

## **Revelation 21:1-8      Notes from Dr. Steve Livengood      9/11/19**

Title of Study: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ”

Theme of Revelation: The majesty and glory of the warrior lamb, King Jesus, who is coming again to rule and reign forever.

Purpose: To encourage and give hope to the persecuted church and call the church to faithful obedience.

Title: “Out With the Old, in With the New”

Main idea: One day we will have a new place to live!

### 3 Observations

1. We will live in a perfect place!
  - vs (1-2)
    - \*We begin our study of heaven tonight.
      - Heaven is mentioned more than 500 times in scripture.
      - Heaven is mentioned 50 times in Revelation.
      - The Bible teaches there are 3 heavens.
      - II Corinthians. 12:2
        - A. The atmosphere (Genesis 1:20; Job 12:7; Ezekiel 38:20)
        - B. The planets and space (Genesis 15:5; Genesis 22:17; Deuteronomy 1:10; Deuteronomy 4:19; Psalm 8:3; Is 13:10)
        - C. The dwelling place of God (Deuteronomy 4:39; I Kings 8:30; Job 22:12; Psalm 14:2; Daniel 2:28; Matthew 5:34; Acts 7:55; Hebrews 9:24; I Peter 3:22)
      - Heaven is up.
      - II Cor 12:2
      - Revelation 4:1
  - We are to focus on heaven!
    - Colossians 3:1-2
    - Psalm 16:11
    - Psalm 42:1-2 (see also Philippians 3:20; I John 2:15-17)
    - Our Father is there. Our savior is there.  
Our names are there. Our citizenship is there.  
Our inheritance is there. Our treasure is there.
- Verses 1-8 are an overview and then the rest of the chapter gets into specifics.
- vs (1) “new heaven and a new earth”
  - For extensive explanation see the notes from 8/14/19.
  - II Peter 3:5-7 (see also Ecclesiastes 1:4; Psalm 78:69)
  - Romans 8:19-20
  - Theologically, it seems best to see it as a restored heaven and earth.

- vs (1) “no more sea”

### 2 views

#### A. A literal view

- The earth is about 75% water
- Man needs water for survival and the sea is crucial to the entire water cycle.
- In heaven, the only water will be the “river of life” (Revelation 22:1).

#### B. It is symbolic.

- The sea is often associated with evil.
- It stood for chaos, destruction and unrest.
- Isaiah 57:20
- Psalm 107:25-28
- Ezekiel 28:8
- Revelation 13:1
- The Beast came out of it.
- Revelation 12:12
- The ancient world saw the sea as evil.

### My view

- I lean toward B.
- The Scripture is somewhat supportive but doesn’t offer proof.
- However, in my view, God will restore things back to how they were before the fall.
- When He created the seas, it was “good”.
- So “no more sea: may simply mean the absence of evil.

- vs (w) “I John saw”
  - This is the last “I saw” vision.
  - Even though he sees some more things, this introduces the last vision.
  - It is the climax of the book!
- vs (2) “holy city”
  - Everything and everyone in it will be holy.
- vs (2) “new Jerusalem”
  - There seems to be 3 Jerusalem’s.
  - The first was the original city of David.
  - The second is the restored Jerusalem in the in the Millennial Kingdom.
  - The third is this one from heaven
  - It is not heaven or all of heaven.
  - vs (2) “coming down out of heaven”.
  - It’s as if it is the capital of heaven.
  - God is its builder!
  - Revelation 21:2 “from God”
  - Hebrews 11:10

- Does it already exist or is it built later?
  - John 14:2
  - “are many mansions” – literally “dwellings”
  - The key word is “are”.
  - Does “prepare a place” mean Jesus is simply doing further things to it? We are not told.
  - Hebrews 12:22-23
  - This implies it already exists.
  - It will be completely untainted by sin.
  - Some see it as the bond between the new heaven and the new earth.
  - Some speculate whether it will sit on the land or hover in the air.
  - 21:10 “descending”
  - Did it descend all the way or was it suspended? We are simply not told.
- vs (2) “as a bride”
    - Is the city called the bride or does it look like a bride?
    - Rev 21:9-10
    - John Mac Arthur says “the new Jerusalem is described as a bride because it draws its character from its occupants, the bride of the Lamb.”
    - When a bride appears what is that like?
    - vs (2) “adorned for her husband”
    - “Adorned” (Kosmeo) means to order or arrange. The root word is where we get our word cosmos and cosmetics.
    - The bride adorned for her husband is associated with the 3<sup>rd</sup> stage of marriage.
    - Stage 1 is the betrothal period.
    - Stage 2 is the presentation at the father’s house.
    - Stage 3 is the ceremony including consummation.
    - Spiritually, for the church (the bride) we were betrothed when God pledged to His son a redeemed people.
    - We are presented after the rapture and celebrate at the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-9).
    - The ceremony stage seems to be an eternal state.
    - So the analogy here is simply that the city is beautifully adorned to be with its occupants forever.
    - Later is an incredible description of the city’s beauty.

