

Hello. /Today we will begin the twentieth lecture on systematic theology.

/E. Reasons for why the Millennium must take place on earth.

/1. It is the restoration of the Garden of Eden.

/Before Adam sinned, God and man freely communicated with each other in the Garden of Eden. /The Garden of Eden was without sin, and it was a paradise where all of creation completely obeyed God.

/However, Adam and Eve sinned by eating the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and they were kicked out of the Garden of Eden. /The natural world was also cursed. /However, when Christ returns, He will judge sin and lock the devil in the Abyss, and He will build His righteous kingdom for a thousand years.

/In that kingdom, believers will freely communicate with the Lord, and they will enjoy perfect happiness. /This is the restoration of the Garden of Eden, or the Millennium.

/2. There is the need for restoration of the natural world.

/The natural world was cursed as a result of man's sin, but when Christ returns, believers will resurrect, their physical salvation will be complete, and the natural world will be restored. /Romans 8:19-21.

/3. There is need for restoration of the world of free communication between God and man.

/Man, in his physical form, freely communicated with God in the Garden of Eden.

/Adam and Eve were kicked out of the Garden of Eden as a result of their sin, but man, in his physical form, will be able to freely communicate with God through Christ's Second Coming.

/For this, God will lock the devil up in the Abyss for a thousand years. /When the Lord returns, Satan will be bound and thrown into the Abyss, and man will no longer sin because the devil will not be present to deceive man. /Hence, because man will not sin, he will be able to freely communicate with God.

/4. It will be the fulfillment of God's word.

/The Bible testifies that the kingdom of God will be established on earth. /Daniel 2:44
/Daniel 7:13-14.

/5. God personally said that he would be king over the whole earth.

/Zechariah 14:9-11 /Psalm 47:7-9. /The Lord's disciples firmly believed that God's kingdom would be established on earth. /Luke 19:11. /Jesus also did not deny that God's kingdom would be built on earth. /Acts 1:6-8.

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/III. The resurrection of believers.

/A. Scriptural proof for the resurrection.

/1. Scriptural proofs in the Old Testament.

/a. The dead came back to life by the power of God. /1 Kings 17:21-22. /2 Kings 4:32-36.
/b. Abraham believed that even if he killed and offered Isaac as a burnt offering, God would bring him back to life. /Hebrews 11:9.

/c. David believed in the resurrection. /Psalm 16:10.

/d. The prophet Isaiah believed in the resurrection. /Isaiah 26:19.

/e. Daniel believed in the resurrection. /Daniel 12:2.

/2. Scriptural proofs in the New Testament.

/a. Jesus brought the dead to life. /John 11:43-44.

/b. Peter brought Tabitha back to life. /Acts 9:40.

/c. Paul brought Eutychus back to life. /Acts 20:9-12.

/d. Jesus Christ spoke on several occasions that He would be raised to life. /Matthew 16:21; 17:23; 20:19.

/e. Jesus Christ taught that those who have done good and those who have done evil will be raised to life. /John 5:28-29; 6:39.

/f. The apostles believed and taught about the resurrection. /Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-16.

/g. The physical resurrection of Christ guaranteed the physical resurrection of believers. /Philippians 3:11, 21; Romans 8:11.

/B. The nature of the believers' resurrection.

/1. The believers' resurrection is a physical resurrection.

/a. The Bible testifies that the dead body will come back to life. /John 5:28-29; Job 19:25-26; Psalm 16:9; 1 Corinthians 15:44.

/b. The believer's body is included in the redemption of Christ. /The grace and blessing of Christ's redemption is completed when we believers put on our resurrected bodies. /Romans 8:23-26; 1 Corinthians 6:13-15. /1 Corinthians 6:13-14.

/c. Believers will resurrect as Christ resurrected. /Philippians 3:20-21.

/2. The character of resurrected bodies.

/a. The resurrected body has flesh and bones. /The resurrected body is not spiritual. /The spirit does not have flesh or bones, but the resurrected body has flesh and bones. /Luke 24:39.

/b. The resurrected body does not die or decompose. /Because the resurrected body is a complete body, it is neither tired nor sick, but is a strong body that does not die. /1 Corinthians 15:42.

/c. The resurrected body is a glorious body. /The resurrected body does not have a sinful nature and it does not sin. /1 Corinthians 15:43.

/d. The resurrected body is a spiritual body. /The resurrected body can eat food, but it can also live without eating. /The resurrected body can be seen by others, and it can also not be seen by others. /The resurrected body is not limited by space, and it is a spiritual body that can move instantaneously. /1 Corinthians 15:44.

/e. The resurrected body is a body belonging to heaven. /The resurrected body is a body fit for the kingdom of heaven. /1 Corinthians 15:49.

/3. The resurrection of the righteous and the wicked.

/a. The Bible testifies that the wicked will resurrect. /Daniel 12:2; John 5:28, 29; Acts 24:15.

/John 5:28-29 says, “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out-- those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.”

