

Sunday, October 4, 2009—West Michigan Grace Bible Conference--*The Rest of God and the New Heavens and the New Earth*

- Demonstrate the original purpose of the Sabbath associated with the rest of God and dwelling in Zion (Gen 2:2-3, Ps 132:7-14)
- Explain how the arrival of the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21 accomplishes this purpose.
- Demonstrate that the New Jerusalem is the bride of Christ not the Church.

Outline

1. When God created the universe, he purposed to rest forever in his perpetual earthly home, the New Jerusalem.
2. The New Jerusalem is the Bride of Christ (not the body of Christ).

1. When God created the universe, he purposed to rest forever in his perpetual earthly home, the New Jerusalem.

General plot of all stories

1. Introduction of characters and setting
2. Occurrence of some tension or conflict that needs to be resolved
The story is about how that conflict is resolved
3. Resolution of the conflict -- catharsis
A “cliffhanger” maximizes the emotional uncertainty so that you tune back in next week looking for the emotional resolution.
Common experience: “Yes, it’s dumb, but I started watching and now I have to see how it ends.”
A cliffhanger is the exact opposite of catharsis
catharsis = the relieving of emotional tensions
DW: the emotional satisfaction of the issue being resolved
All loose ends are tied up.

The general plot of the Bible

1. Introduction = Gen 2:2-3 God created the universe perfect and then rested
2. Conflict = Satan’s fall and man’s sin – rebellion in the universe
3. Resolution = God’s complete and total victory and the universe entering into rest
Heb 10:1 The law is a shadow of good things to come
Ex 20:8-11 The Sabbath is a picture of the rest to come
God did not choose to immediately put down the rebellion in the universe.
He allowed it to continue and will allow it to continue for a period of time.
BUT God has always intended to bring the conflict to resolution

Rom 8:26 Q: What are the groanings that cannot be uttered?

Rom 8:19-22 The physical man wants deliverance from corruption

Rom 8:23 The BOC wants deliverance from bondage

2Cor 5:1-4 The BOC is who does the groaning

Rom 8:26 The unexpressed groanings are ours not the spirit

Q: Have you ever been so frustrated that you are speechless?

Q: Have you ever been so frustrated with a circumstance that you don't know where to begin?

This is the inarticulate exasperation of things not being the way that they should be. We are at a loss for words.

We are inwardly groaning for resolution.

Ps 132:7-14

v.13 God has chosen to reside in Zion

v. 14 He will dwell there forever

Q: What is the rest like?

Q: What is permitted on the Sabbath?

No work (Ex 35:2, 31:15)

No stick gathering (Num 15:32,36)

No fires (Ex 35:3)

No food preparation (Ex 16:5)

No food gathering (Ex 16:25)

Eating is permitted (Ex 16:25)

Ex. The Sabbath is eating but not cooking.

Nearly everyone likes eating but not everyone likes cooking or working.

2. The New Jerusalem is the Bride of Christ (not the body of Christ).

Many today believe that the BOC is the Bride of Christ.

No verse says that saints today are part of the Bride of Christ.

Ephesians 5:24 compares the husband-wife relationship to that of Christ and the church.

The word "bride" never appears in Ephesians 5.

Some may say "close enough."

The problem with that sort of thinking is that there is a bride mentioned in scripture, and it has nothing to do with saints today in the BOC.

It is wrong to use scriptural terms inconsistent with how the Holy Spirit uses them.

Bridegroom - Christ

Matt 25:1,6,13 - The bridegroom is the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

Friend of the Bridegroom (Best man) – John the Baptist

John 3:29 - John the Baptist is the friend of the bridegroom. He is the best man, so to speak.

The Bride of Christ - The New Jerusalem

Rev 21:2,9-10 - The bride of the Lamb is the holy city, the New Jerusalem.

Isa 62:

- 1 The "thou" is Jerusalem
 - v. 6 God specifically addresses Jerusalem
 - v. 12 "them" refers to the people
 - "thou" refers to Jerusalem

- 2 It is Jerusalem that is called by a new name.
 - Rev 3:12 - God writes upon the saints the name of the new city.
 - The saints are pillars – permanent attachments.
 - They are not furniture that can be moved.

 - Rev 3:12 Notice that the overcomers "go no more out"
 - They do not travel but reside there forever.
 - Ex 16:29 On the Sabbath day, you remain where you are.

- 4 God forsakes Jerusalem b/c its prophets are false and they reject the word of God (Jer 23:30-32,36,39)
 - Forsaken becomes Hephzibah ("my delight is in her")
 - Desolate becomes Beulah ("to marry")
 - In the past, God did not marry the land.
 - John 2:16 Christ rebukes the moneychangers saying, "Make not my Father's house an house of merchandise."
 - Matt 23:37-38 God leaves Israel, and it becomes desolate.
 - He says the temple is "your house."
 - Land goes from desolate to Beulah because God marries the Land.
 - Beulah land is God permanently attaching himself to the land.

- 5 It is Jerusalem that shall be married to the Lord.

- 5 The sons of Israel shall marry Jerusalem.
 - Israel will not be scattered, which was what had happened in the past when they were disobedient.
 - They will cleave unto the land. (Gen 2:24-25).

- 6 O Jerusalem

12 There is a distinction between its residents and Jerusalem.

God marries the city. The sons of Israel cleave unto the city.

Rev 19:9 Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.
These folks emerge on the other side of God's judgment.

Children of the Bridechamber – The LJC's Disciples

Matt 9:14-15 / Mark 2:18-19 / Luke 5:33-35

The LJC's disciples are the children of the bridechamber. They are not the bride, but they are participants in the wedding ceremony.

The disciples are additional members of the wedding party, who are inferior to John the Baptist. They will fast when the bridegroom is taken from them.

The Wedding Dress - Redeemed Israel and Redeemed Gentiles

Rev 19:7 - She has made herself ready.

Rev 19:8 - Q: What will the bride wear?

A: She will be arrayed in fine linen, the righteousness of the saints.

Matt 22:1-2 The kingdom of heaven is like a marriage supper for his Son.

This demonstrates that the individual members of Israel are spectators at the marriage supper, not participants. (Matt 22:3,9).

Therefore, Israel is not the bride.

Matt 22:11 The guests who are removed did not have proper garments – fine linen is the righteousness of the saints

Isa 49:13-18

Zion is the bride.

She decks herself out with the saints as ornaments.

At the marriage supper of the Lamb,

God marries the New Jerusalem

John the Baptist is the friend of the bridegroom

The disciples are the children of the bridechamber

The saints are the wedding dress / ornaments of the bride