

saved. In verse eight, we get a last view of the awful doom of the lost. All through the word of God the two are contrasted, and here in the description of the end of all things, the eternal portion of the lost is shewn in all its terrible reality.

Having taken a brief view of events through the last scenes of earth to the eternal state of the righteous and the wicked, the Revelation now turns back to describe more fully the thousand years of earth's blessing under the reign of righteousness. In the Old Testament, in the darkest days, God had the blessing of the earth in view. Now the darkness is great, but Christ has come, and the gospel is being preached. It is the day of salvation, the Church is being gathered, God has made known His love in Christ. But sin and evil abound, millions are in Satan's power. The time of earth's blessing is delayed that men may hear the gospel. But it will surely come. God waits patiently; by and by He will fulfill His purpose.

The Old Testament gives the earthly side of the thousand years of blessing, and the Revelation gives the heavenly side. Scripture plainly teaches that there will be a new heaven and a new earth as well. Earth there will be, and an earthly people. The millennial earth is what the Old Testament prophets spoke of, the new earth as it will be in the eternal state is not described in the Word. It could not be. The people of God could not understand any description of it. A few brief words tell what is not in it. There is no more sea. That

must be a wondrous change, but it is all we are told. Do you ever feel sad when you realize how fast the days are passing, how you are growing older, how your life here is slipping away? Well, if you belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, every year and day and hour and minute is bringing you nearer to that new heaven and new earth. And God does tell us something about that change which we can understand. Just get your Bible and turn to Rev. 21; 3-5. God is going to wipe the tears from His people's eyes. There shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain. You can take that in. He can tell us what will not be there.—Just think what it will be to have no more sorrow nor pain nor death! To have God with us, and have Him make all things new, and the former things pass away. We cannot be now told what the new things will be, we can only be told what will not be there.

It is very evident that verse 9 and those following refer more to the millennium, to the heavenly side of it and the place of the heavenly people. We may study and meditate upon it, but not speculate. We should remember that the Revelation is largely a book of symbols, and that we must be guided by the rest of the Word, and the Spirit of our God in interpreting them, so far as is given us to interpret them. But it is a picture of full and complete blessing, and it is blessing that is never to come to an end. It may increase but it will never grow less. Are you troubled here? 'Our