



# REVELATION

Revelation 21:1-8 | David Chadwick | September 29, 2024

**Title:** The New Heaven and the New Earth

**The timeline:**

1. The Rapture
2. The 7 years of the Great Tribulation
3. Armageddon
4. The Second Coming of Jesus
5. The Millennial Kingdom
6. Satan is released at the end of the Millennial kingdom
7. A final conflict
8. The Great White Throne of Judgment: the unrighteous in hell
9. God starts over: Creating the new heaven and the new earth for the righteous (so needed)

**Romans 8:22**

**22** *Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.*

**Statement:** “They are so heavenly minded they are of no earthly good.”

**Is this possible?**

**Psalm 73:25**

**25** *Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.*

- The ones most heavenly minded do the most earthly good

**Revelation 21:1**

**1** *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.*

- “Then I saw” - once again indicates a sequential understanding of Revelation and what John saw
- The new heaven and the new earth. This is a reality prophesied throughout the Bible, for example:

### **Isaiah 65:17**

**17** *“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.*

Also, look at **2 Peter 3:7-13**:

**7** *But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. **8** But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **9** The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. **10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. **11** Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, **12** waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! **13** But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

- The sea was no more: Does this mean that all the salt water is gone? And only fresh water remains (like the river of life in **Revelation 22:1**)? Will there be no more division of nations?

### **Revelation 21:2**

**2** *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

- The New Jerusalem (still under construction today - **John 14:1-3**)
- The city comes down from heaven from God

- This is where we will all live — the “dwelling places” Jesus has prepared for us
- It is so magnificent and beautiful. She is like a bride adorned for her husband — she wants to look her best on her wedding day!

### **Revelation 21:3**

**3** *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.*

- Is this an angel speaking? More likely it is Jesus
- God will dwell with us (said 3 times), like in the Garden of Eden
- God longs to spend time with his Bride (the best marriages equal best friends!)

### **Revelation 21:4**

**4** *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”*

#### **What will heaven be like:**

1. No tears
2. No death
3. No mourning
4. No crying (grief/loss)
5. No pain (especially chronic)

#### **Answers to several often-asked pastoral questions:**

1. What if our loved ones here aren't there? If there are no tears, then it seems there would be no remembrance.

### **Isaiah 65:17-19**

**17** *“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. **18** But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. **19** I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more*

*shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.*

2. What about miscarriages? Abortions? Young deaths?

### **2 Samuel 12:23**

**23** *But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."*

3. Will we recognize our loved ones in heaven? **Luke 16:19-31**

### **Revelation 21:5**

**5** *And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

- Jesus is speaking for he is the one seated on the throne
- He is the one who is making **ALL** things new
- Perhaps John is so caught up in this splendor and beauty, that he stops writing. Jesus said, "Keep writing, John, these words are trustworthy and true." - and so important for us

### **Revelation 21:6**

**6** *And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.*

- Jesus said, "It is done!" This is the second time he used this phrase. The first was on the cross! Now he uses it here with the completed work of the new heaven and the new earth
- Jesus as the Alpha and the Omega — the beginning and the end. He began all human history, and he will one day end it
- The gospel is for thirsty people
- And it is "without payment" - **free by grace!**

### **Revelation 21:7**

**7** *The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.*

- There is "no victimhood" for followers of Jesus in eternity
- We are to conquer and overcome life's adversities

- Those who conquer (and not complain or blame) are guaranteed to be:
  - Heirs of everything that God owns
  - Sons and daughters of the King of kings

### **Revelation 21:8**

**8** *But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."*

- This is a list of all those who aren't in the new heaven and new earth
- Similar to other lists:

### **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

**9** *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, **10** nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

### **Galatians 5:19-21**

**19** *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, **20** idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, **21** envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

### **Romans 1:28-32**

**28** *And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. **29** They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, **30** slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, **31** foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. **32** Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.*

- **Does everyone feel included?**

We are **all sinners**, separated from God, headed toward the “second death!”

Unless we choose Jesus and his new identity and forgiveness

There are only two eternal destinies/homes in the Bible:

- The lake of fire and sulfur/hell/Gehenna
  - The new heaven and the new earth
- Pascal’s gamble
  - The choice is yours
  - For those of us who love Jesus: **Let’s serve others!**