

The Book Of Revelation Study 99

Revelation 21:1-8 (NASB)

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.

² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,

⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

⁵ And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He *said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

⁶ Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

⁷ "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

⁸ "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

We read through this text the last time we were together to study The Book Of Revelation. And when we did we saw that it unfolds in six features of the final and eternal heaven, called the New Heaven and the New Earth;

The six features were as follows;

1. The appearance of the New Heaven and the New Earth,
2. The capital of the New Heaven and the New Earth,
3. The supreme reality of the New Heaven and the New Earth,
4. The changes in the New Heaven and the New Earth,
5. The residents of the New Heaven and the New Earth,
6. The outcasts from the New Heaven and the New Earth.

We have already talked about the first 3 of these features, and will now continue with the 4th.

THE CHANGES IN THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH.

Revelation 21:4-6a (NASB)

⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

⁵ And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He *said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

⁶ Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

Heaven will be so dramatically different from the present world that to describe it requires the use of negatives, as well as the previous positives.

To describe what is totally beyond human understanding also requires pointing out how it differs from present human experience.

The first change from their earthly life believers in heaven will experience is that God "will wipe away every tear from their eyes"

Revelation 7:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

Isaiah 25:8 (NASB)

⁸ He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken.

Now that does not mean that people who arrive in heaven will be crying and God will comfort them. They will not, as some imagine, be weeping as they face the record of their sins.

There is no such record, because of Christ;

Romans 8:1 (NASB)

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Since Christ "bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed" (1Pet 2:24)

So what does it mean? What it declares is the absence of anything to be sorry about, no sadness, no disappointment, no pain.

There will be no tears of misfortune, tears over lost love, tears of remorse, tears of regret, tears over the death of loved ones, or tears for any other reason.

Another dramatic difference from the present world will be that in heaven there will no longer be any death.

Isaiah 25:8 (NASB)

⁸ He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken.

The greatest curse of human existence will be no more.

1 Corinthians 15:54 (NASB)

⁵⁴ But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.

Both Satan, who had the power of death and death itself will have been cast into the lake of fire;

Hebrews 2:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

Revelation 20:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ *And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

Revelation 20:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ *Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.*

Also there will no longer be any **mourning, or crying** in heaven. The grief, sorrow, and distress that produce **mourning** and its outward manifestation, **crying**, will not exist in heaven.

This glorious reality will be the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy;

Isaiah 53:3-4 (NASB)

³ *He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.*

⁴ *Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.*

When Christ bore believers' sins on the cross, He also bore their sorrows, since sin is the cause of sorrow.

The perfect holiness and absence of sin that will characterize heaven will also mean that there will be no more **pain**. On the cross, Jesus was "*Pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed*" (Isa 53:5)

Now while the healing in view in this verse is primarily spiritual healing, it also includes physical healing. Mathew speaks of it this way, when Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law.

Matthew 8:14-17 (NASB)

¹⁴ *When Jesus came into Peter's home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever.*

¹⁵ *He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she got up and waited on Him.*

¹⁶ *When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill.*

¹⁷ *This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES."*

The healing ministry of Jesus was a preview of the well-being that will characterize the millennial kingdom and the eternal state.

The glorified sin free bodies that believers will possess in heaven will not be subject to **pain** of any kind.

All those changes that will mark the new heaven and the new earth indicate that **the first things have passed away**. Old human experience related to the original, fallen creation is gone forever, and with it all the **mourning, suffering, sorrow, disease, pain, and death** that has characterized it since the Fall.

Summarizing those changes in appositive way, **He who sits on the throne** said, "**Behold, I am making all things new.**"

The **One who sits on the throne** is the same One;

Revelation 20:11 (NASB)

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

Remember, the heaven and earth we know will be uncreated.

The new heaven and new earth will be truly a new creation, and not merely a refurbishing of the present heaven and earth.

In that forever new creation, there will be no entropy, no atrophy, no decay, no decline, and no waste.

Overwhelmed by all that he had seen, John seems to have lost his concentration.

Thus, God Himself, the glorious, Majestic One on the throne said to him ***"Write, for these words are faithful and true"***

Though the present heaven and earth will pass away, still God's words will not pass away;

Luke 21:33 (NASB)

³³ "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

There will be an end to the universe, but not to the truth God reveals to His people.

Whether or not men understand and believe that truth, it will come to pass.

Also by way of summary, the majestic voice of the One sitting on heavens throne said to John, ***"it is done."***

Those words are reminiscent of Jesus' words on the cross,

John 19:30 (NASB)

³⁰ "It is finished!"

