

The Book Of The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter Twenty One

The New Jerusalem

Focus Verse: **Revelation 21:1**

“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.”

I. Lesson Introduction - The Eighth Day

This is called the “day of God” (I Cor 15:24-28), and the “dispensation of the fulness of Time” (Eph 1:10), and covers eternity future. Just as the “eighth day” is the beginning of a NEW week, so also is the eighth day in God’s calendar, a time of new beginnings!

II. Lesson - The New Jerusalem (Rev 21:1-27)

A. Time Ends Where Time Began (21:1,2)

1. The Resumption of Eternity
 - a. The first heaven and earth at this point are “passed away,” (See 2 Pet 3:10-13).
 - b. God resumes eternity where He left off when He decided to create man. This is why I draw time as a big circle with God starting “In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth,” and then ending with God creating a “new heaven, and a new earth”!
2. Three Things New Here:
 - a. _____ - Includes all galaxies, and planets. Why? Because Satan even infects outer space!
 - b. _____ - To purge this planet: of its pollutions, innocent blood, garbage, and stench!
 - c. _____ - NOT New York, New London, or New Jersey! God will personally bring down His own masterpiece of creations, a CITY where His wife will forever dwell! God is interested in cities: notice how all the churches were referred to as the “church at Corinth,” “of Laodicea,” etc.

PRINCIPLE: God has always intended for this universe to be fully occupied (Dt 4:15-19)! The problem is, we are trying to get out there and do it before God’s time, and it will end in disaster!

3. Removing The Separation Between God and His Creation
 - a. The word “heaven” is used instead of “heavens” - As it was in Gen 1:1.
 - b. The “sea” referred to here could not be oceans, because “water” is going to flow from the throne of God, and has got to collect somewhere! The “sea” being referred to is found in Rev 4:6; Jer 27:19; Job 38:25-33. In other words, this “sea” separated God from His creation (See Gen 1), and now is no longer needed!

B. The Tabernacle of God (21:2-4)

1. Its Descent (21:2) - Down out of heaven. It could not come until the divider (the “sea”) had been removed.
2. Its Description - As a Bride (21:2). A city is its inhabitants, NOT its buildings!!! Boy, if we humans could get this!!! We are so impersonal, always looking at statues and “art” instead of PEOPLE!!!
3. Its Domain - With God’s People (21:3). God’s plan is not only for us to be with Him, but more importantly, for Him to be with us forever more!
4. Its Diversity of Effects (21:3,4)
 - a. God will no longer be separated from His creation
 - b. God will personally wipe away all tears
 - c. There will be no more death forever
 - d. There will be no more sorrow forever (will you miss it?)
 - e. There will be no more crying forever
 - f. There will be no more pain

All of the above things are the results of sin. When God does away with Satan, the world, and our flesh (we get new flesh), He does away with the causes of all our sorrows!

C. The Testimonies of The Groom (21:5-8)

1. "I am starting over" (21:5) - Not because He failed the first time, but because time has run its course, and God can finally put things into gear and get on with eternity!
2. "My Words Are _____ and _____" (21:5): NOT symbolical, and apocalyptic. The hardest part is just accepting it!
3. "It is Done" (21:6) - We are back on track, and let's get this show on the road! Eternity future is about to begin, and God has His people who WANT TO LIVE WITH HIM FOREVER, and boy is He excited!
4. "I am finally Everything" (21:6), "all in all" (Eph 1:10)

PRINCIPLE: God is perfect yes, but He was not complete until He was *needed*. Now, God is complete.

5. "I still offer the water of life **FREELY**" (21:6) - Jesus can't start to tell us about heaven without reminding us that it's FREE, and telling us to "COME AND GET IT!!!"
6. "Inheritance involves Overcoming" (21:7) - This is our inheritance because "we have overcome" (See I Jn 4:4; 5:4)
7. "The tares will no longer be allowed with the wheat" (21:8) Up to this point, sin, and all its baggage has been allowed in God's universe, but no longer! They are finally "purged".
 - a. Notice how the fearful, the unbelieving, and even LIARS are grouped with WHOREMONGERS, MURDERERS, etc, as far as God is concerned!
 - b. Notice also that these people have a place waiting for them (note the words "their part")!

PRINCIPLE: God has got two places prepared for us (John 14:1-3; and Matt 25:41), but it is up to us to choose where we will spend eternity! One is for His bride, and the other is for garbage! Which one do you want to enjoy for all eternity?!

D. The Treasures of the Bride (21:9-27)

1. This city belongs to the Bride (21:9) - this is OUR heaven!
2. Shaped like a great mountain (21:10)!
3. This city is *see-through* (21:11, note "clear as crystal")!
4. This city has twelve gates marked with the names of the twelve literal JEWISH tribes of Israel (21:12,13): NOT CHRISTIANS, spiritual Jews, or any other group of people! We are dealing with literal fulfillment of O.T. prophecy for the Jews.
5. This city has a wall with twelve foundations, with each foundation having been marked with the name of one of the TWELVE apostles (21:14).

PRINCIPLE: God is not still filling the shoes of the apostles! But rather, God finished with the first twelve.

6. This city is 1500 miles square (12,000 furlongs: 1 furlong is 1/8th of a mile, so 12,000 furlongs is 1,500 miles) on each side (21:15-17)! It covers an area the size of half the US from Boston to Miami, and from Miami to El Paso, and from El Paso to north of Denver, and from north of Denver back to Boston!!! And this city is 1500 miles high!!! If each room was 15 feet square, it would have 41 trillion rooms! We are talking "many mansions"!
7. This city within its walls is made of pure, solid, clear, see-through GOLD (21:18-20)! Streets of gold, houses of gold, everything all the rich and famous try to obtain!
8. This city has twelve gates of solid PEARL (21:21)!
9. This city has no need of a place of worship, for God is THERE (21:22)!
10. This city has no need for natural light, for God is the light (21:23)!
11. This city only has "saved folk" in it, and you will never have trouble with your neighbours (21:24-27)!

III. Next Chapter - Wrapping Things Up (22:1-21)

IV. Some Questions

- A. List the three NEW things in chapter 21? 1) _____
2) _____ 3) _____
- B. Inheritance of the future involves what? (see 21:7) _____
- C. The New Jerusalem is _____ miles on each side?