

11/09/2025

Pastor Dan Esh

Calvary Chapel Central Phoenix

Outlines: <http://www.calvarycentral.org/media>

RSS: <http://www.calvarycentral.org/feed>

REVELATION

The City of Peace

Revelation 21

- I. Introduction
 - a. We have a low view of heaven
 - i. Shaped by movies and books – include clouds and harps
 - 1. Admit that our understanding sometimes feels boring – singing forever? I can't even sing
 - 2. It's interesting that we can look around at the beauty in this fallen world and think "this is as good as it is going to get."
 - ii. The problem isn't with heaven itself; it is with our limited understanding of it
 - b. As one pastor said, now we get to the good stuff
 - i. Is everything that has come before it the "bad stuff?" It's difficult, it's tragic – but would we classify it as bad?
 - 1. If it is bad, why didn't God just start our story in Revelation 21? Why didn't He skip Eden and jump straight to the New Jerusalem? Why isn't the Bible only two chapters long?
 - c. We will see the answers to those very important questions in Revelation 21 – and what we find there is wonderful

Rev 21:1-5 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

- II. The Capital City
 - a. His creation has been cleansed – the first heaven and first earth have passed away
 - i. There is no more sea – Daniel 7 Four monstrous beasts arise from the "great sea," symbolizing oppressive empires, the beast comes from sea in Rev 13, the restless chaotic nations, are depicted as the roaring and foaming sea by Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel
 - ii. There is no chaos, no danger, no impending doom, no evil rising in the shadows, no nation rising up to oppose God's good work
 - b. Instead, a new heaven and a new earth
 - i. "new heavens and new earth" does not mean God's dwelling place needs renewing
 - ii. Refers to the created heavens (the sky/cosmos)
 - 1. New earth, new heaven, new universe – all of it will be made new

- c. Capital City of God's new creation – New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven – from God
 - i. Called “New”, “Holy”, and “Jerusalem”
 - ii. Why Jerusalem
 - 1. Continuity with God's covenant story
 - 2. Prophets spoke of a glorified Zion
 - 3. Temple presence redefined
 - a. Old Jerusalem centered on the temple. In the New Jerusalem there is no temple “for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb”
 - b. *Rev 21: 22 But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. 24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. 25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). 26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. 27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.*
 - iii. Identity of God's people
 - 1. “Jerusalem” is a people as much as a place - *prepared as a bride adorned for her husband*

Rev 21:9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.” 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. 12 Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. 14 Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. 16 The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. 17 Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. 18 The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. 21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

- III. The Bride of Christ
 - a. *“Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God*

- i. This study radically changed the way I understood Jesus' words in John 14
 - 1. Upper room discourse – Jesus has hit them with some heavy truths
 - a. One of you will betray me
 - b. I am leaving and where I go, you can't come,
 - c. Peter, not only will you not follow me, you will deny me – 3 times
 - ii. And then He comforts them – ***John 14:1“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know.”***
 - 1. I have always pictured Jesus getting my room ready – building this city for us – I think the text is clear – this city is us
- b. Just like the church – the church is not a building it is a people – The New Jerusalem is the perfect eternal community of God's people
 - i. The ultimate fulfillment of God's promise to unite Himself with His people in a perfect relationship – Foundation of Peace (City of Peace)
 - ii. ***1 Cor 3: 9 For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building. 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.***
 - iii. ***2 Cor 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.”***
 - iv. ***Eph 2: 19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.***
 - v. 1 Peter 2 – Peter says lay aside all those behaviors of the old nature – the lying and hypocrisy – instead desire the pure truth of the word so that you can grow, mature
 - 1. ***1 Pet 2: 4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.***
- c. How is Jesus preparing a place – He's purchasing more stones – buying them with His blood – one life at a time

- i. Fitting them together into a Holy City – a place for Him to dwell eternally
- IV. God With Us
 - a. ***16 The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal.***
 - i. Making it a perfect cube
 - 1. 1 Kings 6 – Solomon builds the temple
 - a. ***1 Kings 6: 19 And he prepared the inner sanctuary inside the temple, to set the ark of the covenant of the Lord there. 20 The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and twenty cubits high. He overlaid it with pure gold, and overlaid the altar of cedar.***
 - ii. 12 – Divine Completeness – 12 one thousands
 - 1. 12 Tribes, 12 Apostles, 12 gates, 12 foundations, 12 stones, the Tree of Life produces 12 kinds of fruit
 - 2. This was the plan – this is what everything was pointing to
 - a. Eden, a lush garden and the tree of life, rivers, and precious stones
 - b. The temple – decorated with garden imagery, constructed with precious materials
 - i. *Hebrews 8 & 9 — “They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things...”* –
 - b. Brings us back to the question – Why? If this is what He always wanted, He’s God, why not start here?
 - i. God wants to make Himself known. Exo 6 - I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God
 - 1. ***John 17:3 This is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.***
 - 2. In Eph 1 Paul prays “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ ... would give us a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him.”

Rev 21:6 And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. 8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

- a. Story of a resort that had just been built – Castle Hot Springs – meals, natural hot springs, the views, the rooms - \$2,500 night
 - ii. I don’t belong here – not for me – I am the cowardly, immoral, liar
 - iii. But Jesus says - I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts
 - 1. Who cries out, who longs to be changed – I will give freely
- b. God is glorified in His story of redemption
 - iv. Is He just or merciful? Is He the all-powerful creator of the universe or is He our Father and friend? Is He wrathful against evil or is He patient with sinners? Is He sovereign over all or does He respond to our prayers? Is He glorious or humble?
 - 1. The answer is yes – and we are learning these days by day – He is doing a work in us that we will carry over into eternity