GOD WITH US

#41

TEXT: Revelation 21,22; Isaiah 65

KEY VERSE:

Revelation 21:3

"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will Dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them and be their God." Revelation 21:3 (KJV) "Therefore, the LORD himself shall give you a sign; behold A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel." Isaiah 7:14 (KJV) "Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring Forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel,

Matthew 1:23 (KJV)

God with us.

Which being interpreted is, God with us."

Selah.

Part 1: The Location Of The Kingdom

Meditate on that for a minute. God...with us. God living amongst humanity; how can that be?! Look what He said in Isaiah:

This is what the LORD says, 'Heaven is my throne,

And earth is my footstool. Could you build me a temple as good as that? Could you build me such a resting place? My hands have made both heaven and earth; they and everything in them are mine. I, the LORD have spoken!" Isaiah 66:1,2b (NLT)

Solomon looked at the glorious temple he had built; probably the most expensive, ornate building ever built, and said, "How can that house **God?!**" Look:

"But will God really live on earth among people? Why,

even the highest heavens cannot contain You. How

much less this temple I have built!"

(NLT)

2 Chronicles 6:18

Will God really live on earth among people?

A tabernacle built by human hands cannot contain God, no matter how majestic that temple. How then? The Spirit of God place the seed of deity into the womb of a virgin; and she bore a son named "Emmanuel" – "GOD with us". God gave birth to "kind after his kind"¹, GOD in perfectly conceived, human flesh. For the first time since the garden, GOD walked with man.²

"Look, I am making everything new!"

Revelation 21:5 (HCSB)

The judgements are done. All that is wrong is gone. All who followed the Evil One are gone. The Evil One is gone! Tears are gone. Sickness, pain, poverty, and death are gone.

"for the former things are passed away."

Revelation 21:4b (KJV)

Isaiah saw this day:

"Remember ye not the former things, neither consider

¹ Genesis 1:25

² Genesis 1:11,12; 3:8

the things of old.

behold, I do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."

Isaiah 43:18,19 (KJV)

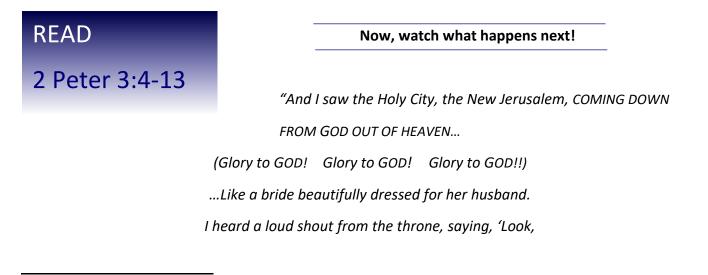
Peace.

Everything is in balance, made whole for the first time since, "Yea. Hath GOD said."

Songs	It is moving day!
Everything is in balance, made whole, for the first time since, "Yea, hath GOD said?"	But look: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there
DELIVERANCE	was no more sea."
	Revelation 21:1 (KJV)

God is making everything new; a new heaven, and a new earth. The first time, GOD only remade the earth³, using a flood. The heavens remained. He promised never to do that again, so this time He's gonna melt 'er down, like so much scrap metal.

Notice, He says the sky ("heavens") will burn up, but the elements will melt. Like one, big, volcano, GOD will melt down the very planet, let it cool, and voila! New heavens. New earth. We will watch GOD'S recycling program from heaven, where we will be during the tribulation.



³ Genesis, chapters 6-10

GOD'S HOME is now among His people! He WILL LIVE WITH THEM, and they will be His people. GOD Himself WILL BE WITH THEM.'" Revelation 21:2,3 (NLT emphasis added)

All my life, I've been taught that we'd go live in heaven for eternity. In this passage, three times, GOD himself declares that He is coming to live with <u>us</u>. He loves us so much that He is going to make a new, perfect, earth. Then, He's going to pack up His capital city – Glory to GOD! – and come live with us! Since we will be there at the time, we will return to earth with Him. That's what the angel showed John:

"Then one of the seven angels who held the seven bowls containing the seven last plagues came and said to me, 'Come with me! I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb. So he took me in the spirit to a great, high, mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from GOD."

Revelation 21:9,10 (NLT)

In scripture, GOD often refers to His people as "Jerusalem", or "Zion". Jerusalem is a city, and Zion is the mountain on which it is built. GOD uses them, both literally and metaphorically, in His Word. In Revelation 22, GOD calls this New Jerusalem the bride of the Lamb – Jesus' bride.

In Ephesians 5:22-23, Paul is teaching husbands how to love their wives. He compares it to the way Jesus loves His wife, the church. (5:32)

So, as Jerusalem descends from GOD out of the sky, two things occur: 1: An angel tells John, "Come see the bride of the Lamb." – the wife of Jesus, the church and the redeemed nation of Israel – 2: A loud voice FROM THE THRONE declares, "See! The abode of GOD is with men, and He will live (encamp, tent) among them: and they shall be His people, and GOD shall personally be with them and be their GOD."