### Application

- Our new home will include a new heaven and earth, completely restored back to the way God created it to be. It will be “good”.
  - Our new home will be even more than that in that it will have this incredibly beautiful city for us to experience, along with a dwelling place for each of us, prepared for us by Jesus.
  - Think about it! Set your mind on it! Long for it!
2. We will live in a perfect relationship!
- vs (3) “loud voice”
    - This is not God. He speaks in vs 5.
    - it is most likely an angel, possibly one of the 7 mentioned in 21:9.

- vs (3) “Behold”
  - What is about to be said will be something really important.
  - I would argue that this verse is really the climax of redemptive history.
  - This is the bookend of Genesis 1-2.
  
- vs (3) “the tabernacle of God is with men”
  - “tabernacle” (Skene) can mean tent or dwelling place.
  - Notice “He will dwell with them” and then “they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.”
  - He says this multiple ways to drive home the point.
  - “God Himself will be with them”.
  - Isn’t this the climax?
  - In Genesis we see man with God.
  - By chapter 3, sin has entered and man and God are separated.
  - Then God chose Israel to be His people.
  - He made a way for them to be in His presence.
  - He had them build the tabernacle and then later the temple.
  - His presence came among them in the Holy of Holies.
  - But there was a veil that separated Him from the people.
  - Only the High Priest could go beyond it and then only once a year and with blood.
  - The Jesus came and God dwelt among man as the Son of God.
  - But man still could not see or be with the Father directly.
  - Then through faith God made His dwelling place inside the soul of believers.
  - His Spirit indwelt believers. The Father and Jesus made their home with believers.
  - But it was all by faith.
  - Believers who die, their spirit goes to be with Jesus.
  - But it is still not the perfect presence that we will have one day.
  - Believers in heaven are shown crying out for vengeance and victory over evil.
  - But when what we see in Revelation 21:3 happens, it will be perfect fellowship with God!
  - Revelation 22:3-4
  - This is the culmination of redemption!

### Application

- Praise Him for His presence in your life now, for His spirit, for access by faith to His throne.
- Long for the day that you will no longer see Him by faith but will see Him face to face!

### 3. We will live in perfect conditions!

- Genesis 2:16-17
- Genesis 3:6
- Genesis 3:14-19
- Genesis 3:22-24
  
- Ever since that time there has been sin in the world!
- Ever since that time there has been evil!
- Ever since that time there has been brokenness, heartache, pain and suffering, sorrow and tears, and worst of all death (both physical and spiritual).

- We see sorrow, pain and death from natural disasters, acts of violence and from decaying and dying bodies.
- But all of those effects of the curse of sin will one day be gone.
- Revelation 21:4 “wipe away every tear”
  - Tears will be gone. Some believe we may shed tears at the Judgment Seat of Christ and then He will wipe them away.
  - Others believe this is simply stating the fact there won’t be any tears any more.
- vs (4) “no more death”
  - Even though this is mentioned early in the list it is perhaps the best part of the new conditions.
  - There will be no more spiritual death!
  - Revelation 20:14
  - Those in heaven will not experience the 2<sup>nd</sup> death. They will never be separated from God.
  - There will be no more physical death. The penalty of our sin will be gone. The curse will be gone.
  - It will be eternal life!
- vs (4) “nor sorrow”
  - We will no longer be hurt emotionally by anything.
  - There won’t be anything to be sorrowful about.
- vs (4) “nor crying”
- vs (4) “nor pain”
  - No more bad knees!

“No diseases, hospitals, wheelchairs, funerals. No more courts, prisons, divorces, breakdowns or breakups. No more heart attacks, strokes or illnesses. No more therapists, medications, surgeries. No more disasters or shootings.”

Chuck Swindoll with additions  
from Steve Livengood

- I Corinthians 15:54
  - Death and every other bad thing will be swallowed up
- vs (5) “Write”
  - Perhaps John was so taken by what he saw that he forgot he was supposed to be writing this down.
- vs (6) “It is done”
  - Some point out the similarities to Jesus saying “it is finished”.
  - However, these words are different!
  - The word “finished” is more looking at the past as in there is nothing left to do.
  - “done” is a perfect tense word meaning literally “they have become”.
  - It carries the idea that these new things have “fully arrived”. It’s looking more toward the future.

- vs (6) “Alpha and Omega”
  - Literally the first and last letter of the Greek alphabet, the beginning and the end.
  - He started history and he will end history.
- vs (6) “fountain of life”
- vs (7) “He who overcomes”
  - All of this is like a reminder from God of who will be in heaven.
  - Those who thirst for God will find life.
  - Those who overcome will have life.
- vs (7) “my son”
  - When we trusted Christ we were adopted as His sons.
  - Galatians 4:4-5
  - Galatians 4:7
  - When we get to heaven, as sons, we will have our inheritance.
- vs (8) “But”
  - “cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars.”
  - This is not an exhaustive list although “unbelievers” pretty much sums up the group.
- vs (8) “lake of fire” “second death”
  - It’s like God is again reminding us who won’t be there.
  - Not only will there be no more tears, death, sorrow, crying or pain but no evil people.
  - It will be a perfect place!

#### Application

- First, make sure it is your destination by trusting Christ!
- Second, tell others how to get there so they won’t experience the second death.
- Third, long for it and live like you are already a citizen of it!