

## Behold | Sermons through the Revelation

Sermon #45 | Revelation 21:1-8 | All Things New

### Revelation 21:1 | The New Heaven and Earth

- In Revelation 20:11, the **earth and the heaven fled away**. Now in Revelation 21:1 there is a **new heaven and new earth**.
- Since the heaven of verse 11 is most likely the *realm of outer space*, the **new heaven** is likely the same. Heaven as the dwelling place of God will be the New Jerusalem, found beginning in verse 2.
- We know *nothing* about this new realm of time and space other than this verse and a few passing glimpses in verses 24-27.
  - Isaiah 66:17-21 speaks of a **new heaven and a new earth**, but its description is of the millennium and has too many contrasts with this passage to be the same. The Hebrew word used in that passage for *new* is also translated *fresh*.
  - 2 Peter 3:13 speaks of **new heavens and a new earth** and is likely a reference to this same even but offers no new information.
- What we do know:
  - They are **new** in quality. The Greek *καινός* [kainos] is used of form and substance.
  - We know **there is no more sea**. There is no reason in the grammar to take this as anything other than literal.
    - Note: Zechariah 9:10 notes that there is a sea in the millennial period.

### Revelation 21:2 | The New Jerusalem

- A **new Jerusalem** has been expected and anticipated in Scripture.
  - Hebrews 11:10 – Abraham searched for this city.
  - Revelation 3:12 – a new name in the new city was promised to the overcomers at Philadelphia.
- The city is **prepared as a bride adorned for her husband**.
  - This is *not yet* enough information to call her *the bride*, just as 2 Corinthians 11:2 is not enough information to call the church *the bride*.
- Beginning in verse 10, much more information will be presented about this city (a city which is often equated with *heaven*).

### Revelation 21:3-4 | Information From the Great Voice Out of Heaven

- There has been a promise since Leviticus 26:11-12 that God would dwell among men. The Leviticus verses are quoted at the end of verse 3.

- In the days of the Temple the *shekinah glory* (visible glory) of God was among men, but that glory departed in Ezekiel's day.
- After the thousand years of Revelation 20, the **tabernacle of God is with men** (v. 3).
  - The Feast of Tabernacles celebrates this future event, as well as commemorating the time in the wilderness.
  - The waving of Palm branches was a recognition of *God with us* and came from the feast of Tabernacles – see Leviticus 23:40.
- It is at this post-millennial point that tears, death, and sorrow will be no more (v. 4). These verses are often used to describe *heaven as it is now*, but they actually describe *the New Jerusalem as it shall be then*.

### Revelation 21:5-8 | The Commentary of God Himself

- Previously we had a **great voice out of heaven** (v. 3), now we have the **he that sat upon the throne** (v. 5).
- That this is God Himself can be known by the following:
  - God the Father, not Jesus, is in both the preceding and following contexts.
  - The phrase **the beginning and the end** (v. 6) is used of God the Father, while *the first and the last* is used of the Son.
  - The statement, **I shall be his God** (v. 7) is definitive.
- The fountain (v. 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.
- The overcomers (vv. 7-8) –
  - Verses 7-8 are spoken by God to those living in the days of the coming Tribulation. This is evidenced by the references to the Lake of Fire in verse 8.
  - 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.
  - The list of verse 8 is the *opposite* of the overcomers of verse 7.
  - Verses 7 is the last of seventeen mentions of overcomers in the book of Revelation.