After Tomorrow

SESSION ELEVEN / WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2011

THE NEW CREATION

Last Saturday - the now infamous May 21st, Jesus did not rapture His church to glory, despite the predictions of some. That “prophetic misfire” should not cloud our vision or understanding of the end time. In fact, I believe Satan could have used that misguided “prophet” to cloud some major issues that were going on that very week and continue until this night. Such as:

- Our U.S. President threw Israel under the bus in his speech last week in which he told Israelis that their nation would have to retreat to the 1967 borders and begin negotiations with Palestinians who (1) deny Israel’s right to exist and (2) have made it clear in their manifesto that they will “drive Israelis into the sea.” Ezekiel 37-39 indicate clearly that in the end time no nation will stand beside Israel which will be attacked by Russia, Germanic nations, Turkey, Libya, Ethiopia, Iran and others (all of whom are already lined up against Israel). The 1967 borders (pre-Six-Day War) had been relentlessly attacked by Egypt, Jordan, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon and were utterly indefensible. Israel fought to defend its very existence!

Part of the impassioned speech of Abba Eban, Israel’s Foreign Minister (whom I met and interviewed), who stood before the United nations near the end of the Six Day War, after the Arab nations had gone to the UN to cry they were “offended by Israel.” Here are Eban’s words:

“The General Assembly witnessed an unusual spectacle this morning. The government of the United Arab Republic, which announced its intention to exterminate Israel, which concentrated 90,000 troops and 900 tanks for that purpose, which issued operation orders in mid-May to its commanders in the field for bombardment of Israel’s airfields, which imposed a total blockade of Israel’s entire southern coast, which called on other governments to join in a war of extermination against Israel, which expressed in mid-May and early June that Israel’s end was near—this government comes to this tribune to present itself as a victim of ‘aggression.’

LIGHTNING OUT OF ISRAEL / BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS / P 156
- Egypt, now without a leader, will probably turn to the Muslim Brotherhood in its upcoming election. This political party is far more organized than the others. The Brotherhood has made it clear they want to abrogate the peace treaty that has existed between Israel and Egypt since the days of Anwar Sadat (in my personal opinion the last great world statesman who was assassinated in Cairo by rabid Muslims because he advocated peace with Israel). If the Brotherhood indeed takes over the Land of the Nile, it will mean that Israel is completely surrounded by hostile nations: Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Iraq, and Egypt. The only exception currently would be Jordan and who knows how long King Abdullah would be able to sustain that position of neutrality when confronted by the rage and hostility of his neighboring Arab nations? Ezekiel 38 clearly teaches us the lineup of nations against Israel – and sadly the silence that will come from western nations when Israel is finally attacked militarily.

- “Mother Nature” has gone mad! Flooding that is historic in nature, tsunamis, hurricanes (1/4 of Joplin, Missouri, wiped out Sunday night), and, in other area, vegetation so dry it becomes fodder for major fires. Is God trying to wake up this country and our leaders? It seems of late that everytime they make a statement showing lack of defense for Israel this country gets hit with some calamity.

Jesus - speaking of events at the end of the Tribulation:

Matthew 24:30-34

And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. [31] And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. [32] Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: [33] So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. [34] Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

GOD WILL PURGE THIS PLANET AT THE END OF THE MILLENNIUM

Three major events will take place at the end of the age as God prepares to cleanse humanity from every taint of Satan’s evil:

THE RELEASE OF SATAN AND HIS DEADLY REVOLT

Rev. 20:2-3

And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan,
and bound him a thousand years, [3] And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. Rev. 20:7-9

And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, [8] And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. [9] And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

The question begs to be asked: WHY WOULD GOD DO SUCH A THING?

Answer: At the outset of the Millennium there will be many tributional saints who endured Satan’s wrath and who are still alive at the second coming of Christ. However, they will not have resurrected and immortal bodies as do those saints who returned with Jesus who had been raptured earlier. Those tribulation saints will have normal life expectancies and they will also have children. During the 1,000 year reign, there will be a massive proliferation of population. In order to go into eternity with Christ, following the Millennium, they will HAVE TO HAVE MADE PERSONAL COMMITMENTS OF THEIR LIVES TO CHRIST. During the Millennium they will have to have lived under Jesus’ edicts. But now....Satan will be unleashed for a short time and they will have the choice, Jesus or Satan.

