

## LESSON - 8

# THE FUTURE DISPENSATION

**References** : Isah. Chapter 11 - 12  
: Revel. Chapter 20 - 21

**Memory verse:** Revel. 21 : 3 - 5

**Objective :** To get inspired by the hope of our glorious future. Be prepared to meet the soon coming Lord Jesus Christ and led an holy acceptable life before God.

**Introduction :** In the present world, we find problems and tensions everywhere. World economy is shattered, societies are ripping apart, dreadful diseases stare at humanity grimly. All are growing anxious and worried about tomorrow. People are trembling with distress due to increasing natural calamities, political uncertainty, destructive weaponry etc.. Man is unable to bring about a solution to the problems that the World poses. Man today is deprived of every hope of a bright future.

It is in such a critical situation that God promises us about a glorious future. It will be inspiring and delightful to study about the new future dispensation following the coming of Jesus Christ.

## PART - 1

**The future dispensation can be divided as follows:**

- 1) **The rapture** of the saints and giving of rewards in heaven and the marriage of the Lamb. The Great Tribulation on earth (7 years).
- 2) **The Millennium** - Kingdom Age (one thousand years). The final judgement before the white throne. The Renovation of earth by fire.
- 3) **Eternity** - The New Heaven and Earth.

## **1 THE RAPTURE AND REWARDS :**

At the close of the dispensation of Grace, the Lord Jesus Christ will descend from heaven to the mid air to take up the perfected saints from the earth. From the clouds, three sounds shall be heard such as the shout of the Lord, the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God. Then, the dead in Christ shall be resurrected first and the living saints shall be transformed. Both shall be taken up to meet the Lord in the air (1 Cori. 15 : 52 - 54, 1 Thess : 4 :16:17). This event is known as the rapture of the church. Soon after this event, there will be a time of giving each saint his or her rewards. Rewards will be decided at the judgement seat of Christ (2 Cori. 5:10) on the basis of what the born again believers have done for the Lord. The rewards will be crowns as shown below:

- 1) Incorruptible crown to those who won the race (1 Cori. 9:25).
- 2) Crown of glorying or rejoicing to soul winners (1Thess. 2:19).
- 3) Crown of righteousness to those who fought the fight of faith (II Timo. 4:8).
- 4) Crown of glory unfading to faithful Pastors (1 Peter 5:4).
- 5) Crown of life to the faithful enduring trials (Jam. 1:12, Rev. 2:10).

After the distribution of rewards, the glorified church arrayed in fine linen of righteousness, shall live with Christ as His Bride in heaven. This will be for about seven years.

## **THE GREAT TRIBULATION :**

When the saints are with Christ in heaven, the inhabitants of the earth especially the Jews shall have the hardest time of troubles. The Holy Spirit and the saints are no longer on earth; but Satan is cast down to the earth. God's wrath is poured out on the people of the earth as they have rejected the Salvation by grace. This time is also known as the time of Jacob's trouble. (Jere. 30:67). There shall be no peace on earth. Severe famine and horrible natural calamities shall occur. Anti-Christ, a world ruler will rise and rule the nations. Eventually, the Jews and the leaders of the nominal Christendom shall make a covenant with him. Though the Anti-Christ shall be friendly with them at first, he will break the covenant and turn to persecute them very cruelly (Rev. 17:16, 13:14-16). God shall send into their midst, two witnesses (Rev.



11:3-6) who will proclaim about the kingdom of God. When they shall have finished their testimony, the Anti Christ will kill them. After three and a half days life will return to them and will be taken up to heaven in body. Meanwhile, Israel shall repent and look forward to the one whom they had pierced. Then the Lord will appear on the Mount of Olives with all His saints in great glory and splendour (Rev. 19:11-16, Zech. 14:4, II Thess. 1:6-11). The Anti-Christ will gather his army to the valley of Megiddo (Armageddon) for battle. But Jesus Christ will destroy the army of that Wicked by the breath of His mouth and the Brightness of His coming (II Thess. 2:8) and cast both the Anti-Christ and the false prophet into the Lake of fire burning with sulphur (Rev. 19:20). Besides, Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit for one thousand years.

## PART II

### 2. THE MILLENNIUM :

The Lord Jesus Christ, after His public (glorious) appearance, will begin over this world one thousand years having Jerusalem as His capital. This reign is known as the Thousand years reign or Millennium. The blessings and happy state of Adam prior to the fall shall be partially restored to the mankind. The future state of the earth at that period is described in the Bible (Isa. 11th Chapter), Since Satan is cast into the bottomless pit bound, he shall not tempt the mankind to sin. Moreover, the earth shall be free from the curse resulted by sin. So even the animal kingdom will be free from brutality.

