



Waiting for New Creation

Revelation 21:1-7

The Text:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶And 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 from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

Studying the Text:

- ? Read Revelation 21:1-7. Reading Revelation should lead us to praise and worship God when we see his glory and goodness in the letter. What are some things in these verses that lead you to praise God?
- ? Read Revelation 21:1-3. How does John's description of the new heaven and the new earth look when we compare it with modern culture's depictions?
- ? Read Revelation 21:5. How do Jesus' words inform our view of Revelation and its importance for us today?
- ? Read Revelation 21:3-5. God does not give up on his original plan for creation. How does knowing that we will dwell with God forever as he intended give you joy and hope today?
- ? Read Psalm 36:6 and Matthew 6:26. As new creations awaiting a new creation, how does God call us to honor and care for his creation now? How does caring for the world and our bodies reflect our love for God and his creation?

Two Errors in Dealing with End Times:

- ? The first error Pastor Deven discussed was "wild speculation." He said that **wild speculation doesn't honor God or help people**. What are some ways we can avoid wild speculation while reading Revelation? How can those practices equip us to reach unbelievers with the truth of God's Word?

- ? The second error Pastor Deven discussed was “shoulder-shrugging indifference.” He said that **no matter how good or bad our lives might be right now, our greatest hope is the second coming of Christ!** How can standing on the hope of Jesus’ return in our everyday lives shape how we see what’s happening around us?
- ? Of the two errors Pastor Deven discussed, which do you struggle with the most? How can studying Revelation guard us against both errors?

Application:

- ? Read Revelation 21:8. How can understanding the fate of those who don’t know Jesus motivate us to share our hope with others?
- ? What ways can we live with the hope of eternity in our lives today? How can living with eternity in view serve as a witness to those around us who don’t know Jesus?