

1Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. 4And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

5Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

6And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. 8But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." Revelation 21:1-5

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Sukkot Rejoicing in Looking to a Future Time

B. Changed in the Mountains

When I climb down the mountain and get back to my life I won't settle for ordinary things; I'm gonna follow you forever and for all of my days I won't rest until I see You again - Third Day Show Me Your Glory

II. THE REDEMPTIVE STORY: GOD'S LOVE STORY

A. **Dress Rehearsals** of What is Yet to Come: Our observance of the festivals are dress rehearsals of what is to come and in observing them better prepare us for what is coming.

¹⁶*Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day-- ¹⁷things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Messiah. Colossians 2:16-17*

Spring Festivals (Yeshua's First-Coming)

1. **The New Year** [Nissan 1] – *New Beginnings* [Rosh Chodesh] Yeshua is our New Beginning
2. **Pesach (Passover)** [Nissan 14] - *Justification* [No Convocation] Yeshua is our Savior/Deliverer
3. **Unleavened Bread** [Nissan 15-21 -7 days] - *Sanctification* (Unleavened Bread) [1st Day Convocation & 7th Day Solemn Assembly Convocation] Yeshua is our Sanctifier
4. **Firstfruits** [Sunday after Passover]- *Resurrection* [No Convocation] Yeshua is our Resurrector
5. **Counting the Omer** [50 days from Firstfruits to Shavuot] - *Persevering Anticipation* (Counting of the Omer) Yeshua is our Sustainer
6. **Shavuot (Pentecost)** - *Empowerment & Instruction* for God's Mission [Convocation] Yeshua is our Provider

Fall Festivals (Yeshua's Second-Coming)

7. **Elul** [month directly preceding Tishrei] - *Tribulation* (Jacob's Trouble) Yeshua is the Accessible One (the King who is in the field)
8. **Yom Teruah (Trumpets)** [Tishrei 1] - *Second-Coming* (& rapture); Yeshua's Return [Convocation] Yeshua is our Coming King
9. **Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)** [Tishrei 10] - *National Salvation* (Israel's) [Convocation] Yeshua is Our Judge Who Vindicates & Restores
10. **Sukkot (Tabernacles)** [Tishrei 15-21] - *Millennium* [1st Day Convocation] Yeshua is Our Bridegroom who Protects & Provides
11. **Shemini Atzeret (the Eighth Day)** [Tishrei 22] - *The Eternal Age* with the new heaven and the new earth & the lake of fire [Solemn Assembly Convocation] Yeshua is our Glorious Hope

Winter Festivals [Non-Mosaic Additions]

(Glorious Hope in the Midst of Great Difficulty)

12. **Hanukkah** [Kislev 25 – Tevet 2] - *Tribulation* [No Convocation] Yeshua is Triumphant over the Anti-Messiah
13. **Purim** [Adar 14] – *Divine Reversal* [No Convocation] Yeshua is Faithful in Difficulty (even when we don't see Him), and He will miraculously turn the tables at His return

