

# To Be Like God: The Reward of Holiness

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# Introduction

## ◎ A Series on Holiness

- Week 1- Why be holy?
  - Isaiah 6:1-8
- Week 2- How to remain holy?
  - Colossians 3:1-17
- Week 3- What is the reward for being holy?
  - Revelation 21-22

# Bible Text

- ◎ <sup>5</sup> And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” (Rev 21:5 ESV)

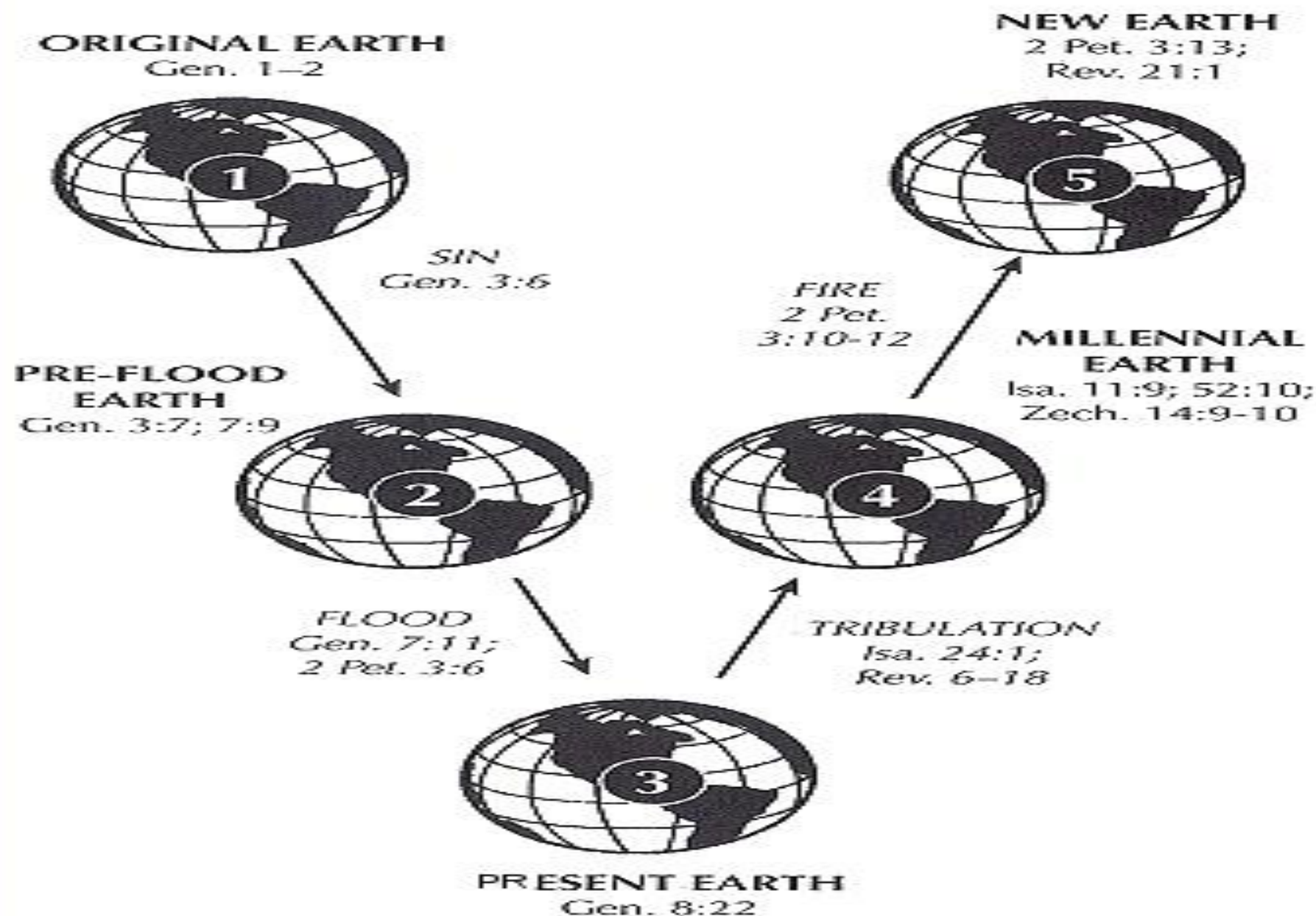
# Introduction

- ◎ The word translated as “new” (καὶνός- *kainos*) plays an important role in this verse
- ◎ It means new character and quality not in time
- ◎ In the new creation the faithful experience intimate communion with God, but the unfaithful will be excluded

# Introduction

- The first two chapters of Genesis and the last two chapters of Revelation are the only chapters free from the influence of sin
- These are the holiest chapters in the Bible
- They demonstrate what was in the beginning and what it will be like in the future

# THE FIVE WORLDS OF THE BIBLE



# Introduction

## ◉ Genesis

- > Heavens and earth created (1:1)
- > Sun created, and night established (1:5,16)
- > The seas created (1:10)
- > The curse announced (3:14–17)
- > Death enters history (3:19)
- > Humanity driven from paradise (3:24)
- > Sorrow and pain begin (3:17)

