

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Heaven, Where All Is New

Revelation 21 - 22:5

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PowerPoint Presentation included: None

Sermon Audio Blurb: In this message the believer is shown what is their's in Jesus Christ. Where all things are made new. It is the heart throb of every person who hopes in Jesus Christ, especially those afflicted and burdened. We see imagery that draws our minds all the way back to Eden. God dwells among us and we among Him. Our enemies of sin, Satan and death shall never enter into our lives again. They are gone, banished in the glory of God's righteous wrath. And the children of God now enter into the joy of their Master. And in this the glory of God shines brightly.

I. Introduction.

- A. Revelation 19:7-15.
- B. In this final sermon on heaven we have the privilege of seeing what is our great inheritance in Jesus Christ.
- C. But we left off last week with the rather amazing description of what next awaits all believers.
 - 1. Co-reigning with Jesus Christ in His kingdom.
 - 2. For a thousand years we will work with and for our Lord as He sits on the throne of David in the holy city of Jerusalem reigning over all the earth.
- D. In this current age the longer one lives the less impressed with it one becomes. In your own mind, what hard reality have you recently learned?

- E. We left off last week with Satan bound and in the Abyss with the promise that at the end of the Millennial Kingdom, he **must** be released for a short time (3c).
 - 1. A 1,000 years of being bound and nothing changes in his heart (7-8).
 - 2. At the broad plain that was created at the second coming of Christ, they gather to go against Christ in the holy city.

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3. If you have a good imagination you see the mass of humanity gathered and with a war cry they begin to surge forward God enters the scene (9b).
4. In quick succession and with no drama, John lists what happens.
- F. But look down and see what the very next word is in 21:1, “and.”
 1. For the story is not finished.
 2. John is given this vision and he looks and he sees a new heaven and a new earth. And our souls can simply rest, for the joy of sharing eternal life is now fully realized.
- G. Read Revelation 21- 22:5.
 1. In vss 1-8 we have a general description of eternity and the new heaven and earth.
 2. In the rest of this section John gives us an incredible description of what we will call the capital city of eternity.
 3. Beloved, may we all find rest today.
- H. Outline for today:
 1. The New Heavens and Earth (21:1-8).
 - a. A restored universe (1-2).
 - b. A unified universe (3a).
 - c. A pure universe (3b-8).
 2. The Capital City (21:9 - 22:5).
 - a. The New Jerusalem in detail (9-21).
 - b. No temple (22).
 - c. Its illumination (23-27).
 - d. Life in the new Jerusalem (22:1-5).

II. The New Heavens and Earth (21:1-8).

- A. A restored universe (1-2).
 1. John is given a wonderful vision right at the start. A vision of what is to come. A new heaven and a new earth.

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2. Right now this is lived in faith, but in Revelation 21 it becomes sight.
3. Many see this is the final task of Jesus the Second Adam.
 - a. Here is the culmination of the promises of God.
 - b. *“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create a Jerusalem as a rejoicing, and her people a joy”* (Isaiah 65:17-19).
4. Many wonder why there will be no more sea.

B. A unified universe (3a).

1. The tabernacle of God here is referring to the New Jerusalem that was just mentioned.
2. But in the end God will draw heaven and earth together.

C. A pure universe (3b-8).

1. Sin is gone so there shall be no weeping in sorrow. Notice the incredible closeness pictured in vs 3
2. In vs 5 God reminds us to trust in His Word. John is to write these things
 - a. This is the point of vs 6. It is a statement of sovereignty.
 - b. God alone brackets all of time and creation.

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- c. And all who believe otherwise, who try to make themselves to be the captain of their lives, who seek to ignore or blot out their Creator. . . those shall be gone forever, eternal recipients of their Creator's wrath.
3. And so as our sovereign King, He also attends to our needs. This is pictured in the giving of the water of life to those who are thirsty.
4. In this new world we will enter into the fulness of our relationship with God. He shall be our Father and we will see Him as that.
5. And far away from this new reality shall dwell all who rejected God.