Jesus' words marked the completion of the work of redemption;

These words mark the end of redemptive history. It is the time of which Paul wrote to the Corinthians;

1 Corinthians 15:24-28 (NASB)

²⁴ then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

²⁵ For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

²⁶ The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

²⁷ For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.

²⁸ When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

The One who sits on the throne is qualified to declare the end of redemptive history, because He is the **Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.**

God started history, and He will end it, and all of it has unfolded according to His sovereign plan.

That is the same phrase is applied to the Lord Jesus Christ in **"22:13"** offers proof of His full deity and equality with the Father.

The next feature

**THE RESIDENTS OF THE
NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH**

Revelation 21:6b-7 (NASB)

⁶ *I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.*

⁷ *"He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.*

Two descriptive phrases reveal who will live in the glorious new heaven and new earth.

First, a citizen of heaven is described as **one who thirsts**.

That phrase signifies those who, recognizing their desperate spiritual need, "*hunger and thirst for righteousness: (Matt 5:6)*

They are the ones to whom Isaiah cries out;

Isaiah 55:1 (NASB)

¹ *"Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost.*

Those who will be redeemed and enter heaven are those who are dissatisfied with their hopeless, lost condition and crave God's righteousness with every part of their being.

Listen to the Psalmist;

Psalms 42:1-2 (NASB)

¹ *As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God.*

² *My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God?*

And the promise to those dear seekers is;

Revelation 21:6b (NASB)

⁶ *I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.*

Second heaven belongs to **he who overcomes**.

An overcomer, according to John;

1 John 5:4-5 (NASB)

⁴ *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*

⁵ *Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

This is **one** that exercises saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The overcomer is the person who in faith drinks the water of salvation freely offered by God.

They will obtain and inheritance;

1 Peter 1:3-4 (NASB)

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

⁴ *to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,*

They will enjoy perfection of soul and body forever in the bliss of the new heaven and the new earth.

But the most wonderful promise to the one who overcomes, who thirsts for righteousness, is God's promise, "I will be his God" and "he will be my son"

Even in this life it is the believer's privilege to be the adopted son of the God of the universe. But only in heaven, when believers come into their inheritance, will that adoption be fully realized

Romans 8:23 (NASB)

²³ *And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.*

And the final feature

THE OUTCASTS FROM THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH

Revelation 21:8 (NASB)

⁸ *"But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*

John concludes his overview of the new heaven and the new earth with a serious and solemn warning. He delineates those who will be excluded from any participation in the blessings of heaven, this includes all unforgiven and unredeemed sinners.

There are similar lists:

Revelation 22:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ *Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.*

Romans 1:28-32 (NASB)

²⁸ *And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,*

²⁹ *being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,*

³⁰ *slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,*

³¹ *without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;*

³² *and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.*

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NASB)

⁹ *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,*

¹⁰ *nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.*

Galatians 5:19-21 (NASB)

¹⁹ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,

²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

2 Timothy 3:2-5 (NASB)

² For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

³ unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

⁴ treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

⁵ holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

The first group excluded from heaven are the cowardly.

These are the ones who lack endurance. They fell away when their faith was challenged or opposed, because their faith was not genuine.

Jesus described such people in the parable of the soils;

Matthew 13:20-21 (NASB)

²⁰ "The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

²¹ yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.

These are the ones who;

Hebrews 10:39 (NASB)

³⁹ But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

In the book of John, Jesus is recorded defining genuine faith

John 8:31 (NASB)

³¹ So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;

Now the next group are the unbelieving, they lack saving faith and are disloyal to God and this excludes them from heaven.

There are the abominable (*vile, polluted, detestable, wholly caught up in wickedness and evil*).

There are the murderers, immoral persons, sorcerers.

The word sorcerer comes from the Greek (*pharmakos*) from which we get our words pharmacy and pharmaceuticals

This indicates the inclusion of those who use mind altering drugs in occult religion,

We also have idolaters, and liars.

Those whose lives are characterized by such things give evidence that they are not saved and will never enter the heavenly city.

On the contrary their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

In contrast to the eternal bliss of the righteous in heaven, the wicked will suffer eternal torment in hell.

The new heaven and the new earth await believers and the final hell awaits resurrected unbelievers.

For believers, it will be a universe of eternal happiness as they dwell forever in the glorious presence of God.

For unbelievers, it will be a terrifying place of unbearable torment and unrelieved misery away from God's presence.

The choices men and women make in this life determine in which of those realms they will live forever.