

The End Series

Topic: New Heavens & New Earth

We've been studying "**THE END**" from the Book of Revelation of John. Or in the Greek "*Apokalypsis Ioannou*" Apocalypse means, "uncovering" or "unveiling"

REVIEW/// Whiteboard

The final big picture piece we want to cover in this series.

New Heaven and Earth

Revelation 21 introduces the eternal future planned by God

Read Revelation 21:1-7 & 10-13, 16, 21, 24-26

A New Heaven and a New Earth

21 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," [a] 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' [b] 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.

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. **11** It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. **12** It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. **13** There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. **14** The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

16 The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia [Ancient Greek unit of length based upon the length of a typical sports stadium of the time] [1400 miles] in length, and as wide and high as it is long. [approx. the distance from SD to Dallas, TX]

21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. **25** On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. **26** The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.

In order to have a New Heaven & a New Earth, it would require the destruction of both.

Destruction of the Earth.

There are three destructions of the Earth described in the Bible. One in the past [flood] Genesis 6-8

Two yet to come...

However two more destructions are promised in the Bible.

1. One will come by **fire** after which God will restore all things
2 Peter 3:4-14, Isaiah 65:17-20.

2. The other destruction is described in Revelation 21:1.

Revelation 20:7-10 describes for us the final insurrection of Satan – when again heaven and earth will be polluted by the rebellion of Satan.

Therefore the words of Jesus

³⁵Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Matthew 24:35 (NIV)

The Destruction of Heaven

Why will God destroy heaven?

Very simply because the atmospheric heavens are filled with evil.

Whenever we read about heaven in the Bible we should keep in mind that there are three heavens.

1. The atmospheric heaven [our immediate atmosphere]
2. The stellar heaven [the sun, moon, and stars]
3. And the third heaven or the throne of God

²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. 2 Corinthians 12:2 (NIV)

Revelation 21:1 *Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” [a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea*

In no way is indicating that God will destroy the stellar heaven or the throne of God.

¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)

This is why the atmospheric heavens will need to be destroyed.

This indicated that Satan and his minions are working in the heavenly realm. After Satan's final rebellion God will destroy the earth so that is marred and cursed by Satan – this will ensure that evil has been done away with.

The New Heavens and the New Earth

After God does away with this planet, as we know it – he will create a new heaven and a new earth.

1. This shows the unchanging nature of God as a creator
2. This will be better than anything we have ever known – including the Garden of Eden.

There will be many changes.

- Satan will be removed and will never have influence again
Rev 20:10
- No longer will there be a sea – Rev 21:1
- No death, crying or pain – Rev 21:4
- All things will be new – Rev 21:1
- No longer any night – Rev 21:25
- No longer a curse – Rev 22:3
- No longer a sun – Rev 22:5
- Believers are able to see the Father Face to face – Rev 22:4

In addition we are told that the tabernacle of God will be with men and he will dwell among them Rev 21:3

God's tabernacle will no longer be in the third heaven, he will move his headquarters to the new earth & will take up residence in the New Jerusalem.

We simply do not have the mental capacity to comprehend – or even to imagine the significance of living in an economy where God himself exists!

Revelation 21:4 (NIV) adds an awesome promise...

4He 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."

This means that there will be a total and complete removal of sorrow.

God will also remove death.

This is significant because sin has been removed – since sin no longer exists – the wages of sin no longer need to exist.

5He 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." Revelation 21:5 (NIV)

This is a declaration that God will create for us a dimension that we cannot comprehend. He is planning an entirely new way of life for us.

9However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" 1 Cor 2:9 (NIV)

The New Jerusalem

This city will come down from heaven

1Then 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. 2I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of

heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. Rev 21:1-2

*When studying heaven important to ask → **Why not?***

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” 1 Cor 2:9 (NIV)

Scripture emphasizes that the dimensions are given in "man's measurement" (Revelation 21:17).

A metropolis of this size in the middle of the United States would stretch from Canada to Mexico and from the Appalachian Mountains to the California border. The New Jerusalem is all the square footage anyone could ask for. Even more astounding is the city's 1,400-mile high, wide and long – a cube.

We don't need to worry that Heaven will be crowded. The ground level of the city will be nearly two million square miles. This is forty times bigger than England and fifteen thousand times bigger than London. It's ten times as big as France or Germany and far larger than India. But remember, that's just the ground level.

Given the dimensions of a 1,400-mile cube, if the city consisted of different levels (we don't know this), and if each story were a generous twelve feet high, the city could have over 600,000 stories.

If they were on different levels, billions of people could occupy the New Jerusalem, with many square miles per person.

The late Dr. Henry Morris PhD was a mathematical genius. He computed that there would be enough room in the heavenly city to provide 1/3 of an acre for more than 20 Billion people.

Today we use concrete and stone for foundations – selected because it is plentiful, inexpensive and durable.

God selects different building supplies that are rare, and costly – extremely beautiful.