“The purpose for which Satan is released is readily discerned from his activity at the time of his loosing. He goes forth to deceive the nations, in order to lead a final revolt against the theocracy of God. There is yet one more attempt on the part of Satan to reach the goal of his first sin. The release of Satan is viewed in Scripture as the final test that demonstrates the corruption of the human heart. God has subjected fallen humanity to numerous tests in the development of His program of the kingdom and of redemption. Man has failed every test. So the purpose for which Satan is released is to demonstrate that even when tested under the reign of the King and the revelation of His holiness, man is a failure. While those going into the Millennium were saved, they were not perfected. The progeny born to them during the millennial age were born with the same fallen sin nature with which their parents were born and consequently needed regeneration.”

THINGS TO COME / D.D. Pentecost / pages 548-549/ Dunham

How can such a revolt occur when Jesus is on the throne? It is a “divine permission” used by God to prepare the final entry sheet for those going into eternity with Him. So how many will follow Satan? After all those centuries of peace and prosperity and
plenty? Shocking answer:

Rev. 20:7-9

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Physical death is the result of their treachery.

THIS WHOLE EARTH BECOMES “KAPUT”

Genesis is the “foundation” book. That’s where it all started. After Adam and Eve broke God’s law in the Garden of Eden, He responded with this edict:

Genesis 3:17-18

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; [18] Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

God put a curse on:
A. Mankind - paid for by Christ on the cross
B. Satan - whose judgment is yet to come
C. The earth itself

So how does “C” get fulfilled:

2 Peter 3:10-13

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. [11] Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, [12] Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? [13] Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.
There are other passages that refer to this judgment on Earth:

Matthew 24:35

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Hebrews 1:10-12

And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: [11] They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; [12] And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

Rev. 20:11

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

We will study how God replaces this planet later in this study.

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

I emphasize again that there will be TWO resurrections. THE FIRST RESURRECTION - began with Christ’s coming out of the grave 2,000 years ago.

1 Cor. 15:20

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. That word “firstfruits” would be similar to “prototype.” Jesus emerged from the grave not only alive, but glorified. At the Rapture, the first resurrection will continue. The saints of God who have died in their faith will be raised just as Jesus was. They will meet the Lord in the air (their bodies now joined by their spirit and soul which went to be with God the moment they died) and they will be joined also by the living followers of Christ - those alive when the last Trumpet sounds. EVERYONE TAKEN IN THE FIRST RESURRECTION WILL BE SAVED AND HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

Rev. 20:6

[6] Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

The second resurrection is a different story altogether. At the end of the Millennium, every non-follower of Jesus will be raised from the dead, joined by the unsaved still living on earth in mortal bodies. Interestingly enough, the Bible calls this resurrection “the second death.” Rev. 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.

This is the second death.
These will be raised to life to stand before the God they had spurned. 

Rev. 20:11-15

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. [12] And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. [13] And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. [14] And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. [15] And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

“The books were opened.” NOTE: The book of life is not mentioned here. Why not? Because none of those now standing before the Judgment Throne had their names in it anyway. But the other books will be a detailed unveiling of each person’s life, and none of their transgressions will have been blotted out by the blood of Jesus Christ.

At about 3:30 in the afternoon of April 30, 1945, German dictator Adolf Hitler closed his compartment door behind him, deep inside the Fuhrer Bunker beneath the Reichchancellory in Berlin, took out a Walther .77 pistol and blew his brains out. The Russian army was only a couple days removed from mopping up the last remnant of the Nazis in the German capital and Hitler did not plan nor want to stand trial for his heinous crimes against humanity. But his suicide did not change the fact that he will stand trial - not before the Nuremberg Tribunal, but before God. AND THE BOOKS WILL BE OPENED. In Yad Vashem (which means “the place of the names”) there are records of nearly 4 million of the 6 million Jews killed in Hitler’s death camps. The names are all on file. There can be no question of their validity. THINK HOW MUCH MORE SO GOD HAS KEPT BOOKS THROUGH ALL THE CENTURIES OF TIME. “And the books were opened.....”