## ◉ Revelation

- > New heavens and a new earth (21:1)
- > No need of the sun & no night (21:3, 5)
- > No more sea (21:1)
- > No more curse (22:3)
- > No more death (21:4)
- > Humanity restored to paradise (22:14)
- > No more tears or pain (21:4)
- > W. W. Wiersbe

# The Chiastic Structure of Revelation

1:1

**Prologue**

1:9

**The Glorious Christ**

4:1

**The People of the Lamb**

11:19

**The reality behind history**

15:5

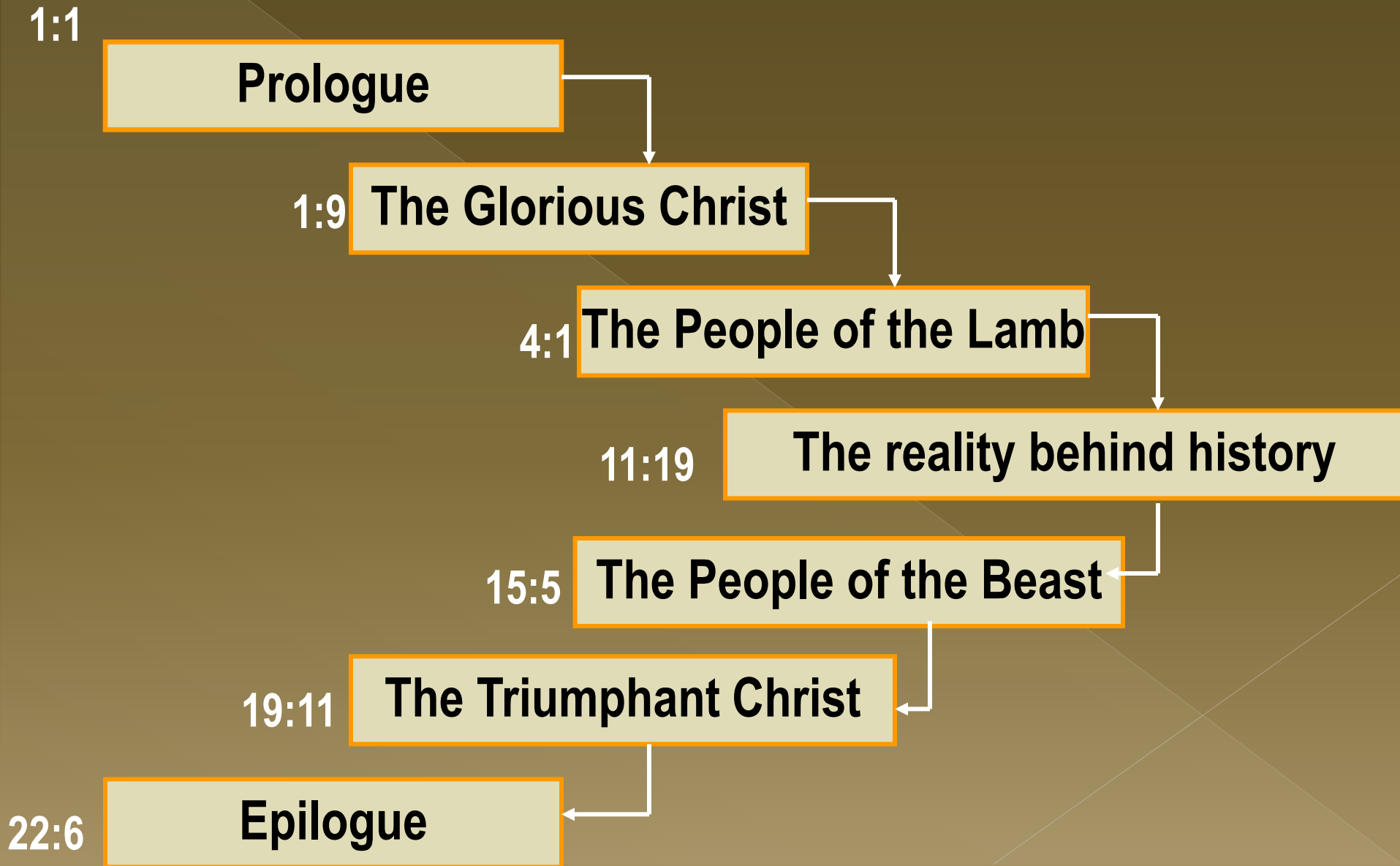
**The People of the Beast**

19:11

**The Triumphant Christ**

22:6

**Epilogue**





# The Chiastic Structure of the Book

- Chiastic structure has to do with parallelisms
- In the diagram, prologue and epilogue are parallel
- The Glorious Christ and the Triumphant Christ are parallel
- The People of the Lamb and People of the Beast are parallel

