

A New Heaven and A New Earth
Revelation 21:1-7
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Bible Study
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There are times when I just want to go home to heaven and just let this world be but I know that that is not what God desires for me. Oh, God does desire that we go to heaven and we will but in His time. In the meantime, there is the Father's business that we must attend to.

Although everything that God has prepared for us in beyond our comprehension, John helps us catch a glimpse by describing the contrast between what we know in this world and what it will be like in heaven.

GOD WILL DWELL AMONG US – Throughout history, no human being could see God, but that barrier will not remain, because sin will be eradicated in us once we are in heaven. Since we will be completely righteous forever, we will no longer have to continually fight off unholy desires and temptations.

SIN'S CONSEQUENCES WILL PASS AWAY – All the suffering that has affected and afflicted us will be no more. There will be no more tears, death, mourning, or pain. We will experience what Psalm 16:11 declares, "... In Your presence is fulness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore." (NKJV)

OUR NEW HOME WILL BE GLORIOUS – Jesus assured His disciples He was going to prepare a place for them in His Father's house. His departure would be for their advantage since He was going away to prepare a heavenly home for them and will return to take them so that they may be with Him forever.

"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 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."

The location of the place that Jesus is preparing for us is the New Jerusalem, and since it's a cube 1,500 miles on a side (Reve. 21:16), there will be plenty of room for every believer who will reside in heaven. Heaven is such a glorious place that radiates the brilliance of the glory of God.

New Jerusalem is the capital city of heaven, a place of perfect holiness. It is seen "coming down out of heaven" indicating it already existed; but it descends into the new heavens and new earth from its place on high. This is the city where the saints will live.

2 – A New Heaven ...

As the chapter (Revelation 21), opens, all the sinners of all 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. The entire universe as we know it will be destroyed and be replaced by a new creation that will last forever.

II Peter 3:10-13 – “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. 11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! 13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.”

The “Day of the Lord” ultimately refers to the future time of judgment whereby God judges the wicked on earth and ends this world system in its present form. The OT prophets saw the final Day of the Lord as unequalled darkness and damnation, a day when the Lord would act in a climatic (point of greatest intensity or power) way to

- (1) vindicate His name
- (2) destroy His enemies
- (3) reveal His glory
- (4) establish His Kingdom
- and (5) destroy the world -

The Day of the Lord will have a surprise arrival, sudden, unexpected, and disastrous to the unprepared.

I Thessalonians 5:2 – “For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.”

This phrase – “a thief in the night” – is never used to refer to the rapture of the church. It is used of Christ’s coming in judgment on the Day of the Lord at the end of the 7 year tribulation which is distinct from the rapture of the church and is used of the judgment which concludes the Millennium (II Peter 3:10). As a thief comes unexpectedly and without warning, so will the Day of the Lord come in both its final phases, unexpectedly and without warning.

Now, back to our text in Revelation 21:2 – the term bride is an important NT metaphor for the church. The imagery that John uses here extends from the third part of the Jewish wedding, the ceremony where the bride and the groom retire in privacy for several minutes to a room. This constitutes a symbolic consummation and finalizes the formal portion of the marriage. During this seclusion they break the fast

3 – A New Heaven ...

which they observed on their wedding day. Believers (the bride) in the New Jerusalem come to meet Christ (the bridegroom) in the final ceremony of redemptive history. The whole city, occupied by all the saints, is called the bride, so that all saints must be finally included in the bride imagery and bridal blessing. God has brought home a bride for His beloved Son. All the saints live with Christ in the Father's house (a promise made before the church began) –

John 14:2-3 – “In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 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.”

This describes Christ coming to gather His own who are alive and raise the bodies of those who have died to take them all to heaven. This rapture event is also described in I Cor. 15:51-54; I Thes. 4:13-18. After being raptured, the church will celebrate the marriage supper (Reve. 19:7-10), be rewarded (I Cor. 3:10-15; 4:5; II Cor. 5:9-10), and later return to earth with Christ when He comes again to set up His kingdom (Reve. 19:11-20:6)

In Revelation 21:3, the word translated “tabernacle” means place of abode. This is God's house, the place where He lives.

This is a fulfillment of Revelation 7:15 that God will dwell among His redeemed people. Revelation 7:15 – “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.” (NKJV)

The great multitude which is mentioned in verse 9 of Revelation 7 will serve the Lamb day and night. The priesthood of Christians will enter a new phase in the presence of God in heaven.

Since there will never be a tear in heaven, nothing will be sad, disappointing, deficient, or wrong, no crying, sorrow, or pain – Revelation 21:4

This is a fulfillment of Revelation 7:16 that “...God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

4 – A New Heaven ...

“for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

We know that God always speaks truth because He cannot lie. He told John in Revelation 21:5, “...”Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”

And because these words of Our God are true and faithful, He declares in

Revelation 21:6, "...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 belongs to those who, knowing that their souls are stained by sin and that the blood of Jesus is the only solution for man's sin and have willingly received salvation by believing in and receiving Jesus.

Salvation and eternal life come only through the Son of God who willingly gave His life on the cross, died, was buried, and rose again from the grave on the third day.

The lasting spiritual water of which Jesus spoke symbolizes the continual flow of eternal life from God's throne to heaven's inhabitants.

In Revelation 21:7, John is declaring that those who overcome are believers. The word for "overcomes" or "overcomer" comes from a Greek word meaning "to conquer," "to have victory," "to have superiority" or "conquering power."

He who overcomes will inherit not only the specific promises to the churches, but all things. Now, let me pause for a moment and define the word "all" just in case there is someone listening to me for the first time and you do not know the definition of "all". Let me define it for you, you may want to write this down because it is a very heavy definition. "All" means "all" and that is all it means. My! My! My!

Not only is the believer an overcomer but the most wonderful part of this inheritance is that the believer will be a son (a person who is a rightful heir) of God forever.

The spiritual inheritance all believers will receive is the fullness of the new creation.

5 – A New Heaven ...

Romans 8:16-17 – "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."

God's Holy Spirit confirms the validity of our adoption, not by some inner, mystical voice, but the fruit He produces in us (Galatians 5:22-23), and the power He promises for spiritual service (Acts 1:8).

Every believer has been made an heir of God, our Father. We will inherit eternal salvation (Titus 3:7), God Himself (Revelation 21:3), glory (Revelation 5:2), and everything in the universe (Hebrews 1:2).

Jesus assured His disciples then as well as us today, that He would prepare a place for us in the Father's house. That place is called heaven and it is a real place where all those who have placed their trust in Jesus by believing that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again from the grave to save us, will go after this physical life is over or be raptured before they "taste" of physical death.

There is another place that is just as real as heaven is but it is the total opposite of heaven. You will live forever there as well but it will not be a pleasant place to be, for you will be forever tormented in the flames.

If you have not received (asked) Christ to come into your life (heart), now would be a very good time to do that. Admit that you are a sinner and have sinned – Believe that Jesus died to save you from your sins – He took the punishment for your sins that you deserved – Confess (tell) Jesus that you believe He died, was buried, and rose from the grave for you then ask Him to come into your life (heart). The moment that you do that you will be saved.

Romans 10:9-10 – "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

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