

---

## Becoming Christlike – Learning How from Old Testament Kings and Prophets

Session 17 – The Real Eden to Come

### Recap

Session 15 – Why We Are the Way We Are: We saw that man after the fall had “No God Without and No God Within”. Man had forfeited his dominion to the devil. As a result, man became self-sustaining, self-providing and self-focused, totally dedicated to self. We were led into this topic when trying to understand how Saul possibly disobeyed God after all that God had done for him. Understanding this condition of man helps us better understand who we are and why we do the things we do. It is a valuable “lens” through which to view the Old Testament kings that we will be studying and indeed all of history. It will help us “buy into” God’s solution.

Session 16 – Eden or Eden Prairie: We looked at various groups of people and how at the root they are trying to get back to Eden. They are all trying to replace what was lost and doing it on their own. They are trying to recreate the safety, security, prosperity, abundance of Eden. We also looked at three types of Christians: Committed, Casual, and Complacent.

One of the benefits of these recorded teachings over live teaching is that we can go into even greater depth. This will allow people who are interested to listen one or more times and hopefully bear great fruit.

We began this series from Deuteronomy and the Law with the intention of looking at the Kings to learn from their successes and failures. Why is all this focus on self and how we became this way essential? Christ said in many ways essentially “forsake all and follow me”, “deny yourself and follow me.” Because of the way we are and our inclination to self, we resist and rebel against this.

To be genuine disciples and forsake all we must trust and believe that this is what God has called us to do and it is with our best interest at heart. Understanding this will enable us to “buy in” to God’s demands for discipleship & do it with joy and anticipation.

God is looking for people to reveal His Word to and enlighten their understanding.

Paul’s prayer in Ephesians...

#### **Ephesians 1:15-18**

**15** For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love<sup>f</sup> toward all the saints, **16** I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, **17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, **18** having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, **that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you**, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

That is the Eden to come! In the end we will see him as he is and have new bodies. This is what we should live for and not try to recreate Eden now. That is what God has promised. That is why people will commit themselves to living for God rather than to living for self!

### **Colossians 1:9,10**

**9** And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **10** so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

What a life God has equipped us to live!

### **Colossians 1:27,28**

**27** To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

Remember in Eden, they had the spirit of God within them, and they lost it. Now because of what Christ accomplished and the Day of Pentecost, we have Christ within us, which is the hope of glory. We will be in the Millennial Kingdom, then the Eternal Kingdom and that is what we should be looking forward to.

**28** Him we proclaim, warning **everyone** and teaching **everyone** with all wisdom, that we may present **everyone** mature in Christ. **29** For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

We want EVERYONE to have this, everyone to have the eternal rewards that come with faithfulness. Look at Paul's life and what he sacrificed to make this available to people.

Last spring we looked at Genuine Discipleship, Growth to Maturity and Spiritual Transformation. We looked at our predicament because of the World, the Flesh, and the Devil.

Now we are delving more deeply into our predicament. Those teachings will become even more meaningful after this deeper dive into our predicament.

There are hundreds of books on radical or true discipleship. It is difficult in America because of our attachment to comfort and luxury. Our americanized Christianity makes it difficult because our eyes can be blinded via tradition and by the examples that have been set by churchianity.

There have been groups throughout history who have endeavored to live out the book of Acts.

The Annabaptists as a group living out Ephesians.

**Book:** Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community by Dietrich Bonhoffer

That way of living our Ephesians together as a body can only happen if people get past "self".

**Documentary:** Count Zizendorf, there are documentaries to be watched about what he did with communities of believers. His desire was to really live Ephesians and Thessalonians and see the book of Acts come alive again.

### **Two Competing Kingdoms Seeking to get to Eden**

We have been talking about eternity in the light of Eden. God's original design for mankind was Eden and we know that in the end of the book of Revelation there is that return to Eden with the final paradise.

As a counterfeit the devil has been seeking to create a global utopia, his own Eden where he is in charge.

