

Revelation 21:1-8

REVIEW...

- **OUTLINE...**

- THREE times – PAST – PRESENT – FUTURE – **Revelation 1:19**
- THREE events – RAPTURE – WRATH – RETURN of Jesus
- THREE judgements – SEAL – TRUMPET – and BOWL judgments

- **White Throne...**

- Millennial Kingdom...
 - After the battle of Armageddon – and the fall of the Antichrist...
 - John saw an angel [Michael] bind satan for THOUSAND years in the PIT [ἄβυσσος]
 - Then Jesus will RULE over the earth from Jerusalem - **Isaiah 2:3-4**
 - And there will be a time of PEACE [lion and the lamb] - **Isaiah 11:9**
 - Where the saints [church] will RULE alongside Jesus – **I Corinthians 6:2**
- Final Judgement
 - Satan will be released for one final rebellion – CHOICE...
 - Then ALL men will stand before the WHITE throne to be JUDGED by Jesus...
 - The BOOKS will come out with the record of their LIVES...
 - They are JUDGED according to what is written in the BOOKS – then cast into the Lake of Fire...
 - But there is another BOOK – anyone whose name is written in it will NOT be judged!

ALL THINGS NEW...

- **1ST – NEW THINGS... vs. 1-4**

- 1st – Heaven and Earth... vs. 1
 - New Universe...
 - **Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth!**
 - AFTER the Great White Throne judgement - God will create a NEW heaven and a NEW earth...
 - HEAVEN [singular] – is NOT talking about the dwelling place of God...
 - There are THREE heavens [plural] – SKY – SPACE – and HEAVEN – **II Corinthians 12:2**
 - It is outer SPACE and the EARTH that are made NEW...
 - God is going to go back to the beginning [very good] - recreate the UNIVERSE – **Genesis 1:31**
 - To a place before SIN came into the world and corrupted it [cursed] – **Genesis 3:17**
 - Old Earth...
 - **For the first heaven and the first earth had passed away!**
 - We will NEED a NEW heaven and earth – because the OLD one will be GONE...
 - Psalms tell us – God will change the earth like an OLD dirty shirt – **Psalms 102:26**
 - Isaiah tells us – we will NOT even remember the OLD earth – **Isaiah 65:17**
 - Peter tells us – that it the OLD earth will go out in the BLAZE of glory!
 - Destroyed by FIRE...
 - **II Peter 3:7** – “The heavens and earth which are now preserved by the same Word - are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men!”
 - God promised Noah He would never again destroy the earth with WATER – **Genesis 9:11**
 - But he never said anything about FIRE – this world will NOT last...
 - Jesus [Word] who holds the UNIVERSE together – will LET go!
 - If you hold TWO positively magnets together – they REPEL each other...
 - Yet within every ATOM there are REPELLING forces that should cause them to explode...
 - When they are released – it is what we call a NUCLEAR blast...

- Jesus literally HOLDS the whole universe together – atom by atom...
- And when He lets go - the whole universe will just explode in a NUCLEAR blaze!
- **II Peter 3:10** – “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.”
- People strive their whole lives to find success – but what is success worth apart from God...
- Everything in this life is destined to BURN – we cannot take any of it with us...
- We might end up RICH – but all we really get is a lot of nice FIREWOOD...
- Therefore – why should we devote our TIME to something that is DOOMED...
- How much better to invest our TIME into a Kingdom that will NEVER fade!
- Also there was no more sea!
 - There are different views on WHY there will be no SEA on the NEW earth...
 - FIRST - some believe it is meant to allow for more SPACE for people to live on...
 - Potentially because so many people will be SAVED – we will need the room...
 - But I do not think so – as we will see next week – there is LOTS of room!
 - SECOND – some believe the SEA is a picture of the source of EVIL – Revelation 13:1
 - Therefore no SEA – speaks of the fact there will be no EVIL!
 - THIRD - our world is mostly [two thirds] covered by WATER today...
 - But that was not always the case – all that WATER is the result of the JUDGEMENT of God...
 - After the FLOOD – much of the WATER remained on the earth – **Genesis 8:11**
 - It was meant to be a permanent reminder that God JUDGES sin!
 - We will NOT need a reminder in on the NEW earth...
 - There will be NO more SIN – it will be perfect like the Garden of Eden!
- o 2nd – New City... vs. 2
 - Holy City...
 - Then I – John - saw the holy city - New Jerusalem!
 - Having seen the NEW heaven and NEW earth...
 - John then saw the CAPITOL city of this NEW world – the NEW Jerusalem...
 - We will look at this city more in depth NEXT week – **Revelation 21:9-27**
 - This is NOT the same Jerusalem that we know today [in Israel]
 - The Jerusalem today is NOT a good place - like SODOM and EGYPT – **Revelation 11:8**
 - This NEW Jerusalem will be HOLY [ἅγιος] – set apart for God...
 - Because this will be the CITY where God dwells – where He RULES from!
 - The NT word for church [ἐκκλησία] - means to be called out of this world...
 - God wants us to be HOLY - we are to be SAINTS [ἅγιος]
 - What makes us HOLY – having Jesus dwell in our LIVES!
 - **II Corinthians 6:16** – “For [we] are the temple of the living God.”
 - From God...
 - Coming down out of heaven from God!
 - Men can NEVER be able to create a HOLY city on earth...
 - No matter how many RULES men make – no matter how many POLICE they hire...
 - The only way to have a HOLY city – is for it to come from God!
 - It turns out our BIGGEST problem - is us...
 - We can make PROMISES - be determined to live a GODLY life...
 - But we end up FAILING – because we are not GOOD...
 - It is not that we do not WANT to do the right things – we CANNOT do the right things!
 - **Romans 7:18** – “I know I am rotten through and through so far as my old sinful nature is concerned. No matter which way I turn - I cannot make myself do right...” [NLT]
 - But what we CANNOT do – God CAN do...

