"THE DELIGHTS OF NEW JERUSALEM"

Revelation 21:1-8

11-27-2022

A Practical Key Truth -- *

Keep your eyes on your <u>future inheritance</u>!

"New Heaven and a new earth"

The future city of Jerusalem will be...

I. A <u>NEW</u> City (v. 1, 2, 5)

II. A <u>HOLY</u> City (v. 2a)

III. A <u>BEAUTIFUL</u> City (v. 2b)

IV. A <u>GOD - INDWELT</u> City (v. 3)

V. A <u>JOY-FILLED</u> City (v. 4-5)

VI. A <u>RESTRICTED</u> City (v. 6-8)

A. Those who <u>WILL</u> be there (v. 6-7)

B. Those who will <u>NOT</u> be there (v. 8)

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B. Those who will _____ be there (v. 8)

1. The _____
2. The _____
3. The _____
4. The _____
5. The _____
6. The _____

7. The _____

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"New Heaven and a new earth"

God promises to "create" (bara) new heavens (sky and outer space) and a new earth (Is. 65:17); and to "make" (asa) them to "remain" (forever) (Is. 66:22).
The word "create" normally means to create something out of nothing, as God did with the first heavens and earth (Gen. 1:1; Heb. 11:3).

The O.T. describes the earth as "abiding forever"

> Eccl. 1:4 - "One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever."
> Ps. 119:90 - "Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth."
> Ps. 104:5 - "Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever."

Question: God on the one hand says that He will make a new heaven and new earth (Rev. 21:1), and on the other hand He says that the present earth will remain forever.

How can God, make a new one, yet keep the existing one? Answer: He will totally ("from scratch") create a brand new earth, and He will remove (not destroy or annihilate) this present globe, and replace it with a new earth.

God will renovate, remodel or reconstruct the earth's surface (via fire - II Pet. 3:10-13) for the millennial kingdom (Rev. 20:1-10; Is. 40:3-4).
However, God will remove and replace the existing earth for the eternal state.

Proofs that this present globe (earth) will be removed (geographically) to make way for the new earth.

1) Rev. 21:1 - "Passed away" (aperchomai - cp.18:14; 21:4) - to go away; to depart (NOTE: God never says that the earth will annihilate into nothingness but that it will go away).
2) Rev. 20:11 - "Fled away" - to run away (in distance)
3) Jesus promise: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Mt. 24:35; cp. Mk. 13:31: Lk. 21:33; Mt. 5:18). "Pass away" = to go away
4) Heb. 4:26 - 28 - "...the removing of those things that are shaken..."
   "Removing" = metatithemi - Meta = to change; "tithemi" = position (where something is placed. Hence the earth will have a change of location. It will be removed beyond view (Is. 65:17); it will be a useless uninhabited planet, perhaps light years removed from the new creation.

"There was no more sea" - three-fourths of our earth's surface is made up of water; not so in the new earth. What is significant about this phrase? **Answer:** Throughout history the sea has formed a natural boundary that separated or divided people from each other. There will be no division in the new earth! Note: In the Millennium there will be a sea (Ezek.47:1,8-12).

A Practical Key Truth -- ***Keep your eyes on your future inheritance!

The future city of Jerusalem will be...

I. A NEW City (v. 1, 2, 5)

V. 1

To match the ***"new heaven and a new earth"*** (v.1), God will create a new capital city. This new city will require a new heaven (sky & space) because its height will be over 1,300 miles higher than the present ozone layer which surrounds our earth.

(Present "heaven" (sky): Ozone layer = Mile 9; Dust Belt = Mile 50; Meteors = Mile 100)

v. 2

"New Jerusalem" - "New" (Kainos) = New in quality; The new Jerusalem will be totally different from old Jerusalem.

V. 5

"I make all things new" - Just as God does for the Christian (II Cor. 5:17 - *"...All things become new"*), He will do for creation.