III. The Capital City (21:9 - 22:5).

- A. Now we come to a long portion that describes for us what many, including myself, call the capital city of the new heavens and earth.
 1. It is called the new Jerusalem. The new "city of God" as opposed to the old Jerusalem, which like all things was stained with sin.
 2. For many this is merely a symbolic city that represents all of "heaven."
 3. Other see it symbolic in a different way, as the Church which is called the "bride" in a way similar to vs 2.
 4. Others see it more literal, seeing it as the center of the new heavens and earth which is what I believe we have before us.

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- B. The New Jerusalem in detail.
1. The city is called the bride and the wife of the Lamb in vs 9b.
 - a. Again this could easily be seen as a reference to the Church itself, since she is the bride of Christ.
 - b. However though that is tempting, the rest of the verses seem to go into great detail about its size and make up that it is an actual place.
 2. It is coming down out of heaven, that is the source of its existence. It is a gift from God to His children.
 3. `Vss 11-21 is a description of its appearance, structures, dimensions and construction materials.
 - a. It glows with God's glory. This is built into the idea of "jasper."
 - b. Take note of the gates representing the 12 tribes and the foundation stones the 12 Apostles in vss 12 and 14.
 - (1) Note how God continues to make a distinction between the Church and Israel. But also how they are brought together as the people of God.
 - (2) And so the walls of the city serve as an eternal story of the redemption of God
 4. Its huge size.
 - a. 12,000 stadia would be 1,500 miles.
 - b. So you have this massive cube (some say a pyramid) that is literally flowing with the light of the glory of God.
 - c. And the size is really beyond our ability to grasp. Just the footprint would cover over half of the United States.

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C. No temple (22).

1. What was the function of the Temple in the Old Testament?
2. We saw in Revelation that there would be a new temple built in the future.
3. And right now the Church is the temple of God, His dwelling place.
4. But notice that all of these are done and therefore a temple is unnecessary. Rather, God becomes our true temple

D. Its illumination (23-27).

1. It does not actually say that there is no sun or moon, only that they are unnecessary as light, for God's glory is far glorious and brighter.
2. In fact notice in vs 25 points out that there is never to be "night" there. This makes it very possible that there will still be the coming and going of day and night in other parts of the world but not specifically there.
3. It serves as a beacon to guide all who are redeemed.
4. Finally we have this statement of purity in vs 27

E. Life in the new Jerusalem (22:1-5).

1. The imagery is again from the garden of Eden.

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2. In Genesis 2:10, 14 it flowed from the garden and then branched out into four great rivers in the middle east.
3. The tree of life is again from the garden. It is written as a single tree but by putting it into this imagery we are given a picture a tree lining this river. You can read of this imagery in Ezekiel 47:12, *“And by the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows out from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing.”*
4. Notice the lifting of the curse in vs 3.
5. The point of all of this is that God has more than fully restored paradise.

IV. Conclusion.

- A. And so this vision draws to a close with the final picture being one of life like we have never tasted. Life in the full presence of God. Life that is fully worship and without regret.
- B. In vs 4 God offers the water of life to any who thirst. Do you thirst? Is your soul dry and parched, broken due to sin?
- C. Are you building your life and hope in this age? Can you not see today that it is all but dust? Can you see that all we have and boast in shall be gone in an instant?
- D. There is only one answer and one hope.
 1. Place your trust in God who through Jesus Christ dealt with sin and death.
 2. See the hope that is found in Jesus Christ, who is the perfect sacrifice to resolve your sin. Who destroyed the power of death through His resurrection.
 3. Even today Jesus calls out to come and believe in Him. To follow Him. To bow before Him as your Lord.

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- E. And the promise attached to that is earth-shattering. “He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be His God and he will be My Son.”

Benediction

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.