



## SESSION 38 | REVELATION 21 | THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH

### THE NEW REVEALED | REVELATION 21:1-5

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- Verse 1
  - The new heaven/earth is a necessary conclusion to 20:11.
  - The new "heaven" could either be the skies (outer space) or literal Heaven.
  - The word new *καινόν* [*kainon*] is new in quality, not just time.
  - **No more sea:** There is no reason in the grammar to take this as anything other than literal.
- Verse 2
  - Here, finally, we have the city for which Abraham sought (Heb. 11:10)
  - The fact that Jerusalem is **prepared as a bride** is not enough evidence to claim Jerusalem is the bride. However, other Scriptures confirm her role the bride.
- Verse 3
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- Verse 4
  - An interesting, but unanswered question: will there be any more birth? There will not be pain in childbearing, if there is any childbearing at all.
  - These and following verses are often used to describe Heaven as it exists now. However, they are actually a description of the New Heavens and New Earth. The state of our loved ones who have preceded us in death is not given, other than to be "with the Lord."

### A WORD TO THE WISE LIVING IN TRIBULATION | REVELATION 21:6-8

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- Verse 6
  - Since the earliest days, humanity has been searching for the "fountain of youth," by whatever name. It is a fruitless search. There is no reason to spiritualize the **fountain of the water of life** any more than there is to spiritualize the Tree of Life.
  - Note that "Alpha and Omega" can be either the Father or the Son, but "beginning and end" is always the Father, and "First and Last" is always the Son.
- Verse 7
  - Verses 7-8 are spoken to those living in the days of the coming Tribulation.
  - Like the rest of the book, this is clearly written with people in mind who are not living in the Age of Grace. Without gross spiritualization of words, **overcome** is not a word that is free from personal effort.
  - In the Age of Grace, we become children of God by grace through faith.

- Verse 8
  - This list is given as the opposite of **overcomers** in v. 7.

#### NEW JERUSALEM DESCRIBED | REVELATION 21:9-27

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- Verse 9
  - Note that what John is about to be shown has been seen in a general sense in v. 2. Now it will be shown in more detail.
  - Note also that the Lamb's wife (the Bride of Christ) is not the church, unless there is some radical spiritualization of terms.
- Verse 12
  - Even in the New Jerusalem, the tribes of Israel are eternally commemorated.
- Verse 14
  - These Apostles are the 11 faithful plus Matthias.
  - Paul was a different kind of Apostle, and not an Apostle to the Jews.
  - The 12 Apostles have, by the time of the New Jerusalem, been judging Israel for 1,000 years.
- Verse 16:
  - The word *tetragon* is equivalent to our word *quadrangle* - any shape with four sides. The following words of v. 16 describe the city as square.
  - **Furlong** is the Greek σταδίων [*stadion*] which was Latinized to *stadium*. A Roman *stadium* was approximately 600 feet. This became the length of a *furrow* and the length of the furrow became the measurement for an *acre*.
- Verse 17:
  - Α πηχῶν [*pechon*], which was the measurement from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger.
  - **The measure of a man...an angel:** This is a bit unclear, but could be saying that an angelic body is like a human body.
- Verse 23
  - The sun, moon, and stars had four roles at creation: signs (information), seasons (agriculture), days (rotation) and years (revolution). There is now no further need since all information has been revealed, agriculture is now provided through the tree of life and fountain of life, and time is no more.
  - This is a return to days 1-3 of creation, where there was light but no sun. However, in days 1-3 the light source (presumably the glory of God made visible) was from outside the earth, and because of the rotation of the earth there was day and night, even without sun. Now that God is dwelling on earth in the New Jerusalem, the rotation of the earth (if there is rotation) does not cause darkness (see v. 25).