/b. The wicked will resurrect and receive eternal punishment and curses in hell. /The wicked do not receive pain only after they die and their souls go to hell. They will resurrect, and their spirits and bodies will receive pain together.

/4. The time of the resurrection.

/a. The resurrection will take place for each believer, each in his own turn. /1 Corinthians 15:23 says, “But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.”

/b. When Jesus Christ comes, those who were dead in Christ will rise first. /1 Thessalonians 4:16 says, “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.”

/c. There will be a first resurrection and a second resurrection. /The “first resurrection” is the resurrection of believers that will take place when Jesus Christ returns. /Revelation 20:4. /The “second resurrection” is the resurrection of unbelievers that will take place after the Millennium. /Revelation 20:5, 11-13.

/IV. The last judgment and the final state.

/1. The last judgment.

/The God of justice judges the sins of both individuals and the entire world. /The Old Testament testifies to God’s final judgment. /Psalm 96:13; Ecclesiastes 3:17; 12:14. /The New Testament also testifies to God’s final judgment. /Matthew 25:31-46; Acts 17:31; Romans 2:5-10.

/1. The Judge and His assistants.

/The Judge is Jesus Christ. /God the Father chose Christ to be Judge. /Acts 10:42; 17:31; Philippians 2:10.

/God the Father gave Christ the authority to judge as reward for His incarnation and redemptive work. /John 5:27. /Believers participate in Christ's judgment. /1 Corinthians 6:2, 3. /Angels assist Christ in His judgment. /Matthew 13:41, 42.

/2. The parties that will be judged.

/a. Believers who have not received salvation will receive the final judgment and enter hell. /Revelation 20:12; Matthew 12:36, 37; 25:32.

/b. Believers receive judgment according to their actions. /Believers have received salvation, and hence, they do not receive the judgment of hell. /However, believers do receive judgment for their actions. /2 Corinthians 5:10. /Matthew 12:36, 37; 13:30.

/c. Fallen angels will receive the final judgment and enter eternal hell. /Revelation 20:10; Matthew 8:29.

/3. The time of the judgment.

/Dead believers will resurrect when the world comes to an end. /At the time, resurrected believers will enter the Millennium. /Right after the Millennium ends, unbelievers will resurrect and receive the final judgment. /We cannot know exactly how long the time of judgment will be.

/4. The standard of judgment.

/The standard of judgment is God's word. /John 12:48. /Believers will receive rewards if their thoughts, words, and actions agree with God's word, but they will not receive rewards if they do not.

/Gentiles and those who did not receive the gospel will be judged according to the standard of their consciences. /Romans 2:15.

/Thus, man cannot complain that he will go to hell for not hearing the gospel. /There are different degrees to the rewards the righteous will receive, and different degrees to the punishments the wicked will receive. /Matthew 11:22-24; Luke 12:47, 48.

/B. The final state.

/1. The final state of the wicked.

/a. The wicked will receive the eternal punishment of curses in hell. /Hell is a place of eternal curses and punishment of God. /Matthew 13:42; 2 Peter 2:4; Revelation 20:14, 15.

/b. What is the state of eternal punishment? /The wicked will be completely cut off from God's grace, and they will forever receive the punishment of God's wrath. /The wicked will be taken captive by pain in their conscience, anguish and despair in hell. /Matthew 8:12; Revelation 14:10.

/They will receive great physical pain as well as pain in their souls. /Matthew 8:12; 13:50; Mark 9:47, 48. /They worry in the midst of flames, and they receive eternal suffering in fire and in the lake of burning sulfur. /Revelation 20:10. /There are degrees of punishment according to the sins they committed.

/c. The duration of their punishment. /Some deny that the punishment of hell will last forever. /They say that the God of love will not let sinners receive curses forever. /They say that the word “eternal” indicates a long period of time with an end.

/<Criticism> God is the God of love, but at the same time, he is a just God. /The Bible testifies that the God of justice hates sin and will surely punish. /Habakkuk 1:13.

/Matthew 25:46 says, “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.” /If the wicked do not receive eternal punishment, then the righteous cannot enter the eternal world of life. /Hence, the word “eternal” indicates an eternal time period as the meaning of the word denotes.

/2. The final state of the righteous.

/a. The Bible says that the world will be renewed. /Matthew 19:28. /God said that he will restore everything. /Acts 3:21. /2 Peter 3:10-12.

/The Bible also says that the first heaven and the first earth will pass away, and there will be a new heaven and a new earth. /Revelation 21:2. /This means that the current universe will become new.

/b. The eternal abode of the righteous. /Heaven is an actual place. /John 14:2; Revelation 21:1-3.

/c. The reward of the righteous. /Saved believers have eternal life. /They also have a life of glory and happiness in heaven. /Matthew 25:46.

/However, there are different degrees of happiness in heaven according to each believer’s level of faith on earth. /Daniel 12:3. /1 Corinthians 15:40, 41.

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/Therefore, we believers must live with faith on this earth, and we must strive to receive great and everlasting glory in heaven.

/Here we will conclude the last lecture on systematic theology. /Well done. /Thank you.