# The Chiastic Structure of the Book

- ◎ The center of the book is the heart of the message of Revelation
- ◎ The reality of history is the judgement of sin and the reward of faithfulness of the saints
- ◎ God will dwell with His people (Rev 21-22)
  - Sin and its influence will be no more

# Outline

- ◎ The New Heaven and Earth (21:1–2)
- ◎ The New People of God (21:3–8)
- ◎ The New Jerusalem (21:9–27)
- ◎ The New Paradise (22:1–5)
- ◎ The Final Message (22:6–21)

(W. W. Wiersbe)

# The New Heaven and Earth

## ◎ Revelation 21:1-2

- Most of John's imagery in this chapter reflects Isaiah 60 and 65 and Ezekiel 40–48
- Creation is restored to its original state
- There is no death, no suffering
- The curse is removed

# The New Heaven and Earth

## ◎ Revelation 21:1-2

- The New Jerusalem comes down from heaven and from God
- The origin is heavenly not earthly
- Here we see the implementation of the final eternal age
- This is what we are waiting for
- It is our future!

# The New People of God

## ◎ Revelation 21:3-8

- There is a progressive relationship between God and humanity
  - First, God walked with Adam and Eve in the garden
  - Later, He dwelt with Israel in the tabernacle and then in the temple
  - Jesus Christ came to earth and “tabernacled” among us (John 1:14)

# The New People of God

## ◎ Revelation 21:3-8

- There is a progressive and growing relationship between God and humanity
  - Today, God does not live in man-made temples (Acts 7:48–50)
  - He lives in His people (1 Cor. 6:19–20)
  - He also dwells in the church, which is the people not the building (Eph. 2:21–22)

# The New People of God

## ◎ Revelation 21:3-8

- There is a progressive and growing relationship between God and humanity
  - God dwells in believers today by His Spirit; but one day, we shall dwell in God's presence
  - The final result will be to enjoy Him forever



# The New People of God

## ◎ Revelation 21:3-8

### > Believers are “overcomers”

- All true believers are overcomers (1 John 5:4–5)
- “He that overcomes” is a key phrase in this book (Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 12:11)
- This promise is for the children of God
- They will inherit all things

# The New Jerusalem

## ◎ Revelation 21:9-27

- The city unites God's people of the OT and NT (Israel and the church)
  - The twelve gates are identified with the twelve tribes of Israel, and the twelve foundations with the 12 Apostles
  - The city itself (21:9–11, 18b) is filled with God's glory and shines like a precious jewel and pure gold

# The New Jerusalem

## ◎ Revelation 21:9-27

- God dwells personally in the city
  - There is no longer a temple, natural light, and night
  - No temple is necessary
  - His glory replaces the glory of the sun, moon, and stars
  - Ezekiel 48:35b informs us, “The name of the city from that time on will be: the Lord is there” (cf. Rev 21:3; 22:3–4)

# The New Jerusalem

## ◎ Revelation 21:9-27

- The mention of nations (Rev 21:24, 26) suggests that there will be peoples (plural) on the new earth
- They will bring glory and honor, which is an act of worship (v26)
- The New Jerusalem will last “forever and ever” (Dan 7:18, 27; Rev 22:5)

# The New Paradise

## ◎ Revelation 22:1-5

- All the tragedies of sin are reversed by God
  - Eden had an earthly river (Gen. 2:10–14); but here we have a glorious heavenly river (22:1–2a)
  - The tree of life in Eden was guarded (Gen. 3:24); but here the heavenly tree of life is available to God's people (22:2b, 14)

# The New Paradise

## ◎ Revelation 22:1-5

- All the tragedies of sin are reversed by God
  - The throne of God and of the Lamb will be present (22:3b)
  - God's people will see him face to face (22:4)
  - They will reign with God forever and ever

# The Final Message

## ◎ Revelation 22:6-21

### > Titles of Christ

- The Alpha and the Omega (22:13a)
- The First and Last (22:13b)
- The Beginning and the End (22:13c)
- The root and offspring of David (22:16a)
- The bright morning star (22:16b)

# The Final Message

## ◎ Revelation 22:6-21

### > Three major emphases:

- Confirmation of the genuineness of the prophecy (vv. 6–7, 16, 18–19)
- The imminence of Jesus' coming (vv. 7, 12, 20)
- The warning against evildoers and the invitation to holiness (vv. 11–12, 15, 17–19)



# The Final Message

## ◎ Revelation 22:6-21

### > Warning

- Do not add or subtract from God's Word— copyrighted by God (v18-19)
- To do so is to bring judgment upon one's self (Dt 4:2; Pr 30:5–6)
- John's warning applied to Revelation
- But it includes all of the Word of God

# Outline

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(W. W. Wiersbe)

# Conclusion

- Truly the reward of holiness is to be eternally with our loving King and Savior
- Thus ends the book of Revelation, the book of last things
- We can end no better way than to echo the final prayer of the Bible and of the Spirit, “**Even so come, Lord Jesus!**”
- Let's pray!

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