

Heaven

#6 The New Heaven and New Earth

Rev. 21 and 22

- I. For the second time in Revelation, God himself speaks, “Behold I am making all things new...” (Rev. 21:5 and Rev. 1:8)

Isa. 65:17 “Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.”

Isa 66:22 “As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me,” declares the LORD, “so will your name and descendants endure.”

2 Pet. 3:13 “But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.”

- A. “New” (Kaine): new in quality, fresh, not new in time.

“God has never given up on his original creation. Yet somehow we’ve managed to overlook an entire biblical vocabulary that makes this point clear. Reconcile. Redeem. Restore. Recover. Return. Renew. Regenerate. Resurrect.” (Heaven, Alcorn, p. 88)

- B. An outline of Rev. 21 and 22:

1. Rev 21:1-8 An Introduction
2. Rev. 21:9-22:6 The Vision
3. Rev. 22:7-21 John’s conclusions

- C. Some Old Testament passages that serves as great commentary on Rev. 21 and 22 are Isa. 60, 65 and 66 and Eze. 40-48.

1. Isa. 60:5 Great rejoicing
2. Isa. 60:11 Gates of Heaven always open
3. Isa. 60:19-20 The light is God’s glory

- II. New Heaven and New Earth with all their changes:
(Suggested by Hoyt, *The End Times*, p.223-224)

- A. Universal Changes

1. Rev. 20:11 “the earth and the heaven fled away”
2. Rev. 21:1 “ the first heaven and the first earth passed away”
There is a sense of change or rearrangement (See 2 Pet. 3:10-12)

B. Geological and/or spiritual changes

1. There is no more “sea.” (A source for the beast – See Rev. 13:1 and a place for the dead – Rev. 20:13)
2. The curse is lifted (Rev. 22:3 and Gen. 3:16-19)

C. Organizational Changes

New Jerusalem comes down (Rev. 21: 2, 10 and 3:12)

III. The New Jerusalem (Gal. 4:25-31, Heb. 11:10, 12:22, 13:14)

A. It’s a literal city

1. Dimensions (Rev. 21:15-17):
Also see Eze. 40-48
Cube: 12,000 stadia or approximately 1400-1500 miles
2. Description:
 - a. Foundations: Garnished with precious stones (jasper, sapphire, topaz, etc.) (Rev. 21:19-20)
12 stones like those on the high priest’s breast plate (Ex. 28:15-21)
 - b. Walls: 144 cubits or approximately 120 feet
High, impregnable
Reflecting 12 apostles (Rev. 21:14)
 - c. Gates: made from a single pearl
Reflecting 12 tribes of Israel (Rev. 21:12 and Eze. 48:30-35)
 - d. City “streets” of Gold: Rev. 21:18
Early historian Josephus remarked about Herod’s temple “...whose golden front reflected the first rays of the morning sun so brilliantly that those who looked upon it had to turn away their eyes from the fiery splendor.”
 - e. “Light” source: (Rev. 21:23 and 22:5) The Lamb is the light. (Isa. 60:19-20)

- f. “Water” source: (Rev. 22:1) The river of life. Eze 47:1-12, John 7:37-38, Rom. 3:24
 - g. “Food” source: (Rev. 22:2) The tree of life. Gen. 2:8-13, 3:22
- B. It descends from God (Rev. 21:2,10)
Lev. 26:11-13
 - C. It’s a home for the bride (NT Believers) and Israel (Old Testament Saints)
Bride: Rev. 19:7-10, 21:9, 22:17 and Israel: Isa. 65:17-18
 - D. It reflects the glory of God
Eze. 43:4 “The glory of the LORD entered the temple through the gate facing east.”
 - E. In it, God shall eternally have His Home (Rev. 21:3, 7)
Lev. 26:11-12, Jer. 31:33, Eze. 37:27, Zech. 8:8
 - F. We shall have rest, joy and no pain (Rev. 21:4, 14:13)
 - G. We shall see his face (Rev. 22:4) Ex. 33:20, Matt. 5:8, 1 John 3:2
 - H. We will serve God (Rev. 22:3) and reign with Him (Rev. 22:5)
 - I. We will worship Him (Rev. 7:9-12, 19:1)
 - J. Nothing impure enters this city (Rev. 21:27)
 - K. Our entrance is based on the accounting kept in the Lamb’s Book of Life (Rev. 21:27) Ex. 32:32-33, Ps. 69:28, Dan. 12:1, Phil. 4:3