

## Revelation 21:1-8 The New Heavens and New Earth

### Verse 1

*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away* – The Greek verb for “*passed away*” means “to cease to exist or to be gone” It is a different word than what is used in 20:11 where earth and heaven are said to “*flee*” from the presence of God. Perhaps we see 2 Peter 3:10-13 fulfilled in two scenes; the destruction of the old heavens and old earth and the arrival of the new heavens and new earth.

*And there is no longer any sea* – The new heavens and new earth are clearly not the Millennial Kingdom as there will be seas in the Millennium (Ps. 72:8, Isaiah 11:9, 11, Zech. 9:10, 14:8-9). Why no seas in the new heavens and earth? Several ideas are proposed: 1 – The sea was the source of the beasts (13:1). 2 – Is was the place of the dead (20:13). 3 – The sea represents unregenerate mankind (17:1, 15). 4 – Because of the flood, the sea contains the greatest number of the dead, a picture of judgment.

### Verse 2

*And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God*  
During the Millennium, Jesus will rule from the literal Jerusalem on earth. Some have suggested that the New Jerusalem will be a satellite hovering and orbiting the present earth during the Millennium. When the new earth is created it will descend down toward the new earth.

*Made ready as a bride adorned for her husband* – The bride imagery is not equating the New Jerusalem with the church. It is a literal city that encompasses the two previous brides of Christ: Israel and the church. The city *contains* people, but it is not those people. Why the City is not the bride: 1 – The city is *like* a bride, so it cannot *be* the bride. 2 – The saints *inherit* the city (7) so they cannot *be* the city. 3 – The city is described as a place where the saints dwell (24-26).

### Verse 3

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne* – This is the last of 20 times in his vision John heard “*a loud voice*.” Each time signified the importance of the proclamation. This may be the angel of 19:5 speaking.

*Saying “Behold”* – Another word of emphasis, used 26 times in Revelation. What John is about to see is what saints have been longing for throughout history.

*The tabernacle of God is among men* – God’s tabernacle is evidently the entire New Jerusalem. The relationship between God and man, which God has always desired, is now a reality.

*And He shall dwell among them* – The saints will experience intimate fellowship with God. “*Now we see dimly, but then face to face...*”  
1 Corinthians 13:12

*And they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them* – Fellowship existed when God walked with Adam and Eve. He dwelt with Israel in the tabernacle and later in the temple. He fellowshiped with

men when Jesus “tabernacled” among mankind (John 1:14). Today the Holy Spirit indwells believers. In the New Jerusalem, all will come together and we shall see him face to face. The Greek word for *people* is plural hinting of all peoples, not just Israel.

### Verse 4

*And He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes* – These are tears of remembrance of the old creation. This highlights God’s love for His children.

*And there shall no longer be... any death, any mourning, any crying, any pain*  
The first things have passed away!

### Verse 5

*And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”* – Perhaps God the Father or both the Father and the Son now speak. “*All things*” refers to the new heavens and earth. “*New*” refers to new in character and also in the sense of recently made.

*Write for these words are faithful and true* – For the final time John is told to “*write*.”

### Verse 6

*And He said to me, “It is done”* – This Greek word for “*done*” means “to bring into existence, to be made, finished.” The New creation, unlike the old, will never wear out.

*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end* - Jesus identified Himself as the *Alpha and the Omega* in Revelation 1:8 and again in 22:13. “*The beginning and the end*” speaks of Jesus’ sovereignty.

*And I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost* – A picture of the abundant character and enjoyment of eternal life. Note the same promise in Revelation 7:17, 22:1, 17. The *water of life* was offered to the woman at the well in John 4:10, 14. It is also the final invitation given in the Bible in Revelation 22:17.

### Verse 7

*He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son* – There is difference of opinion about who is the *overcomer*. Some think it refers to all believers and others think it refers to faithful believers, that is, the overcomers as mentioned in the letters to the seven churches (Revelation 2-3). The word for son is *huios* which John uses for mature sons as opposed to children (*tekna*). Also, inheriting is different from receiving eternal life.

The gift of eternal is free, without cost to all who *believe*.

The experience of eternal, the believer’s inheritance, is based on *overcoming*.

### Verse 8

*But for... Cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, immoral persons, sorcerers, idolaters, liars ...their part will be in the Lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.* - The lake of fire will evidently exist apart from the New Earth. Also, sin, as manifested in its behaviors, will be absent from the New Heavens and New Earth.