

The Romance of Redemption

The Romance of Redemption Part 2

In this session I want to look at part two of the Biblical drama; which we're calling "The Romance of Redemption." In part two of our survey we'll see the following Acts.

- Act 3 (Ezra-Acts 1).
- Act 4 (Acts 2-Rev. 5).
- Act 5 (Rev. 6-20).
- Epilogue (Rev. 20:11-22:11).

Let's begin our survey with looking at Act 3 which goes from the book of Ezra through Acts chapter one.

- Act 3 (Ezra-Acts 1).

Act two ended with Jerusalem being destroyed and the southern Kingdom of Judah in captivity in Babylon. As we saw God gave Daniel the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's prophetic dream. In Act four and five we'll see the significance of these nations which are mentioned.

Act 3 begins with the children of Israel and Judah in captivity under the Medo-Persian Empire. Daniel chapter five tells us that in 539 B.C. during the reign of Belshazzar the Babylonian empire was over taken by Darius and the Medo-Persian Empire.

The Medo-Persian Empire was the second empire mentioned by Daniel in chapter two. As we'll see God is going to move on the hearts of the leaders of these nations to allow three waves of Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and the walls of Jerusalem.

The book of Ezra describes the first two waves; the first wave was in 538 B.C. when Cyrus allowed Zerubbabel and Joshua the high priest to lead 50,000 Jews back to Jerusalem to rebuild the altar and the temple (Ezra 1-6). While the Jews were rebuilding the temple they became discouraged so God sent Haggai and Zechariah to prophesy and encourage the Jews in their work. (Ezra 5:1).

Between Ezra 6 and 7 scholars say there is a gap of around 80 years. The events which are described in the book of Esther take place during this gap. This gap ended in 458 B.C. when Ezra the priest led a second wave of 1,700 Jews back to Jerusalem to help and encourage the people. (Ezra 7-10).

The book of Nehemiah describes the third wave of the Jews who returned Jerusalem. In 445 B.C. Nehemiah had a burden for the security of the temple and the city of Jerusalem, because of this king Artaxerxes allowed Nehemiah to lead a third wave of Jews back to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

When Nehemiah got to Jerusalem he secretly surveyed the walls and with God's wisdom helped the Jews rebuild the walls in 52 days (Neh.1-7). After the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt God also used Nehemiah to build the morals of the nation of Israel (Neh.8-13).

During the time of Nehemiah we also see the ministry of the prophet Malachi. God raised up Malachi the last Old Testament writing prophet to urge the people to repent and follow God's law.

Once the book of Malachi ends there is a gap of four hundred silent years which lasted until the ministry of John the Baptist the forerunner of the Messiah. Regarding the period of four hundred years though God was silent concerning written revelation, He was still at work preparing the world for the manifestation of His Son Jesus Christ.

Concerning the manifestation of Jesus the Apostle Paul said in Galatians 4:4, "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law."

Jesus came to earth at His first coming at God's prepared and set time. How did God prepare the world for the coming of Jesus? One way is seen by looking at the nations which are mentioned in Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel chapter two. So far we have seen the significance of Babylonians and Medo-Persians.

In 334-331 B.C. history tells us that Alexander the Great led Greece to conquer the Medo-Persian Empire and the world. When Greece conquered the world they brought the entire world under the Hellenist culture and Greek language. The Greek language became so common in 250-150 B.C. the Hebrew Scriptures were translated into Greek in Alexandria Egypt. The Greek language and this Greek translation also known as the Septuagint were important because it made it possible for the gospel to be universally preached and the scriptures to be universally read. The Septuagint became the Bible of the early church.

In 63 B.C. the Roman Empire led by Pompey conquered Greece and the world. The Roman Empire made the Roman roads and enforced universal peace known as the "Pax Romana." The Roman roads and universal peace was important because it made it possible for the gospel to go through the whole world by foot.

