

New Heavens and New Earth

Revelation 21:1 — 22:21

Prophecy Chart Review

As we start this last lesson of Revelation with the New Heaven and new Earth, know the hope of this future event is rooted in Genesis 1-3. Also, remember the OT saints, tribulation saints, and all those converted during the millennial kingdom will be considered as the redeemed bride and will dwell in the New Jerusalem. We know all the sinners of all the ages, both demons and men, including Satan, the beast, and false prophet, are in the lake of fire forever. The whole universe has been destroyed, and God creates a new universe to be the eternal dwelling place of the redeemed.

In verse 10, John was supernaturally transported out of the material world awake—not sleeping—to an experience beyond the normal senses. The Holy Spirit empowered his senses to perceive revelation from God. This was more than a dream. In verse, **22:6-11** John gives more detail and purpose for this book. The things in this book are to be proclaimed!

I love what David Platt says about the ultimate end of the gospel is “Heaven coming down”. He says, “The ultimate end of the gospel is not heaven, but it is the New Heavens and Earth—where Heaven comes down and we reign with Jesus forever.”

What does this New Heaven / New Earth look like? (Rev. 21:1-4; 22:1-5)

“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. **11** Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, **12** waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! **13** But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

2 Peter 3:10-13

(v 1) The entire universe as we now know it will be destroyed and be replaced by a new creation that will last forever. **Is this a renovation or brand new creation? Is it a repairing, or is it a full replacement?**

“When we live on the New Earth, could we go hiking in a snowstorm without fear of trauma or death? Could we jump off a cliff into a river three hundred feet below? Could we stand in an open field in flashing lightning and roaring thunder and experience the exhilaration of God’s powerful hand?” — Randy Alcorn

“Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. **26** They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away,” **Psalm 102:25-26**

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.” **Isaiah 65:17**

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” **Luke 21:33**

“And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; **11** they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, **12** like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.” **Hebrews 1:10-12**

- **NO SEAS, BUT RISE OF WEATHER PATTERNS** — Currently three-fourths of the earth's surface is water, but the new environment will no longer be water-based and will have completely different climatic conditions.
- **BUT RIVERS & VEGETATION** — The rivers, vegetation, and landscape will be unlike anything on earth. Water of life symbolizes the continual flow of eternal life from God's throne to heaven's inhabitants. We will likely eat a lot of vegetation on the new earth similar to how it was before the flood.... (Genesis 1:29-30 and Genesis 9:1-3)

This New Jerusalem city is described as (Revelation 21:1-4; 9-21):

- **A holy & pre-existing city** (2-3, 10) — A place of holiness that has already existed (hence the descending down instead of being created); apparently this is the city where the saints will live. Also called the "tabernacle of God" meaning "abode" or "God's house where He lives.

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." **John 14:1-3**

- **Located on a great and high mountain** (10)
- **Like a Bride** (2, 9-10) The New Jerusalem takes on the character of its redeemed inhabitants. **What about Believers?** In verse 2, Believers (known as the bride) in the New Jerusalem come to meet Christ (the bridegroom) in the final ceremony of redemptive history. This is a beautiful picture where God has brought home a bride for His beloved Son. Just as God made Eve and gave Eve over to Adam as the first bride. This gives the same picture for a godly marriage today...

"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish." **Ephesians 5:25-27**

We understand,

- Earthly marriage is sinfulness. (We are married with the "worst of sinners")
- Heaven marriage is sinlessness. (We are married to the Lamb of God, the Bridegroom)

"By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it,"

Revelation 21:24

All kinds of peoples in eternity dissolve into the people of God, and they will move freely in and about the city.

- **A great city in equal length, breadth, & height** (12-17) — these are symmetrical dimensions of 1,400 mile cubed or about two million square miles of ground space. One hundred and forty-four cubits would be 72 yards or 216 ft for the width of the wall.

