

“All Things New”

Revelation 21:1-8

There are 7 new things listed in Revelation 21 and 22: the new heaven, the new earth, the new people, the New Jerusalem, the new temple, the new light, and the new Paradise. We won't look at them that way necessarily, but it is interesting to note that particular point.

The first few verses of Revelation 21 are more of an overview or generalization of what happens after the Great White Throne Judgment, or what is culminated with eternity in heaven. Although there is a chronology involved here (one event following another), there are some aspects that are not to be seen as dependent upon the previous event (the tears and sorrow of verse 4, for instance).

The first words of vs. 1 show that the events of the “new heaven” and “new earth” come after the end of the Millennium and the Great White Throne (“I saw...”). The new heaven and earth seem to be created while the judgment is going on and immediately upon its conclusion John is shown them. He is then given more overall views of things that are described in more detail in the last part of chapter 21 and in chapter 22.

Verses one and two show the fact of the new things and the verses following demonstrate the characteristics of that state.

I. NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH – VS. 1

A. What are they?

1. We don't know – all we know is there won't be oceans or bodies of water as we know

them on this earth – “and there was no more sea”

2. The only water will be the River of Life
3. Water is necessary for the human body and life to exist on earth as we know it but since we will have a glorified body, we won't need any of that to live

B. What happened to the old heaven and earth, to this heaven and earth?

1. God destroys them – they are “fled away” (Rev. 20:11), “passed away” here (or perish – cease to be)
2. They are said to “pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” – 2 Pet. 3:10-11

2 Peter 3:10–11

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

¹¹ Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

II. NEW JERUSALEM – VS. 2

A. This will be expounded on in another message from the last part of chapter 21

B. This verse begins with the words "And I John saw" – pointing again to the next event immediately following the previous one – this points to the thought that some have that the New Jerusalem could already be in existence and that it will descend from where God is to the new earth, and that it could possibly descend and ascend more than once.

C. Some consider this to be the church, or at least just the church-age saints, because of the term "a bride adorned for her husband," but those terms are also used for the nation of Israel, in the Old Testament – it just is a reference to the beauty of the city and the fact that God has already prepared it.

III. NEW LIFE – VS. 3-8

A. New life in the physical presence of the Lord – vs. 3

1. This part is introduced by that "great voice out of heaven" that has been heard before – we don't know who it is – could be the Lord, could be an angel – this is the last of the 21 times a great voice or a loud voice is heard in the Revelation
2. The first point it makes is that the "tabernacle of God is with men" – this is a point made in the Gospel of John regarding Jesus (God) coming to dwell with man – this time it is forever (John 1:14; Rev. 7:15; 12:12; 13:6)

[John 1:14](#)

¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

3. "They shall be his people" – this is a definition of who will be there – the saints of all the ages
4. "God himself shall be with them, and be their God" – He's all we'll need then – we'll dwell in His physical presence for all eternity
5. As stated in the introduction, these events, although culminate after the Great White Throne Judgment, they began long before that – the chronology of the event follows in the time-line of events listed in Revelation but they should not be viewed as being dependent on the line of events.

B. New life with none of the problems of the old life – vs. 4

1. "God shall wipe away all tears" – some say this is because we will shed tears at the Great White Throne Judgment, and that may be, but it doesn't necessarily have to mean that

To show that this point is often taken out of order can be seen in Isaiah 25:8, where the context is speaking of the Millennium Kingdom – what is said in Rev. 21 is quoted from Is. 25.

[Isaiah 25:8](#)

⁸ He will swallow up death in victory; and the

Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.

The expression "all tears" is singular in the Greek, literally "every tear" (Gr., *pan dakruon*), as if God wipes away every single tear. There is no just ground for imagining from this text that the saints will shed tears in heaven concerning the failures of their former life on earth. The emphasis here is on the comfort of God, not on the remorse of the saints. The tears seem to refer to tears shed on earth as the saints endured suffering for Christ's sake, rather than tears shed in heaven because of human failure. This is in keeping with the rest of the passage which goes on to say that other aspects of human sorrow such as death, sorrow, crying, or pain will also be no more in existence. The summary given at the end of the verse is "The former things are passed away." The "crying" mentioned refers to vocal response to sorrow in contrast to tears which are a silent response. The new situation is the consummation of divine grace and is the assurance of the estate of ineffable blessedness for those who were once lost sinners. The Scriptures make plain that not only the old earth and heaven pass away but also all the details and associations that belong to it which would mar the situation in the new heaven and the new earth. (John Walvoord)