Lastly concerning the nation of Israel, scholars say that because of Roman oppression the expectancy and desire for the Messiah was great. This brings us to the "Fullness of Time".

The New Testament begins with four narrative accounts which give the birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. It's important to note that the definition of a Biblical narrative is a historically true account that communicates a specific message.

Each gospel is selective; they only give what is needed to communicate their specific message about Jesus. For example; Matthew wrote to the Jews showing that Jesus is the King of the Jews. Mark wrote to the Romans showing that Jesus is the servant of God. Luke wrote to Theophilus who was Greek showing that Jesus is the Son of Man. John wrote to the world showing that Jesus is the Son of God.

I want to look at the life and ministry of Jesus in five sections, which are: first Jesus' early years and preparation, second Jesus' early ministry, third Jesus' northern ministry in and around Galilee, fourth Jesus' southern ministry in Judea and Jerusalem and fifth Jesus' betrayal, death, resurrection and ascension into heaven.

Let's briefly look at each of these sections.

- The first section is Jesus' early years and preparation (Joh.1:1-18, Luk.1:1-4:13, Matt.1:1-4:11, Mk.1:1-13).

The gospel of John begins by saying that Jesus is the Eternal Son of God the second person of the trinity the creator all things (Joh.1:1-5). In the fullness of time Jesus who was God took a human body or nature through the virgin birth (Luk.1, Isa.7:14, Phil.2:5-10). The virgin that God chose was a Jewish teenager from the tribe of Judah whose name was Mary (Luk.3:23-38). Mary was betrothed or engaged to Joseph who was also from the tribe of Judah (Matt.1:1-17).

While Mary and Joseph were engaged the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that she would be the mother of the Messiah whom they were to name Jesus because He would save their people from their sins (Matt.1:19-21).

Just as Gabriel said Mary was found with child and gave birth to Jesus during the rule of Herod which was 5-4 B.C.(Luk.2). Jesus' early years consisted of Him keeping and study the Jewish law and learning the trade of carpentry from his step father Joseph (Luk.2:41-52).

The ministry of Jesus began when he was around age thirty and lasted three and a half years which according modern scholarship was 29A.D-33A.D. The gospels begin by showing the ministry of John the Baptist the cousin and forerunner of Jesus Christ. Jesus we're told in the gospels came on the scene, was baptized by John and then was driven by the Spirit into the wilderness to fast and be tempted for forty days (Matt.4).

- The second section is Jesus' early ministry (John 1:29-4:45).

After Jesus fasted and was Jesus was tempted forty days He ministered in the south in the area known as Judea. During this time Jesus called His first disciples (Joh.1), went north to a wedding in Cana of Galilee where He turned water into wine, cleansed the temple in Jerusalem the first time (Joh.2) and meet with Nicodemus (Joh.3). Jesus after these things headed

north towards Galilee through Samaria, this is when Jesus meets the women at the well and ministered to her and the Samaritans (Joh.4)

- The third section of Jesus' life was His ministry in and around Galilee (Matt.4:13-19:1, 1:16-9:50, Luk.4:16-9:56, Joh.4:46-7:10).

After Jesus ministered in Samaria He headed to northern Palestine to the area known as Galilee. Jesus' ministry in this area consisted of preaching the Kingdom of God (Matt.4) giving the Sermon on the Mount (Matt.5-8), calling and sending out His disciples to Israel to preach the kingdom and do miracles (Matt.10). Jesus Himself also healed many and did many miracles (8-9). Jesus' Galilean ministry could be summarized in a message that Jesus sent John the Baptist while he was in prison. Matthew 11:2-5 says,

2 And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples

3 and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"

4 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see:

5 *The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.*

- The fourth section of Jesus' life is His ministry in Judea and Jerusalem (Matt.19:1-25:46, Mk.10:1-37, Luk.9:51-21:38, Joh.7:2-12:11).

