

# Lessons From Revelation

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## The New Beginning

(Rv 21:1-8)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of “Lessons From Revelation.”
  - a. Last week we discussed “The End.”
    - i. Babylon the great city had fallen and was no more.
      1. Its shipmates, merchants, and kings mourned its destruction.
        - a. **Rv 18:1-3**
  - b. This week we will discuss “The New Beginning.”
    - i. Not of Rome but of the church which Christ built.
      1. **Rv 21:1-2** “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.  
2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”<sup>1</sup>
3. With the fall of Rome the church was freed from the empire wide persecution that had been so aggressively taking place.
  - a. With that in mind let us examine our text today.

### I. The Scene

- A. John sees a new heaven & a new earth
  1. John witnesses the old heaven & earth pass away along with the sea before the throne of God.
  2. John then sees a new heaven & earth.
    - i. It comes down out of heaven.
    - ii. It is a bride prepared for her husband.
  3. John hears a voice form the throne saying...
    - i. “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.”” (NKJV)
  4. John then hears the one seated on the throne say...
    - i. “Behold, I am making all things new... Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true... 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. 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, 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.”

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<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- B. John sees the new Jerusalem
1. One of the seven angels with a bowl of wrath came and took to a high mountain.
    - i. The angel took John to see the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.
  2. John looks up to see the new Jerusalem.
    - i. Where does it appear from?
      - a. It comes down from heaven.
    - ii. What does it look like?
      - a. It has the glory of God.
        1. It has a radiance like rare jewels.
      - b. It had a great wall around it.
        1. It's length, width, and height were the same.
          - i. 12,000 stadia (1,500 miles)
        2. It had twelve foundations.
          - i. Each with an apostles name on it.
          - ii. Each was adorned with a different jewel.
        3. It's thickness is 144 cubits.
          - i. That is about 216 feet.
        4. It was made of jasper.
      - c. The wall had twelve gates.
        1. There were three on each wall.
        2. They each had the names of the twelve tribes on them.
        3. They each were made of pearl.
          - i. Each from a single pearl.
        4. They are open.
        5. They have angels in front of them.
      - d. The streets are like the inner city.
        1. They are pure gold clear as glass.
      - e. There is no temple in the city.
        1. God is the temple of the city.
      - f. There is no sun or moon.
        1. God gives it the light it needs.
        2. There is no night there.
  3. John looks and notices the nations and kings.
    - i. The nations come to walk in the cities light.
    - ii. The kings, which come from the nations, bring their glory and honor into the city.
  4. John witnesses the river that flows through the city.
    - i. It comes the throne of God & the Lamb.
    - ii. It is bright and clear as crystal.
    - iii. It flows through the middle of the street.

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5. John sees a tree on either side of the river that flows from God down the middle of the street.
  - i. This tree is the tree of life.
  - ii. It has twelve kinds of fruit.
  - iii. It yields fruit each month.
  - iv. It's leaves are used for healing the nations.
6. John then is told by the Lamb...
  - i. "And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."
7. John seeing and hearing all this he wilted at the feet of the angel and began to worship.
  - i. He is told not to do that but to worship God.
8. John hears the angel tell him...
  - i. "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. 11 Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy."
9. Upon hearing again Jesus say He is coming soon and the Holy Spirit and the church say come to hear those who thirst and take the water of life John makes a plea by warning against adding to or taking away from this revelation.

### II. The Message

- A. The new heaven, earth, and Jerusalem
  1. This is simply a symbolism showing the church coming out of this empire wide persecution.
    - i. The church comes out beautiful.
  2. How can we know this is talking about the church on earth not heaven.
    - i. This terminology is used to describe the church not in heaven by God in the past.
      - a. **Is 65:17-25** "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind...20 No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed."
        1. This cannot be heaven as there are still sinners there.
    - ii. This new heaven & earth are called the bride prepared for Christ while the new city is called the Bride of the Lamb. (2, 9-10)
      - a. Both refer in other places to the church of Christ.
        1. **II Co 11:2** "For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ."
        2. **Ep 5:23** "For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior."

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- iii. This new heaven & earth will house those that “receive the water from the spring of life.”
  - a. Who needs water those in heaven or those on the earth?
    - 1. **Mt 5:6** “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”
    - 2. **Jn 4:13-14** “...Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”
  - iv. This new heaven, earth, & Jerusalem come down out of heaven.
    - a. Though symbolism is used it seems at best odd to say heaven comes down out of heaven.
- 2. What about the verses that seem to counter this idea.
  - i. **Rv 21:4** “no mourning, tears, pain...they have passed away.”
    - a. This is not new terminology but that which has been used at other times to represent something coming out of a great distress.
      - 1. **Is 30:19** “...weep no more...”
      - 2. **Is 65:19** “...weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor the voice of crying...”
      - 3. **Is 14:3** “...rest from your sorrow...”
      - 4. **Is 35:10** “...And sorrow and sighing shall flee away...”
      - 5. **Is 25:8** “...swallow up death forever...wipe away tears from all faces...”
    - ii. **Rv 21:8** “...cowardly...detestable...murderers...their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur which is the second death.”
      - a. Remember what we said last week.
        - 1. The first resurrection was the martyrs.
        - 2. The second resurrection was the persecutors.
        - 3. We just have a rehashing of the contrasting inheritances pronounced by God.

B. Thus...

  - 1. We could continue all day but suffice to say what we find is the church getting its new beginning.

### III. The Implication

- A. God is the rock and fortress of the child of God
  - 1. **Ps 18:2** “The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”
- B. God is our God who will never forsake us
  - 1. **He 13:5** “...I will never leave you nor forsake you.””

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- C. God is our God who will always do good for us
1. **Ro 8:28-30** “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”

### CONCLUSION

1. Brethren as one considers the magnitude of this great revelation let us hold on to the power of its message.
  - a. A message that states though times may seem drear and Satan may seem strong we have no need to worry because our God is the Alpha & Omega and the Lamb is the Triumphant one over all the earth, as King of kings and Lord of lords.
2. Question: Are you doing your part to keep the church as beautiful as it is described in the magnificent revelation?
  - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
  - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
  - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
  - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
    - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
    - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
    - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
    - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
    - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
    - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**