

The New Heaven and the New Earth

Revelation 21:1-8

"Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." ⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. ⁸ But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."."

Outline Revelation 21:1-8

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INTRODUCTION

The Judgments are over; the unbelievers are cast forever into the lake of fire. In Revelation 21 we are told about the New Heaven and the new Earth. The present creation will be totally transformed into a new heaven and new earth. God will one day live in intimate communion with his people. The glorious new creation will exclude sin and all of its painful consequences. Only those who trusted Jesus as their Lord and Savior will inherit the new creation.

The new creation, Heaven and the Earth (Revelation 21:1)

"Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea."

"I saw "a new heaven and a new earth"

We are told John saw a "new heaven and a new earth." Heaven is mentioned over 500 times in the Bible. John mentions it around 50 times in Revelation. The new creation dawns and the old creation departs, as "the first heaven and the first earth pass away." The new earth and heaven will come into existence after the Millennium and the great white throne judgment. The New Testament teaches that our present heaven and earth will be destroyed by fire (2 Peter 3:10).

2 Peter 3:10, "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be

destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare."

The Old Testament teaches there will be a new heaven and earth. The reason God will destroy the present heaven and earth is that He originally created them as the dwelling place for humanity. However, sin corrupted not only the human race but the race's environment that He will destroy it and create a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. In God's plan, this is the final stage to deliver humanity into the blessing He originally intended people to enjoy.

Isaiah 65:17, "See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind."

"There was no longer any sea"

The sea covers about 75% of the earth. The new earth will be drastically different. The new earth will have no seas, but oceans will exist in the Millennium (Ps. 72:8; Jer. 31:9-10; Ezek. 47:8-20; 48:28; Zech. 9:10; 14:8). In Old Testament times, the sea was looked upon with contempt. The sea being no more is one of the seven evil things that will be no more, including death, mourning, crying, pain, any curse, and night (Rev. 21:4; 22:3, 5). The number seven seems significant, indicating the complete and total passing away of the old creation. The sea is an evil in the sense that it opposes and separates humanity. For example, it was the sea that kept John on the Island of Patmos separate from the churches of Asia minor.

The sea is a place of chaos (Gen. 1:2; Ps. 89:9), it is also the place of the dead (Rev. 20:13). Everything destructive will be absent in the new and glorious creation that is coming. Even though there will be no sea, there will be a river of water of life clear as crystal in the eternal state according to (Rev. 22:1-2). God will provide something better for the believer. The believer has a “new” heaven and Earth where the curse of this present Earth is not found.

The city of God, new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2)

"I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband."

"I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God"

The coming down of the city from heaven suggests that it is a gift from God, an indication of his graciousness. In Gen. 11 people tried to build a city to reach heaven, but now heaven comes down to earth as God's gift, demonstrating that the new creation is not a human accomplishment. According to (Galatians 4:25-26, and Hebrews 12:22), there are two Jerusalems, one earthly and the other heavenly. It is in the earthly Jerusalem that Christ establishes His throne during millennium. The Jerusalem in the eternal state is not the city of Jerusalem in Israel we know today. New Jerusalem in Rev 21:2, is possibly that place which our Lord has gone to prepare for His own (John 14:3).

"Prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband"

John says that the city is “prepared like a bride adorned for her

husband.” The city is not called a bride but is compared to a bride. Similarly, when the angel tells John that he will show him the bride, he shows him the city (Rev. 21:9-10). The new creation is both a people and a place, a new universe and a redeemed and purified people. John draws on Isa. 61:1, where Israel says that the Lord “adorned me with adornment as a bride.” The New Jerusalem will be adorned as a bride dressed for her wedding. The focus of eternity is not the glamour of its surroundings but the person of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

God dwells with saints (Revelation 21:3)

"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."