- When God comes down into our lives – He can transform us – make us HOLY
- He takes our BROKEN lives – and makes them BEAUTIFUL!
- **Mark 10:27** – “With men it is impossible - but not with God. With God all things are possible.”
- Like a Bride...
 - Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband!
 - BRIDES put a LOT of effort into getting prepared for their weddings...
 - They make sure to have the perfect LOOK [κοσμέω] – cosmetics!
 - When Jen came waking down the AISLE in her wedding dress...
 - It did NOT matter what the design was – her hairstyle – or her makeup...
 - All I saw was the most beautiful woman I had ever seen coming to marry me!
 - The NEW Jerusalem is NOT beautiful because of what it LOOKS like...
 - It is beautiful because of WHO is inside of it [the church]
 - We are the BRIDE of Christ – and the most beautiful thing in His eyes!
 - **Song of Solomon 4:1** – “How beautiful you are - my beloved - how beautiful!”
- o 3rd – New Tabernacle... vs. 3
 - Jesus Christ...
 - I heard a loud voice from heaven saying: Behold the tabernacle of God is with men!
 - John heard a LOUD [μέγας] voice commanding [imperative] him to LOOK [behold]
 - The TABERNACLE of God was DWELLING [σκηνόω] with men...
 - This is NOT talking about a building – or a TENT – this is Jesus!
 - **John 1:14** – “The Word became flesh and dwelt [σκηνόω] among us.”
 - In the garden of EDEN – the Lord walked daily with Adam and Eve – **Genesis 3:8**
 - They could come into His presence whenever they wanted to!
 - In the NEW Jerusalem – it will be that way again – daily WALKS with Jesus...
 - But we do not have to wait till then – we can come into His Throne room today!
 - **Hebrews 4:16** – “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace.”
 - New Covenant...
 - He will dwell with them - they shall be His people. God will be with them and be their God!
 - Because Jesus WILL be with us – we WILL be His people - and He WILL be our God...
 - This is a quote from a PROMISE given to Jeremiah!
 - **Jeremiah 31:31-33** – “I will make a new covenant... I will put My law in their minds - and write it on They shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God!
 - their hearts. I will be their God - and they shall be My people.”
 - When Moses FIRST gave Israel the OLD Covenant – **Exodus 20-23**
 - They answered - ALL the WORD the LORD has said – we WILL do - **Exodus 24:3**
 - That was the right answer – but it was not the TRUTH - the people quickly rebelled...
 - Just FORTY days later they would make a GOLDEN CALF – **Exodus 32**
 - The NEW Covenant is NOT about what we have to DO - but what God DOES for us...
 - Because Jesus is LIVING with us – He can transform our hearts and give us new life...
 - As we come to Him - we are CHANGED – and we become His people!
- o 4th – New Creation... vs. 4
 - 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.
 - The former things have passed away!
 - We often hear this verse quoted to bring COMFORT...
 - When we get to HEAVEN – God will WIPE [ἐξαλείφω] away ALL [πᾶς] our TEARS...
 - Because we will no longer have loved ones DIE – or get SICK – or have PAIN...
 - But the source of those TEARS is not our suffering – it is our SIN!

