

## Revelation 21:1-12 – New Heaven, New Earth, New Jerusalem

**Rev. 21:1-8:** *“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. And I saw the holy city...”*

- There are four passages of Scripture that mention the new heaven and the new earth. We find it in Isa. 65:17; Isa. 66:22-23; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Rev. 21:1.
- One of the questions that is raised is whether God renovates heaven and earth or recreates (makes) a new heaven and earth. Though this is not a salvation issue, it is one that is discussed.
- There are no large bodies of water on the new earth (vs. 1). The ocean, though people enjoy it, in the ancient world was also a dangerous place. Sailing was at times difficult. At times, the word “sea” is a symbol of various things, such as seen in Isa. 57:20. In Rev. 12:12 it can represent unbelievers. For whatever reason, there are no seas on the new earth.
- I think there may be rivers and lakes, but no oceans. I do not know what the earth will exactly look like, but it will be new, a place for God’s people to be.

Mark Hitchcock writes,

*“Many people mistakenly believe these verses describe a renovation rather than a destruction and recreation. The current heaven (atmospheric and stellar) and earth will be destroyed, and God will make it brand new. In Psalm 102:26 we see a staggering picture of God’s power and grandeur. He can take off the universe like an old garment, throw it away, and make a new one. In II Peter 3 we have a description of this present heaven and earth being destroyed.”*

- Look at 2 Peter 3:10-13. We read that the heavens will pass away, and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up (vs. 10). In Mt. 24 Jesus said, “heaven and earth will pass away.”
- The word “new” for “new heaven” and “new earth” in vs. 1 means “recently made, fresh, recent, novel.” This indicates a new heaven and new earth.
- Sin is no more. Anyone now with the Lord are only those who believe, including folks saved during the millennium.
- There is the thought also that Israel will dwell in the land promised them even on the new earth. This is one view. There is the view that Christ will dwell on the new earth with His people (believers), who will live on the new earth.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary, speaking of the new heaven and new earth, notes,

*“This new creation is described as **a new heaven and a new earth**. That it is a totally new heaven and a new earth, and not the present heaven and earth renovated, is supported by the additional statement, **for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away** (also see comments on 20:11). An amazingly small amount of information is given about the new heaven and the new earth. But one major fact is stated in this verse: **there was no longer any sea.**”*

Lehman Strauss holds a different view on the future new heaven and new earth. He writes the following,

*“The writer continues, “the first earth ... passed away.” Now keep in mind that the purpose for the passing of this present order is that it should be replaced with a new order, “a new heaven and a new earth.” A big question that is raised is how heaven and earth will be replaced. The two possibilities are by annihilation or renovation. I accept the latter view. A new heaven and a new earth do not necessarily indicate another heaven and another earth. It is not likely that the present heaven and earth will become extinct.”*

- Regardless of your view, as we mentioned earlier, the fact is things will be changed. The earth and heaven will not be as they are now.
- The new heavens may refer to the heavens surrounding the earth, the atmosphere and space.
- Vss. 2-3 says that the new Jerusalem will come out of heaven and God will dwell with man permanently in the perfect relationship. This does not mean there will be a temple in the new heavens and new earth (Rev. 21:22). The Lord God Himself will dwell with us.
- Vs. 4 says that the Lord will wipe away every tear. There is no more death and mourning. No crying, or pain. During the millennium people will die, people will mourn. In the new heavens and new earth, these things will not happen.
- It will be an eternity of peace and joy.
- Vss. 5-6 remind us of who we serve. He is “trustworthy and true.” He knows everything, from beginning to end. He is eternal God. We can take Him at His Word and trust all that He says.
- Vss. 6-7 shows our present and future reality. We have the water of life (spiritual blessings) already and we are conquerors through Christ. We will enjoy our God forever.
- No more pain. No more heartaches. No more crime. No more illness. No more war. No more disasters. No need for medicines. No surgeries. We will live with God and enjoy Him and this opportunity forever.
- Vs. 8 tells us that there will be no sin in the new heaven and new earth. God will have already judged the unbelieving world.

**Rev. 21:9-12:** *“Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls of the seven last plagues and spoke to me saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of...”*

- Vss. 9-10 introduce us to the city of the New Jerusalem, built by God, coming down out of heaven. Old and New Testament saints will dwell there.
- Vs. 11 speaks to the splendor and beauty of the city. The “radiance” (light, brightness) was incredible and is a result of God’s glory. Jasper was a stone of various colors. Note the phrase “like a jasper.” Some believe the word refers to a clear diamond. We read that the stone was clear as crystal.
- Vs. 12 tells us there are twelve gates with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. That nation’s unique relationship with God is seen here.

