

The Why and The What “**All Things New**” **Revelation 21:1-8**
FBC Canton, Sunday AM, September 26, 2021 – Bro. Mike Roberson

Introduction: God’s plan for the future will happen right on time.

1. After the age of the Church, which ends with the removal of the Church at the Rapture,
2. Daniel’s 70th week begins for 7 years.
3. At the end of that, after a long series of signs in Heaven and Earth,
4. Jesus will return. He will fight the battle of Armageddon then set up a 1000-year reign over the entire Earth from Jerusalem.
5. After that, Satan will be released and he will go out and deceive the nations to gather to the battle of Gog and Magog.
6. The Earth will then be judged by fire: II Peter 3:1-13
7. He will then create the New Heaven and the New Earth. v. 13
8. This will be the eternal condition and location of all those who trust in Christ today!

3 “Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), ² that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of ^[a]us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, ³ knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, ⁴ and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation.” ⁵ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, ⁶ by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. ⁷ But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and ^[b]perdition of ungodly men.

⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward ^[c]us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

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 ^[d]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.”

We must trust God’s work always happens right on time. Ephesians 1:7-10

⁷ “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, ⁹ having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth — in Him.”

We will see today what we all have been longing for, even without knowing, a new Heaven and a new Earth.

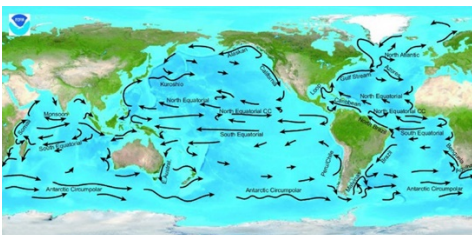
We will also learn who will be there and who will not.

Let’s pray that the Lord would add to the number of those going there today!

- I. **New Heaven and New Earth: God’s new is better than our new! v. 1** (Mt 24:35; Isa 65:17; 66:22; Heb 11:13-16). This does not mean that God will recreate the place where He dwells; it is perfect and has never known the effects of sin. This means He will recreate the Earth, the first Heaven; sky and the second Heaven; stars.
 - a. **Our new is temporal, His new is permanent.**
 - i. Our new fades, His new remains.
 - ii. The Greek word for new here means: as respects substance of a new kind, unprecedented, novel, uncommon, unheard of.
 - b. **God’s new will remove all remembrance of the first Heaven and the first Earth. Isaiah 65:17** “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.”
 - i. How far does this differ from our existence today?
 1. Well...can you imagine an earth without any sea?
 - a. “There will be no more sea.”

How does the ocean affect climate and weather on land?

The ocean influences weather and climate by storing solar radiation, distributing heat and moisture around the globe, and driving weather systems.



This illustration shows the major ocean currents throughout the globe. Ocean currents act as conveyer belts of warm and cold water, sending heat toward the polar regions and helping tropical areas cool off, thus influencing both weather and climate. [Download image \(jpg, 105 KB\)](#). One way that the world’s ocean affects weather and climate is by playing an

important role in keeping our planet warm. The majority of radiation from the sun is absorbed by the ocean, particularly in tropical waters around the equator, where the ocean acts like a massive, heat-retaining solar panel. Land areas also absorb some sunlight, and the atmosphere helps to retain heat that would otherwise quickly radiate into space after sunset. The ocean doesn't just store solar radiation; it also helps to distribute heat around the globe. When water molecules are heated, they exchange freely with the air in a process called evaporation. Ocean water is constantly evaporating, increasing the temperature and humidity of the surrounding air to form rain and storms that are then carried by trade winds. In fact, almost all rain that falls on land starts off in the ocean. The tropics are particularly rainy because heat absorption, and thus ocean evaporation, is highest in this area. Outside of Earth's equatorial areas, weather patterns are driven largely by [ocean currents](#). Currents are movements of ocean water in a continuous flow, created largely by surface winds but also partly by temperature and salinity gradients, Earth's rotation, and tides. Major current systems typically flow clockwise in the northern hemisphere and counterclockwise in the southern hemisphere, in circular patterns that often trace the coastlines. Ocean currents act much like a conveyor belt, transporting warm water and precipitation from the equator toward the poles and cold water from the poles back to the tropics. Thus, ocean currents regulate global climate, helping to counteract the uneven distribution of solar radiation reaching Earth's surface. Without currents in the ocean, regional temperatures would be more extreme—super hot at the equator and frigid toward the poles—and much less of Earth's land would be habitable.

