systems.

3. The uniqueness and the “scandal” of Christianity rests in the mediation of revelation through historical events. It has been called scandalous because the truth of Christianity is bound up in historical facts. If those facts can be disproved, then Christianity would be false. This is what makes Christianity unique. Again, history makes Christianity falsifiable.

- Virtually all *critical* scholars accept Christ’s death by crucifixion, burial, and that He was believed to have been seen as bodily raised from the dead. This bodily resurrection brought about a total transformation of the different witnesses—it transformed cowards, skeptics, unbelievers into men willing to die for the Risen Lord.

4. Again, there is only one rational reason anyone could give for the rejection of the resurrection of Jesus Christ: rejection of the existence of God. That's it! However, a *priori* naturalism brings far more problems: creation ex nihilo, the soul, freewill, morals, values, dignity, meaning of life, body-mind problem. No one can consistently live with the ramifications of atheism—and no one does!

5. If Jesus did not rise bodily from the grave, then Christianity is a fairy tale that no rational person should believe.

- In this case Christianity would be no better than believing in Santa Clause. People might love to believe in what Santa represents, but they do not believe in him.
- If Jesus was not raised, then we should not believe in Him or worship Him—though many might still believe in some of the things He stood for.

- Millions of people make Christianity into something to help them with their problems or be better people—all the while rejecting the living resurrected Lord and His mind—Bible doctrine. All because they value KD (emotionally tied to KD) more than Christ!
- Failure to recognize this leads to degeneration of church into some sort of lonely hearts club—nothing more!
- What is more important justification or truth? Are you passionate about truth?



6. There are 4 historical bedrock facts that must be explained by any adequate or credible hypothesis on Jesus Christ:

#1, Jesus burial.

#2, The discovery of His empty tomb.

#3, His post-mortem appearances.

#4, The origin of the disciples' belief in His resurrection.

7. The best (and only credible) explanation of these four historical facts is that Jesus rose bodily from the dead. Given the biblical background, it takes more faith to deny the resurrection than to accept it—as evidenced by all of the ad hoc implausible theories.

8. Historical argument for Jesus' resurrection involves 2 steps.

#1 - What are the facts to be explained?

#2 - What is the best explanation of those facts?

9. Today the relevant historical facts are largely agreed upon by critics.

## 10. Historical scholarship over the last half century.

- ✓ There have been revolutionary changes since the 1940's-50's when it was widely believed that the accounts were legends shaped by the early church.
- ✓ The post-mortem appearances were thought to be hallucinations by the disciples' fervent faith.
- ✓ Today, these positions have largely been abandoned within the scholarly community. Today majority of *critical* scholars (who do not believe the Bible is God's Word) believe: 1) burial by Joseph of Arimathea, 2) empty tomb, 3) on multiple occasions different people and groups experienced Jesus as being alive, 4) origin of the church due to the fact that the disciples came to believe that God raised Jesus from the dead despite every predisposition to the contrary.

11. Fact #1, Jesus burial. Jesus' burial by Joseph in a tomb after His crucifixion. Why even the most *critical* scholars accept the empty tomb as an historical fact:

- a) Jesus burial is multiply attested in several *independent* and early eyewitness testimonies (sources used by Matthew, Mark and John, early sermons in Acts, 1 Cor. 15).
- b) Joseph of Arimathea was part of the Sanhedrin who condemned Jesus. He would not have been invented by Christians. Further, it would have been easy to refute by the enemies of Christianity. He was part of the highest ruling body in the land.

12. Fact #2 – Jesus tomb was found empty Sunday after the crucifixion. Why critics accept this as certain history:

- Women witnesses.
- Enemy attestation, Matt. 28:12-13 (consider what this charge tells us about the body). The earliest Jewish polemic presupposes an empty tomb as it seeks to explain the empty tomb.
- The Jerusalem factor. No corpse could be produced.
- Multiple early independent attestation.
- Attested very early as per Mark's primitive/simple source (w/o resurrection, theological motifs, dazzling appearances, Sheol, or grand titles).

13. Fact #3 – Christ’s post-mortem appearances. On different occasions different individuals experienced appearances of Jesus as bodily alive from the dead.

Universally acknowledged by NT critics because:

- List of eyewitnesses guarantees such appearances occurred, 1 Cor. 15; Gal. 1.
- Multiple independent attestation of the appearances.
- The conversion of unbelievers James and Paul.
- Multiple and diverse appearances.

14. Fact #4: the original disciples suddenly came to believe that Jesus was risen from the dead despite every predisposition to the contrary.

- Their leader was dead and they had no concept of a dying and rising Messiah.
- According to OT law, Jesus died as a heretic.
- OT theological presupposition on the afterlife.
- Critics all acknowledge something big and powerful really happened.
- Sunday became new holy day.
- Content of gospel was Jesus Christ.
- All of this is historical data that begs for an explanation.



- Nevertheless, the disciples came to believe so strongly that God had raised Him from the dead, they were willing to die. What caused them to believe such an un-Jewish and outlandish thing? Why such a powerful transformation?
- We have a total of 16 independent sources on the disciples' willingness to suffer for their belief in the Risen Lord.

15. From data to best explanation. The best explanation is that God raised Jesus bodily from the dead. It is the only hypothesis that passes all historical tests or canons. All other theories fall short and continue to be abandoned by scholars. None of the naturalistic theories are plausible.

- ✓ There are no historical alternatives.
- ✓ The only hangup is not historical. Rather, it is philosophical (=miracles).

16. A look at the “hypothesis” that God raised Jesus from the dead from *merely* an historical perspective

- a) Great explanatory scope. The resurrection of Christ explains why the tomb was empty, why the disciples saw post-mortem experiences, why the Christian faith came into being.
- b) Great explanatory power. The resurrection of Christ explains why the body of Jesus was not in the tomb, and why people repeatedly saw Him alive—despite public execution.

c) Plausibility. Given His unparalleled life, wisdom, His claims, and prophecy. The resurrection serves as divine confirmation of those claims and His Word. Christ was either God or a blasphemer.

d) It is not ad hoc. It is not contrived; it only requires one hypothesis: God exists. Even that need not need to be an additional if you already believe in God.

- e) It is in accord with accepted beliefs. Christians readily accept that *naturally* dead men do not rise. Thus, it is in accord with accepted beliefs.
  
- f) It far outstrips all rival theories in meeting the canons of 1-5 above. Consider the theories that continue to be abandoned for the last 200 years (hallucination, stolen body). This is precisely why all other theories have not attracted wide scholarship and most “pop” theories have been almost universally rejected.

17. Consider how the hallucination theory fails to meet the canons of history as to the best explanation.

- a) Narrow explanatory scope.
- b) Weak explanatory power.
- c) It is ad hoc in a number of ways.
- d) Implausible in various respects.
- e) Incompatible with certain accepted truths.