
CHAPTER 21

THE NEW CREATION

THE DESTRUCTION OF THIS PRESENT EARTH AND HEAVEN

The present heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Peter offers detail, saying that the present heaven and earth “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” (2 Peter 3:10). All this comes up after the Great White Throne Judgment and Hell is in full operation. John gives us the progressive picture in Rev. 20:10-21:1, *“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.....Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.”*

NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH

God will create a New Heaven and a New Earth (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 21:1). Far into eternity, the apostle John sees “a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away” (21:1). God will then replace our present universe with “new

heaven and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:13). There obviously will be great contrasts between the present universe and the new one God will provide at the start of eternity. For example, on the new earth, it is written that "There is no longer any sea" (Rev. 21:1). This strange mention of sea could be symbolic or literal. Whatever the case the new earth will no longer be subject to sin, death and decay, for Satan will no longer have any activity on it.

From Peter's description in 2Peter 3, we deduce that his teaching on the great flood of Noah's day referred to three worlds. Namely:

- a) The first world is *"the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water"* (vs. 6).
- b) The second world is *"the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."* (vs. 7). He goes on to explain the how of the destruction saying, *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?"* (vs. 10-12).
- c) The third world is described as new heaven and new earth for Peter says, *"Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells"* (vs.11). The above future world is what John as he wrote; *"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea."* (Rev. 21:1). We, therefore, have to heed to the admonition; *"Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation-- as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these*

things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.” (2 Pet. 3:13-16)

The Description of the New Heavens and New Earth

The New Heavens and New Earth will be like Heaven today and also pictured in the New Jerusalem to come. It will, therefore, be a place more glorious than the living in the millennial period since on righteousness will be in there (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; 2 Peter 3:13). In the book of Revelation it is picture as the eternal abode for all believers to be enjoyed with:

- Satan's influence on humanity removed permanently (Rev. 20:10)
- No longer any sea (Rev. 21:1)
- Living eternally where death, crying, or pain are absent (Rev. 21:4)
- All things made new (Rev. 21:1)
- No longer any night (Rev. 21:25)
- No longer any unclean, nor those practicing abomination and lying (Rev. 21:1, 8)
- No longer any curse (Rev. 22:3)
- No longer any need for sun (Rev. 22:5)
- Inhabitants seeing the Father and the Son face to face (Rev. 22:4)

THE NEW JERUSALEM

Through John we get a vivid description of the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21: 2-22: 5. Of all the great cities in the history of the world, only Jerusalem will have a presence in eternity. God had deliberately chosen to make His name on Jerusalem (Ps. 48:1-8; 87:1-3; Dan. 9:19). It is again worth mentioning that Jerusalem happens to be the most mentioned city in the Bible, well over 250 times. The New Jerusalem, will be pre-built in heaven, will come “down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her

husband" (21:2). This city will be the most amazing in all of history! Most amazing of all is that in this city, which will be free of evil, it will be possible for God, who is holy, to dwell with mankind: "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be among them" (21:3).

General Description of the New Jerusalem

It seems to me that this is the new heavens will no longer be starry and hence making it possible for God to bring His home to earth visibly. From the for-going it is possible to say that an eternal home, the paradise of God is revealed to mankind (Rev. 2:7; 22:2), while unbelievers spend eternity in the Lake of fire or Hell outside this glorious city (Rev. 21:8). However, this paradise of God has been with God in heaven. This is what links up the Church militant on earth to the Church triumphant in heaven.

Heb. 12:22-24

"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel."

2 Cor. 12:1-4

"It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago-- whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows-- such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man-- whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows-- how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter."

The New Jerusalem as described in Rev. 21:2 – 22:5.

- A beautiful pre-built city from heaven (21:2)
- God the Father will dwell among His people (21:3)

- *There will be no death, crying or pain (21:4)*
- *All believers will inherit the blessings of the new Jerusalem (21:7)*
- *The new Jerusalem will have a brilliance like a very costly as clear as jasper (21:11)*
- *The city has a great and high wall, with 12 gates guarded by an angel at each one (21:12)*
- *The names of the 12 tribes of Israel will appear on the gates (21:12)*
- *There are three gates on each of the four sides of the city (21:13)*
- *The wall of the city has 12 foundation stones, and on them are the names of the 12 Apostles of the Lamb (21:14)*
- *The city is a cube measuring 1500 miles wide, 1500 miles long and 1500 miles high (21:15-17); so it's space is a very, very expansive 3.375 trillion cubic miles in volume.*
- *The wall is made out of jasper (21:18)*
- *The city will be pure gold, like clear glass (21:18)*
- *The foundation stones of the city wall are made from the following precious stones: jasper, sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, sardius, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprased, jacinth, and amethyst (21:19-20)*
- *The 12 gates are 12 pearls; each one of the gates is a single pearl (21:21)*
- *There is no temple in the city, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its Temple (21:22)*
- *No sun or moon, for the glory of God will illumine the city, and its lamp is the Lamb (21:23)*
- *The nations will walk by the light of God's glory (21:24)*
- *The kings of the earth will bring their glory into the city (21:24)*
- *No longer any night, only day (21:25)*
- *No longer anyone unclean, nor anyone who practices abomination and lying (21:27)*
- *The "river of the water of life," clear as crystal, will come from the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of the city's street (22:1-2)*
- *On either side of the river will stand the tree of life, bearing 12 kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree will be for the healing of the nations (22:2)*
- *No longer any curse (22:3)*
- *The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in the city (22:3)*

Eschatology

- *Believers are now able to see the Father's face, and His name will be on their foreheads (22:4)*
- *No longer any sun, because the Lord God will illumine the city, and the people will reign forever and ever (22:5).*

This is why I believe the Bible, because its teaching is clear and hopeful. I long for Him, my Lord Jesus and yours to soon return. *"And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."* (Rev. 22:17-21).