II. New City: Jerusalem. v. 2

a. It is holy. It contains only holy people. v. 2

b. It is where God dwells with His holy people. v. 3

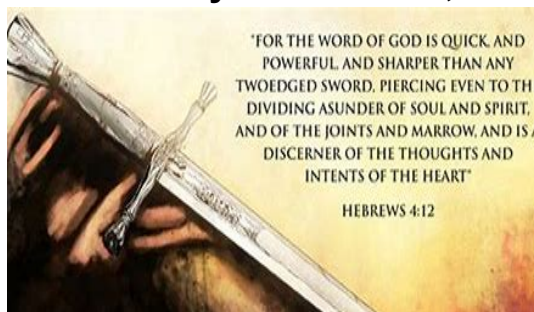
c. It is a land of no more: v. 4

- i. No more tears.
- ii. No more death.
- iii. No more sorrow.
- iv. No more crying.
- v. No more pain.

1. For all these things are integral to this existence, but will not be a part of God's new Heaven and new Earth.

III. All things new. v. 5-8

a. Behold the authority of God! v. 5, Hebrews 4:1



- i. He puts His authority behind His written Word!
- ii. These words are accurate and reliable to place your life on!
- b. Behold the eternal nature of God. v.6, Exodus 3:14** ¹⁴“And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”
 - i. He is the Alpha and Omega. The beginning of all things and the end of all things.
- c. Behold the vastness of God’s love. v. 6, Romans 10:13**
 - i. He will give to all freely of the water of life!
- d. Behold the power of God’s sustaining grace! v. 7, Romans 8:31-39, I John 5:4**
 - ⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.
 - i. He who overcomes shall inherit Heaven!
- e. Behold what happens to those who reject God! v. 8**
 - i. Those who reject Jesus’ salvation are characterized by all these attributes.
 - ii. Those who receive Jesus’ salvation are characterized by Jesus’ attributes. I Corinthians 6:9-12

⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ *And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

- iii. This is not a list of sins that will keep you out of Heaven, nor a list that will make you lose your salvation. You cannot lose what you did not gain! Ephesians 2:8-9 says you were saved by grace and will be kept by grace!
 - 1. Those who have rejected Jesus’ salvation are in the lake of fire.
 - a. Entrance there is the second death where the soul is tormented forever.

Conclusion: We long for the new Heaven and new Earth! Don’t you want everyone to go with you?

Randy Alcorn: Heaven:

WILL THE NEW EARTH BE FAMILIAR . . . LIKE HOME?

The life we now have as the persons we now are will continue in the universe in which we now exist.

Dallas Willard

Sometimes when we look at this world's breathtaking beauty—standing in a gorgeous place where the trees and flowers and rivers and mountains are wondrous—we feel a twinge of disappointment. Why? Because we know we're going to leave this behind. In consolation or self-rebuke, we might say, "This world is not my home." If we were honest, however, we might add, "But part of me sure wishes it was."

What we really want is to live forever in a world with all the beauty and none of the ugliness—a world without sin, death, the Curse, and all the personal and relational problems and disappointments they create.

Those who emphasize our citizenship in Heaven—and I'm one of them—sometimes have an unfortunate habit of minimizing our connection to the earth and our destiny to live on it and rule it. We end up thinking of eternity as a non-earthly spiritual state in which Earth is but a distant memory, if we remember it at all.

This faulty theology accuses God of failure. Why? Because it assumes he will never accomplish a lasting state of righteousness on Earth. (Even the Millennium ends in rebellion.) Instead, he finally has to resort to making mankind less human (disembodied) and destroying the earth he made. God's magnificent sovereign plan of the ages is reduced, in our minds, to a failed experiment.

WHAT OUR HOME WILL REALLY BE LIKE

The correction to the heresy of believing God's plan has failed is the biblical doctrine of the new heavens and New Earth. Theologian René Pache writes, "The emphasis on the present heaven is clearly rest, cessation from earth's

battles and comforts from earth's sufferings. The future heaven is centered more on activity and expansion, serving Christ and reigning with Him. The scope is much larger, the great city with its twelve gates, people coming and going, nations to rule. In other words, the emphasis in the present heaven is on the absence of earth's negatives, while in the future heaven it is the presence of earth's positives, magnified many times through the power and glory of resurrected bodies on a resurrected Earth, free at last from sin and shame and all that would hinder both joy and achievement."¹²³

Understanding and anticipating the physical nature of the New Earth corrects a multitude of errors. It frees us to love the world that God has made, without guilt, while saying no to the world corrupted by our sin. It reminds us that God himself gave us the earth, gave us a *love* for the earth, and will delight to give us the New Earth.

Think for a moment what this will mean for Adam and Eve. When the New Earth comes down from Heaven, the rest of us will be going home, but Adam and Eve will be *coming* home. Only they will have lived on three Earths—one unfallen, one fallen, and one redeemed. Only they will have experienced, at least to a degree, the treasure of an original, magnificent Earth that was lost and is now regained.

