

I. Review (Rev. 20:1-15)

A. The Restoration Promise – All of the promises of God’s redemptive plan throughout the entirety of the scriptures had two main themes. The first theme was God’s dwelling place (heaven) would be restored to the earth as it was at the beginning. The second theme was the arrival of the individual known as the “anointed one” who would be the catalyst and orchestrator of the restoration of heaven and earth.

1. The first step of Jesus redemption plan was to restore a deep and sustainable relationship with God through His death, resurrection, and ascension.
2. The second step is the return of Jesus the to the earth to bring every sphere of the creation into alignment with the righteousness of God.
3. The third and final step is the reuniting of heaven and earth thus finalizing the process of promised restoration.

B. The progression and plan of restoration:

1. Satan Bound and Imprisoned – The very first thing that Jesus does upon the defeat of the Antichrist and his armies is command that Satan be captured, bound in chains, and thrown into the bottomless pit.
 - a. At the onset of the establishment of His Kingdom Jesus will eliminate the element of lying deception against truth in order for righteousness and the knowledge of God to flourish.
2. Restoring the Earth - Starting with the city of Jerusalem and the land around it Jesus will begin to restore the earth and humanity to righteousness in every sphere. I believe it will take 1000 years of His perfect rule to fully restore the earth to righteousness in order to position it fully to embrace all of heaven thus fulfilling the mandate of heaven and earth becoming one. (Mat. 6:10)
3. Testing the Nations - At the 1000 year mark of His earthly rule Jesus will release the adversary of love (Satan) to test the hearts of humanity who came to believe in Him after His return. There is much to be gleaned from this prophesied reality and the results of it. We see both the reason why God allows Satan to deceive the earth now, and we see clearer the depraved state of humanity under the curse of death.

4. The Final Rebellion - A great host (Millions; like the sand of sea) of untested hearts will be deceived by Satan upon his release. They will choose themselves and their own desires over Jesus and once again rebel against His leadership. Just like their fathers 1000 years before them they will gather together and make war upon Jesus and His capital city of Jerusalem. (Ez. 38-39:16)
5. Satan Judged – After the final rebellion of man Satan will be cast into the eternal lake of fire where he will be tormented forever.
6. The Judgment Seat of Christ - A complete and final eternal judgment of every individual who ever lived is the final step of the restoration of all things. (Jhn. 5:28-29; Rom. 2:5-10; 2 Cor. 5:6-10; Col 3:24-25)
 - a. For the believers in Jesus – They are not declared righteous by their own works but rather by the works of Christ on their behalf their righteous choices and actions made as a result of love are rewarded. (Pro. 11:18; Is. 49:4, 62:11; Mat. 6:4, 10:42, 16:27; Lk 14:14; 1 Cor. 3:8, 4:5)
 - b. For non-believers this is a devastating event where their own works are called into account. They are judged according to the goodness and righteousness of God and are therefore found lacking. We live in a day where the realities of eternal torment are so offensive that even in the church they are relegated to superstition and hyper literalism. However, the scriptures pull no punches on the realities of eternal judgment for those who willingly choose it. (Is. 3:11; Rom. 2:5; Mat. 10:28; Mar. 9:43-48)

II. Heaven and Earth Made New (Rev. 21:1-3)

- A. Many have interpreted the statement of “heaven and earth passing away” along with the passage from (2 Pet. 3:10-12) that this current earth and its heavenly bodies will be annihilated and then God will create something brand new. The problem with this view is that it contradicts almost every single promise of restoration and the purpose of the millennial reign.
 1. The promise of God was to restore all that was lost at the fall when the creation which was “very good” and perfectly created was subjected to

the curse of death. The clear promise was to make all existing things new again, rather than creating all new things.

2. Looking specifically at (2 Pet. 3:10-12) it is clear that Peter tells us that the earth “perished” from water at the flood and in the same way the earth is going to “pass away” from fire at the coming of Jesus. Two things are clearly in view here.
 - a. Worldly Wickedness Perished - The context of those who perished was wicked people not the planet. The planet was still very much alive at the end of the flood but the wicked people and practices were not.
 - b. Restored not Recreated - Peter surely didn’t mean that the earth was annihilated at the flood and God made something different. No one thinks we are on a different earth now than the one that was flooded then, but rather the earth was made new again by the flood rather than made different.
- B. The clear biblical idea of Jesus causing our current heaven and earth to pass away is the elimination of wickedness, sin, and death from the earth. Through His work of death and resurrection followed by His millennial reign He will make a new heaven and earth reality thus causing the old to pass away.
- C. No More Sea – Commentators go round and round on this statement. The idea of the planet being devoid of the ocean is probably not the case here for a couple of reasons.
 1. Scholars of the Greek language that is originally used here unanimously agree that John is saying the current earth and heaven is not annihilated but rather restored to original intent thus the idea of being made new again. If we stay in context to the passage I believe it would be very safe to assume that John is saying that in the same way that heaven and earth passed away so did the sea.
 2. The ocean was part of the undefiled perfect creation that God promised to restore.
 3. There are multiple references to the sea existing during the millennial reign of Jesus. (Ps. 72:8; Is. 11:9-11; 47:10-20; Zech. 9:10; 14:8)
 4. John uses the sea in the book of Revelation to refer to the wicked peoples of the earth. There are similar passages in the rest of the bible as well. (Rev. 13:1; Dan. 7:2-3; Is. 57:20; Ps. 89:9)