Revelation 21

The New Heaven and New Earth

1. **The Creation of the new heaven and new earth: verses 1-8**
   1. Why?
      1. The cursed earth.
         1. Genesis 3:17-19; 5:29
      2. Decay and ruin
         1. Isaiah 24:5-6; Romans 8:20
   2. Old Testament background of the new heaven and new earth
      1. Isaiah 65,66
         1. Is. 65:20-25
   3. Other New Testament passages:
      1. 2 Peter 3:10-13
   4. The sea is no longer
      1. The sea in the Bible can be a reference to a literal body of water as well as a symbol of spiritual evil.
         1. Fear and dread
         2. Chaos
   5. The New Jerusalem
      1. Comes from God.
         1. The dwelling place of God with His people.
      2. God tabernacles with His people
         1. The tabernacle in the Old Testament:
            1. Built by Moses in Exodus 26:1-37

This was the visible location of God’s covenantal presence with His people.

* + - 1. The tabernacle in the New Testament:
         1. John 1:14
      2. Here in Rev. 21:3 the vision of the new heaven and earth signifies the actual presence of God with His people.
  1. The blessed benefits of God dwelling with His people:
     1. The debilitating effects of sin have been abolished!
  2. The voice from the throne
     1. This is the second time in Revelation that God the Father speaks in the first person.
        1. Rev. 1:8
     2. This is the first time Father speaks as part of the prophetic message John receives.
        1. Prior it is through intermediaries, like angels.
           1. Here in verse 5 the Father speaks for creative purposes.

God’s original creation is transformed into the new heaven and new earth.

Through faith we have the assurance of the fulfillment of what will one day take place.

2 Corinthians 5:16,17

* 1. The blessed and the damned
     1. “To the victorious one/overcoming one/conquering one”
        1. At the conclusion of each letter to the 7 churches (Rev. 2,3) a promise was given to such people.
           1. 1 John 5:4
     2. To the cowardly
        1. In the overall context of the Book of Revelation this would be those who choose personal safety over faithfulness to Christ.

1. The New Jerusalem: verses 9-27
   1. The vision of the bride: 9-14
      1. The bride in verse 2 is illustrated as the holy city Jerusalem.
      2. In Rev. 17:3 John is taken to the wilderness to see the harlot. Here in verse 10 the Bride is seen from the mountain.
         1. “the glory of God”
            1. Even right now on earth the church bears “the glory of God” because of Jesus Christ.

2 Cor. 3:18

* + 1. Under God’s protection:
       1. A high wall and 12 gates
          1. Security and abundant entrance
       2. 12 Tribes and 12 Apostles
          1. God’s household of faith

It is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ being the cornerstone (Ephesians 2:19-22).

* 1. Measuring of the city: verses 15-21
     1. The city Jerusalem was laid out foursquare (verse 16)
        1. Equates to 1,380 miles long, wide and high.
           1. The size and scope certainly speak of splendor and majesty.
     2. The building material: verses 18-21
        1. Precious stones and gold
  2. God and the Lamb: verses 22-27
     1. No need for a temple.
        1. The saints of God in such a state of righteousness and holiness and perfection can look into the face of God.
     2. The kings of earth will bring glory to God (v24)
        1. Isaiah 60:1-6
           1. The magi and the gifts they brought to Jesus.