When we open our eyes for the first time on the New Earth, will it be unfamiliar? Or will we recognize it as home?

As human beings, we long for home, even as we step out to explore undiscovered new frontiers. We long for the familiarity of the old, even as we crave the innovation of the new. Think of all the things we love that are new: moving into a new house; the smell of a new car; the feel of a new book; a new movie; a new song; the pleasure of a new friend; the enjoyment of a new pet; new presents on Christmas; staying in a nice new hotel room; arriving at a new school or a new workplace; welcoming a new child or grandchild; eating new foods that suit our tastes. We love newness—yet in each case, what is new is attached to something familiar. We don't really like things that are utterly foreign to us. Instead, we appreciate fresh and innovative variations on things that we already know and love. So when we hear that in Heaven we will have new bodies and live on a New Earth, that's how we should understand the word *new*—a restored and perfected version of our familiar bodies and our familiar Earth and our familiar relationships.

A common misunderstanding about the eternal Heaven is that it will be unfamiliar. But that couldn't be further from the truth. The following chart compares widespread assumptions about Heaven with biblically based characteristics of Heaven:

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The Book of Revelation Chuck Missler

Session 24: Eternity

Revelation Chapters 21-22

1] And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

New heaven and new earth (Mt 24:35; Isa 65:17; 66:22; Heb 11:13-16; 2 Pet 3:7-13). "...in earth as it is in heaven" (Mt 6:10). Heaven and Earth to disappear! Outside of "time" => Eternity (Heb 1:10-12; 12:26, 27).

"...no more sea": Why? Not needed for its cleansing action: 70% of earth covered to an average depth of 2.3 miles, antiseptic salinity (3.5%) purges, cleanses, and preserves our planet.

Is the sea evil? (Mt 8:26, "rebuked"?) End of old order? (Ex 20:11; Ezek 48:28); Beast out of the sea (Dan 7:1-3, 17; Rev 13:1, 6-8); Demon swine take refuge in sea (Mt 8:30); Job 26:5-6; Isa 27:1; Jonah 2:1-6; Lk 8:30-3; Ps 69:14-15. In John's day, the sea meant danger, storms, separation—he was on an island at the time!

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

2 Peter 3:10-13

2] And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Heb 11:10, 16. "Down, out of heaven": Doesn't necessarily touch the earth! Heaven is a definite place. A new home. The Ultimate UFO!

3] And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

Cf. Jn 1:14; Mt 12:6. Jerusalem; *Jireh-shalom*, provides peace: Mt 23:37-39, "see me henceforth..."; Jn 14:2, 3, "go to prepare a place..."; Heb 11:10, 16, "...look for a city; Jn 1:14, "tabernacled among us"; 2 Cor 5:17, "all things new"; Ex 40:34; 1 Kgs 8:10, 11, "always fills."

4] And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5] And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6] And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

7] He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

A fresh start! (I sure could use that!) Can we even imagine what this means? All things!

“Overcomer” = 1 John 5:4.

8] But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

A vivid and instructive catalog. Note “the fearful” and “the unbelieving”; Cf. Mk 4:40; Jn 14:27; 2 Tim 1:7,8. Notice also: the status of the lake of fire and the lost is unchanged; Sin and its potential is totally excluded; and, the lake of fire is eternal; final.

9] And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife.

10] And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

11] Having the glory of God: and her light *was* like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

Mountain (Dan 2...) Abraham looked for this city (Heb 11:10). [In contrast to the false bride, the prostitute Mystery Babylon, also both a city and a woman, the New Jerusalem will be to eternity what the earthly Jerusalem is to the Millennium.]

“She that hath the bridegroom is the bride” (Jn 3:29). The citizens are identified with the city in Rev 22:3,6,19.

“Descending out of heaven...” No reason to limit it to any specific number of dimensions... cf. *Beyond Perception*, et al. (*It is not stated that it comes to the earth.*) [2 x 1016 ft/side; 8 1048 cu ft. Assuming 6 billion inhabitants: 1.3 x 1039 cu ft/ person; 1 cu mi = 1.47 1011 cu ft; 1.7 x 1028 cu mi/person...] Similarity between the Hebrew word for crystal in Ezek 1:22 and the Hebrew word for “ice”; suggests diamond. A diamond in a gold setting—appropriate for the bride.

John Brown :: Revelation 21

Revelation 21

I don't like to commit myself about heaven and hell--you see, I have friends in both places. --Mark Twain

I would rather go to heaven alone than go to hell in company --R.A. Torrey

I. INTRODUCTION

A. There has been much talk over the last couple of years about a New World Order, well this morning we will take a look at the real "New World Order!"

1. "New" is the operative word here. There is going to be a new heaven and a new earth. A place where the Lord will once again dwell among His people.