Jesus after He ministered in Galilee headed south towards Judea and eventually came to Jerusalem. Jesus' ministry during this time included teaching many things about who He was and about Israel's rejection. During this time Jesus also gave the Olivet discourse in which He spoke to the Jews about the great tribulation, His second coming and Millennial Kingdom (Matt.24-25.)

- The fifth and last section is Jesus' betrayal, death, resurrection and ascension into heaven (Matt.27-28, Mk.14-16, Luk. 22-24, Joh.13-21).

Jesus on His last night with His disciples taught them many things and changed the Passover into Communion (Joh.13-16, Matt.26:26-30). After these things Jesus and His disciples headed to the garden of Gethsemane for prayer. While Jesus and His disciples were at the garden Judas led a group to arrest Jesus.

After Jesus was arrested He was falsely accused before both Jewish and Roman officials. Jesus was then flogged and sentenced to death by crucifixion. While Jesus hung on the cross the Bible says that God the Father placed the sin of the world on Jesus. Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:21 said, For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

After Jesus was judged as the Lamb of God He gave up His spirit and died. The Roman soldiers proved Jesus was dead by piercing Him in the side with a spear. After Jesus was proven dead they took Him off the cross and then He was laid in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea (Matt. 27)

During the three days before Jesus rose from the dead He descended into the paradise section of Hades known as Abraham's bosom and revealed Himself as the Messiah to the Old Testament saints (Eph.4). After three days Jesus rose bodily from the dead and then for forty days showed Himself alive by many infallible proofs (Acts 1:3)

At the end of the forty days the disciples meet with Jesus and asked the following in Acts 1:6-8,

6 "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The disciples had a question concerning the Kingdom of God which Jesus preached. The disciples knew that the Messiah was to come and fulfill the covenants which God made with Israel by establishing the Kingdom of God on earth.

Jesus in these verses explains to these Jewish men God's plan of redemption which is the following. Jesus came to earth at His first coming to offer the literal Kingdom of God to nation of Israel, if Israel would have accepted then Jesus' offer then He would have died and then established His kingdom on earth. Israel rejected their Messiah and as a result the kingdom and promises which God made to Israel have been postponed until after the second coming of Jesus.

Until then Jesus said in Acts 1:7-8 that God's plan was now to save people baptize them with the power of the Holy Spirit and send them into the entire world to tell others about Jesus. Those who are born again and sealed with the permanent indwelling Holy Spirit are not the nation of Israel; rather they are called the church which is made up of both Jew and gentile. God has a separate plan and program for both the nation of Israel and the church.

The Apostle Paul taught this truth in Romans 9-11. To summarize Paul's says in Romans 11:25-27,

25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "THE DELIVERER WILL COME OUT OF ZION, AND HE WILL TURN AWAY UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB;

27 FOR THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."

Also James says to Jewish Christian at the Jerusalem counsel in Acts 15:14-18,

14 Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.

15 And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written:

16 'AFTER THIS I WILL RETURN AND WILL REBUILD THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID, WHICH HAS FALLEN DOWN; I WILL REBUILD ITS RUINS, AND I WILL SET IT UP;

17 SO THAT THE REST OF MANKIND MAY SEEK THE LORD, EVEN ALL THE GENTILES WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, SAYS THE LORD WHO DOES ALL THESE THINGS.'

18 "Known to God from eternity are all His works.

Until God restores Israel at the second coming God is calling His bride the church out of this world. Now in act four we see the birth and growth of the church.

- Act 4 (Acts2-Rev. 5).

In Acts 1:8 we see Jesus program from the church until He comes back at the rapture. Jesus said, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

There are three sections in the book of Acts and church history. First the church is born and the gospel goes to Jerusalem (Acts 1-7), second the gospel goes to Judea and Samaria (Acts 8-12) and third the goes to the entire world.

- The church is born and the gospel goes to Jerusalem (Acts 1-7)

The Christian church began on the day of Pentecost, when 120 of Jesus' disciples were baptized with the Holy Spirit and spoke in foreign languages. As the disciples spoke in foreign languages praising God the people from all over the world who were at Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost heard them in their own languages and were amazed, others mocked.

