

“New Heavens! New Earth! New Jerusalem!” Revelation 21:1-5

21 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” ⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.” Revelation 21:1–5 (NKJV)

I. A newness, that is new, different, dynamic –

21 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, ... Revelation 21:1 A (NKJV)

1. The word translated “new” in this verse is **καινός** *kainos*. It represents something new in regard to quality, rather than in regard to time, for instance the newness of the new heaven and new earth is an everlasting newness, this a radically different kind of newness from what we have on earth –

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; Matthew 6:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, Matthew 6:19 KJV

2. Even our current “heavens” grow old –

²⁵ Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. ²⁶ They will perish, but You will endure; yes, they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will change them, and they will be changed. Psalm 102:25–26 (NKJV)

3. We ourselves grow old and decay, but will have new incorruptible bodies –

²⁸ “Man decays like a rotten thing, like a garment that is moth-eaten. Job 13:28 (NKJV)

⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. *The body* is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 1 Corinthians 15:42–43 (NKJV)

4. Here things and even people, and even the Gospel of Jesus Christ can grow old for us, if we take them for granted, get used to them, start counting them “old hat” or “old fashioned”

II. A newness that leaves out things we will not miss; the old “first heaven and earth” are (or will be) passed away, along with all its “things” –

... for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... Revelation 21:1 B (NKJV)

1. Passed away means dead and gone!
2. What is passed away according to this passage?

A. The first earth and the first heaven –

... for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Revelation 21:1 B (NKJV)

Our current world is condemned, it has only a short time, not only does the Apostle John tell us this, but the Apostle Peter tells us this as well – John Bunyan rightly calls our present world, “the city of Destruction”

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:10–13 (NKJV)

B. *The sea is gone –*

... **Also there was no more sea. Revelation 21:1**

- *This could mean the literal sea is gone, our seas are place of danger, sharks, drowning, undrinkable salt water...*
- *Our literal seas were and to a degree still our places of distance, when a relative was out at sea, in Bible times you would not, or could not hear from them ...*
- *Metaphorically the sea was synonymous with the ungodly, the great mass of them, of course they are GONE from heaven. Remember the beast came out of the sea, out of the ungodly mass of humanity –*

13 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Revelation 13:1 (NKJV)

C. *Death –*

there shall be no more death – Revelation 21:4

⁵⁵ *“O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”* ⁵⁶ *The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.* ⁵⁷ *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* 1 Corinthians 15:55–57 (NKJV)

D. *Sorrow, Crying –*

... **nor sorrow, nor crying. – Revelation 21:4** *Without sorrow or crying the New Heavens and New Earth are places full of joy –*

¹⁷ *“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, And her people a joy. ¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem, And joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor the voice of crying. Isaiah 65:17–19 (NKJV)*

E. *Pain –*

... **There shall be no more pain – Revelation 21:4** *Pain in a world full of sin is a blessing, it keeps us from worse pain and greater danger. Yet, in a world without sin, pain is not needed!*

3. *Here the sentiment is repeated, for emphasis –*

... **for the former things have passed away.” – Revelation 21:4**

III. *A newness that includes the highest levels of the best things –*

1. *A matchlessly beautiful bride –*

² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Revelation 21:2

A. *In ancient, Biblical Israel, and maybe today as well, a wedding was a BIG EVENT*

B. *Even poor people would spend a lot of money on a wedding, if they did not have much, relatives and friends would help –*

C. *The most important wedding, of ALL, not just in Scripture, but of ALL anywhere is that which marries Jesus Christ to His Church –*

- *Note this is not the old Jerusalem, where Jesus was crucified, He was crucified near Jerusalem ...*
- *This is the new Jerusalem, the spiritual people of God, the church, the church is Jesus' bride, the new Jerusalem (true believers both Jews and Gentiles) is Jesus' bride –*

²⁵ **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. Ephesians 5:25–27 (NKJV)**

³² **This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Ephesians 5:32 (NKJV)**

How is the church the bride? The New Jerusalem?

(1) They / we are in a covenant relationship with Christ, similar or even the same as married

(2) They / we are in an intimate love relationship with Christ

(3) They / we are the New Jerusalem as we are a community in relation to God and Christ

D. What makes us beautiful is we have a made-in-heaven character -

... coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Revelation 21:2 B

... Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. Ephesians 5:25–27 (NKJV)

2. An intimate relationship with God based on promises fulfilled by Jesus Christ –

³ **And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. Revelation 21:3**

A. This is a promise repeated again and again in the Old Testament –

⁷ **And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. Genesis 17:7 (NKJV)**

⁷ **Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart. Jeremiah 24:7 (NKJV)**

³³ **But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Jeremiah 31:33 (NKJV)**

²⁰ **that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God. Ezekiel 11:20 (NKJV)**

¹¹ **that the house of Israel may no longer stray from Me, nor be profaned anymore with all their transgressions, but that they may be My people and I may be their God,” says the Lord GOD.’ ” Ezekiel 14:11 (NKJV)**

²⁷ **My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Ezekiel 37:27 (NKJV)**

⁸ **I will bring them back, And they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be My people And I will be their God, In truth and righteousness.’ Zechariah 8:8 (NKJV)**

B. It is repeated in the New Testament as well –

¹⁰ *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.* Hebrews 8:10 (NKJV)

- *Even though we are Gentiles, we are by faith, children of Abraham and heirs of this promise –*

²⁶ *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.* ²⁷ *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.* ²⁸ *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* ²⁹ *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.* Galatians 3:26–29 (NKJV)

- *For the blessing was always meant for all nations –*

⁸ *And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."* ⁹ *So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.* Galatians 3:8–9 (NKJV)

C. This is a blessing we both know and don't know – (better than any other)

³ **And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.** John 17:3 (NKJV)

¹² *For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.* 1 Corinthians 13:12 (NKJV)

- *Some know the sweetness of intimacy in a strong marriage, (Eddie and Edna) / yet here the union is interrupted, and often strained by sin*
- *We have friendships but they are often ended, if not by moving, by death ... with marriage "until death do us part ...*

D. Our relationship with God is a comforting relationship -

⁴ **And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes...** Revelation 21:4 A (NKJV)

IV. A newness guaranteed by God, certified for sure –

⁵ *Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."* Revelation 21:5 (NKJV)

1. *God speaks from the throne, from a place of authority, sovereignty ...*

2. *He is the One, Who makes all things new (including us) –*

³ **Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.** Psalm 100:3 (NKJV)

¹⁷ *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.* 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

3. *Though the truth of these words should already be considered established, by the fact they are part of God's Word, by the fact of the way the Book of Revelation is written, 7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls ... meant to establish truth, here again John is told to add to the confirmation –*

"Write, for these words are true and faithful." Revelation 21:5 (NKJV)

¹⁴ **"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: Revelation 3:14 (NKJV)**

It may be unbelievably, inconceivably wonderful, but it is true, it is real! God doesn't lie!