

APOCALYPSE: “Finally... We’re Home!”

Revelation 21:1-3

Pastor Jason Dennett’s Notes

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.”

I. Our Brand New **REALITY!** (v.1)

II. Our Brand New **CITY!** (v.2)

III. Our Brand New **INTIMACY!** (v.3)

I. Our Brand New **REALITY!** (v.1) - *“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.”*

- “**New**” is a special and unique Greek word that John uses. It is the word **καίνος** or “**kainos**” meaning “*something that is completely brand new, fresh, unprecedented, never before been seen*” It shows us very plainly, that this **NEW** Heavens and **NEW** Earth will be precisely that: completely **NEW!!** It will not be a renewal or remaking of our present earth and present universe, but rather a completely brand **NEW** creation of our physical reality!!
- **The idea that this present earth will perish and pass away, and then be replaced** with a **NEW** earth, with a **NEW** atmosphere, in a brand **NEW** universe is a familiar theme in the Scriptures. Many books in the Old and New Testaments, speak of this **NEW** Heaven and **NEW** Earth:
 - **Isa 65:17-19** - “*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.*”
- **Ps.102:25-27** - “*Of old, You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure; yes all of them will grow old like a garment, like a cloak You will change them, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will have no end.*”
- **Matt 24:35** - “*Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.*”

- When you think of how **ENORMOUS** our universe is, this is a monumental event that will take place.
Consider for a moment the incredible size of our current Universe:
 - The **MOON** is a little over 200,000 miles from the earth. But if you could somehow go the speed of light, if they had a vehicle that you could go 186,000 miles per second, you could get from earth to the moon in 1 ½ seconds.
 - If you were traveling 186,000 miles per second and you would go further, you could reach **VENUS** in 2 minutes and 11 seconds.
 - If you kept going on to **MERCURY**, it would take you 4 ½ minutes.
 - If you go further, again traveling at 186,000 miles per second, you could reach **JUPITER** in 35 minutes and 11 seconds. It's only 367 million miles away.
 - If you kept going out toward **SATURN**, you could reach it in 1 hour and 11 seconds. That's 790 million miles away.
 - And if you kept scooting out into space, you'd reach **PLUTO** in 4 hours because it's a little longer. It's 2.7 billion miles from the earth. Ok, you're really out there.
 - You want to see more. You're traveling already at 186,000 miles per second, the speed of light, you've gone a few hours but you want to get to the nearest neighbor star which is **ALPHA CENTAURI**. Now it's gonna take you 4.3 light years. You're gonna have to be in that spaceship 4.3 years traveling the speed of light because it's 25 trillion miles away.
 - Now if you wanted to traverse the **MILKY WAY GALAXY** from one end of the Milky Way galaxy to the other, if you traveled at the speed of light, 186,000 miles per second, you'd have to stay in that spaceship for 100,000 years to get from one end of our galaxy to the other.
 - And even after all that, you haven't even left the front yard. There are billions of other galaxies beyond our own. But this is easy for the Lord; Isaiah says that God measures out the universe with the span of His hand (Isa 40:12)."
- What exactly will the **PROCESS** look like when this happens?? Interestingly, Peter explains it for us in his last letter:
 - **2 Pet 3:12-13** - "Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which **the heavens will be dissolved being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat** . . . Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."
 - This is a fascinating description in light of what we have come to learn of the **ATOM**, the **FORCES** that bind it, and also of **ATOMIC FISSION**.
- The transformation of our present universe will probably include the **SIZE** of our universe; the **STANDARDS**; definitely the **SEA**; and absolutely the **SIN** but in our universe will be extracted and abolished.
 - **The Lord will melt and dissolve them at some point in the future, reconstitute the planet and the entire universe into a brand new and fresh Creation.** What a glorious day that will be: new planets, new stars, new galaxies and solar systems for us to explore, enjoy, and serve the Lord in!
- **Not only will there be a new earth, in a brand new universe, but there will also be a new difference on our planet: there will be no more sea!** Even though they will be present during the Millennial Kingdom, in this 3rd phase of God's Heavenly plan, the need for oceans and seas will be a thing of the past. Though this has often been the cause of great sadness and confusion for Christian surfers and beach enthusiasts, it

seems to be the plain understanding of these verses. This means that there will probably have to be a “new” kind of ecological system and process regulating the New Earth, as the current one depends so heavily on the presence of the seas and oceans. Enjoy the oceans while you can during the Millennium, because they will be a thing of the past in the Eternal Heavens (at least on planet earth)!

II. Our Brand New **CITY!** (v.2) - “Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

- **Isa 65:17-19** - “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. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people..”
- **Heb 11:8-10 NKJV** - “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”
- **Heb 11:13-16 NKJV** - “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”
- **Huge City!!** - 1,500 miles wide, 1,500 miles long, 1,500 miles high!!
- This will be the **New Capital** of the New Universe!!
- It is the home of the **Bride** of Jesus, the saints of all the ages!

III. Our Brand New **INTIMACY!** (v.3) - “And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.”

- “**tabernacle**” - is the Greek word “**σκηνή**” or “**skēnē**” meaning “**to pitch your tent, to dwell, to live at home**”
 - In the **OLD TESTAMENT**, this word referred to the portable worship center of Israel, during their wanderings in the wilderness.
 - In the **NEW TESTAMENT**, this same word is used of Jesus Himself in John 1:14 referring to the Incarnation:

▪ *“And the Word became flesh and **dwelt** (“*skinoo*” - “*tabernacled*”) among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

- *He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. - This here speaks to us of the great INTIMACY and amazing FELLOWSHIP we will have with the Lord...forever and ever, face to face, with our Loving Father, our Great King, our Sweet Lord!!*