Peter got up and responded to the mockers by quoting the prophecy of Joel and then preaching the gospel, which resulted in the conversion of three thousand people (Acts 2).

Many of the believers stayed in Jerusalem and began meeting daily for Bible study and fellowship. One day when Peter and John were going to prayer God used them to heal a lame man at the gate called Beautiful. When the people saw the man healed he preached Jesus and the resurrection which led to the conversion of two thousand more people, this made the church five thousand men strong (Acts3-4).

The believers who were in Jerusalem continued to be edified and preach the gospel, the result was more conversions (Acts 5:14, 6:1). In Acts seven Stephen became the first Christian martyr and in Acts eight persecutions

broke out on the church in Jerusalem. God in His sovereignty was able to use this evil attack to accomplish His program for the church.

- The gospel is preached in Judea and Samaria (Acts 8-12).

As a result of the persecution in Jerusalem Phillip a deacon went north to Samaria and preached the gospel and did many miracles which lead to a great revival. Also during this Jesus met and saved Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus (8-9). God also sent Peter to the house of Cornelius to bring salvation to the gentiles (Acts 10-11). God was at work building the church.

- The gospel is taken into the entire world (Acts 13-28).

In Acts thirteen God raised up the church at Antioch to be the mission base for the Apostle Paul's missionary journeys (Acts 13). While Paul and Barnabas were ministering to the saints God through a prophet called them to go into the world and preach the gospel.

The church at Antioch laid hands on Paul and Barnabas and then sent them out on Paul's first of three missionary journeys. Paul first mission trip is seen in Acts 13-14. His second mission trip is seen in Acts 15:36-18:22 which he went with Silas after the Jerusalem counsel. Paul's third mission trip is seen in Acts 18:23-21:16. Paul's missionary journeys ended when he was almost killed in the temple of Jerusalem by a mob Paul. Because of the mob Paul was arrested and put on trial. The book of Acts ends with showing Paul's trials and journey to Rome to stand before Caesar.

Before Paul's death in the late 60's A.D Paul wrote many of the New Testament epistles to both churches and Pastors.

The churches to which Paul wrote to in chronological order are, the churches in Galatia (Galatians 49-50A.D.), Thessalonica (1& 2 Thessalonians 50-52 A.D.), Corinth (1&2 Corinthians 55-56A.D), Rome (Romans 56A.D.), Ephesus (Ephesians 60-62A.D.), Philippi (Philippians 60-62A.D.), and Colossi (Colossians 60-62A.D),

The Pastoral epistles which Paul wrote in chronological order are Philemon 60-62 A.D., 1 Timothy in 62-64 A.D., Titus 62-64 A.D., and 2 Timothy 66-67 A.D.

The other general epistles in chronological order are James 44-49 A.D., Hebrews 67-69 A.D., Jude 68-70 A.D. and 1-3 John 90-95 A.D.

As I said earlier the book of Acts has no official ending, the reason I believe is Jesus is still empowering His church to go into the entire world and preach the gospel (Matt. 28:19).

The continuation of the book of Acts or the church age will not end until the rapture of the church. The last book of the Bible which is Revelation (94-96 A.D.) shows the final acts and events in God's Romance of redemption. These events are the rapture, tribulation, second coming, millennial kingdom, the Great White throne judgment and the New Jerusalem.

The book of Revelation like the book of Acts gives us a divine outline in chapter one. Jesus said to the last living Apostle who was John in Revelation 1:19 "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this."

There are three sections in the book of Revelation which are; first the revelation of Jesus which John saw (Rev. 1), second the things which are (Rev. 2-3) and third the things which will take place after this (Rev. 4-22).

Let's quickly look at these three sections.

- That which John saw (Rev. 1).

John in chapter one was on the island of Patmos for preaching the gospel. While he was there he saw Jesus revealed in all His glory.