"God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them"

John hears a loud voice from the throne, declaring that God’s dwelling place is now among the people. God dwelt in the garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, but they surrendered such fellowship with God when they sinned. Still, God showed mercy to his people and resided with his people Israel in the tabernacle in the wilderness. In the new creation, God’s presence isn’t limited to the temple: now the entire world is his temple, and he doesn’t only dwell with the people of Israel but also with all peoples.

God's promise to Abraham of blessing for all peoples and all nations will be fully fulfilled (Gen. 12:3; 18:18; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14; Pss. 2:8; 72:8-11): every tribe, language, nation, and

people will be included that is, all the saints, who have been raised from the dead (Rev. 5:9; 7:9; 14:6). The tabernacle of the Old Testament only typified the Shekinah glory of the Lord Jesus. The tabernacle of eternity is His very presence. Old Testament saints had to depend on the tabernacle to experience the presence of God. In the Eternal State, we will constantly experience God's presence.

Genesis 22:18, "in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

The former things are passed away (Revelation 21:4)

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes"

We are told God will wipe every tear from our eyes. The image comes from Isaiah 25:6-8, where we have the promise of the resurrection and the celebration of the end-time feast. Death will be "swallowed up," and the tears brought by death will be wiped away (Isa. 25:8).

Isaiah 25:8, "He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken."

God's presence means that all the sorrows of the old creation have come to an end. The idea is, in the coming world, all pain will be a thing of the past. The OT prophets look forward to the

return from exile when all weeping and tears will cease for Israel (Jer. 31:16). The expression "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" does not mean that there will be people crying in heaven. It is a poetic way of saying that there will not be. For God's people, death, sorrow, crying all will be forever ended. "For the old order of things has passed away."

God's assurance to the believer (21:5-7)

"He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children."

"These words are trustworthy and true."

Why would John be told to write that these things are true and faithful? Because, His words are true and faithful, and will surely come to pass.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End"

Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, so He is the Beginning and the End, the Creator and the Object of creation, the One who began and the One who finishes, the Eternal One.

"To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life"

It is God who gives the water of life, that is, salvation freely to

whoever thirsts for it. The water of life is free, but at the same time those who will enjoy the end-time inheritance are those who conquer and overcome.

"Those who are victorious will inherit all this"

An overcomer or victor is one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God (1 Jn. 5:5). By faith a believer overcomes the world (1 Jn. 5:4).

"I will be their God and they will be my children"

In John 3:16, we are told that God gave us His Son. In Luke 11:13, we read He gives us His Spirit. Here in our text Revelation 21:7, He gives us Himself. Israel was God's son (Exod. 4:22-23), and then the Davidic king was appointed as God's son (2 Sam. 7:14; Ps. 2:7), representing the nation of Israel as its leader (2 Cor. 6:18). Israel was God's son because the nation was in covenant with God.

It is through identification with the Son of David that the people share in the promise of divine sonship. Those who inherit the promises belong to Jesus, the true and final son of David. There will be a relationship in heaven unlike anything we've known or heard on earth. In eternity saints will enjoy a new intimacy with God which is impossible in a world where sin and death are still present.

The wicked are excluded (Revelation 21:8)

"But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

The unsaved are in view here seems clear since their part will be in the lake of fire. Heaven will be a safe place because the flesh within us will be cast away. This passage is not affirming salvation by works, but rather is referring to works as indicative of whether one is saved or not. Many will be in heaven who before their conversions were indeed guilty of these sins but who turned from them in the day of grace in trusting Christ as their Savior.

The ones who die without the Lord will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire. This verse Rev 21:8 describes those who will go to Hell. The New Jerusalem is for God's people exclusively. God assures His people that they will inherit all things and then lists eight characteristics of the unsaved as to why they will not enter the heavenly city. We see eight characteristics of the non-Christian.