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Isa. 11 -6 -9).? (Mtt : 24 :31, Jere.16 : 15). All Jews will be gathered together and they will accept Jesus Christ their Saviour and get saved (Zech. 12 :10 , 13 : 1, Rom 11: 26 -27).The Temple in Jerusalem shall be built and worship will be restored (Ezek, Chps. 40, 45) Israel shall be blessed both spiritually and materially.



### ***The Glorified Saints :***

The saints resurrected in the rapture and the martyrs of Tribulation period will rule the earth with Christ. Thus the prophecy of Daniel shall be fulfilled that the kingdom and dominion shall be given to the saints of the Most high (Daniel 7 : 27)

In the Millennium earth, there will be the New Testament church, Old Testament saints , the Jews and the Gentiles. After a thousand years, Satan shall be let loose. Satan will instigate innumerable people of many nations to his fold to war against Christ and His people. It will be his last attempt to destroy Christ and His holy people . But fire will come down and consume them all. Satan will be cast into the Lake of fire burning with sulphur forever.

### ***The Final Judgement :***

It is appointed for men to die once, but after this, the judgement" (Heb. 9 :27). Some people think that physical death is the end of all where as some others think that man will go through long cycles of rebirths until salvation is attained. But the Holy Bible, refutes both these views, and asserts that once everyone must die and that all will be judged at the end of the dispensations. Since God is just, in all dispensations He condemned the guilty but at the same time provided way of salvation by His love and concern for the mankind. Therefore, every individual is responsible for his condemnation

After the Millennium the Lord Jesus Christ will sit on the White Throne for judgement. Then the court will be seated and the books will be opened. Witnesses also shall be produced. All the unsaved shall be resurrected and produced before the court. They will be judged each one according to his works. Any one not found written in the Book of life will be cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20 : 11 - 15, Daniel 7 : 9 -10).

### ***The Renovation By Fire :***

After the flood at the time of Noah, God covenanted that the earth would never again be destroyed by flood. But it is written that "the present and the earth are kept in store for fire" (II Pet. 3: 6 - 7)

## **3. THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH :**

When the White Throne Judgement is carried out in heaven the earth will undergo a tremendous change. The heavens will disappear



with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare (2 Pet. 3:10) In that stead, new heaven and new earth shall appear. There shall be no longer sea (Rev. 21: 1-5). The New Jerusalem, the Holy city Will come down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. We have the details of this city in Revelation chapters 21 & 22. Decorated with the most beautiful and precious jewels, this city shines with the glory of God. The city is laid out like a cube whose length, breadth and height are the same. It is 1400 miles (2200 kilometers) in length and as wide and high as it is long. Jesus Christ the lamb will be the lamp in the city for light and sun and moon will not be needed. There flows the river of life from the throne of God and of the Lamb (Christ) down the middle of the street. On each side of the river stands the trees of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yeilding its fruit every month. The servants of God shall worship Him day and night. In eternity, God's children will share in the glory of Christ and reign with Him. Do you have this blessed hope of reigning with Christ? Examine yourself.

### **EXERCISE - 8**

#### **PART I**

##### ***Answer the following questions***

- 1) Into how many parts can the Future Age be divided?
- 2) When will Jesus Christ descend from heaven and why?
- 3) At that time which sounds will be heard?
- 4) What is meant by the 'rapture of the Church'?
- 5) What will happen soon after the rapture?
- 6) Where will the rewards be given and on what basis?
- 7) What will be the rewards?
- 8) What will take place after the distribution of rewards?
- 9) What will be the condition of Jews after the rapture of the Church?
- 10) What is known as the 'time of Jacob's trouble'?
- 11) What will happen during that time?

- 12) Who will rule the world during the time of tribulation?
- 13) What will be the attitude of Anti-Christ towards the Jews?
- 14) What will the two witnesses do on the earth ?
- 15) What will happen to the two witnesses in the end?
- 16) When will the Lord appear on the Mount of Olives?
- 17) How will Jesus Christ destroy the army of the Anti-Christ?
- 18) For how many years will satan be bound and where?

## **PART -II**

- 1) What is meant by 'Millennium'?
- 2) Write in brief about the blessed and happy state of 'Millennium'?
- 3) Who will rule the earth with Christ?
- 4) Who all will be there in the millennium earth?
- 5) When will Satan be loosed?
- 6) What will he do that time?
- 7) What will happen to Satan in the end?
- 8) On which throne will Jesus sit, for the Last Judgement?
- 9) Who will be cast into fire?
- 10) What changes will take place in the earth after the White Throne judgement?

