



# What Is the Current Heaven Like?

Revelation 21:1-8

Heaven In View



# Revelation 21:1-8

- <sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
- <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.



# Revelation 21:1-8

<sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

<sup>6</sup> And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.



# Revelation 21:1-8

<sup>7</sup> The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

<sup>8</sup> But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”



# 1. There is a difference between the current Heaven and the eternal Heaven.

- A. It is God's desire that we not be ignorant of what is to come after we die. (1 Thessalonians 4:13)
- B. When a Christian dies, he or she goes to what in Christian theology is called the "intermediate state," a.k.a. the current Heaven. (Revelation 21:1)
- C. The current Heaven is distinct from Earth and in a different realm, but the eternal Heaven will be united and made one with Earth.



## 2. It seems clear that we go to Heaven and not to sleep when we die.

- A. In Christian theology, the term “soul sleep” is believed by some Christians and refers to a long period of unconsciousness for people between life on Earth and life in eternity.
- B. Scripture which seems to debunk the idea of “soul sleep”:
  - i. Ecclesiastes 12:7 – “...the spirit returns to God...”
  - ii. Luke 16:19-31 – Lazarus and the rich man both very awake after their death
  - iii. Luke 23:43 – Jesus telling the thief they would be in Paradise together that same day
  - iv. Philippians 1:23 – to die is to be with Christ
  - v. 2 Corinthians 5:8 – to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord
  - vi. Revelation 6:9-11 – the Christian martyrs after death but before the final judgment are crying out for justice