

Heaven

Revelation 21

Revelation 21:1-8 (KJV)

“1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

8 **But the** fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death”

Heaven

What will eternity be like?

What’s it going to be like to live with God forever and ever?

This chapter of Revelation tells us

All the bad and negative things of this world are going to be conquered and destroyed.

All the pollution and impurities, all the ungodliness and evil, all the suffering and pain, all the corruption and death—it is all going to be erased, eliminated, and done away with.

The day is coming when there will be no more...

- Impure Government
- Corrupt Religion
- Bad Leaders
- Painful Suffering
- Sin and Temptation

This is the glorious message of Revelation

God is going to take Satan and all the ungodly and evil of this world and destroy them

God is going to make a new heavens and a new earth

God is going to make **all things new**

And when He does, there will be...

- No more Tears
- No more Sorrow
- No more Crying
- No more Pain
- No more death

Revelation 21: 1 (KJV)

“1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea”

* Heaven and Earth - there will be the new creation, the new heaven and the new earth.

* **The heaven** (heavenly bodies in outer space) and **Earth** that we know are going to pass away.

New Heaven

* All the heavens above—the sun, moon, stars, and planets—are going to be destroyed and remade

All things within the universe will be alive and reflect the glory and splendor of God Himself

* The universe will be perfect, a place where nothing burns out or wears down or wastes away or dies

* Think about what it will mean to have a universe full of living planets and stars and solar systems

The earth is going to pass away

* There is going to be a new earth

* The present earth is defective - it is cursed

* The earth suffers under all kinds of natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, destructive storms, floods, scorching heat, deserts, famines, diseases, and death

The day is coming when God is going to remake the earth

Note the statement *"There was no more sea"*

This can mean one of two things

* The sea will be eliminated, done away with, and the new earth will have no sea

* Or it can mean the same thing that is meant with the heavens and the earth

The heavens and the earth and the sea are to pass away and be made new and recreated.

The sea that causes devastation and destruction will be destroyed right along with the earth and the heavens; but when they are recreated, the sea, being part of the earth, will be part of the new earth, part of the new creation.

Matthew 5:18

"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled"

Matthew 24:35

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"

Psalms 102:25-27

"Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end"

Isaiah 34:4

"And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, as a falling fig from the fig tree"

Isaiah 65:17

"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind"

Isaiah 66:22

"For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the lord, so shall your seed and your name remain"

* The Word of the Lord is Powerful, Creative, Eternal

* You see and your name will remain as sure as the NEW Heavens and New Earth!!

Revelation 21:2 (KJV)

"2 And I John saw the holy city, *new Jerusalem*, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband"

* There will be the new city of God, the holy city, the New Jerusalem

* The idea is that the New Jerusalem will be the capital city in the new heaven and earth

It will be the place where the very presence of God is symbolized

God's presence, of course, will be manifested everywhere in the new heavens and earth, manifested in all of God's glory and majesty

* But the *holy city* will give believers a place with which to identify as they serve God throughout the universe

The next verse shows this:

“...coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband”

* The *heavenly city is the tabernacle*, the very presence of God that comes down to dwell with man

Scripture gives several names by which the capital city will be known:

- * **The New Jerusalem** (Rev. 21:2; Rev. 3:12)
- * **The Heavenly Jerusalem** (Hebrews 12:22)
- * **The Holy City** (Rev. 21:2; Rev. 22:19)
- * **Holy Jerusalem** (Rev. 21:10)
- * **The City of My God** (Rev. 3:12)
- * **The Great City** (Rev. 21:10)

The point in this verse is to show that God has prepared His own capital city to sit upon the earth

* It will apparently be from the New Jerusalem that Jesus Christ will rule the universe and require His servants (believers) to occasionally visit and report on their work (Revelation 21:24-27 – we will look at later)

The Lord's throne will sit in the New Jerusalem and from there He shall rule and reign throughout all eternity

- * Note that the city comes down out of heaven
- * It is not constructed here on earth; God has it built in heaven and then moves it to earth

Revelation 21:3 (KJV)

“3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God”

- * The very tabernacle of God will be set up right here on earth.
- * The tabernacle is a picture of the tabernacle of the Old Testament, the worship center of Israel, the place where the very presence and glory of God dwelt in a special way

The picture is this: when the New Jerusalem, the capital city of eternity, is moved to earth, then the very presence and glory of God will dwell and live right here upon earth.

- * When the New Jerusalem is established upon earth, God's glory and presence will be forever upon earth.
- * God's presence will never again be dulled or removed from the presence of people.

Revelation 21:3

"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God"

Four things are said:

- * The tabernacle of God, the very presence and glory of God, will be with men
- * God will dwell with them
- * They shall be His people
- * God Himself shall be with them and be their God

We shall serve and work for God face to face, be under His immediate presence and fellowship

This is what eternity will be like, what the new heaven and earth will be like

The presence and glory of God will be living and dwelling with us right here on New Earth

Revelation 21:4 (KJV)

“4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for *the former things are passed away*.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make *all things new*. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely”

Life will be perfected

* This means that the body of man will be perfected; so will the environment and earth

* Life will be totally different from what it is now

Scripture explains the change in the most beautiful and striking way: it declares that *"God shall wipe away all tears from their [believer's] eyes"*

* Imagine a world so perfected that there would never again be a tear of sorrow or regret shed

* It is because God recreates the universe

It is because *"the former things are passed away"*

* God cannot state it any clearer: the earth as it is now is going to pass away

* All things are new!