- The things which are (Rev. 2-3).

The things which are refer to the church age. Jesus in Revelation chapters two and three wrote seven letters to both commend and corrects seven literal churches which were existent in John's day.

Concerning these seven letters Bible teachers say they have four levels of application.

First their specific meaning is to commend and correct the seven literal churches in John's day. Second since Jesus in his letters refers to the churches, they can apply to churches in our day. Third these letters have personal application to any believer who will hear. Fourth these seven letters give a picture of church history until the rapture. Let's look at these periods and see the history of the bride of Christ until the rapture.

- Ephesus (Rev.2:1-7) the church of Ephesus represents the early church which left their first love after the death of the Apostles (100A.D.).
- Smyrna (Rev.2:8-11) the church of Smyrna represents the early church which was persecuted by the Roman Empire (54-312A.D.).
- Pergamos (Rev.2:12-17) the church of Pergamos represents the time when the church began to compromise with the world during the reign of Constantine (312-538A.D.).
- Thyatira (Rev.2:18-29) the church of Thyatira represents the church in the dark ages which committed spirit adultery with idols (538-1520 A.D.).
- Sardis (Rev.3:1-6) the church of Sardis represents the protestant reformation which began well but did not go far enough.
- Philadelphia (Rev.3:7-13) the church of Philadelphia represents the time when the church returned to the word of God and the literal interpretation of prophecy. Also the church during this time period returned to evangelism and missions. (1700-present).
- Laodicea (Rev.3:14-22) the church of Laodicea represents the liberal church which is to come before the rapture (present-rapture).

- The things which will take place after this (Rev.4-22).

Revelation chapter four begins with the Apostle John being caught up to heaven; which is an illustration of the rapture of the church. The rapture of

the church is the next event on God's prophetic calendar. Concerning the rapture the Bible gives us both its description and purpose.

First we see the description of the rapture in 1 Corinthians 15:50-53 and 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17. Paul says, in 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17,

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

The rapture of the church is different than the second coming. In the rapture Jesus comes in the air (1Thess.4:17), in the second coming Jesus steps foot on ground (Zech.14:4). In the rapture Jesus will come back for His bride the church (1 Thess.4:17) and in the second coming Jesus comes back with His church (Rev.19). Lastly Paul says in these verses that at the rapture Christ will resurrect the dead in Christ and change and catch up those who are alive on the earth, in the second coming Christ comes back in glory and judgment.

The Bible also gives the purpose of the rapture of the church. There are three reasons Jesus will rapture the church.

First to fulfill His promise made to His bride the church. Jesus in John 14:2-3 says,

2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Some Bible teachers say that according to Jewish wedding custom, once a couple was betrothed the groom would go away and prepare their house; once the house was finished he would return for His bride. In the same way Jesus gave us His Holy Spirit as an engagement ring, one day He will come back and take us home to the place He has been preparing for us.

Second Jesus will deliver His church from the wrath to come, Jesus said in Revelation 3:10, "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep

you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

The tribulation is not for believers but for a Christ rejecting world. Christ was already judged for believers on the cross. Because of this Jesus will come and take His church to heaven before God pours out His wrath on the earth (Rom. 5:9, 1Thess.5:9, 2 Thess.2:1-8, Rev.3:10, Gen.18:23-33).

Third Jesus will take His church off the earth so He can again deal with Israel. The tribulation is called the in the Old Testament the time of Jacob's trouble. One of the purposes of the tribulation will be to draw the nation Israel back to Himself and prepare them for the Millennium.

Sometime after the church is taken off the earth the seven year tribulation will begin.

- Act 5 (Rev. 6-20).

The year seven tribulation is described in Revelation 6-19. To study the tribulation and the book of Revelation chronologically you must follow the three series of judgments which God brings of the earth. The three judgments are described as seven seals which are opened (Rev. 6 &8), the seven trumpets which are blown (8:7-13, 9:1-12, 11:15-19) and the seven bowls of wrath which are poured out (Rev.16:2-21).

