

The New Jerusalem Revelation 21:1-16

I. Descending From Heaven – 21:1-4

1. John sees this New heaven & New earth – 1
The first heaven & the first earth had passed away
Purged with fire as described by Peter –
2 Pet. 3:10-13
2. The sea was no more – 1
At creation it appears the sea is one – Gen. 1:9-10
Note "waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place"
"And let the dry land appear" "And it was so".
Appears earth was one mass separate from seas
3. The sea is not only where danger lies, where storms arise
But where humans are separated from each other
Genesis 10:25 tells us earth was divided in days of Peleg
This is explained in Gen. 11 with the tower of babel
Man's attempt to reach heaven by their own attempt
God confused their language breaking unity
4. God's Son came down from heaven
To offer Himself as a sacrifice for human sin
God and humans can now be reconciled by this sacrifice
Unity with God is now renewed in Jesus Christ
5. Unity of God's people is now restored – 1
By the redemptive sacrifice of God's Son
The people of God now dwell together in unity
6. Not only will the holy city, New Jerusalem come down – 2-3
But God Himself will come down & dwell with His people – 3
God and man will dwell together in unity
7. Tears of sadness will also be gone – 4
"These former things have passed away"

II. God Sits Upon the Throne – 21:5-8

1. The One who rules makes all things new – 5-6
This newness is not just time but means "restored"
They were perfect when God created them
But sin has corrupted & they need to be "made new"
2. As "Alpha & Omega" He is able to restore all things – 6
He is the omnipotent almighty God
3. Those who walk with Him will share His reward - 7
Those who believe & rest their faith in Christ
Those who walk faithfully in fellowship with Him
4. In contrast with those who suffer eternally – 8
Cast out of God's presence into the lake of fire

III. New Jerusalem Described – 21:9-16

1. One of the 7 angels who poured out God's wrath – 7-8
One who exercised God's wrath could see this difference
Those in "second death" & those who have "God's heritage"
He is able to describe this city for us
2. He titles this as the "Bride, the wife of the Lamb" – 9-10
In the "Spirit" John is shown a great, high mountain
It was the holy city, Jerusalem coming down out of heaven – 10
3. It was from God and had the glory of God – 11
"Its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal"
4. It had a great, high wall, with 12 gates – 12-13
At the gates 12 angels
On the gates the names of the 12 tribes of Israel were inscribed
On the east 3 gates, north 3 gates, south 3 gates, west 3 gates – 13
12 gates gives access from every side
God's people have free access from every direction
5. The wall of the city had 12 foundations – 14
On them were 12 names of the 12 apostles of the Lamb
This speaks of those who come to Christ under Ministry of New Testament
Most of them being Gentiles
6. The unity "in Christ" can be seen here
God's people are both Jew and Gentile
People of Israel are those who believed & looked for coming of Messiah
And those of Israel who have received Jesus as Messiah when He came
Gentiles are those who have received Jesus as Savior now
7. This New Jerusalem is where God dwells with His family
He has come down from heaven to dwell with His children
8. The dimensions of the city are vast, accommodating all – 15-16
The city is foursquare – length is the same as its width
The height is also the same – making it like a cube
God's people dwell in unity – one in Christ –
in fulfillment of God's creative plan

For the former things have passed away
This will be the glorious "New" Christ has won for
us

New Heaven & New Earth Revelation 21:1-8

I. A New Creation – 21:1-4

1. What God promised will come – 1
"Then" John saw a New Heaven & a new earth
"When" all that is evil has been Judged & cast
away – Rev. 16:17
There are two declarations from God
Jesus declared on the cross – "it is finished"
– John 19:30
His redemptive work was complete –
sacrifice for sin
God cried from heaven "It is done"
His judgment of all evil is complete
2. First heaven & the first earth had passed away– 2
This first heaven experienced the rebellion of Satan
& his angels
This first earth has been corrupted by human
sin & evil
Peter describes this purging with fire–2 Pet 3:10-13
Peter challenges us to live now expecting all will
be dissolved
We tend to want to hold on to what will pass away
This new heaven & new earth are eternal
3. "And the sea was no more" – 1
The sea became a dividing force for the nations
Gen.1:9-10 indicates God made earth as one
Genesis 10:25 tells us the earth was divided with
Tower of Babel
Division of languages brought fear & hatred
The sea became a place of danger & death for man
4. New heaven & new earth brings unity – 2
John sees the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down
"out of heaven from God"
"prepared as a bride for her husband"
5. John hears a loud voice from the throne - 3
Announcing this union:
"Behold the dwelling place of God is with man"
God came down to visit with Adam & Eve but they
hid
God created man so that He might fellowship
with Him
We too often hide from God in our self-centered lives
Now indeed it is all things "New"
"He will dwell with them" & "They will be His people"
"And God Himself will be with them as their God"
What a glorious union this will be with our God
6. "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes" – 4
Death shall be no more, death came because of sin
Neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor
pain anymore