There is no greater hope than this glorious promise of God, the promise that He is going to *perfect the universe*.

Revelation 7:17

"For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes"

Revelation 21:4

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away"

2 Corinthians 4:17

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory"

1 Corinthians 15:26

"The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death"

1 Corinthians 15:54

"So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory"

Isaiah 35:10

"And the ransomed of the lord shall return, and come to Zion [God's city] with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away"

Isaiah 60:20

"Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall the moon withdraw itself: for the lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended"

The point is this:

- * God has willed *New heavens* and a *New Earth*.
- * Therefore, He has already spoken it into being.
- * He has already declared, *"It is done"*
- * The clock is set and the event fixed
- * The minutes of time are ticking away, and the hour will come when the set time arrives

1 Thessalonians 5:24

"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it"

Revelation 21:6-8 (KJV)

“And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

* God people, the citizens of Heaven will drink from the fountain of the water of life!

* Simply stated, to thirst after life means to thirst after the life that God gives, to thirst after God Himself.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

* The citizen of the new heavens and earth will be the over-comer

* An over - comer is the person who overcomes this world and remains faithful and loyal to Christ

* It means the person who remains pure and follows the Lord Jesus Christ

* The over - comer is the person who conquers all the temptations and trials of life through their faith in Jesus

Two great promises are made to the over comer

* **He will inherit all things, all that the new heavens and earth offer**

* **He will be a son of God**

John 1:12

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name"

Galatians 4:7

"Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ"

Revelation 21:6-8 (KJV)

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death”

The rejection and fate of the people who will be rejected are clearly spelled out. What a tragic list it is

Fearful

The fearful or cowardly: those who do not confess Christ because they fear what others might say; those who are afraid to give up the world and deny self; those who fear taking a stand for Christ; those who fear to fellowship or become identified with Christian people.

Matthew 10:32-33

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven"

Romans 10:9

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved"

Proverbs 29:25

"The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the lord shall be safe"

The unbelieving

Those who do not believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Savior of the world; those who reject Jesus Christ and His death upon the cross for their sins; those who profess Christ, but live hypocritical lives, who show by their sinful behavior that they do not really believe Him.

John 3:18

"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God"

John 8:24

"I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins"

John 12:48 "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day"

1 John 2:22-23

"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: [but] he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also"

Revelation 21:6-8 (KJV)

8 **But the** fearful, and unbelieving, and *the abominable*, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death"

* **The abominable or polluted**: those who are worldly and who live worldly lives; those who reach out to touch and taste the impurities and lusts of the world; those who are stained and contaminated and polluted with worldliness; those who refuse to separate from the pleasures and possessions of this world and refuse to turn to God.

Luke 21:34

"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares"

Romans 12:2

"And be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"

1 John 2:15-16

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world"

Those who refuse to separate from the pleasures and possessions of this world and refuse to turn to God

Revelation 21:6-8 (KJV)

8 **But the** fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and *murderers*, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death”

* **The murderers**: those who kill and take away the lives of others

* Murder – premeditated life takers

* Covenant Breakers - "Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13)

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The whoremongers or immoral:

* Those who are sexually impure; those who commit fornication or have sex before marriage; those who commit adultery and homosexuality and all other sexual acts that God forbids; those who look and lust, read and lust, think and lust.

Romans 1:27

"And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet"

Lust – Burning – Flesh DesiresRomans 13:14

"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof"

Ephesians 4:19

"Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness [sensual, immoral behavior], to work all uncleanness with greediness"

The sorcerers:

Those who engage in astrology, witchcraft, devil worship, spiritism, seances, palm reading, fortune telling, and all other forms of false beliefs that claim to reveal and control one's fate, life, and destiny.

1 Chronicles 10:13

"So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the lord, even against the word of the lord which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it"

Galatians 5:19-20

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies"

The idolaters:

Those who worship idols, whether idols made with one's hands or just conceived in one's mind; those who have an image of what God is like and worship and follow that image instead of following the God revealed by the Scriptures; those who put the things of this earth before God; those who give their primary attention and devotion to someone or something other than God.

1 Corinthians 10:14

"Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry"

The liars:

Those who tell falsehoods and do not tell the truth; those who deceive and mislead others; those who are gossipers and talebearers and who pass rumors along

Psalm 63:11

"But the king shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped"

Revelation 21:8

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death"

Conclusion

Any person who does not repent and turn away from these things - any person who does not turn to God for forgiveness of these things - any person who does not forsake these things—that person will not enter into the new heavens and earth. He will not be a citizen of the new heavens and earth. Where does he go? Scripture is clear:

Revelation 21:8

"[They] shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death"

Some years ago, Squire Parsons wrote a song that goes like this:

*Somewhere beyond the grave there is a land,
Where Jesus went to prepare by His own hand;
And for the saved by grace there is a resting place,
And in a few more days it will be mine.*

*Someone said you can't go back home again, Things will not ever be
as good as they've been; I've got good news for you, when Heaven comes
into view,*

One glimpse and you'll know the best is yet to come.

Chorus:

*Some call it Heaven, I call it Home, Some call it dreamin',
let me dream on; Some call it Paradise, somewhere beyond the skies,
Some call it Heaven, I call it Home!*