

## Heaven

### Revelation 21:1-6

#### I. Introduction:

##### A. Heaven

1. Periodically someone writes a book about heaven which includes interesting details.
2. It often entails events where the person claims to have died, saw heaven, & returned to tell all about it. They might report seeing angels, biblical characters, or God Himself.
3. Contrast: These stories often claim to tell things upon which the Bible is silent.
4. Paul was taken into heaven & not allowed to speak about it (**2 Corinthians 12:4**).
5. God has chosen to keep secret most of the things we want to know about heaven.

#### II. What is revealed. (Revelation 21:1)

##### A. Transition to Eternity

1. At the end of chapter 20, human life on this planet, as we know it, came to an end.
2. The church age will end with the rapture of the church.
3. The 7- year tribulation will follow the rapture with the rise of antichrist, false prophet, & the beast. - The Battle of Armageddon will take place at the end of the tribulation.
  - a. The antichrist and false prophet will be cast into the eternal lake of fire.
  - b. Satan will be bound and cast into the abyss for 1,000 years.
4. The millennial kingdom will follow the battle of Armageddon.
  - a. Jesus will rule over this world for 1,000 years from David's throne in Jerusalem.
5. One last rebellion: At the end of the millennial kingdom, Satan is released from the abyss & leads one last rebellion against Jesus.
  - a. Fire will come down from heaven and destroy the rebels.
  - b. Satan will be cast into the eternal lake of fire.
6. Chapter 21: As we move into chapter 21, we move into eternity.
7. All those who were rebellious, wicked, and lost are now in the eternal lake of fire.
8. Those who remain, at this point, will be holy and perfectly purified in glorified bodies.

##### B. New Heaven and New Earth

1. A new heaven means the universe as a whole. A new earth means a new planet.
2. Question What happens to the current universe & earth? They burn up. (**2 Pet. 3:10-13**)
3. God created this heaven & earth to be man's abode forever, but sin corrupted man and this creation. God will remove all things that have been corrupted by sin.
4. Lost will be in the lake of fire. Creation will be destroyed & replaced w/ a perfect one.

##### C. No more sea (Revelation 21:1b)

1. One thing we know about the new earth is it will have no large bodies of water on it.
2. That's radically different from today. Two thirds of the planet is covered by water.
3. That is not an accident, life as we know it depends on water.
4. Glorified Bodies Our glorified bodies will be different. They won't need water.
5. We will have a completely different basis of life in our eternal state.

#### III. New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2)

##### A. Home of the redeemed

1. This is the eternal home of every saved person from all of human history.

2. This city will be God's new universe's center, where God's throne is & will be forever.

3. Contrast:

(1) – The lost

- a. The lost of all human history will spend eternity in the lake of fire.
- b. Lost from every generation will be tormented day & night as payment for their sin.

(2) – The redeemed

- a. Those saved by faith, the redeemed of Christ from every generation of human history, will spend eternity with Him in this magnificent city.
- b. A city indicates: relationship, friendship, fellowship, companionship, socialization, and activity. A productive existence with our God forever!

**IV. Dwelling with God (Revelation 21:3)**

**A. God's glory manifested.**

1. No mortal man or woman, in sinful state, can survive in the presence of God's glory.
2. God's perfect glory would kill us, but in the new Jerusalem we'll be in our perfect & sinless resurrection bodies allowing us to enjoy the unfiltered glory of God.
3. God will manifest Himself to us on a level man has never known before.
4. We'll enjoy fellowship with God on a level man has never known before, except perhaps before Adam sinned. What will heaven be like?

(1) – We will fellowship with God.

(2) – We will worship God.

(3) – We will serve God.

**V. A new existence (Revelation 21:4-6)**

**A. Our eternal existence**

- *This is a description of what eternity will be like.*
  1. – God shall wipe away all tears.
    - a. There'll be nothing in heaven that will cause sorrow. There'll be no tears of sadness.
    - b. There'll be no tears of disappointment, pain, loss, regret or remorse.
  2. – No more death
    - a. Death is the greatest curse upon mankind. Death has been defeated by Jesus.
    - b. Sin brought the pain and fear of death into this world. No one will die in heaven.
  3. – He makes all things new.
    - a. In this world things grow old. People are born and then they grow old.
    - b. The entire universe is winding down. There will be no decay in the new earth.
    - c. In heaven all things will be new forever! In heaven all things will be fresh forever!

**B. It is Done.**

1. This reminds of Jesus' words from the cross. God speaks from throne saying it is done
2. This marks the end of human history. This marks the end of God's redemptive process.
3. The redeemed will live with Him forever in the new heaven and the new earth.

**C. I Am Alpha and Omega.**

1. The first & last letters of the Greek alphabet. God began history & He will close it.
2. God created the 1<sup>st</sup> heaven & earth, it's He who brings it to an end ushering in eternity.

**D. Fountain of living water (Revelation 21:6b)**

1. Jesus said all those who are tired of their sin and desire His righteousness will be filled.
2. All who thirst for living water, the power of God to make them a new creation in Christ, will be satisfied.
3. Application: You can spend eternity in heaven & enjoy fellowship with God forever.