2. "No more death, neither sorrow, nor

crying, neither shall there be any more pain” – all part of this earth’s problems and once this earth is gone, all its troubles are gone

Hebrews 2:14–15

¹⁴ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

¹⁵ And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

3. “For the former things are passed away” – gone, departed, vanished

C. New life that will be forever – vs. 5-7

1. Vs. 5 mentions the One on the throne (Christ, the Lamb that had been slain) now speaks and what John sees and what is announced about making all things new seems to astound him to an extent that he has to be reminded to write down what he saw – in other words, even after all that he had seen to this point in the Revelation, he was not prepared for the wonder and glory of what was now being prepared for us!!
2. Vs. 6 shows in the phrase “It is done” that everything that God intended to do for the believer is done – and eternity begins at that point
3. This is shown by the titles the Lord uses of Himself – “I am Alpha and Omega, the

beginning and the end” – He started it, and He finished it

4. He then gives the message of salvation again – to all those that would take interest in this Revelation, in this prophecy, He invites to drink of the everlasting water and live forever in heaven with Him – same message He gave to the woman at the well

John 4:10-14

10 Jesus answered and said unto her, **If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.**

11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

13 Jesus answered and said unto her, **Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:**

14 **But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.**

John 7:37-38

37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, **If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.**

38 **He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of**

living water.

5. Vs. 7 is a reiteration of what was given to John regarding the seven churches in chapter 2 and 3 – those that overcome the world, the flesh and the devil and drink of the everlasting water will be saved – forever!

D. New life that will be void of any that would offend – vs. 8

1. This verse is given to contrast the previous one – those that overcome the things in this verse will live forever in heaven with their Lord
2. This list is not all-inclusive, nor does it mean that if we are guilty of any of these that we can't go to heaven – it's just given to show what Jesus came to win the victory over
 - a) "The fearful" – fearful of what others will say, or those who said they believed but then, because of persecution or pressure, recanted their belief (they were "professors" and not "possessors")
 - b) "Unbelieving" – those that simply don't believe (atheists), as well as those that seem to be religious but don't trust in the work of Christ as only and all-sufficient
 - c) "Abominable"
 - (1) *Defiled with abominations (Vincent) – "the worst of sinner, given up to sinning; who are abominable, and to every good work reprobate; who are*

addicted to the worst of crimes" (Gill).

(2) The word comes from one that means to render foul or to stink

(3) "The detestable" in the ESV

d) "Murderers" – homicide

e) "Whoremongers" – sexually immoral in the ESV, fornicators in the ASV

(1) This is the word we get our word "porn" from (transliterated from πόρνος) but it has a broader view in the Greek

(2) This is not (nor is the last one) specifically speaking of homosexuality as some teach – this is speaking of all types of sexual immorality, including homosexuality, as well as adultery, fornication, etc.

(3) The reason it is used by some for homosexuality is the word it comes from in the Greek meant, literally, to sell, and was used for a male prostitute. "The word also has the meaning of an impure or unclean person of whatever kind" (Zodhiates).

(4) The word is translated "fornicator(s)" five times (1 Cor. 5:9-10 twice, 11; 6:9; Heb. 12:16), and "whoremonger(s)" five times (1 Tim. 1:10; Heb. 13:4; Rev. 21:8; 22:15; Eph. 5:5).

f) "Sorcerers"

(1) Comes from a word (φαρμακεύς) we get our word "pharmacy" or

"pharmacist"

(2) *Closely connected with idolatry and magic (Robertson)*

(3) *The reason for the word "pharmacy" or "pharmaceutical" is because there was often hallucinogenic drugs used in the occult*

g) "Idolater" – self-explanatory

h) The term "all liars" is not speaking of every person that has ever lied, for if that were true none of us would go to heaven – it is speaking of those that lie in hypocrisy, that lie about their salvation, about their spiritual nature, and, more to the point, those that teach those spiritual lies and lead people to hell with them (Rev. 2:2; Is. 9:15; John 8:44; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 1 John 2:21-22).

Isaiah 9:15 (as it relates to the fall of Israel)

15 The ancient and honourable, he is the head; and the prophet that teacheth lies, he is the tail.

John 8:44

44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

1 Timothy 4:1-2

1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits,

and doctrines of devils;

² Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

1 John 2:21-22

²¹ I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

²² Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

Conclusion: What a wonderful passage for the believer that is going through trials - IT WILL BE OVER OVER THERE!!!