

REVELATION



Let's Talk

If we regularly think biblically about the new heaven and the new earth, how will it impact our daily lives? Hint: this includes our list of priorities, our perspective on suffering, telling others the good news, and anticipation for Christ's return.

Let's Study

- 1. Read Revelation 21:1-3.** Verses 1 and 2 start with 'I saw' and verse 3 with 'I heard.' Throughout the whole book, John was seeing, hearing, tasting, and experiencing all that was taking place in front of him. All his senses were ignited with the apocalyptic vision.
 - What can we learn from his experience?
 - What type of invitation might God be offering to us in our current days?
- 2. When you used to think about heaven, what was the picture that you had in mind? Now reading about the new Jerusalem in Revelation 21, 22:1-6, what might heaven look like?**
 - How real, similar, or different from our current earthly experience will it be?
 - What about us humans? How will we be?
- 3. Cities have been known as a hub of growing civilizations, but also as a hub of humanity's darkness, obscurity, and depravity. It can seem that cities bring out the best and worst in people.**
 - How shocking is it for you that the new heaven and new earth take place in a glorified and holy city?
 - Why do you think God designed a holy city as our eternal destiny?
- 4. Read Revelation 22:1-2, Genesis 2:10, and Ezekiel 47:1-12.** Compare and contrast the river in the Garden of Eden with the river in Ezekiel and Revelation.
 - Can you imagine a river running through the centre of your city?
 - Ezekiel's prophecy about heaven describes trees whose leaves do not wither and whose fruit does not fail. In the new heaven, the fruit is abundant, accessible, constant, and of stunning variety. It will be a new and better Eden. How does it make you feel to imagine what the new heaven will really be like?

5. How did this sermon impact your thoughts about the new heaven and new earth? Together, create a list of what the passage says will be in the future city. What will *not* be there?
- God will transform His children so they can see Him face to face. What's needed for that to happen?

Let's Apply

Does the thought of experiencing a resurrected world appeal to you? Does it ignite your imagination to realize we will live happily ever after on a planet without sin and suffering? Is this part of the good news you share with others?

How much time do you spend reflecting on the fact that your ultimate home will be the new earth, where you will see God and serve him as a resurrected being in a resurrected human society, where you will overflow with joy and delight in drawing nearer to God?

Let's Pray

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, oh how we need Your grace.

Grace to keep us from becoming too attached to this world and what it values.

Grace to endure the sufferings of this life.

Grace to compel us to tell others about the future heaven and about the invitation for living water that You have freely offered.

Grace to be ready and anticipating Jesus return.

Come Lord Jesus.

Amen.

Questions? Email sermonquestions@sanctuschurch.com