

Chapters 21 and 22

- 1) Chapter 21 and chapter 22 are considered by most to be the best parts of Revelation.
- 2) These next passages are the actual physical description of the new Jerusalem.
- 3) In this, we read what God gave John thru inspiration to describe our heavenly home.
- 4) John uses terms and items that spark the hope and imagination of all of us and his readers.
- 5) We can rest totally assured that what he describes will be as he describes.
- 6) It will be this and so much more.
- 7) As we proceed, we will be looking at some of the symbols and what they might possibly mean in the apocryphal context.
- 8) However, we will not be searching for hidden meanings to try to describe what heaven will be like beyond what God has revealed here.
- 9) To John and his readers the analogies and descriptions used were probably the most exciting and beautiful ways that could be imagined for them to see their future home.
- 10) Though we do not necessarily see these items with the same level of excitement that they did, we can be sure that our heavenly home will be more exciting, more beautiful, and more peaceful than anything we can ever imagine.
- 11) There will be NO negative emotions left – ONLY positive and wonderful feelings!
- 12) God has promised no more tears, no more sadness, and if I may be so bold, I think we can infer from all that, no more disappointment
 - a) This means simply we cannot possibly be disappointed when we are finally with the Lord in our heavenly home.
- 13) No matter what our imaginings conjure up as to what it will be like, it will be beyond that.

Rev 21:1-5 (NIV)

- 1) John begins another portion of his current vision (καὶ εἶδον) in which he sees the new heaven and the new earth.
- 2) There is really no description given for the new heaven and new earth, save the statement that there was no longer a sea.
- 3) This could be a literal reference to the new earth having no large bodies of water.
 - a) In it is in the literal sense, it represents a total environmental difference from the existing earth.
 - i) Our entire ecosystem depends on the sea as a driving force – all life on earth is dependent on water for its survival.
 - b) In a not so “literal sense” it could be a symbolic statement indicating that there is nothing foreboding or sinful remaining.

Revelation – NOTES – 2021

- i) In ancient times the sea was associated with monsters and sin – remember, the beast came from the sea.
- 4) In either case, we can rest assured that the new universe and the new earth will be a magnificent creation.
- 5) It will be perfect in every way – peaceful and beautiful beyond our most wonderful imaginings.
- 6) Next, John sees the most significant part of the new heaven and earth descending from heaven – the new Jerusalem the Holy City which will now be the dwelling place of God himself.
- 7) God will live with us and we with him in perfect harmony.
- 8) He will still be God and we will still be his children, but the relationship will be as it was meant to be before the fall.
- 9) It will be personal and intimate – as the passage indicates, God will wipe tears from our eyes.
- 10) As we said before, this also declares that there is an absence of anything to be sorry about — no sadness, no disappointment, no pain, **no temptations, and no sin.**
- 11) There will be no tears of misfortune, no tears of remorse, no tears of regret, tears over the death of loved ones, or tears for any other reason.
- 12) And the concluding and most significant statement of the passage – “for the old order of things has passed away.”
 - a) The old human experience related to the original, fallen creation is gone forever.
 - b) There is no more entropy – things never get old and fall apart as they do now.
 - c) All the mourning, suffering, sorrow, disease, pain, and death that has characterized “the old order of things” since the Fall are gone forever.
- 13) Stating this in a positive way in verse 5 – “He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"”
- 14) Then, beginning in the second half of verse 5, God speaks to John directly ...

Rev 21:5b-8 (NIV)

- 1) These words bring John back to reality.
- 2) It brings him back to the present – his present – and the actual writing of this book of prophesy.
- 3) Here, I personally think is one of the most significant statements in all scripture.
- 4) God himself simply and directly states to John for all mankind to read and hear the simple requirements that must be met in order to inherit all that has been described – to be part of the new heaven and new earth and have this eternal wonderful relationship with God.

“He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

So, how do we overcome?

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By not being counted among “the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters, and all liars”

Can we accomplish this? NO

Keeping our sins “fessed up”