

Last Things Talk One

Why Study?

- **Relevant:** Knowing something about the end shapes how you live today (e.g., taking a trip).
- **Jesus:** Speaks about the end and the signs that precede it (**Mk 13:23:** Be watchful!).
- **Confusion:** Just as opinions varied about Jesus (Mt 16:14), so many opinions about the end.
- **Puzzle:** We will provide the corners and edge pieces (framework), but not all the details.

Overview

- **Garden of Eden:** Share many striking similarities with Solomon’s Temple (God’s house).
- **Temple:** Understood not only as a new Garden of Eden, but also a microcosm of the world.
- **Destruction of Temple:** Signs that preceded Temple’s end will precede the end of the world.
- **New Creation:** Rev. 21-22 ties themes of Eden, Temple, Jerusalem, Marriage together.

Garden of Eden

- **Eden:** Presented as a “macro-temple” or place of sacrifice, intimacy, beauty, and worship

Eden	Temple
Garden, Eden, and outer world (east of Eden)	Holy of Holies, outer court, outside of temple
Adam in garden	High priest goes into Holy of Holies
Tree of life (Prov. 3:18: symbol of wisdom)	Ark of the Covenant is wisdom
Sacrifice: Adam’s heart (God’s commandment)	Sacrifice: bull, sheep, goat, etc.

- **Noah’s Ark:** Genesis presents Noah’s Ark as a new Garden of Eden (order and sacrifice).
- **Abraham:** God works through a particular people (Israel) to be a light for the nations.
- **Temple:** God’s dwelling place, a place of prayer, sacrifice, worship (microcosm of world).
- **Jesus:** Presented as the New Temple (prays, ultimate sacrifice and place of worship).

Religious Deception	Violence and Unrest	Natural Disasters
“I am he” (Messiah)	Wars, nations, kingdoms	Earthquakes, famines
False prophet named Theudas led hundreds to their deaths (Acts 5:36). Josephus speaks of many imposters.	Jewish revolt in 66 AD signaled the beginning of the end of Jerusalem	Famine: 46-48 Palestine earthquake destroyed Laodicea in 60 AD

- **Temple Destruction:** Josephus records that 1.1 million Jews died in 70 A.D.
- **Jesus:** Our Lord (new Temple) was betrayed, humiliated, suffered, crucified end of life.
- **CCC 677:** The Church will enter the glory of the kingdom only through a final Passover.
 - **Key:** As Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus, there will be many helps for the Church!

Ultimate Trial

- **Mystery of Iniquity:** Form of a religious deception offering apparent solution to problems
- **Antichrist:** A pseudo-messianism by which man glorifies himself in place of God.
 - Antichrist may be individual person or symbolic of any external political, religious, or social pressures to give absolute assurance to anyone other than Jesus (Jones, 251).
 - We can cooperate in building God’s kingdom, but only fully realized in new creation
- **Kingdom:** Fulfilled only after God’s final victory over the final unleashing of evil.
 - **Key:** The Church will be beaten, bloodied, and mocked as Jesus was (Hahn, 84).

Revelation	Sets of Seven
Seven Seals (4:1 – 8:5)	White, Red, Black, Pale Horses
Seven Trumpets (8:2 – 11:19)	Exodus story: Hail, blood, fiery mountain
Seven Bowls (15:1 – 16:21)	Sores, sea turned to blood, sun burns people, etc.
Seven Visions (19:11 – 22:5)	Great Battle I, Millennium (1,000 years), Great Battle II

Four Views

- **Amillennialism** (Catholic): Thousand years symbolizes the present ongoing reign of Jesus.
- **Post-Millennialism:** Jesus will return after a millennium (1,000 years of peace / conversion).
- **Dispensational Millennialism:** Jesus will return before millennium to establish kingdom
 - **Rapture:** Believers will be “taken up” (1 Thess. 4:15-17) before the tribulation.
- **Historic Millennialism:** Jesus will return to earth before millennium (literal, future event).

New Creation

Revelation 21-22	
Garden of Eden	Tree of life, a river of life-giving water, precious stones
New Temple	City is a square (Holy of Holies), pure gold (purified), clear as glass
Heavenly Marriage	Bride is purified, brought down (gift), eternal communion

Summary

Certain	Uncertain
World created as a temple, place of praise	Details of God’s presence in creation/history
Original break in Gn. 3 has led to brokenness	Details of God’s presence in our brokenness
God chose Israel to be a light to the nations	What led to the Temple corruption?
Destruction of temple foreshadow end of world	What will the ultimate trial look like?
Christ is the true Temple and Church is witness	How can the Church witness to Christ?
Church will experience a final trial in the end	What is the mystery of iniquity and antichrist?
Christ will usher in the new creation (Rev. 21-22)	What will the new creation look like?

- **Key:** We have looked at the end times on a macro-level. Next, we will look at things on a personal level, including: what happens at death, particular judgment, final judgment, etc.