Costly stones, Gigantic pearls Some scholars say that the gates are size of the walls – 1400 miles high – a single pearl and gold for the streets. Unlike anything we have ever seen before.

In this city we will walk on precious metal that today is reserved only for fine jewelry.

From the very beginning – God desire has been to fellowship with man.

DID YOU KNOW???

He maintained fellowship with man until **Adam and Eve** sinned. After the fall altars were used as a place of sacrifice to be able to even approach God.

In the days of **Moses God established a tabernacle** and he dwelt in the midst of his people in a place known as the holies of holies.

Under the reign of **Solomon it was transferred to the temple.** Because of Israel's apostasy God departed from the Temple.

Jesus then became the ultimate and final sacrifice for sin. When he departed the earth – he **sent the Holy Spirit to indwell us.**

In the **Millennial Kingdom a memorial Temple** will provide a place for people to worship God – because many in that time will still need to choose between worshipping God and rejecting him.

However in eternity – in the **New Jerusalem, there is no need for a Temple** – for God himself will be there with His Son and the Holy Spirit.

This adds up to one of the most outstanding aspects of the Holy City – we will be with God.

The problem is not that the Bible doesn't tell us much about Heaven.

It's that we don't pay attention to what it tells us.

Abraham

¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. Hebrews 11:10 (NIV84)

If he was looking forward to it, don't you think he was imagining what it would be like?

Abraham's descendants "were longing for a better country--a heavenly one"

And, as Christ's followers,

¹⁶Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. Hebrews 11:16 (NIV84)

¹⁴For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. Hebrews 13:14 (NIV84)

¹³But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. 2 Peter 3:13 (NIV84)

When studying heaven you must every now and again stop and simply ask yourself – **why not.**

Frequently asked questions regarding heaven

Will we have our own homes?

Many part of the world don't have homes, running water or electricity.

I visited Calcutta once in Calcutta are 22 million people living in an area the size of the Dallas Fort Worth Airport. Much of the city is homeless. Cultures like this are often asking – will I have a home?

John 14:1-3 – I will prepare a place for you.

I don't like the translation of mansion – I like very much what the NIV does with this – rooms

What will our bodies be like?

²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. Philippians 3:20-21 (NIV84)

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" John 20:19 (NIV84)

³⁹Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." Luke 24:39 (NIV84)

⁹And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." Revelation 5:9-10 (NIV84)

Their distinctions are not removed the nations will be represented – the nationality you possess you will possess.

Acts 1:9 (NIV84)

⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Our mode of transportation is to think and be there
Heaven delights will stretch our senses
Everything will be heightened
We will be at the level Adam and Eve were
We will be able to see hear feel on a new level

Will we become angels?

No – we never will

Angels are angels – humans are humans

Humans will govern angels

²Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?

³Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! 1 Cor 6:2-3 (NIV)

The fact that angels serve us on earth will make it very special to meet them.

There is an interesting scripture in Matthew regarding angels

Matthew 18:10 (NIV84)

¹⁰“See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

In heaven angels there have access to my father – implied threat.
The angels assigned to these little people – their angels have access to the father.

Will We Be Unique?

Identity is important to God

Snow flakes and people.

Moses and Elijah on the mount of transfiguration – the disciples recognized them. The unique aspect of each was intact.

11 I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 8:11 (NIV84)

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob – you will sit with them

John the Baptist

Mary and Joseph

Eve

Peter

Stephen

Simon Cyrene

Barnabus

Widow with two mites

David Livingston

Your personality – your gifts – your personality – perfected.

Will we rule with Christ?

16“The first one came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned ten more.’ *17*“‘Well done, my good servant!’ his master replied.

‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’ *18*“The second came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned five more.’ *19*“His master answered, ‘You take charge of five cities.’ Luke 19:16-19 (NIV84)

10 cities

5 cities

In the millennium and beyond we will rule

1 Corinthians 6:2 (NIV84)

*2*Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?

We will judge the world

¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; 2 Timothy 2:12 (NIV84)

⁵There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. Revelation 22:5 (NIV84)

We will reign forever and forever
Our home in the great city is for when we are in the great city
Scripture says 12 gates are open and never close
A lot of people coming and going
You will be given assignments – you will rule
And you will come back to the city
You will travel quickly with your glorified body – probably thought is all that is required

There will be so much to do – so many places to go – so much to see
God is a creator – I believe he will still be creating worlds and universes all throughout eternity
Opportunities and places for us to travel and experience

Who do you want to see when you get to heaven?

After Jesus – who?
Grandparents
Aunt Vicki
Professor Tom Pratt
Pastor Kip
Leah's Sister Andrea

This series has been all about HOPE.

Hope to see those who have gone before
Hope to endure current hardships
Hope to wake up tomorrow morning and tackle another day

Hope to believe God will provide
& The Hope to persevere and carry on

If we hope in Christ we have the assurance of being with him forever and ever. Whether we understand the events of the End Times Events or not. If you remember anything from the last 4 weeks...remember this...

WE WIN!!!