

The Anticipation of Eternity

Genesis is important not only as the history or the origin of mankind, but also as a prophecy of the future of mankind. The book of **Revelation** should be taken no less seriously than **Genesis**. Paradise was lost in **Genesis** and is regained in **Revelation**.

The beginning of **Genesis** describes a perfect world, made for man and placed under his authority. Had Adam and Eve not sinned they would have continued to rule and enjoy that perfect world. But they did sin. Since **God** cannot be defeated in **His** ultimate purpose, even though sin and the curse have come in as intruders for a time, we can be sure that all that **the LORD** intended in the garden of Eden will eventually come to pass. Therefore, the earth will be restored to its original perfection and will continue on into eternity. Sin and the curse will be no more and death will be eliminated.

It is helpful, therefore, to compare the people and events in **Genesis** to those in **Revelation**. We can learn much about the original world by studying **Revelation**, and we can learn much about the final world by studying **Genesis**. In a very real way they are fundamentally the same.

The First World (Genesis)

A new beginning (1:1 to 2:3)

Division of light and darkness (1:4)

Division of land and sea (1:10)

Rule of the sun and the moon (1:16)

Man in a prepared Garden (2:8-9)

River flowing out of Eden (2:10)

Gold in the land (2:12)

Tree of life in the midst of the Garden (2:9)

Pearls and the onyx stone were there (2:12)

God walked in the Garden (3:8)

Walk with God broken (3:8-10)

The Eternal World (Revelation)

A new creation (21:1 to 22:5)

No more night (21:25)

No more sea (21:1)

No need of the sun or the moon (21:23)

Man in a prepared City (21:2)

River flowing from God's throne (22:1)

Gold in the City (21:21)

Tree of life throughout the City (22:2)

All kinds of precious stones (21:19)

God lives in the City (21:3)

Walk with God resumed (21:25-22:14)

Many other comparisons can be made. Each shows that the specific characteristics of **the first world** were suited for man in his state of innocence, while the matching characteristics of **the eternal world** will be designed for humanity in a state of perfection. The most striking contrast that can be made is between **the cursed world in Genesis** and **the eternal world in Revelation**.

The Cursed World

Sin entering human experience (3:1-8)
The triumph of the Serpent (3:13)
The ground was cursed (3:17)
Daily sorrow (3:17)
Thorns and thistles (3:18)
Sweat on the face (3:19)
Eating plants of the field (3:18)
Death entered the world (3:19)
Evil all the time (6:5)
Garments of animal skins (3:21)
Satan opposing (3:15)
Kept from the Tree of Life (3:24)
Banished from the Garden of Eden (3:23)
Redeemer promised (3:15)
The Rainbow of Noah (9:16)
Paradise lost (3:23)

The Eternal World

No more sin (21:8 and 27)
The triumph of the Lamb (20:10; 22:3)
There is no more curse (22:3)
No more sorrow (21:4)
No more pain (21:4)
Tears wiped away (21:4)
Crops of fruit each month (22:2)
No more death (21:4)
Nothing impure (21:27)
Fine linen, white and clean (19:14)
Satan banished (20:10)
Access to the Tree of Life (22:14)
Free entry in the New Jerusalem (22:14)
Redemption accomplished (5:9-10)
The Rainbow of Christ (10:1)
Paradise regained (21:25 to 22:14)

For these and many other reasons, it is clear that a proper understanding of **Genesis** is critical to a proper understanding of the eternal purposes of **God**.³