We can now experience this spiritually –
2 Cor. 5:17-19

We were dead in trespasses & sins but now we are
alive in Christ

But this is just the beginning – All things will be new
And this "new" will be eternal with the One who
saved us

This newness is complete – as God intended in
creation

This newness is full - as God has planned for us –
Eph. 2:7

This speaks about the "ages to come" when God
shall fill our lives with His grace

We can only imagine what that will be but it will be
"New"

II. Christ Makes all New – 21:5-8

1. Christ sits upon the throne in eternity – 5
He is committed to reclaiming God's plan of redemption
All that needs to be done He has done
He not only redeems us & delivers us from judgment
But He will complete this work, making "all things
new"
We can rest on this promise – "write this down"
"These words are trust-worthy and true"
2. John testifies to this – 6
"He said to me" – "It is done"
"I am the Alpha and the Omega" – The beginning and
the end
We find this at the beginning of the Book of Revelation
– 1:8
"The Lord God who is and who was and who is to
come, the Almighty"
3. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water– 6
There may be no sea (21:1) but there will be living
Water And this water is available to all without
payment – (22:17)
4. The one who conquers will have this heritage – 7
This promise of "all things new" is for those who believe
The battle in this life may be, at times, difficult
But it is rewarding and its fullness is beyond what we
can imagine
5. But consider the alternative, for those who face
"second death"
The cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for
murders,
The sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars
Their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and
sulfur -Which is "the second death"

4. God's judgment fell on them – 9
 "Fire came down from heaven"
 "And consumed them"
 The "them" is the rebellious heart of humans
 With all of the advantages there is no change
 This multitude cries out in rejection of the reign of
 God's Son

II. Final Judgment on Satan 20:10

1. The devil who had deceived them
 His heart is as it was when he rebelled against
 God in heaven
 He "Was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur"
 "Where the beast and the false prophet were"
2. "They will be tormented day and night forever and
 ever"
 Satan, the rebellious angel does not repent
 The beast and the false prophet do not repent
3. Together they will suffer eternally
 Separated from God and all that is perfect in New
 Heaven & New Earth
 God's perfect plan is fulfilled in Rev. 21 & 22

Final Judgment Revelation 20:7-15

I. Final Rebellion – 20:7-9

1. When the 1,000 yrs. are ended – 7
 Man has been given an opportunity to live under
 Christ's reign
 Curse will be removed –
 "desert blossom like a rose" – Isa. 35:1
 "Wolf and the lamb will feed together" – Isa. 65:25
 "Every man will sit under his own fig tree" – Micah 4:4
 Righteousness, peace, prosperity with extended
 life-span
 Could go up to 1,000 yrs. Note in Gen. it goes
 well into 900
2. But what is true of the "heart of man" – 7
 What will happen when Satan is released?
 God will allow his release from prison for "a little
 while" – 20:3
 Is there any change and repentance with Satan?
 Is there any change in the heart of humans?
 Satan in that "brief time" will deceive the nations of
 earth
 Deception will extend to the 4 corners of earth
3. Not only rebellion in hearts but aggressive attack
 – 8-9
 "Gather them for battle"
 "Their number is like the sand of the sea"
 "Marched over broad plain of earth"
 "Surrounded the camp of the saints & the beloved
 city" – 9
 Jerusalem is under attack

III. Great White Throne Judgment – 20:11-15

1. The Holy Throne of God – 11
 "Great" – the most awesome throne of God
 "White" – absolutely pure and just in its judgments
2. "Him" who is seated upon this throne – 11
 "From His presence earth and sky fled away"
 "And no place was found for them"
 God has given all judgment to His Son – John 5:22-29
 He is the One who sits upon the throne
3. John saw the dead, great & small standing before the
 Throne – 12
 And books were opened
 These humans were to be judged fairly (from what
 was written down)
4. Another book was opened, Which was the Book of Life
 And the dead were judged by what was written in the
 books
 According to what they had done
5. All dead are included in this summons - 13
 The sea gave up the dead who were in them
 Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them
 They were judged, each one of them
 According to what they had done
6. Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire – 14
 This is the second death, the lake of fire
7. If anyone's name was not found in the Book of Life – 15
 He was thrown into the lake of fire
 This Book of Life lists those who have rested in Jesus'
 sacrifice for them
 All are guilty of sin but Christ paid the penalty (death)
 for them

Eternal life is promised to those who rest their
faith in Christ