-Revelation 21:3

(AMP)

That voice came from the throne.

Whose throne?

"He [Jesus] shall be great, and shall be called the Son Of the Highest: and the LORD shall give Him the Throne of His father David: and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His Kingdom there shall be no end."

Luke 1:32,33 (KJV)

"Of the increase of His government and peace There shall be no end, to order it, and to establish it with Judgement and justice from henceforth even for Ever. The zeal of the LORD of Hosts will perform this." Isaiah 9:7 (KJV)

The throne we're talking about is the throne His Father gave Him; the throne of David. That throne is in Jerusalem, now in <u>New</u> Jerusalem. That loud voice is Jesus! Glory to GOD! And He's shoutin'-excited! "Look! GOD – Me! – is coming to LIVE WITH YOU! And I'll walk with you, and I'll talk with you, and I'll tell you you are my own; and the joy we'll share, as we tarry there, none other has **EVER KNOWN!"** Glory to GOD!

Abba, GOD, became flesh – Jesus – and He called Himself "Immanuel", "GOD **WITH US**." In GOD'S language, Hebrew, your name prophsies your destiny. "Abraham" means, "Father of a multitude." "Israel" means, "Prince with GOD." Jesus' own name prophsies this day when GOD in flesh will forever be with us. "GOD with us."

I will dwell with them."

Part 2: Life In The Kingdom

Isaiah foresaw this New Earth, and GOD allowed him to see life as it will be there.

READ Isaiah 65:17-25

1: The Former Things will be Forgotten.

Isaiah 65:16,17; Revelation 21;4

I will admit that is difficult for me to grasp. We all have loved ones who died, leaving us with a question mark. Did they ever come to Christ? Some curse God with their last breath. **How will we forget?**

"Do not remember the past events, pay no attention to the things of old. I'm about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers

in the desert.

Isaiah 43: 18, 19 (HCSB see, Isaiah 42: 9; 65: 16, 17)

What I **know** is that God said he will make everything new. To do that, he will cause us to forget the former things. He will wipe away all tears. I believe some of them will be his own. Then, we will live in eternal joy with him.

I was talking about this with some of my brothers at Chapel. I believe God revealed this to us: Everything on this earth is temporal, even the earth itself. The relationships we have here are only illustrations of the real thing that awaits in the Kingdom. Jesus told his disciples ⁴, "In heaven they neither marry, nor are giving in marriage." That relationship (marriage) is an Old Earth, picture of our true marriage to Christ. Look what Paul said: "This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ in the church." Ephesians 5: 32 (NKJV)

I believe the realization of who our true family is -the family of God -will cause us to see that, those who rejected our savior were not really family, only "flesh and blood ". Now, as Paul would also say, "I do not speak my commandment." Don't start a new religion on that idea, but it seems to fit the word. Wow! God just showed me this: Matthew 12: 46- 50, and Mark 3: 31 -35. There you go.

You who believe are my family forever. Let me add what a blessing it is that my earthly family is also part of my eternal family. If your family does not know Christ, begin to pray God the Spirit to draw them into the Kingdom, and that he will anoint you to testify of Jesus. You are a powerful advocate to intercede for them to the father. Pray.

Now, where were we?

2: There will be a New Jerusalem.

Isaiah 65: 18, 19; Revelation 21: 2, 10

When old earth is melted down, the Jerusalem we know will be destroyed with it. Now, look at the new, improved version!

Jerusalem has been the capital of Israel since David established it. ⁵ He built his palace, then put his throne there. Now, his Son, Jesus will inherit that throne in **his** Jerusalem, and rule there forever.

" Let not your heart be troubled; neither let it be afraid, you believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to myself; that where I am

⁴ Matthew 22:30

⁵ 2 Samuel 5: 6 -12

there you may be also. " John 14: 1 -3 (NKJV emphasis added)

This is the new Jerusalem that will descend out of heaven in revelation 21 and 22. Jesus said there

READ

Revelation 21:9-27

Notice the measurements of the city in verse 16. 12,000 furlongs is about 1400 miles according to my Bibles. Its length and width are the same. If you set that down on the US, it would extend from New York City to roughly, Lincoln NE; then south to Dallas TX, and back to Tampa, Florida -ish. I think you could fit "many mansions

"in that space - but wait! Now stack 1400 of those on top of each other, because the city is 1400 miles tall, too!

are many mansions there.

Many, many mansions!

3: There will be No More Weeping.

Isaiah 65: 19; Revelation 21: 4

I will rejoice over Jerusalem

and delight in my people.

