

## *A New Heaven and a New Earth*

*Revelation 21:1-8*

*"Heaven is our future home. That's where our citizenship is; we're only travelers on earth. A lifetime here will seem like a mere breath compared to the time we spend in eternity. Whenever you read a Bible passage that describes some heavenly scene or activity, put your self in the picture, because that is going to be your reality. The pearly gates and the streets of gold are not just a fairy tale. You will one day walk through those gates, step on that street, and come face to face with Jesus." Charles Stanley*

- I. God has given us a very detailed description in the book of Revelation of the extent He will go to exterminate sin and those who embrace it from ever influencing His creation again. For Satan and the demons, it will mean being permanently cast into the lake of fire to suffer for ever and ever. For the unbeliever, it will mean the same fate. For the believer, it will mean living an eternity in a new heaven and new earth totally free from sin and its influence. ***The plain sense of the Word*** teaches us that our reality, as believers, will change. We will be given resurrected bodies and an eternal dwelling with God Himself in a perfect sin free holy environment that will never ever change. That is why we are commanded to, *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory (Col. 3:2-4).*

Rev. 21:1

Gen. 1:1

Gen. 1:31

Gen. 3:1-7

Gen. 3:22-24

Rom. 5:12

Matt. 24:34

2 Pet. 3:10-11

Rev. 20:11

Isa. 65:17-19

Ps. 102:25-27

1 Cor. 15:42-44

***Kainos*** (*new*) as respects form – *recently made, fresh, recent, unused, unworn.*  
As respects substance – *of a new kind, unprecedented, novel, uncommon, unheard of. Strong's Concordance*

- II. John makes a distinction between the New Jerusalem and the newly created heaven and earth. The New Jerusalem already exists. It is an actual eternal city prepared by God for His redeemed people. MacArthur states, *“All of heaven is currently contained in the New Jerusalem; it is separate from the present universe, which is tainted by sin. Believers who die go to the ‘heavenly Jerusalem,’ where Jesus has gone before them to prepare a place for them (John 14:1-3).”*

Rev. 21:2

John 4:1-4

Heb. 11:1-2,6,13-16,39-40

Heb. 11:10

*“If the NEW JERUSALEM already exists, and if this is the place Jesus is preparing for you, then when you are Raptured, whether you are asleep in Christ or remain on the earth at that time, then the instant you are caught up to be with Christ, this is likely where you are going. According to 1 Corinthians 15:52 this happens as fast as the ‘twinkling of an eye.’ In other words, ‘Here today, in NEW JERUSALEM tomorrow,’ alluding to the unknown tomorrow when the rapture occurs.” Bill Salus*

**Hebrews 12:22-23** *22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,*

- III. We live by faith, not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7), yet there will be a day when we will see and know fully the glory of God’s dwelling presence among us. The reason we will be able to, is because of the holiness and blamelessness we’ve been given through Christ (Eph. 1:4). God’s presence means that the environment we will live in will be pure, safe, and glorious. Guilt will no longer be there. Trauma from what it was like to be sinned against, regret, insecurity, doubt, feelings of worthlessness or failure, depression, frustration, pain, suffering, tragic disabilities, anxiety, an aching heart over lost loved ones will no longer exist. He will wipe those things from our memory so that we can enjoy him free by what it was like to have lived in a fallen world.

Rev. 21:3-8

Isa. 65:17-19

Matt. 5:6

Jn. 4:13-14

1 Jn. 5:4-5

1 Peter 1:3-5

**1 Cor. 15:12** *For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known.*