- **Built with perfect material reflecting the glory & light of God** (11, 18-21) — Jasper was the perfect gem diamond with the brilliant light of God's glory shining out of it and streaming over the new heaven and new earth at which the thickness of the walls were made out of. The purest gold is not like earth's gold, but it will be transparent to refract the glory of God upon the city. Some names of these gems have changed through the centuries, so it's difficult to identify each one with certainty. But there is biblical reference here: 12 stones and possibly the other 4 were used on the breastplate of the high priest (Exodus 28:39). The gates were made out of a single pearl (1,400 miles high).

What about God? (Rev. 21:5-8; 22-27)

John Stott stated in his book, *Revelation The Triumph of Christ*, "I am coming soon," has a special significance. It indicates that, although he is coming to judge, he is also coming to complete the salvation of His people, coming as the heavenly bridegroom to claim his bride. In verse 4, we also realize God's house is a place of no more tears in heaven, nothing will be sad, disappointing, deficient, or wrong.

"Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed." **Isaiah 53:4-5**

"When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." **1 Corinthians 15:54-57**

"He" who sat on the throne makes all things new... similar wording as the apostle Paul speaks about Christ. Christ is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end "eternal" and "everlasting" God. Let us thirst after God and be completely satisfied in Him.

"And 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." **Revelation 21:6**

"Jesus said to her, "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." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." **John 4:13-15**

(v 8) But those who are cast out of the new heaven and new earth and put into the lake of fire.

God is the most majestic element that every saint will experience in eternity. God is the greatest prize and reward that we will have in heaven. READ Revelation 21:22-27...

Some Revelation scriptures point to a type of "temple" in heaven but not in eternity. It is because the temple is not a building, but it is GOD HIMSELF. We use the same concept when referring to the church!

In **verse 23**, we see the glory of God as defined as "His temple". The presence of God literally fills the entire new heaven and new earth.

"Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord." 1 Thessalonians 4:17

There is a tree of life, which symbolizes eternal life and blessing. We have to remember the tree or the water does not save us, but the person of Jesus Christ. There is nothing that we do or say that would give us eternal life. "By grace through faith" which means Grace of Christ saves us and the vehicle to bring this forth is through faith, which is our active belief in Him.

"And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." Genesis 2:9

The tree bears 12 fruits, one for each month, and is symbolic of the abundant variety in heaven. There is healing suggesting a continuous enrichment of heavenly life. Praise God for verse 3!

(v 3-5) The curse of humanity and the earth as a result of Adam's and Eve's disobedience will be totally finished. We will see His face and live without harm because we are holy residents of heaven. There will be no need of the sun, for God is the "light unto our path and a lamp unto our feet".

In verses 22:12-19, God is:

- **The Alpha and Omega** — the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet signifying ultimate knowledge is communicated in this way. Christ has ultimate, sovereign knowledge
- **Beginning and end** — eternal God (13)
- **Giver of Blessings and able to forgive sins** (14) — forgiveness come by the redemptive work of Christ on the cross.
- **Lamb of God to cleanse us from sins** (14) — Christ's sacrifice and granting us the right to be children of God and access to the throne of God
- **The Root and Offspring of David** (16) — Jesus Christ is the root of Life (including David's) which establishes His deity. Only God can give life! He is also the Offspring of David which establishes His humanity. Jesus is God-man!
- **Bright and Morning Star** — our guide, our light who shatters the darkness.
- **Water of Life** — Jesus offers grace and salvation to all who desire to have their thirsty souls quenched.

The book of Revelation leaves the church waiting, hoping, expecting, longing, as the bride eagerly looking for her bridegroom, clinging to his threefold promise that he is coming. As J.I. Packer says, "Hearts on earth may say in the course of a joyful experience, 'I don't want this ever to end.' But invariably it does. The hearts of those in heaven say, 'I want this to go on forever.' And it will. There is no better news than this."

Read, Revelation 22:20-21