1. **The Fearful**—They were afraid to trust Christ or identify themselves with Him. There are many today who will not be saved and serve Christ for fear of others. They are afraid to take their stand for Christ. The “Fearful” are also those who turn back from following God, not those who are fainthearted in their faith or who sometimes doubt or question.
2. **The Unbelieving**— The “unbelieving” are those who prove faithless, unwilling to maintain their faith in the midst of testing (Rev. 2:13, 19; 13:10; 14:12). He is lost for eternity.
3. **The Abominable**— The Greek word translated (ebdelygmenos) is related to words that refer to

“abominations.” It refers to those polluted with unnatural lust.

4. **Murderers**— life is sacred to God and all those who would murder will be removed from His presence.
5. **Whoremongers**—will be turned away from the holy city.
6. **Sorcerers**—This word comes from the Greek word *pharmakia* which forms our English word “pharmacy.” Drugs play an important role in the worship of Satan. In this context it would include all forms of sorcery including astrology, palm reading, fortune telling, and other forms of witchcraft.
7. **Idolaters**—People who worship idols, people, or things are idolaters. Anything that squeezes God out of your life is an idol.
8. **Liars**— Only absolute truth will be allowed to exist in Heaven. Realize that Satan is the master liar and will do all that he can to prevent your decision to be saved. “Liars” includes false prophets (Rev. 2:2; 1 John 2:22) like Balaam and Jezebel (Rev. 2:14, 20) but also those who falsely claim to follow the truth (Rev. 3:9; 1 John 2:4; 4:20), in contrast to the saints (Rev. 14:5).

This eight list is not meant to be exhaustive, but is representative of all sin and rebellion against God. This is a warning to those who may be Christians in name only to be certain of their salvation. The preceding verses (Rev. 21:5-7) were addressed to the persevering saints on eternity, but this verse (Rev. 21:8) lists the people whom God consigns to the lake of fire. This verse describes those who do not know God. Good works cannot earn us eternal life. A spiritual birth is necessary for eternal life.

If a believer commits any of this sin, is any hope for them? Yes. There is forgiveness in Jesus Christ our Lord. John writes, and notice, he is writing to the believers (1 John 2:1).

1 John 2:1, "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One."

When Satan brings accusation against a believer, the Lord Jesus our Advocate can point to His finished work on Calvary and say, "Charge that to My account."

John goes on to say in

1 John 1:8-9, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Being God's children does not mean denying sin (1 John 1:8), but confessing it. Because all people are sinners, Jesus had to die. Because sin is not completely eradicated from the lives of those who believe in Jesus, God graciously gave his children provision for the problem of sin. John explained: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. When believers confess their sins, they do not stand in a place of judgment awaiting their punishment. That punishment has already been paid by Christ on the cross. Instead, John explained that God "is faithful and just." That is, God keeps his promises. God promises forgiveness, even in the Old Testament (Jeremiah 31:34; Micah 7:19-20).

"This is the second death"

The Bible speaks of two kinds of death, physical and spiritual. Death in either instance means separation. We die once when our physical life ceases to operate (Hebrews 9:27). The Second Death is eternal separation from God (20:14). An unbeliever will die a second time when he or she enters a Christless eternity. A believer in Christ will never die a second death (John 5:24). The second death is the final banishment from God of all who refused to be reconciled to Him through faith in the death of His Son. Paul wrote about the first death (2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23), and also the second death (Ephesians 2:1; 4:18).

CONCLUSION

If you trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you became a child of God, Rom. 8:15; 1 John 3:1–3. You also became a legal heir of all the things that belong to the Lord God, Rom. 8:17; 1 Pet. 1:3-5.

Romans 8:17, "Now if we are children, then we are heirs —heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."

If you have never trusted Jesus, you are not headed to Heaven, but to Hell. You can be saved, if you will come to the Lord Jesus by faith, He will save your soul. It is simple, Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9; Rom. 10:13.

Romans 10:9, "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Do you have the blessed hope today? If you do, then thank Him for His grace in your life. And, if there are hindrances in your walk with Him, you need to come get those things right today.

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