“Neither the sea nor the unseen world could longer hide their prisoners. And the sea gave up the dead that were in it....” The human race was now in the resurrection state either for good or for ill; and thus it must be forever. All traces of sin are consigned forever.”

THE RESURRECTION EXPOUNDED / William Kelly / p 244

God’s purpose at the Great White Throne Judgment is to remove from the eternal kingdom all things that offend His holiness and perfection and cast them into an eternal Hell.

WHERE DO THE LOST GO?
A current best-seller, written by a pastor who should know better, suggests that Hell is not eternal, that God is just too loving to allow such a place to exist. Like Harold Camping, who set the world on edge last week by suggesting the Rapture would take place Saturday - ignoring completely what God said in HIS WORD, this pastor, too, ignores Holy Scripture. So what does the Bible say? Where do the lost go? How long does the penalty last?

Rev. 19:20
And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Rev. 20:10
And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Rev. 20:14-15
And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Rev. 21:8
But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Matthew 25:41
Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Mark 9:43-44
And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Critics of the Word would claim that Hell is a “state of mind.” NO, THE BIBLE SAYS THAT HELL IS A PLACE! Luke 16:28 - Jesus called it A PLACE OF TORMENT.

Hell is a PLACE of unspeakable misery. It is a PLACE of “outer darkness” (Rev. 9:2); it is a PLACE of “weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matt. 8:12); it is a PLACE of fire (Matt. 13:43). Note this description of Hell: 

Rev. 14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night....
GOD CREATES A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH

Isaiah 65:17
For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Isaiah 66:22
For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain.

2 Peter 3:13
Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Rev. 21:1
And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

This “new Earth” will be the headquarters of God’s eternal theocratic (God-rule) Kingdom.

Scripture does not indicate that the New Earth will be the same size as our current planet. But, according to the Word, there will be no more sea.

“The chief characteristic of the new earth is the absence of the sea. This would automatically change the climate, the atmosphere and the living conditions. It is impossible for the human mind to comprehend the great transformations which will take place in a new creation. The sea in the past has been a barrier and also a border for mankind, which in some cases has been good and in others bad. Also, the sea was an instrument of judgment at the time of the Flood. However, by the disappearance of the sea, the population on the earth can be doubled again and again because of the increase of the land surface.”

THRU THE BIBLE / J. VERNON MCGEE / PAGE 1063 / NELSON PUBL.

Another factor of the “new earth” will be the eternal fulfillment of God’s promise of “the Land” to Abraham. Israel will be brought into the new Earth to enjoy for ever and ever all that God has promised to them. So let the UN rage....and the PLO and Hamas....and all the rest rant and rave about Israel’s existence! God has decreed what will be. Rev. 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.

May I suggest to you that as important as the PLACE of the New Earth will be, it is the PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST Who will be with us that looms far more importantly.
John 14:3
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Col. 3:4
When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

1 Thes. 4:16-17
For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: [17] Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1 John 3:2
Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

On this new Earth, Jesus Christ will be with us.

In 1980, I recorded a record album that contained R. H. Cornelius’ class song: O I WANT TO SEE HIM. What incredible lyrics!

As I journey through the land, singing as I go
Pointing souls to Calvary, to the crimson flow
Many arrows pierce my soul from without within
But my Lord leads me on, through Him I must win

O I want to see Him, look upon His face
There to sing forever of His saving grace
On the streets of glory let me lift my voice
Cares all past, home at last, ever to rejoice

When before me billows rise from the mighty deep
Then my Lord directs my bark (boat), He doth safely keep
And He leads me gently on through this world below
He’s a real friend to me, O I love Him so!

NEXT WEDNESDAY NIGHT: THE NEW JERUSALEM