We know that in the Book of Revelation there is the antichrist in charge and people will be deceived into thinking that the peace and the prosperity and the safety and the rest and abundance and cooperation which is promised in the first 3 years of the book is true.

Currently we see the devil seeking a global environment. We are getting closer and closer all the time.

We are going to look at the contrast between the two and where we are going.

**Article:** Global Governance is Almost Here – Epoch Times Opinion Section Article  
Covers many aspects of this move toward globalism. We know it is going to happen.

**Article:** Technocracy

One earth, one family, one future. You can't have this unless you get rid of Christianity.

We are now up to 60 countries where Christians are being persecuted.

Christianity says Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Globalism makes the global government those things.

After the gathering together or rapture, when there are no longer Christians present it will be relatively easy for the devil to implement his plan. So much is going on already behind the scenes to promote this and make it a reality.

## Two Chapters in Revelation

We will look at two chapters in the book of Revelation. One to look at the end of the false "utopia" that the devil and his kingdom is moving towards, and the other to look at the Eden that we will return to that God has promised.

### Revelation 18 – The Fall of Babylon

**1** After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. **2** And he called out with a mighty voice,

"Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!

Babylon represents the devil's playground, the world's system that will ultimately be destroyed.

She has become a dwelling place for demons,

Consider that in light of what God has always wanted which is to dwell with man on the earth.

a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.

Not only do we see this in the world today, with as corrupt and evil as it is, but when all the believers are gone (by virtue of the rapture) it is going to be so much worse.

**3** For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her **sexual immorality**,

We see the world today obsessed with sex, pornography, perversion, corruption.

and the kings of the earth have committed **immorality** with her,  
and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her **luxurious living.**”

We will see sexual immorality and luxurious living repeated several times. Those two things are the continual satisfaction of the lust and passions of the flesh, filling the emptiness and void because of the absence of God. The devil is constantly putting this in front of people till the place becomes a total cesspool of sin and iniquity.

**4** Then I heard another voice from heaven saying,

“Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues;

There will be a final chance for people to believe and come out from this during the tribulation period. When they are immersed in this cesspool it will require incredible fortitude not to be influenced by it.

**5** for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

God will not forget in this time period – now for the believer in this administration of grace we live in now God does forget or sins.

**6** Pay her back as she herself has paid back others and repay her double for her deeds; mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed. **7** As **she glorified herself and lived in luxury,**

This all fits with the pre-occupation with self that we have been discussing. Also remember Genesis and the tower of Babel where they wanted **to make a name for themselves**. God is seeking to get us to focus on Him. Love God with your whole heart soul mind strength and your neighbor as yourself.

so give her a like measure of torment and mourning, since in her heart she says, ‘I sit as a queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall never see.’

We see this foreshadowed by the pride and arrogance of leaders in this world system that our culture is moving toward today.

**8** For this reason her plagues will come in a single day, **death and mourning and famine,**

Those are three things the world is focused on avoiding in their quest to get back to Eden. We see this movement today to extend life forever, Eden on man’s terms, utopia with a global governance, eventually an antichrist in charge where man is glorified.

and she will be burned up with fire; for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her.”

**9** And the kings of the earth, who committed **sexual immorality and lived in luxury**

Those two things again, think of Jeffrey Epstein, the sex trafficking, the pornography, the obsession with sex in music and entertainment, the obscene costumes on stage

with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning. **10** They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say,

“Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! For in a single hour your judgment has come.”

**11** And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her,

We see so much of what the world system has moved toward even in recent years with the pandemic and trying to get rid of small businesses. There's the destruction of borders and allowing in migrants to try to depress standards of living and destroy prosperity so it is easier to control the masses and offer them peace, safety, security, rest (we will take care of you) ...all the things people want since Eden but the key here is who is providing it? Not God but...THE GOVERNMENT as God, the global system as God.

