

## SESSION 9—“Things Which Will Be Hereafter” (Part 7)

Sunday, October 16, 2016

In these final two chapters we consider the *eternal state* where God creates a new heaven and new earth along with the establishment of the new Jerusalem.



### I. The Eternal State

#### A. The Descent of the New Jerusalem (21:1-8)

Notes: *The curse is over.* The new heaven and new earth come after the Millennium, after the first heaven and first earth are *utterly destroyed*. (cf. 2 Peter 3:10-13)

##### 1. Notice the newness (v. 1)

The word, “*new*” speaks not only of newness in time but also newness in kind. It is a new *kind* of heaven and a new *kind* of earth.

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##### 2. Notice what is present (v. 3)

Notice the presence of God with His people in v. 3

**Revelation 21:3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of **God** *is* with men, and **He** will dwell with them, and they shall be **His** people, and **God Himself** shall be with them, *and be* their God.”

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##### 3. Notice what is missing (v. 4 & 8)

Note: In the new heaven and new earth there will be no more “*death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any pain.*” (v. 4)

V. 8 – speaks of all unbelievers will be missing from God’s presence.

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#### 4. Notice the completeness (v. 5-7)

Note: “*It is done*” – God has made “*all things new*” and therefore all has been fulfilled.

“*I am the Alpha and Omega*” – Just as Christ began this revelation (Rev. 1:8), He ends it. He is the completion of our satisfaction—“*I will give unto him that is athirst*” – God will fully be more than enough.

“*I will be his God, and he will be My son*” – This speaks of intimacy with the Father.

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#### B. The Description of the New Jerusalem (21:9-27)

##### 1. It's mystery—It descends from heaven (v. 10)

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##### 2. It's majesty—It contains God's glory (v. 11)

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##### 3. It's magnitude (v. 12-23)

###### a. 12 Gates (v. 12-13)

Note: It has a great wall with 12 gates which are named after the 12 tribes of Israel.

###### b. 12 Foundations—12 apostles (v. 14)

Note: The apostles represent the church, thus signifying that Israel and the church are both represented in the heavenly Jerusalem.

###### c. 12,000 Furlongs (v. 15-16)

Note: The footprint of the city is approx. 1,500 square miles.

###### d. 144 Cubit High Wall (v. 17)

Note: Approx. 216 feet

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### C. The Delights of the New Jerusalem (22:1-5)

Note: These descriptive phrases indicate fullness of life and continuous blessing in the new Jerusalem. A. T. Pierson summarizes [verses 3-5] as follows:

1. **Perfect sinlessness** – “*And there shall be no more curse*”
  2. **Perfect government** – “*but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it*”
  3. **Perfect service** – “*and His servants shall serve Him*”
  4. **Perfect communion** – “*They shall see His face*”
  5. **Perfect resemblance** – “*and His name shall be on their foreheads*”
  6. **Perfect blessedness** – “*And there shall be no night there*”
  7. **Perfect glory** – “*And they shall reign forever and ever*”
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## II. The Conclusion to Revelation (22:6-21)

God concludes both His revelation and His Word by emphasizing its *faithfulness* and *trustworthiness*. John aptly responds in *worship*.

### A. The Faithful Word of God (v. 6-10)

#### 1. The Accuracy of the Word of God (v. 6)

Note: The words that were revealed to John were trustworthy and they were true. Thus we, as with the rest of Scripture can expect to see them come true.

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#### 2. The Authority of the Word of God (v. 7-9)

Note: The authority of the Word of God is God, Himself. A blessing is pronounced upon those who keep the words of this book. While we can say this is true of the entire revelation of the entire Bible, this actually refers to the message given to John, the book of Revelation.

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#### 3. The Accessibility of the Word of God (v. 10)

Note: Here John is instructed to make sure he does NOT keep these words hidden. They are to remain accessible to all who desire to read them. He is to make sure that he passes them on to others.

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## **B. The Finished Work of Christ (v. 11-16)**

Keep in mind that this is speaking to John's audience and not those in the eternal state.

### **1. It Settles What We Are (v. 11)**

Note: So let those who are living the way they are realize that by continuing to do so results in the judgment by God. If you are going to sin, go ahead. Whatever you do in word or deed you will stand in judgment before God. Whether you are a believer or an unbeliever.

### **2. It Settles Where We Are (v. 12-16)**

Note: Here is the judgment. The Lord Jesus will reward each of us according to what we have done. Salvation at the time of judgment is already set. We stand before Him either "IN Christ" or OUTSIDE of Christ. Saved or Unsaved.

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## **C. The Final Witness of the Spirit (v. 17-21)**

### **1. The Last Invitation (v. 17)**

Note: The Invitation is to all to come and embrace Jesus Christ. We see the Spirit and the bride (the Church) and those who hear saying "Come." We should be busy about the Gospel.

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### **2. The Last Warning (v. 18-19)**

Note: These two verses give a stern warning to anyone who would add or take away from this book of Revelation, but it also applies to the whole Word of God as the messages in here are threaded through the entire Bible. It is by design that God placed these verses in this last book written. (cf. Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Proverbs 30:5-6)

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### **3. The Last Word (v. 20-21)**

Note: Christ's last word is of His eminent return and His abounding grace. John aptly responds, "*Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*"