2. A place where there will be peace and safety, and no more tears nor death!!

II. [REVELATION 21:1](#) 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.(NKJV)

A. The Greek word that is translated "new" here means "new in respect to freshness".

1. There is inference here that the new heaven and new earth will be like it use to be, before the fall and before the curse upon it!

2. As it was in the time of Adam and Eve.

a) If you will remember, the first heaven and earth had melted in the intense, fervent heat of the Glory of the Lord!

b) There is something noticeably different with this new earth - there is no sea!

(1) That seems a little odd when we currently live upon an earth that is almost 70% water.

(2) But, the new earth will consist of entirely inhabitable land mass.

(3) This will become clearer as we progress.

III. [REVELATION 21:2](#) Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (NKJV)

A. John hasn't mentioned his own name since the first chapter, but here he wants us to know that as unbelievable as this seems, he is an eyewitness!!!!

1. Please notice that this "holy city" called New Jerusalem was created by the Lord Himself somewhere in the heavens, and then sent to within John's eyesight!!

a) In the context of [Revelation 21:2](#), "heaven" is simply the sky or atmosphere!

(1) John's perspective is at such a vantage point as to allow him to see this new planet "[coming down out of heaven](#)".

b) This city, the New Jerusalem, [is](#) however what is referred to when people talk about "going to heaven."

2. This city is the dwelling place for the saints which have been made spotless and dressed in the wedding garments, therefore John sees the entire city as such.

IV. [REVELATION 21:3-8](#) 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." 6 And He said to me, "it is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. 8 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (NKJV)

A. [Matthew 1:23](#) "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." (NKJV)

1. [John 1:14](#) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (NKJV)

2. The word "dwelt" here in [John 1:14](#) is the same word used in [Revelation 21:3](#) (King James Version) for "tabernacle"!

3. The ancient tabernacle was merely a foreshadowing of the fact that the Lord's desire has always been to live with the people He created!

4. In this glorious new city, He will do just that! He will "live" or "tabernacle" amongst us!!

a) The supernatural result of the presence of God will be:

(1) No more tears, or crying!

(2) No more death!

(3) No more sorrow!

(4) And no more pain!

(a) You see, all these are a result of sin and the curse. These are the "former things" that will be done away with.

5. We have His promise in [verse 5](#) that "all things" will be new! or (fresh)

6. As he restates His sovereignty in [verse 6, \(Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End\)](#) He assures John that He is the source of water in this New city!

a) Jesus made a very important statement to the woman at the well in [John 4:14 "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."](#) (NKJV)

b) You see, those who place a saving faith in the cross, their very sustenance will be the Lord Himself!

c) He will be their life, they will inherit all the blessing of their Father!

d) But, those who "chickened out" somewhere in life (that's the reference to the cowardly) and fail to give their life to the Lord, will never make it to this city!

(1) They are destined to the "lake of fire" to experience a second death!

(2) [No man will go to heaven, who has not sent his heart on ahead.--Thomas Wilson](#)

David Guzik :: Study Guide for Revelation 21

A NEW HEAVENS, A NEW EARTH, AND A NEW JERUSALEM

A. All things made new.

1. ([Rev 21:1](#)) The new heaven and the new earth.

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.

a. **Now I saw:** We can say that Revelation [chapter 21](#) begins a new section of the Book of Revelation:

- Jesus, the [Lord of the Churches](#) ([Revelation 1:1](#) to [Revelation 3:22](#))
- Jesus, the [Lion over the nations](#) ([Revelation 4:1](#) to [Revelation 20:15](#))
- Jesus, the [Lamb among believers](#) ([Revelation 21:1](#) to [Revelation 22:21](#))

i. The new perspective of this last section is glorious. "From the smoke and pain and heat it is a relief to pass into the clear, clean atmosphere of the eternal morning where the breath of heaven is sweet and the vast city of God sparkles like a diamond in the radiance of his presence." (Moffatt)

b. **A new heaven and a new earth**: The idea of a new earth, with a new atmosphere and sky is a familiar theme in the Scriptures. Many of the prophets, both Old and New Testaments, spoke of this **new heaven** and **new earth**.

i. *For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create a Jerusalem as a rejoicing, and her people a joy.* (Isaiah 65:17-19)

ii. *Of old, You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure; yes all of them will grow old like a garment, like a cloak You will change them, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will have no end.* (Psalm 102:25-27)

iii. *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... Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.* (2 Peter 3:12-13)

iv. It's worth remembering that the **new heaven** referred to doesn't mean the **heaven** where God is enthroned. The Bible uses the word **heaven** in three senses. The **first heaven** is the earth's atmosphere, the "blue sky." The **second heaven** is outer space, the "night sky." The **third heaven** is the place where God lives in glory. When the Scriptures speak of a **new heaven**, they mean a new "blue sky" and a new "night sky," not a new heaven where God dwells.

