

Part 9 - JET TOUR THROUGH REVELATION HEAVEN ON EARTH – OUR ETERNAL HOME (Rev. 21-22)

INTRO: 7 Key Events (final stop) . . . End Times chart . . . C. S. Lewis . . . (Col. 3:1-2; Ph. 3:20) ILLUS – If moving to a new home, you’d gather all the info you could, esp. how to get there! *We are . . . is* available! Rev. 13:6. Chs. 21-22 are our reliable travel guide to our eternal home – the final heaven (different from present one).

I. THE RENOVATION OF THE OLD ORDER (21:1; 20:11) “Then” . . . when is then?)

3 phases of Earth’s history – Past (Gen. 1-2); Present (Gen. 3-Rev. 19); Future (Rev. 20-22). From our creation from dust of this earth, we’ve been connected to it. We were made from earth and for earth. Replacement or renovation?

A. The old must be purged of evil and sin. What is wrong with the old heavens (first & second) and earth? Tainted (polluted, defiled) with sin—fallen and cursed! When? Before Great White Throne (v. 11).

1. Was *predicted* (Psa. 102:25-26; Isa. 34:4; 51:6; Matt. 24:35; Heb. 1:10-12; 2 Pet. 3:10-12). Is OLD destroyed and replaced or renovated and remodeled? Alcorn—renovation (renewal) view. “pass away” . . . “dissolve” is not cease to exist.
2. Was *described* (2 Pet. 3:11-12) – Below earth’s crust is gigantic fireball waiting ignition.
3. “New” (vv. 1, 5) in kind or quality, not in time, so not annihilation but renovation (new and improved). Much like us (2 Cor. 5:17)! Old earth is purged, renovated, and resurrected. This old earth will come to an end as we now know it (not cease to exist), but renewed, redeemed, and resurrected like us. Did flood destroy the earth? Renovated it.

B. God is creating a new heaven and new earth for our eternal home (Isa. 65:17; 66:22; Rev. 21:1). It is the Christian’s heaven in eternity. The eternal (final) home of all saints is that new heavenlike earth. The *principle of continuity* is critical. A new earth is still earth. Paradise is regained but better. M. Unger quote . . . God Himself built it (Eph. 1:10; Heb. 11:10; 12:22-24). Very little is said about this new heaven and new earth. Impossible to imagine what life would be like without sin, suffering, evil and death. Just two things:

1. “*The sea was no more*” – represented fear and separation. Since almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of earth is water, a dramatic climate effect. Still have fresh water.
2. Has a *capital city*, the New Jerusalem (v.2), which is described in more detail. (CHARTS “The Truth about Heaven” & “Present vs. Future Heaven”)

II. THE PRESENTATION OF THE NEW JERUSALEM (21:2-3a)

A. *A Prepared City* (2a) – Jesus has been preparing it since He returned (Jn. 14:2-3; Heb. 11:10; 12:22-24; 13:14). It will be center of universe. Probably comes to rest on new earth since it has gates and foundations—maybe suspended above earth during millennium kingdom; appears to descend after millennium kingdom (21:2, 14). Sits on its foundations on new earth as capital city of the new heaven (earth) It is a literal city with walls, gates, streets, buildings, etc. It is capital city of eternity & focus of everything there – crown jewel.

B. *It’s like a Bride Coming Down the Aisle* (2b).

God is present (v. 3); death, pain, sorrows are absent (v. 5); all things are new (v. 6); Jesus’ work is finished (v. 6); unbelievers are absent (vv. 8, 27) – All still present in Millennial Kingdom (except Jesus’ work). BTW – All who *could* not believe are there . . .

C. *Description of the Capital City* (21:9-22:5)

1. Its **SPLENDOR** (vv. 9-11) – City shines like one enormous diamond lighted by the glory of God. Everything is transparent, so God’s glory is always visible. Place of beauty and brilliance, reflecting all God is.
2. Its **SIZE** (vv. 15-16) – Equal-sided perfect cube (pyramid) 1500 miles long, wide (75% U.S.— Canada to Mexico, Atlantic to Rockies) and high (2.25 million sq. miles)—3,375,000,000 cubic miles (moon is 2,160 miles in diameter).3 pics . . . Metro Orlando (Orange, Seminole, Lake, and Osceola counties) is 4,000 square miles with 3 million population. Height? If had stories 12’ high could be 600,000 stories! Probably multi-leveled and able to house 100 billion people at 75 acres each! Only 101 billion ever lived (8.1 billion alive today)! There’s room (Matt. 7:13-14)! Heaven is HUGE!

CONC: Best of all: God is with us (21:3; 22:3; Zech. 2:10; Ezek. 37:27; 48:35 Jehovah Shammah).