**11** And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore, **12** cargo of gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood, all kinds of articles of ivory, all kinds of articles of costly wood, bronze, iron and marble, **13** cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots,

You could study out the significance of each of these items listed that represent prosperity and abundance. Satisfying the flesh, everything to look and feel good. Food.

In light of what the global elites want to do, there are those who have amassed so much wealth...Soros, Zuckerberg, Gates, the Clintons, the Obamas and what do they do? They use their massive wealth to control the media, governments, people, the flow of information, to bribe people. They live in absolute luxury with the goal of controlling others. They are creating a great divide between the wealthy and the impoverished and endeavoring to eliminate the middle class.

**and slaves, that is, human souls.**<sup>b</sup>

Of course we think of human trafficking and sex slavery that is going on the growing. Article read today: in the State of Ohio, 45 missing minors in the Cleveland area since the start of September 2023. In the state of Ohio last year 1600 kids were reported missing in a state with a population of 11 million. Authorities don't know what is happening and why the sudden increase.

**14** "The fruit for which your soul longed has gone from you, and all your delicacies and your splendors are lost to you, never to be found again!"

This will be the end result of all this craving for opulence. It will all be lost when this destruction of Babylon takes place. It has no value from an eternal perspective.

**15** The merchants of these wares, who gained wealth from her, will stand far off, in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning aloud,

**16** "Alas, alas, for the great city that was clothed in fine linen, in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, with jewels, and with pearls! **17** For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste."

This is so indicative of what the world does to make things so attractive.

And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off **18** and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning,

They will see their whole lifetime of pursuits burn up.

“What city was like the great city?”

At the time of the book of Revelation events, it will be what nation, what country, what leader, what economy was like this?

**19** And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out,

“Alas, alas, for the great city where all who had ships at sea grew rich by her wealth! For in a single hour she has been laid waste. **20** Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her!”

Yes this will be a time of rejoicing because all this absorption with self will be ended.

**21** Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying,

“So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more;

**22** and the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute players and trumpeters, will be heard in you no more, and a craftsman of any craft will be found in you no more, and the sound of the mill will be heard in you no more,

No more of all these artists, craftspeople whose works are in museums, who have been lauded to the sky, who are having their reward in this life

**23** and the light of a lamp will shine in you no more, and the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more, for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.

That is the great deception we see going on today and the great amount of devilshness with the media bought and the propaganda and pretty much everything you read and see with its purpose to lead you to think a certain way.

**24** And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth.”

### **Revelation 19:1**

**1** After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

There is great rejoicing in heaven because the evil is going to get what it deserves!

**9** And the angel said<sup>a</sup> to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “**These are the true words of God.**”

How wonderful that the angel told John to write this down so that people can know what is going to happen and make a choice!

We are going to move on to Chapter 21 but in chapter 20 you will see that the devil is bound for a 1000 years, there is the Millennial Kingdom that was promised to the OT believers. At the end of the 1000 years the devil is unloosed and again deceives the nations, which is hard to

believe but with the presence of the devil and free-will people can and will be deceived. We see the second death and the lake of fire at the end of chapter 20.

## Revelation 21 – The New Heaven and The New Earth

God has given us these pictures, this truth, that we will see in Revelation 21 so we can know this is coming and that there will be rewards for faithfulness. It becomes motivating to pick up one's cross and follow, to forsake all and follow.

**1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

The sea represents all the chaos. All this chaos which began after the fall and has existed up till this point in time.

**2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

Why is it necessary for this to come out of heaven, from God? After the fall there was no God within or without. Here God is once again going to dwell WITH PEOPLE.

prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, **“Behold, the dwelling place<sup>a</sup> of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people,<sup>b</sup> and God himself will be with them as their God.**

As God had walked and talked with Adam and Eve in the garden, this is being restored. A loud voice shouts this as if to declare “FINALLY!!!”

Think about how during the Old Testament the dwelling place of God was a tiny cubicle within the tabernacle's holy of holies. There were strict requirements for only the high priest to enter it once per year. Adam and Eve had given over dominion to the devil and the world was his turf.

