

THE CONSUMMATION

As Revelation comes to an end, we see the end of the ages. But as the last “Amen” of Revelation 22 is uttered, there is more to come. The crowning event of the ages is found in 1 Corinthians 15, the “consummation” of the ages.

Many believe the end of Revelation is a description of the eternal heavens that we will experience when the resurrection takes place. But there are a number of reasons to conclude that this is not the case, and that 1 Corinthians 15 happens after the end of Revelation 22.

In Revelation 21:1 John perceives “a new heaven and a new earth”, and he sees “the holy city, new Jerusalem, descending out of heaven...” The New Jerusalem is not heaven itself, but it descends out of heaven.

Revelation

22:5 The slaves of God are reigning

21:24 There are still “kings of the earth”

21:5 Christ is seated on the throne

21:8 Lake of fire (second death) still exists

22:2 Leaves on the tree for “the cure of the nations” (would seem to imply corruptible bodies needing the leaves to sustain life.)

Note the Jewish Character

21:12 Twelve tribes

21:14 Twelve apostles

21:24 Nations outside city

Overall, a picture of a very physical place, with mortal bodies....much like our present world, except with Christ reigning and keeping evil out (22:14-15)

THIS IS A DESCRIPTION OF THE FINAL AGE (AEON)

1 Corinthians

15:24 All sovereignty, authority and power are nullified.

15:25 Christ must reign until He places all enemies under his feet.

15:28 When all is subject to Christ, Christ subjects Himself to God.

15:24 All sovereignty, authority and power nullified.

15:27 Last enemy (death) abolished.

15:42-44 Incorruptible, spiritual body.

Note the universal character

No Jewish connotations in 1 Cor 15.

In Paul’s writings, no barrier between Jew and Greek.

Overall, a picture of a spiritual realm, with no corruption, no reign, no power. All are subjected. No enemies; no death. No sin. No rebellion. The purpose of the ages has been achieved. God is now all in all. (How can He be all in all with death (the enemy) present?)

THIS IS A DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSUMMATION, WHICH OCCURS AFTER THE AGES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

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