

Book of Revelation

31. The New Jerusalem



Revelation 21

Introduction

We have learnt about the tribulation, judgment, the resurrection of the dead and the millennium, but now we reach the triumphant climax of all that the Bible teaches – that God will make all things new. Revelation 21:5. That which was lost in the Garden of Eden will be restored. We are going to see what it is like tonight.

Scripture Reading: Revelation 21:1 – 22:6



What will the new Heaven and the new earth be like according to 21:1-5?

(There will no longer be any sea. This means there will be no large bodies of water like our oceans. Also there will be a city called the New Jerusalem where God will live among His people. And there will be no more death or pain.)

It is easy to read these verses with little feeling or excitement, but let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us catch a glimpse of the glorious hope we have in Christ.



Sadly not everyone will qualify to inherit these things! Who will, and who will not according to v6-8 and v27? Is it possible Christians could fall into those listed in v8? Discuss.



The angel then shows the apostle John what this city, 'that comes out of Heaven', is like. Let's look at its' description. Look up the following verses:

Gates	-	v12-13, 21, 25
Walls	-	v14, 17, 18
Size	-	v16
Foundations	-	v19-20
Streets	-	v21b, 22:2
Lighting	-	v23, 24, 22:5
Trees	-	22:2

It is hard for us to imagine the grandeur of this city – made of gold and precious stones. No city on earth can compare to its' glory or size. Some estimate that it could contain 20 billion people, each having 75 acres of land! It is not only 2,200km wide and deep, but 2,200 km high! It is a perfect cube just like the Holy of Holies in the temple that Solomon's built.



Some people think that when we are in Heaven we will be riding on white clouds and playing harps! What does the Bible really say? 22:3, 5

There is so much we do not know, but just as God has a plan and purpose for us in this life, so He will have for us in the ages to come. You will continue to use your ability and gifts for Him.



Heaven is a real place, and one day we will go there. But even now it is possible to know the reality of Heaven in our hearts – its' peace, joy and the presence of Jesus. Consider your own life – when are the times you have experienced these realities? When are the times you have not? What can you learn from this?

Conclusion

We have come to the close of this amazing vision that Jesus gave to the apostle John, about the things that are to take place in the near future. It tells us in the book of Hebrews that Abraham and all those great men of old, were looking forward to this heavenly country, to this city that God had prepared for them. Hebrews 11:10, 16. This city is also for us, as it says in Hebrews 13:6, "but we are looking for the city that **is to come**." Let us keep our hearts pure, so that we will enter that city and see His face. Revelation 22:4.

"Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure." 1 John 3:2-3