

SESSION 8 NOTES
Eternity: The World That Is To Come

Isaiah 60:1-22

God begins history in the garden, but ends it in a city—the New Jerusalem—with the Tree of Life in the middle of the city. This pictures that this city is what Eden was supposed to have become; this city is paradise fulfilled. Isaiah 60 gives us a vision of a renewed civilization (i.e., the Millennium, which parallels the eternal state).

1. A vision of renewed culture (v. 11).

In Isaiah 2, the cedars of Lebanon and the trading ships of Tarshish were condemned; here, we see these items becoming part of this city. Thus, we will enjoy **a renewed culture**. Our work won't be destroyed, but transformed.

2. A vision of restored shalom (v. 18).

Human relationships will be healed—no more violence or sorrow. Thus, we will enjoy **a renewed community**.

3. A vision of remarkable spiritual intimacy (vv. 19-20).

God's immediate presence will be the incredibly glorious light and joy of the new city. Our broken relationship with God is fully restored, as we enjoy **renewed intimacy**.

So, in this new city, our alienation from God is taken away, and we have intimacy; our alienation from one another is taken away, and we have community; and our alienation from the world is taken away, and we have God-honoring culture — the universe and everything within it is completely renewed. How can this happen? Because the cross became a tree of death for Jesus, so we can have the Tree of Life.

So, the gospel has changed the heart, community, and the world. This is the vision that drives us to action. This story of redemption is what we are to engage in now, until its climax. And when we come to this new and renewed city, we will discover that we have merely turned to “Chapter 1” of the Great Story, “which no one on earth has read, which goes on forever, and in which every chapter is better than the one before” (C. S. Lewis).