

EP WAHL LECTURE JANUARY 15, 2020

[Session One: Imminence: Is Eternity Now?](#)

NB: Audio starts right away but the Video does not activate until the 10 minute 30 seconds mark.

If Eternity is now, how does that affect our reading of Revelation's "last days" content?

If one uses Jewish literary styles to read the Book of Revelation, then one can see how the first churches to hear/read Revelation thought that they were on the cusp of experiencing the 6th Seal events (6:12-17); eternity was about to break into their history. This literary reading demonstrates that the rest of the content after the sixth Seal is actually re-visiting the concise events in the sixth Seal and re-describing them with greater detail and from different perspectives. I call this "playing with textual LEGO® blocks." This literary approach challenges a linear reading of the "last days" content provided by the best-selling *Left Behind* series of books and movies.

[Session Two: Immanence: Is the Church Already the New Jerusalem?](#)

If the Church is Already the New Jerusalem, how does that affect our Gospel proclamation?

If the New Jerusalem is invisibly present on earth as the Church/Temple of God, then churches should prioritize becoming the presence of God in our world. This priority becomes actualized more effectively in our relationships if, in our proclamation of the uniqueness of Jesus as the Christ/Messiah, we place much greater emphasis on the reality of Jesus being the only way to experience intimate fellowship with the Father during one's lifetime.

[Session Three: Presence: Where is the New Jerusalem in our Community?](#)

If the Church is Already the New Jerusalem, how does that affect our Gospel living?

If the Jerusalem is invisibly present on earth as the Church/Temple of God, then the people of God must prioritize ways to be the presence of God and bring the presence of God into our public witness in our cities and communities. The ministry of hospitality within neighbourhoods/community groups is key in this regard. The Abundant Communities initiative (ACE) of the City of Edmonton is accomplishing this. Ralph will engage in conversation with Rev. Howard Lawrence (lead consultant for ACE) and Dr. Karen Wilk (Forge Canada) on how churches can participate in this strategic approach to community building, with Gospel implications.