II. A HOLY City (v. 2a)

"And I John saw . . ." - Throughout Revelation, John usually said "I saw..." For the first time since John's introduction in Rev. 1:9, he includes a reference to himself. Why? John is ecstatic at what he is seeing. He is saying with inexpressible excitement - I with my very eyes beheld something that no man has ever seen.
John is joyfully overwhelmed with what he is experiencing with his very eyes (SEE the same expression "I John" and his reaction in 22:8). "Probably John was so overwhelmed at what he was seeing and learning that he forgot momentarily to write" (v. 5 - cp. 14:3, 19:9) (Ryrie, p. 119).

"The Holy City" (cp. 21:10) - the set apart city; the city of spotless purity. A city like no other. A city "whose builder and maker is God!" (cp. Heb. 11:10).
Jesus Christ has been preparing such a dwelling place since His ascension (Jn. 14:2). In this city there will be no defilement or sinful people (21:27).

"Coming down from God" - only God can create a perfect city. Man's attempts have been utter failures. There will be no corruption in that city!

III. A BEAUTIFUL City (v. 2b)

"Prepared" = to make ready - "I go to prepare a place for you" (Jn. 14:2)

"Adorned" = Greek "Kosmeo" (Eng. cosmetics) - to make orderly; to put in order; to decorate; to make beautiful or attractive.
In Bible days, Jewish custom was as follows: "In preparation for the marriage and the arrival of the groom the bride was bathed and oiled, perfumed, her hair fixed, and was adorned with her wedding garment" (Reinecker, p. 859).

"As a bride adorned for her husband" -
To think that God loves us so much that he has prepared a dwelling place for us so beautiful that it will satisfy every aspiration, and will surpass every imagination we ever had. This heavenly city will be the sum total of our every heart's desire and then some. More beautiful than the most majestic mountain. More sparkling than the water of the freshest spring or most invigorating water fall. More serene than the most calm and most peaceful lakes. More clean than the most remote land in the world. The heavenly city will be the most beautiful sight we ever set eyes on. The sight had such an impact on John that he spends two chapters (Rev. 21:1-22:5) and a total of 32 verses describing it.

IV. A GOD - INDWELT City (v. 3)

"Tabernacle" - a dwelling place where everyone is under the same roof.
We will forever be in the direct presence of God.

The heavenly city will be a place of intimate closeness to God
(***"He will dwell with them"*** (like Adam had before the fall).

The heavenly city will be a place of abiding relationship with God
(***"They shall be his people"***)

The heavenly city will be a place of personal fellowship with God
(***"God himself shall be with them"*** - the presence of God the Father will be our joy forever - Ps. 16:11).

V. A JOY-FILLED City (v. 4-5)

"No more death" - "the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (I Cor. 15:26).

[NOTE: According to I Cor. 15:23-26, the order of resurrections is as follows:
1) First, Christ's
2) Then, that of believers at His coming (I Th. 4:13-18)
3) And finally, the resurrection at the end of the millennial kingdom (Ryrie Study Bible)

Death will exist during the Millennial Kingdom (though man's life span will be prolonged - Is. 65:20). Death will be no more in the eternal new Jerusalem.

"Shall wipe away all tears" - lit. every tear (singular) - God is concerned about each individual tear that is shed for righteousness sake . Tears shed in the tribulation will be wiped away by the hand of God (Rev. 7:17).

Tears, sorrow, and crying are usually the results of death and pain. Because death and pain will be no more, neither will the expressions of such exist. As the prophet said, *"He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces"* (Is. 25:8).
"Crying" - Ps. 30:5 - *"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning"*
For the believer, crying is temporary - it is joy that will be eternal!

"The former things are passed away" - Those that inhabit the new heavenly city will not even remember the former life on earth. God says: "...And the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind" (Is. 65:17).

V. 5

"These words are true and faithful"

"True" - God's promises about the future are not lies. This is one thing God can never do (Heb. 6:18; Titus 1:2)

"Faithful" - God's promises about the future are true and worthy of your faith (trust). Without a doubt, He will certainly do all that He has promised. God's guarantee of eternal life is something you can rest upon.

VI. A RESTRICTED City (v. 6-8)

A. Those who WILL be there (v. 6-7)

1. The Thirsty (v. 6)

"It is done" - lit. "They (God's promises) have come to be reality" - perfect tense God's promises are so certain, that He speaks of them as having already been fulfilled (much like the believer's glorification - Rom. 8:30). God who is not bound by time (II Pet. 3:8) sees the future as accurately as the past and present.

