

Dr. Dave Mathewson, Storyline of the Bible – Revelation

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Session 6

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Abstract

In this sixth and final lecture of the Storyline of the Bible series, Dr. Dave Mathewson traces five central biblical themes—covenant, the people of God, temple, land/creation, and kingship—through the General Epistles and the Book of Revelation. He demonstrates how New Testament authors like Peter, John, and the writer of Hebrews view Jesus Christ and the church as the inauguration and fulfillment of Old Testament promises regarding Israel, Davidic rule, and sacred space. The lecture concludes by showing how all five thematic threads reach their ultimate apocalyptic climax in Revelation 21–22, where the new creation, bride, city-temple, and eternal reign fulfill God's original creation intent.

Outline

I. Introduction and Overview

- A. Context and Speaker: Sixth and final lecture by Dr. Dave Mathewson
- B. Dual Focus of the Lecture:
 - 1. Tracing five core themes through the General Epistles (Hebrews through 1 John)
 - 2. Examining the apocalyptic climax and finale of these themes in Revelation 21–22
- C. Core Thematic Framework: Covenant, People of God, Temple, Land/Creation, and Kingship

II. The Five Themes in the General Epistles

- A. The People of God
 - 1. 1 Peter 2:9–10 applies Old Testament Israel terminology (chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation) to the Church
 - 2. The Church is established as the restored and ultimate fulfillment of God's people
- B. The Covenant
 - 1. Hebrews 8–10 cites Jeremiah 31 to establish Christ's death as inaugurating the New Covenant
 - 2. Replacement and obsolescence of the Old Covenant, accompanied by the gift of the Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 37)
- C. Kingship and Davidic Rule

1. Hebrews 1:3, 5 connects Psalm 2, 2 Samuel 7, and Psalm 110 to Jesus as the exalted Davidic vice-regent
2. Hebrews 2:5–10 applies Psalm 8 to Jesus, who fulfills humanity's original creation mandate through suffering and glory
3. 1 Peter 2:9 highlights believers as a 'royal priesthood' participating in kingdom rule

D. Temple and Sacred Space

1. 1 Peter 2:4–6 depicts believers as 'living stones' built into a spiritual house offering spiritual sacrifices
2. Hebrews 10:19–22 presents Christ as High Priest opening direct access through His flesh into the heavenly sanctuary

E. Land, Rest, and Creation

1. 1 Peter 1:3–4 presents new birth and an imperishable heavenly inheritance fulfilling land promises
2. 1 John 2:15–17 describes the decreation and passing away of the present world
3. James 1:18 views believers as the first fruits of the new creation
4. Hebrews 3–4 links salvation rest in Christ to Joshua's land rest and the Genesis Sabbath creation rest

III. The Climax and Finale of the Five Themes in Revelation 21–22

A. The Consummated People of God

1. Revelation 21:2, 9 presents the Church as the Bride of Christ prepared for her husband
2. Revelation 21:12–14 describes the New Jerusalem with 12 gates (Israel) and 12 foundations (Apostles)
3. Revelation 21:23–24 envisions the city-people as a light attracting all nations and kings

B. The Climactic Covenant

1. Revelation 21:3 fulfills Ezekiel 37:27 with the covenant formula: 'They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them'

C. Land, Eden, and New Creation

1. Revelation 21:1 inaugurates the new heaven and new earth, fulfilling Isaiah 65:17
2. Revelation 21:7 promises the inheritance of the new creation to those who conquer
3. Revelation 22:1–2 restores Edenic conditions (River of Life, Tree of Life) drawn from Genesis 2 and Ezekiel 47
4. Revelation 21:1 ('the sea was no more') symbolizes the removal of evil, chaos, and a New Exodus crossing into inheritance (Isaiah 51)

D. The Consummated City-Temple

1. Revelation 21:3, 22 establishes God's direct tabernacle dwelling with no physical temple needed, as God and the Lamb are its temple
2. Revelation 21:16, 18, 21 applies temple imagery (cube shape/Holy of Holies, gold, precious stones) to the whole city-people

E. Eternal Kingship and Reign

1. Revelation 22:3, 5 displays the throne of God and the Lamb
2. Believers reign forever and ever, completing the Genesis 1–2 mandate to spread God's glory across creation

IV. Conclusion

- A. Synthesis of Redemptive History from Genesis 1–2 to Revelation 21–22
- B. Transition from 'Already' (Inaugurated) to 'Not Yet' (Consummated)
- C. Complete Restoration of God's Original Creation Purpose for Humanity and Creation