Each series of judgments gets worse. The bowls of wrath for example happen at the end of the tribulation, they describe the awful judgments which will come on the earth right before Jesus comes back at His second coming.

Concerning the other events, nations and characters that are prominent in the tribulation they are seen in between the judgments.

Let me quickly give you an overview of the seven year tribulation. The tribulation can be broke up into two three and a half year periods.

The first half of the tribulation will begin when a world leader which the Bible calls the antichrist makes a peace treaty with Israel and allows them to build their temple and begin sacrificing again. The antichrist also

becomes the leader of a one world government which consists of ten blocks of nations. This one world government will also have one currency.

During the first half of the tribulation people will get saved. God seals 144,000 from each tribe of the nation of Israel and sends them out to preach the gospel. Those who accept this gospel eventually get martyred by the apostate church.

Sometime before the middle of the tribulation the nations from the North lead by Russia and Iran will come and attack Israel, God at this time rises up and protects Israel and destroys these nations.

Jesus in Matthew 24 says that the middle of the tribulation is when the antichrist causes the abomination of desolation. The antichrist will go into the Jewish temple stop their sacrifices sets an image up and commands the world to worship him.

The last three and a half years are the worst. After the abomination of desolation the Jews have to flee because of persecution. Also during this time the antichrist will cause all who want to buy or sell to swear an allegiance to him and receive a mark on their hand or forehead. Lastly during this time God bring awful judgments on the earth.

The tribulation ends in chapter nineteen when the antichrist and the nations go to war against one another in the valley of Megiddo, at this time Jesus will come back with His church. The antichrist and nations will turn their force against Christ and He will strike them down with a word from His mouth.

After Jesus comes back He will separate the sheep from the goats (Matt.25). This is when Jesus separates the living tribulation believers from nonbelievers. The believers Jesus will allow to go into His kingdom and the non believers will be cast into Hades. After this Jesus locks Satan away and established His literal one thousand year Kingdom on the earth.

Concerning the church during the kingdom we are in glorified bodies and have various responsibilities depending on our faithfulness now. We will also be celebrating the marriage supper of the lamb.

The main purpose of the Millennial kingdom is to fulfill the unconditional covenants which God made with Israel. During this time all Israel will be saved and the earth filled with the knowledge of the Lord (New Covenant), second Israel will possess her land (Abrahamic and Palestinian covenant) and lastly both a resurrected David and Christ will be ruling on the throne in Christ's eternal kingdom (Davidic covenant).

Concerning the conditions of the earth during this time it will be perfect. The earth will be safe because Christ will be ruling with a rod of iron (Ps.2). Also both the earth and the animal kingdom will be restored (Isa.11). Lastly the millennium will be a time of worship, all believers will go to Jerusalem to see and hear Christ teach and the Jews will build their temple and have priests from the line of Zadok offer animal sacrifices to remind them of their sin and as a memorial of Christ.

Once the one thousand years is over, Satan is let out to deceive a group of people who are living in Christ's kingdom in their physical bodies. Satan and this group of people try to rebel and overtake the kingdom of Christ and God strikes them down and casts Satan in to hell which was made for him and his demons.

- Epilogue (Rev. 20:11-22:11).

In this last section we see the eternity for unbelievers and believers.

First all unbelievers and wicked from human history will be resurrected from Hades and stand in front of the Great White throne where Jesus judges to see if their names are found in the book of life. Their names will not be found in the book of life so they will be eternally separated from God in the lake of fire called hell.

Second and lastly concerning believers we will spend eternity with Christ in the New Jerusalem. The Romance of Redemption closes by describing the New Jerusalem.

Revelations 22:1-5 says,

1 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.

3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.

4 They shall see His face, and His name *shall be* on their foreheads.

5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

John saw the New Jerusalem which is eternity. In closing the Romance of Redemption is God in His love, grace working out His plan to restore mankind.