"I am Alpha and Omega" - (first and last letters in the Greek alphabet) - God's promise that "it is done" finds its basis in who He is. He is the beginning and the end of all things. He is the originator and concluder; the initiator and the completer; the origin and the final goal of all things; the "author and finisher." (Heb. 12:2)

"Alpha and Omega" - describes none other than Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:8)

"I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely"

--***"I will give"*** -	the source of salvation is Jesus Christ (Jn.10:28)
--***"Unto him that is athirst"***	the recipient of salvation is the sinner who sees his need (Rev. 22:17; Jn. 4:13-14).
--***"The water of life"*** -	the means of salvation (just as water is essential to physical life, Christ's spiritual water is essential to eternal life)
--***"Freely"*** -	the cost of salvation - no charge (Rev. 22:17) *Is. 55:1 - "Ho everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."*

2. The Overcomers (v. 7)

"He that overcometh" - similar phrase, repeated to each of the seven churches (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21)

"Overcome" = to conquer or be victorious ("we are more than conquerors" - Rom. 8:37)
NOTE: The believer's "overcoming" is not what saves him (salvation is not the result of works - Titus 3:5; Eph 2:8-9).
Overcoming is not the root of salvation, but the fruit of salvation
Overcoming is not the reason why we are saved but the result of salvation.
Overcoming is not the entrance into salvation but the evidence of salvation.
Overcoming is not the way to purchase salvation but it is the proof of salvation.

"Shall inherit all things" - Our inheritance is every aspect of the new heaven and new earth. We inherit because of Christ. He owns all and we are His wife (v. 9); therefore we inherit what is His via our union with Him (I Pet. 1:3-5).
We may not own anything in this life, but in the next, we will own it all with Christ!
"I will be his God" - a reference to the One who is the "Alpha and Omega" (v. 6) - namely, Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:8). Another evidence of Christ's deity.

B. Those who will NOT be there (v. 8)

"But" - introduces a contrast
Those with God's salvation (v. 7) are now contrasted with those without it.
Those who "overcome" (v. 7) are now distinguished from those who did not
(SEE 21:26, 27 for similar contrast).

"Fearful" - the cowardly. Those afraid of man rather than God. Those who would not take a stand for Christ when the pressure was put on. Those who "draw back unto perdition" (Heb. 10:39).
During the Tribulation, the pressure will be the greatest for men to deny Christ (Warning: Mt. 10:32-33).

"Unbelieving" - those who refused to believe God's Word and trust Christ for salvation
--atheists (who said there was no God)
--agnostics (who said you could not know for sure)
--hypocrites (who gave false professions of faith)

"Abominable" (perfect passive) - those who were polluted, defiled, or made detestable. Those who let the devil saturate their lives with the monstrous and unnatural vices of heathendom (Reinecker, citing Swete, p. 860). Those who were so sinful that their lives stunk with rottenness.

"Murderers" - those who take the life of innocent people (EX: abortion)

"Whoremongers" - pornos - those involved in premarital sex, and other forms of sexual immorality.

"Sorcerers" - Greek - pharmakois (Eng. pharmacy) - One who mixes and uses drugs, which were used in witchcraft or magic practices.

"Idolaters" - those who live for that which is not God. Those who worship things (whatever they may be) [Immediate reference would be the worship of the image made in honor of Antichrist - Rev. 13:14-15; 14:9-11]

"All liars" - all whose lives are characterized by that which is false. Those who don't tell the truth and don't live the truth, in order to deceive.

"Shall have <u>their part</u>" - in contrast with the <u>inheritance</u> of the righteous (v. 7); the inheritance of the unrighteous will be the Lake of fire.

"Fire and brimstone" - fire mixed with stinking sulphur

"The second death" - <u>second</u> because the unrighteous will be resurrected out of hell to stand before the Great White Throne Judgment, to be sentenced to die again, this time eternally - in the lake of fire (cp.Rev.20:14-15).