



Number 19. Follow the Lamb!

ClearView

Bible study guide

3. Heaven on Earth



Read

Revelation 21:1-5, Isaiah 65:17, and 2 Peter 3:13

Reflect

Reflect

Is it of any significance that the eternal home of the blessed will be on earth, not in heaven? How is it different from our world today?

Background

The vision of the heavenly Jerusalem is further expanded by an explanatory vision in Revelation 21:9–22:11. This explanatory vision has a literary parallel in the extra vision about Babylon and its fate in Revelation 17:1–19:10.

4. When the Temple Is Gone



Read

Revelation 21:22, 23

Reflect

Reflect

Why would there be no temple on the new earth? Why is there today, even after the cross, a distance between God and human beings?

5. The Gates Are Open Wide



Read

Revelation 21:24-27



Comment

The description in Revelation 21:1-5 explicitly states there will be no pain and sorrow. It is, therefore, a misunderstanding to read the characterisation of those who do not enter the city as if they still are alive at that time. They have all suffered the second death (see Revelation 20:6 and 13-14). The vision of the open gates reveals that enemies will never attack again. No-one needs to live in fear. All evil is gone forever.

Reflect

Reflect

How can we be sure that sin and evil will not reappear?

6. Feasts for Eternity



Read

Revelation 22:1-5 and 17

Reflect

Reflect

What thoughts come to mind when you read about the river and the tree of life?



Comment

The eternal home is a new creation. God brings the earth back to its original perfect state. Once again His people are to live in the Garden of Eden and enjoy the fruits of the tree of life. The results of the Fall are gone forever.

The future life is also compared with two major festivals. One is the royal wedding (see also Revelation 19:7-9). The other festival is the Feast of Tabernacles, the religious festival that in the annual calendar reminded the Israelites of their days in the wilderness. Now the people of God have entered the Promised Land. Their journey is over. They live with Jesus, the slain Lamb, for all eternity.

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The end-time battle leaves only two options. You worship either the Creator or the beast. You belong either to those who dwell in heaven or those who dwell on earth. You follow either the Lamb or His enemy. It is time to take sides in the great controversy between good and evil. This lesson summarises the options.

1. Whom Should We Follow?



Read

Revelation 13:3, 14:1-5, and John 8:12

Background

Jesus often called people to follow (see Matthew 8:22; 10:38; 16:24; 19:21). "To follow" means to walk with Jesus. (See also Ephesians 4:1 and 5:2.)

Reflect

Reflect

What does it mean to your life to "follow" the Lamb?

2. To the Law and the Testimony



Read

Revelation 12:17, and Isaiah 8:16, 19-20

Background

In Isaiah, "the law" refers to God's commandments or teachings and "the testimony" to the prophetic confirmation of this law through the ministry of Isaiah. In the days of Isaiah many appealed to spiritualistic mediums looking for answers and solutions.

Reflect

Reflect

Is the Word of God sought less today, even in the Christian world? Why? What other authorities or philosophies have replaced the Bible? How does the gift of prophecy today confirm the Bible? Are there prophetic voices that attempt to replace the law of God?

3. Seduced by Signs and Wonders



Read

Matthew 24:23-27

Reflect

Reflect

What kind of signs and wonders does Jesus refer to? Do we see them today? How do you recognise the true from the false?

4. End-time Deception



Read

1 Thessalonians 2:3-10, and Revelation 13:13