And the sound of weeping and crying

will be heard no more. "

Isaiah 65: 19

"You will show me the path of life;

(NLT)

in your presence is fullness of joy;

at your right hand are pleasures forever more. "

Psalm 16: 11 (AMP)

'nuff said!

4: We will live Eternally with Jesus.

Isaiah 65: 20; Revelation 21: 6, 7; 22: 12 -14

Bear in mind that many Old Testament prophecies carried a double meaning. Joel 2 was a prophecy of God's restoration and blessing if Israel would return to him. It was also a prophecy of the days of Pentecost, in Acts. We will live forever on new earth.

It is also possible that this was what the Israel of Isaiah's day could grasp. The true nature of the Kingdom of God was introduced by Jesus and expounded by Paul.⁶ Both of them called it a mystery. Most people didn't understand.

5: God will Be With Us.

Isaiah 65: 18, 19; Revelation 21: 3, 7

In college, Dr. Joe Combs taught us this principle Bible study: "repetition in the Bible is always for the purpose of emphasis." If God repeats it, it's important. You can identify the theme of a Bible character's life by a repeated phrase. Joseph: "The Lord was with him, can cause whatever he did to prosper."⁷ So one day I asked God, "Is there a repeated phrase that defines the theme of the whole Bible? "And he showed me. It began in exodus 6, and ends right here, in Revelation 21: 7.

"I will be their God; they shall be my people."

This is the message of the entire Bible!

You can find this phrase about a dozen times, all through scripture.⁸ It is the one thing God is wanted from his creation. Relationship. Not sacrificed. Not religion. Not ritual. Not even good works.



Relationship.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. "

John 15: 13 (KJV)

You see, when you have a relationship with someone, that friendship will cause you to be willing to lay down your

life. When you first find a relationship with God, through Jesus, by the spirit; you will become more and more willing to lay down your life and allow him to live through you. The amazing thing is that God doesn't take your life when you lay it down, he gives it.

"He's at findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."

Matthew 10: 39 (KJV)

⁶ Mark 4: 10- 12; Romans 11: 25 -27

⁷ Genesis 39: 2, 3, 5, 21, 23; Acts 7: 9, 10,

⁸ Exodus 6: 7; Leviticus 26: 12; 2 Samuel 7: 24; Jeremiah 7: 23; 24: 7; 30: 22; 31: 1; 31: 33; 32: 38; Ezekiel 11: 20; 14: 11; second Corinthians 6: 16; Revelation 21: 3

We don't know what our lives are supposed to be. So, when we put it all in the hands of the God who made us, we find the life we were supposed to live. I didn't know I was supposed to write until i gave everything to the Lord. I love this! I never would have known.

SONGS

We DON'T know what our lives are supposed to be!

DELIVERANCE

6: There will be Life and Civilization. Isaiah 65: 21 -23: Revelation 21: 24 -26

Notice: "the **nations** of them which are saved ... "The new earth will be comprised of nations of believers. "The Kings of the

earth do bring their glory and honor into it." All that we will do in this new world will bring glory and honor to our savior, rules in "the city. The gates of the city will stay open. Gates are protection against attacks, 4 thieves in the night.

No need!

There will be no night, and no thieves! Come and go and see Jesus as you please. The city of peace is always open! And you have ... Well ... Forever!

Isaiah says that we will build houses and live in them. Will plant vineyards comma and enjoy the fruit; no weeds, no thorns, no early freeze, just fruit.

7: There will be Nothing Evil.

Isaiah 65: 25; Revelation 21: 8, 27

When's the last time you felt safe going for a walk with your wife on a beautiful night? On new earth, go!

"And there shall be no more curse:"

Revelation 22: 3 (KJV)

"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, says the Lord."

Isaiah 65: 25b

Do you think this sounds too good to be true? A fairy tale? Where do you think writers got the idea for the happy ending? The fairy tales just borrowed from the real! It wasn't God who said, "if it sounds too good to be true, it is!" Look what God says:

"these all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embrace them, and confessed that they were strangers in pilgrims on earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country."

Hebrews 11: 13, 14 (KJV)

"But based on his promise, we wait for the new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness will dwell."

2 Peter 3: 13 (HCSB)

So, the question is: how's your eyesight? Can you see it? If so, how do you get there?

"Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the father except through me." John 14: 6 (HCSB)

believe.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, and whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3: 16 (KJV)

Tell him:

"Lord Jesus,

I believe in you. You are the son of God. You are the savior, whose blood paid for my sin. You rose and defeated death to give me life, which I receive as a gift. I have no merit in me, that I deserve it. It is your grace that I receive, undeserved. I take you as my savior and Lord. Come into my heart and make me new. Thank you for making me new. Thank you for making me your child, born again.

In Jesus' name,

Amen."