Now, after the day of Pentecost God is in us again, because of Christ in us, the holy spirit, because our sins have been paid for, the holy God can dwell in this unholy vessel. We have been sanctified, that is why we are called saints, holy ones. We are to set our affection on things above, not on things of the earth. We are dead and our life is hid in God. We are seated in the heavenlies spiritually. Even though we are in the world we don't have to be unduly influenced by it.

**“Behold, the dwelling place<sup>a</sup> of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people,<sup>b</sup> and God himself will be with them as their God.**

**4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

All the negative consequences of the fall are going to be passed away.

**5** And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, **“Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”**

He doesn't just say trustworthy. He doesn't just say true. For emphasis he says both! Everything God has ever promised has always come to pass. We can have total confidence in the trustworthiness of the WORD.

#### **Joshua 23:14**

**14** “And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, **that not one word has failed of all the good things<sup>a</sup> that the Lord your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed.**

Everything that Jesus foretold in John 13-17 came to pass!

**6** And he said to me, “**It is done!** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. **7** The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

Earlier it talked about everyone corporately, now here it gets down to the individual. Those who endure to the end in the book of revelation. We have already conquered by our acceptance of the finished work of Christ.

**8** But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

This is set in contrast to what we just saw for those who endure to the end with the restoration of Edenic conditions. Consider Paul and all he endured. It says in Corinthians that he was caught away to the third heaven and earth. He had seen but was not given permission to write down what he saw. It had to have provided motivation to him. God gave John the green light to write this down. (Peter had seen it and wrote because of that, “What kind of holy, godly people ought we to be?”!)

We don’t have to focus on creating a personal Eden now, or moving to Eden Prairie.

**9** Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” **10** And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, **11** having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

Here is the legitimate use of gemstones in the final paradise. True godly abundance. True beauty.

**18** The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. **19** The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, **20** the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. **21** And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

There are representations here of purity, transparency, holiness, godliness, no secrets, no darkness, nothing to hide.

**22** And I saw no temple in the city, **for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.**



In the devil's world there had to be a temple, a place carved out in which God could dwell. But now there is no need for a temple because God is dwelling among his people as He had always wanted to do.

**23** And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. **24** By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, **25** and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.

Total safety, total security, peace, just like in the garden of eden.

**26** They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. **27** But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Please read chapter 22 on your own. Here are just a couple highlights.

#### **Revelation 22:4-7**

**4** They will see his face,

Adam had talked with God face to face. That intimacy will be restored.

**6** And he said to me, "**These words are trustworthy and true.** And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."

**7** "And behold, **I am coming soon.** Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

**10** And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, **for the time is near.**

**12** "**Behold, I am coming soon,** bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.

**20** He who testifies to these things says, "**Surely I am coming soon.**"

He says he is coming soon, and the time is near because each person's lifespan is short. The end for each of us is soon. Because it is soon we should get busy sooner rather than later preparing for eternity.

When we think of people trying to recreate Eden in their life, consider what God had to do when Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden. He had to put cherubims with the flaming swords to keep them from returning and eating from the tree of life and living forever in that unredeemed state.

He put this there to prevent man from getting back into Eden because man so desperately craved what he had enjoyed there.

This is what we have to look forward to. This is what is promised. These words are trustworthy and true. That is why we can do what the word says with respect to SELF.

We can "buy into" what God says is the prescription for living out our discipleship in this fallen world. We can do this have Christ in us to help us.

**Galatians 5:22-24**

**22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,  
**23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

We are familiar with those verses, but we don't often include verse 24!

**24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**

We need to put to death the flesh with its passions and desires...all the "I wants" because we know what is coming and because we know that is the only way in order to fulfill our destiny.

**Galatians 6:14**

**14** But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which<sup>b</sup> the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

We are dead to the world and the world is dead to us because we know who runs it.

**Galatians 6:15**

**15** For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

We can walk according to that new nature we are new creations in Christ.