c. **New heaven... new earth**: The ancient Greek word translated **new** here (*kaine*) means "new in character, 'fresh'." It doesn't mean "recent" or "new in time." This isn't just the **next** heaven and the **next** earth; this is the **better** heaven and **better** earth replacing the old (**the first earth had passed away**).

i. Though some disagree (such as Seiss, who argued passionately that this earth will **never** be destroyed) we should understand that this is truly a **new heaven** and a **new earth**, not merely a "remade" heaven and earth. We know this because Jesus said that heaven and earth **shall** pass away, but His Word would live forever (Luke 21:33). Also, in Isaiah 65:17 God said prophetically that He will create a new heaven and earth, and the ancient Hebrew word for "create" (*bara*) means to "create out of nothing," instead of re-fashioning existing material.

ii. Some take this "newness" as only a spiritual and moral change. But there seems to be a genuine physical transformation in mind: **there was no more sea**.

d. **A new heaven and a new earth**: Is this **new heaven** and **new earth** the Millennial earth shown in Revelation 20, or is it something beyond? It definitely seems to be past the Millennial earth. This is what we think of as "heaven" and "eternity."

i. "In this chapter we see that the history of time is finished; the history of eternity is about to begin." (Barnhouse)

ii. "The eternal state is clearly indicated in the absence of sea, for frequent mention of bodies of water occur in millennial passages (cf. [Psalm 72:8](#); [Isaiah 11:9](#), [11](#); [Ezekiel 47:10](#), [15](#), [17](#), [18](#), [20](#); [48:28](#); [Zechariah 9:10](#); [14:8](#)). The evidence of [Revelation 21:1](#) is so specific that most commentators do not question that the eternal state is in view." (Walvoord)

e. **No more sea**: To the Jewish mind, the sea was a place of separation and evil. Already in the Book of Revelation it is shown to be the source of the Satanic beast ([Revelation 13:1](#)) and the place of the dead ([Revelation 20:13](#)).

i. In other passages of Scripture, the **sea** is associated with the heathen ([Isaiah 57:20](#)) and in a more general sense, with the opponents of the Lord that must be conquered ([Psalm 89:9](#)).

2. ([Rev 21:2-4](#)) The New Jerusalem descends from heaven.

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

a. **The holy city, New Jerusalem**: This is the Jerusalem of hope ([Hebrews 12:22](#)), the Jerusalem above ([Galatians 4:26](#)), the place of our real citizenship ([Philippians 3:20](#)).

i. The terms **holy** and **new** distinguish the city. Because it is **holy** and **new**, it is different from any earthly city. The name **Jerusalem** gives it continuity with earth, especially with the place of our redemption.

ii. It is significant that this glorious dwelling place of God and His people is described as **the holy city**. Cities are places with many people, and people interacting with each other. This isn't isolation, but a perfect **community** of the people of God.

iii. The Christian concept of heaven as a city – a place of life, activity, interest, and people – is very different from Hindu conception of a blank Nirvana. "The consummation of the Christian hope is supremely social. It is no 'flight of the alone to the Alone' but life in the redeemed community of heaven." (Hunter)

iv. Man has never known a community unmarred by sin. Adam and Eve only knew a limited community, and community in a larger context only came long after the Fall.

Here, in the **New Jerusalem**, we have something totally unique: a sinless, pure, community of righteousness, a **holy city**.

v. Problems arise when believers expect this kind of community *now*, or fail to realize that it *only comes* **down out of heaven**. This city *is* not and *never can be* the achievement of man, but only a gift from God.

b. **Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband**: John used the most striking, beautiful image he could think of. The most beautiful thing a man will ever see is his bride coming down the aisle, ready to meet him. John said that this is how beautiful the New Jerusalem will be.

c. **The tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them**: Moses' tabernacle represented the dwelling place of God on earth. That was past the *representation* of the dwelling place of God; this **tabernacle of God** is the reality of His presence.

i. **He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people**: This succinctly states essence of *God's desire* and *man's purpose*. Simply, God's desire is to live in close fellowship with man, and man's purpose is to be a people unto God.

ii. *This* is the greatest glory of heaven, and the ultimate restoration of what was lost in the Fall. "I do not think the glory of Eden lay in its grassy walks, or in the boughs bending with luscious fruit-but its glory lay in this, that the 'Lord God walked in the garden in the cool of the day.' Here was Adam's highest privilege, that he had companionship with the Most High." (Spurgeon)

d. **The former things have passed away**: The New Jerusalem is distinguished by what it does *not* have – no tears, no sorrow, no death or pain. Later it will be shown that the New Jerusalem has no temple, no sacrifice, no sun, no moon, no darkness, no sin, and no abomination.

