



Revelation 21:1-8

A New Heaven And New Earth (21:1-4)

- A. Since the beginning, sin has plagued humanity, the earth, and even Heaven (Romans 5:12-14). But now, Satan has been defeated (Revelation 20:10), mankind has been rightly judged (20:12), Death is no more (20:14), & evil is defeated!
- B. Revelation 21-22 is the apex of Revelation -- and the Bible! The stage is finally set for the fulfillment of the hopes and dreams of God's people, the promise through history to overcomers (Isaiah 65:17, Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26–28; 3:5, 12, 21).
- C. With evil eternally judged, God renews both heaven and earth (20:1). The universe will be destroyed by fire (cf. Zephaniah 1:8-2:2; 2 Peter 3:5-7) as God redefines reality in a newly minted universe which has similarity to our own, but is distinctive (note the absence of Shamu and Flipper, 20:2) in its unique spiritual/physical combination.
- D. The descent of a "new Jerusalem" (20:2) captures the singularity of Heaven and Earth in the future, with God's people constituting Jerusalem (we will explore this more in the next couple of weeks), and Jerusalem being the dwelling place (tent) of God (20:3), where a heavenly relationship with mankind occurs in perfection (20:4).
- E. The dwelling of God and mankind in the midst of one another captures some of Heaven's splendor and beauty as a place of peace, joy, and perfect relationship. In every manner, Heaven is a wonderful place full of beauty, the great Gospel reward!

It's About The Gospel Reward! (21:5-8)

- A. With resounding affirmation from the throne of a new universal order (21:5), God/Christ Himself, the Beginning & the End (Greek Alpha & Omega, 21:6), fulfills His promise of the "water of life" (21:6, also 7:17; cf. Isaiah 55:1; John 4:13-14). This is the focus of the Gospel message, it is water for the thirsty, and life for the dead!
- B. But with this reference to the free offer of the eternal-life-giving Gospel, there is also the direct reminder that the inheritance of the "water of life" is for the "conquerer" (21:7) and not the "cowardly" (21:8). The Gospel is not a transaction producing an unchanged life of self-guided decisions which lead to death (21:8). The Gospel is an abiding life of true communion in Christ, His dwelling in our lives as owner.