III. THE EIGHTH DAY

- A. The Eighth Day (Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah):** Some scholars think that the Eighth Day is a separate feast which does not belong to the Feast of Tabernacles. This appears to be true, since the celebration of the latter was to last only seven days (Samuele Bacchiocchi's *God's Festivals in Scripture & History - Part 2: The Fall Festivals*, 225).
1. **Observance:** In Israel, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah are both celebrated on Tishri 22, but in the Diaspora (communities outside of Israel), Shemini Atzeret is observed on Tishri 22 and Simchat Torah on Tishri 23.
 - a. Most probably, the Eighth Day was set apart from the seven days of festivities to conclude the three feasts of the seventh month or the whole annual cycle of the feasts. Presumably, the day helped people make the transition back to normal life (Bacchiocchi, 226).
 - b. Referred to as the Eighth Day of Assembly (Numbers 29:35)
 2. **Prayers for Rain & Wind:** rain for the coming harvest; wind (north & south winds) typically starts at this time and is prayed up til Pesach. Jewish tradition believes that all the world is judged at this time related to the amount of rainfall that will come for the upcoming year.
 3. **More Reflective:** During this festival day it is characteristic to reflect on the past festival cycle.
 - a. In addition, in Temple times during the week of Sukkot seventy bulls were sacrificed as Musaf offerings on the altar (for the seventy nations of the earth), but on Shemini Atzeret only one bull was sacrificed - for Israel alone:
 - b. "You may compare it to a king who had a festival for seven days and invited all the nations of the world to the seven days of feasting. When the seven days were over and the guests had gone, he said to his friend (Israel), 'Let us now have a small meal together, just you and I.'" (Bamidbar Rabbah 21, Sukkah 55b)
 4. **A Picture of Eternity:** Shemini Atzeret represents the eternal state of perfection - the Day of the new heavens and the new earth (Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 21:1)
 - a. In linking this Torah section with the eighth day, the Sages intend to emphasize that *Shemini Atzeret is symbolic of the conclusion of the whole festival cycle*. In fact, if the history of the earth is patterned after the 7-day week, with the 7th day (Shabbat) symbolic of the Millennial reign of Yeshua, then the eighth day represents the World to Come in which (like the Sabbatical year and especially the Jubilee) everything returns to its rightful owner, all debts are cancelled, and freedom is proclaimed for all slaves (Hegg).
 5. **Solemn Assembly:** Why a solemn assembly? It's an argument from silence but here are some thoughts: the fulness of this story hasn't happened yet; it is a time of reflection; thinking through our assignment in light of God's story; and the time and necessity to make adjustments in our life.

IV. REVELATION 21:1-8

A. Introduction

1. Parenthetical Pause: Revelation 21:9-22:5 does not chronologically follow Revelation 21:1-8 but is a pause in the chronology that goes back to describing what is occurring in the Millennium
2. Stabilizer: In John 14:1 Yeshua commands us not to be troubled. One of the reasons that He gives in John 14:2-3 is the place that He has made for us. Looking at this coming time will stabilize our hearts against dark negative emotions.

B. Looking at the Passage

1. New Heavens & New Earth (:1)
2. New Jerusalem (:2) – there is a city coming...the new Jerusalem

- a. Abraham was waiting for this city (Heb 11:10)
- 3. Tabernacle & New Things (:3-5) – no more death, sorrow, crying, or pain
- 4. He Who Overcomes (:7-8) – Our love for God is shown through our obedience to His commandments. overcomes have to overcome something.

- a. Such were some of you

9Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Cor 6:9-11

- b. Obedience: we are to cultivate intimacy with God coupled with a spirit of obedience to keep the commandments - that means I don't do what I want when it's contrary to Gods commandments.
- c. Fear of YHWH: as we grow in a reverent fear of Him we will walk in greater obedience.

C. Sobriety

- 1. Knowing the fear of God, we persuade men (2 Cor 5:11)
 - a. intercession: we are to pray for ourselves and for others to come into the kingdom
- 2. Will we be an overcomer?
- 3. *Harlot Babylon* (not the AntiChrist) is next on the agenda – devilish religious syncretism of all roads lead to God – states that Jesus is not the one way of Salvation; biblical standards are antiquated
 - a. Psalm 2 is now raging - our world is falling apart.

V. PERSONAL APPLICATION

A. Important Presupposition: God is good, He loves us, and He has good things for us as His people
No eye has seen nor ear has heard, nor mind has conceived the glorious thing that God has prepared for those who love Him (1 Corinthians 2:7-9)

- 1. He had our redemption in mind before the foundation of the world
- 2. He will not and cannot force us to love Him in return. That must be done of our own free will.
- 3. Great shaking will precede His return; He's using the least severe means to procure the deepest level of free-will love response from the greatest number of people...but not all will respond.

B. Our Responsibilities

- 1. Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength
 - a. our obedience is very much correlated to our love to Him
- 2. Love our neighbor as ourself; who is our neighbor? Everyone is our neighbor
 - a. Go and make disciples (Matthew 28:17-20)
 - b. We have a wonderful story to tell
- 3. What is our personal assignment from Him? What role do you have to play in the kingdom?

C. Striving Together for Corporate Unity & Love (Psalm 133; John 13:35; 17:21-26; Ephesians 4:1-3)

- 1. A Sign & a Blessing: This is a place of commanded blessing and a sign (Psalm 133; John 13:35; 17:21-26)
- 2. Striving together for this unity: this unity takes work (Ephesians 4:1-3)