i. "Man comes into the world with a cry; and goes out of it with a groan, and all between is more or less intoned with helpless wailing... But the Halleluias of the renewed world will drown out the voice of woe forever." (Seiss)

e. **God will wipe away every tear from their eyes**: " *Every tear*," for they be many; – tears of bereaved affection, such as Mary, and Martha, and the widow of Nain wept; – tears of sympathy and mercy, such as Jeremiah and Jesus wept over the sins and the calamities of Jerusalem; – tears of persecuted innocence, tears of contrition and penitence for faults and crimes against the goodness and majesty of heaven; – tears of disappointment and neglect; – tears of yearning for what cannot now be ours; – these, and whatever others ever course the cheeks of mortals, shall then be dried forever." (Seiss)

i. But the idea of tears in heaven should never be used as a tool of guilt-manipulation on this earth. "There is no just ground for imagining from this text that the saints will shed

tears in heaven concerning the failures of their former life on earth. The emphasis here is on the comfort of God, not on the remorse of the saints.” (Walvoord)

3. (Rev 21:5) All things new.

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.”

a. **He who sat on the throne said**: This is an authoritative announcement, coming from the throne of God itself. This is one of the few times in Revelation where we clearly see God speaking directly from His throne.

b. **Behold, I make all things new**: This statement is in the present tense, “*I am making everything new*.” This is the consummation of God’s work of renewal and redemption, having *begun* here and now in our present time.

i. Paul saw this transformation at work on *this side* of eternity: *Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day... Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.* (2 Corinthians 4:16, 5:17)

c. **All things new**: This is a brief glance at the thinking behind God’s eternal plan – to allow sin and its destruction in order to do a greater work of making **all things new**. At this point in His plan of the ages, the plan is complete. **All things** are **new**.

i. Our instinct is to romantically consider innocence as man’s perfect state, and wish Adam would have never done what he did. But we fail to realize that redeemed man is greater than innocent man, that we gain more in Jesus than we ever lost in Adam. God’s perfect state is one of redemption, not innocence.

ii. When God finally completes this work of making **all things new**, they will **stay new**. “Presumably this means not only that everything will be made new, but also that everything will stay then new. The entropy law will be ‘repealed.’ Nothing will wear out or decay, and no one will age or atrophy anymore.” (H. Morris)

d. **Write, for these words are true and faithful**: John was probably so astounded by these words that he forgot to **write** – and must be told to do so.

4. (Rev 21:6-8) The invitation and a warning.

And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. “He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

a. **It is done!** God's eternal purpose in Jesus is now accomplished. [Ephesians 1:10](#) has been fulfilled: *that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.* At this point, all things have been resolved or summed up in Jesus – **it is done!**

b. **I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts:** Drinking and thirst are common pictures of God's supply and man's spiritual need. Drinking is an action, but an action of receiving – like faith, it is [doing](#) something, but it is not a merit-earning work in itself.

i. "What does a thirsty man do to get rid of his thirst? He drinks. Perhaps there is no better representation of faith in all the Word of God than that. To drink is to receive-to take in the refreshing draught-and that is all. A man's face may be unwashed, but yet he can drink; he may be a very unworthy character, but yet a draught of water will remove his thirst. Drinking is such a remarkably easy thing, it is even more simple than eating."
(Spurgeon)

c. **He who overcomes shall inherit all things:** Those who overcome (by faith in Jesus, as in [1 John 5:5](#)) enjoy a special relationship with God (**I will be his God and he shall be My son**).

d. **But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable... have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone:** Those who reject Jesus and make themselves apostate are specifically prohibited from entering the New Jerusalem.

i. **Cowardly:** Is cowardice enough to send a person to hell? "John is not speaking of natural timidity, but of that cowardice which in the last resort chooses self and safety before Christ." (L. Morris) John Trapp spoke of these "Cowardly recreants, white-livered milk-sops, that pull in their horns for every pile of grass that toucheth them, that are afraid of every new step."

Chuck Smith :: Verse by Verse Study on Revelation 21-22 (C2000)

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away ([Rev 21:1](#));

Now, we are beyond the thousand years. The first heaven is passed away. Peter tells us it passes away with a great noise with a fervent heat as the elements are dissolved.

Now, God spoke the universe into existence. And in speaking it into existence, He spoke into existence a scientific puzzle. For in speaking matter into existence, He brought the protons and electrons and assembled them together. And in creating the atoms, and bringing into the heart of the

atom, the protons tightly knit together in the nucleus of the atom, He violated the law of electricity, Collins Law, which speaks of the repelling force of positive charges. Positive poles repel. Try to put them together and they will fight each other. There is a repelling force of positive charges, tremendously powerful repelling force.

The atom bomb illustrates to us the true nature of an atom. For what is happening is the nucleus of an atom is bombarded with slow moving neutrons that upset the delicate balance of the protons in the heart of the atom and it releases them. As it releases them, you have this tremendous release of energy and power and you see the tremendous power released when protons within an atom are set free. It is an equivalent power that holds them together. It takes an equivalent power to hold the nucleus of an atom together that is released when the nucleus is unbalanced.

Now, God who holds together the universe by the word of His power, and we are told this in the scripture; He created it by the word of His power and by Him all things are held together. All He is going to do is relax and let it go, and the whole material universe will go up in one gigantic puff. The elements will be dissolved and melted with a fervent heat. The heavens will be on fire. The whole material universe following the natural laws with the protons repelling each other, and this whole material universe will go out of existence in a moment's time.

And then God said, "Behold, I create all things new," Isaiah sixty-six. There will be a new heaven and a new earth and the former will not be remembered or brought into mind. We are not going to sit around after that age and say, "Remember down on earth we used to". God is just going to excise from our brain all those DNA molecules that hold those memory stores and banks and it will be gone, not be remembered or brought into mind.

the first earth and the first heaven passed away; no more sea ([Rev 21:1](#)).

To bad surfers, but I am sure God will have something quite superior.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband ([Rev 21:2](#)).

Now, this new earth will be orbited by the New Jerusalem. I believe the New Jerusalem will actually be an orbit around the new earth. It will be approximately the size of the moon. It will be cubed however rather than round and it will be fourteen hundred miles cubed.

Now, if we lived dimensionally at that time, you know we live on the surface of the earth, but if you had a cube and we lived dimensionally, it is interesting to get out your pencil and notepad and figure how many square miles you could get in a cube that was fourteen hundred miles in each direction. You would be amazed what fourteen hundred cubed becomes. Needless to say, you could all have a

square mile and if we need more space what you do is just move your ceiling down to a half-mile and you double again the capacity.

And I heard the great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, [God is now going to dwell in the midst among His people.] they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. He will wipe away all their tears; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away ([Rev 21:3-4](#)).

No physical infirmities, no weaknesses, no tiredness, and no weariness.

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful ([Rev 21:5](#)).

It sounds like a dream, doesn't it? It sounds like a fairy tale. It sounds too good to be true. And because it is really just so good, that it is hard for us to conceive it so the Lord puts this special little "write these things because these sayings are faithful and true." God attests now to the truth of what He is declaring. You can believe it. You can trust it.

And he said unto me, It is finished. I am Alpha and Omega ([Rev 21:6](#)),

Jesus is called the author and the finisher of our faith, the beginning and the end.

I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of water of life freely ([Rev 21:6](#)).

Jesus, that day on the temple mount, cried, "If any man thirst let him come unto Me and drink." To the woman at the well He said, "If you drink of this water, you will thirst again, if you drink of the water that I give you will never thirst again" ([John 4:13-14](#)). And once again the invitation for those that are thirsty, "He will give the fountains of living water freely."

He that overcometh shall inherit all things ([Rev 21:7](#))

"Come ye blessed of the Father inherit," Jesus said, "the things that were prepared for you from the foundations of the earth" ([Matthew 25:34](#)). We are told about the glorious inheritance of the saints in light. That inheritance that has- "If we are sons of God then we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ" ([Romans 8:17](#)). We are going to inherit the whole new universe that God creates. It is all ours to enjoy to the fullest with Him.

And I will be his God, and he will be my son ([Rev 21:7](#)).

Beloved now are we the sons of God. What a privilege and what a blessing.

But outside the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, the drug abusers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. [We've already looked at that] And there came unto me one of the seven angels ([Rev 21:8-9](#))

Texas “Churches”: Abortion “A Moral and Social Good”

by [Ken Ham](#) on September 16, 2021 Featured in [Ken Ham](#)



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What is abortion—a hideous evil or “a moral and social good”? Well, that depends on your starting point, God’s Word or man’s word! Sinful human beings, who are in rebellion against God and ignore his Word and look to their own selfish, dark hearts for “truth,” will affirm darkness instead of light, death instead of life, and call good evil and evil good ([Isaiah 5:20](#)).

The state of Texas has been in the news recently because lawmakers have enacted a “heartbeat bill” that bans abortions after a heartbeat can be detected (usually around six weeks’ gestational age). This is, of course, a good step in saving unborn lives, but it doesn’t go far enough as every person is fully human from the moment of fertilization, not just when a heartbeat can be detected. But a coalition of 25 “churches” in Texas believes the opposite and [is fighting to](#) “eradicate stigma around reproductive freedom in Texas . . . one congregation at a time.”

Three Guiding Principles

Any congregation that wants to join the coalition (so far most of the “churches” are Unitarian Universalist, with some Presbyterian and one Baptist congregation as well) must affirm the following three principles:

- "We trust and respect women."
- "We promise that people who attend our congregation will be free from stigma, shame, or judgment for their reproductive decisions, including abortion."

- "We believe access to comprehensive and affordable reproductive health services is a moral and social good."

Trust and Respect Those Who Murder?

To this group, "trust and respect women" means "allow women to make whatever choices they want—even murder—and applaud them for doing so, contrary to the clear teaching of the Word of God (e.g., [Exodus 20:13](#))."

No Pricking of the Conscience Here!

A congregation "free from stigma, shame, or judgment" actually means "we will never judge your beliefs or actions against the authority of the Word of God ([Philippians 1:9–11](#)) and allow the Holy Spirit, through the bold, uncompromising preaching of his Word ([John 16:7–8](#)), to convict you and draw you to repentance. Instead, we will 'lovingly' affirm your sin ([Romans 1:32](#)) and allow the unrepentant to continue on a path towards eternal damnation ([Revelation 21:8](#))"

A Double Standard?

As an aside before I get to the third point . . . do they hold this same standard for men in the congregation? If a young man fathers a child and then runs away, abandoning the young woman and the child, is he "trusted and respected" and freed from "stigma, shame, or judgment" for child abandonment? Likely they would not feel that way towards the father. But why the double standard? (And in his case, he merely abandoned the child—he didn't murder him or her, as happens in an abortion!)

But why the double standard? Why is the child's life suddenly valuable, simply because he or she has been born?

Or if, when the child is born, the man (or woman) decides he was not ready to be a parent, this child is too expensive, or this child simply doesn't fit with his lifestyle, and he murders that child (which is exactly the same thing as abortion, just a different location and level of development—still the same child, made in God's image ([Genesis 1:27](#))!), will the church trust and respect him, offering him an affirming "safe space"? Very likely they

would be horrified and turn him over to the authorities! But why the double standard? Why is the child's life suddenly valuable, simply because he or she has been born?

Health Care or Death Care?

On to number three: By “comprehensive and affordable reproductive health services,” they really mean “we believe in the freedom for a mother to murder her unborn child.” Health care does not result in the intentional death of a human being. That's not health care . . . that's murder!

And by “moral and social good,” they mean “by our arbitrary standard of right and wrong, we believe murder is a good (moral) way of addressing social issues such as poverty, fatherlessness, illness, disability, child abandonment, abuse, etc.” But killing people is not the compassionate way of addressing these issues! These churches need to reject our culture's thinking and embrace the compassion of Christ who commanded his church to care for orphans and widows ([James 1:27](#))—not kill them—and to speak up for the poor and destitute, who have no voice ([Proverbs 31:9](#)).

The Lord Hates Murder

Many, many, many churches, organizations, and individuals across this nation are providing compassionate, practical, life-saving care to mothers, fathers, and babies in need. Instead of advocating the killing of the unborn, let's base our thinking on the Word of God—not what is “easiest,” most “convenient,” or most socially acceptable—and understand and call out abortion for what it is—a hideous evil.

“The Lord hates . . . hands that shed innocent blood” ([Proverbs 6:16–19](#)).

Neglecting the Most Important Message

By refusing to call out sin and urge people to repentance, these “churches” are neglecting to present women with the gospel message.

By refusing to call out sin and urge people to repentance, these “churches” are neglecting to present women with the gospel. People need to understand that all have sinned ([Romans 3:23](#)) and stand guilty before a holy God. Yes, abortion is a sin, but that’s why Christ came—to save sinners! He died on the cross, in our place, and took the penalty of death we deserve upon himself. Then he rose from the grave, conquering sin and death. He now freely offers new, eternal life and forgiveness from our sins to everyone who will repent and trust in him. And for those who have done so—no matter what they have done—they stand forgiven before the Father, no longer condemned because of what Jesus has done.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ([1 John 1:9](#))

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ([Romans 8:1](#))

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ([Romans 10:9](#))

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ([John 3:16–18](#))

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This item was discussed yesterday on *Answers News* with cohosts Bryan Osborne, Dr. Jennifer Rivera, and Roger Patterson. *Answers News* is our twice-weekly news program filmed here at the Creation Museum and broadcast on [my Facebook page](#) and the [Answers in Genesis Facebook page](#). We also covered the following intriguing topics:

- “Big John,” the triceratops, is up for auction. Any takers?
- Are LGBT laws having no impact on Christians?
- Does a “living fossil” fish hold the secrets to our evolution?
- And more!