- **Acts 3:19** – “Repent... that your sins may be wiped away [ἐξαλείφω].”
- **SIN** – is what causes **DEATH** – **Romans 6:23**
- **SIN** – that causes us so much **SORROW** and **TEARS**...
- **SIN** – that causes **PAIN** – because we continually battle it – **Galatians 5:17**
- But When we get to the **NEW Jerusalem** – where Jesus will **LIVE** with us...
- We will **NO** longer have to deal with **SIN** – it will be **WIPED** away...
- The person we used to be **BEFORE** [πρῶτος] will be gone – and we will be a **NEW** creation!
- **II Corinthians 5:17** – “If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation. Old things have passed away - behold all things have become new.”
- **2ND – NEW LIFE... vs. 5-6**
 - **1st – Faithful words... vs. 5-6**
 - **No Entropy...**
 - 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!
 - Then the one who sat on the throne SAID – the **WORD** of God [λόγος] – Jesus...
 - **LOOK** [imperative] - He is **MAKING** [present] all things **NEW**...
 - It was such an **IMPORTANT** statement – Jesus told John to **WRITE** it down!
 - There is a **LAW** of physics called the law of **ENTROPY**...
 - It states that all things go from **ORDER** to **CHAOS**...
 - If we **CLEAN** our house – a day later [less with kids] – and it is **MESSY**...
 - If we **BUY** anything **NEW** – it does not take long before it gets **OLD**!
 - But that will **NOT** be the case in the **NEW Heaven and Earth**...
 - The **LAW** of **ENTROPY** will be gone – Jesus will make all things continually [present] **NEW**...
 - And we know it is **TRUE** - because God who is **FAITHFUL** will do it!
 - **Already done...**
 - He said to me - It is done!
 - Jesus told John – it has already happened [γίνομαι]
 - Meaning in the **MIND** of God – this is not something to look forward to...
 - It is something He that has already taken place [perfect]
 - Because God – who sees the **END** from the **BEGINNING** – **Isaiah 46:10**
 - Having seen the **END** – knows this is what the **NEW** world will be like!
 - Imagine a world where we buy something once – and never have to buy it again...
 - A world where our bodies **NEVER** grow old – they are **ALWAYS** new...
 - Even though we live in a world defined by **DEATH**...
 - We can be confident the **NEW** world will be defined by **LIFE**!
 - **First and Last...**
 - I am the **Alpha** and the **Omega** - the **Beginning** and the **End**.
 - For the **THIRD** time Revelation Jesus uses the title – the **ALPHA** [Α] and **OMEGA** [Ω]
 - These are the **FIRST** and **LAST** letters of the **GREEK** alphabet...
 - But it turns out this is **NOT** a new title – is a **VERY** old one!
 - **Genesis 1:1** – “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
 - There are **TWO** letters that sit untranslated next to the word **GOD** [אֱלֹהִים] – the [א] and the [ת]
 - They are the **FIRST** and **LAST** letter of the **HEBREW** alphabet!
 - The God who **CREATED** all things in the **BEGINNING** – is the same God who will be there in the **END**...
 - He is the **ONE** who always has been – and always will be **TRUE**!

○ **2nd – The Fountain... vs. 6**

- I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts!
- Jesus has a FOUNTAIN in the NEW world – for anyone who is THIRSTY...
- We are all made up of THREE parts – BODY – MIND – and SPIRIT – **I Thessalonians 5:23**
- Our BODY thirst for WATER – we need it to survive physically...
- Our MIND thirsts for RELATIONSHIPS – we need it to survive emotionally...
- Our SPIRIT thirsts for JESUS – we need Him to survive spiritually...
- People often try and quench SPIRITUAL thirst – with PHYSICAL or RELATIONAL things!
- How many times have we SEEN something and thought - this will make me be HAPPY...
- It might be a new GADGET – or OUTFIT – or a new PERSON...
- And when we get what we WANTED we are happy for a moment – but it does NOT last...
- When we try and drink the WRONG water – we get thirsty again!
- **John 4:13** – “Whoever drinks of this water [from the world] will thirst again...”
- We were not CREATED by God to be FULFILLED by the things of this world...
- We were CREATED by God to KNOW Him - WORSHIP Him - **John 17:3**
- And only when we use our life for the purpose God intended for it - are we SATISFIED...
- The GOOD news is the fountain of LIFE is available to all to FREELY drink from!
- **John 4:14** – “Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst.”
- **3RD – THE CHOICE... vs. 7-8**
 - **1st – The Inheritance... vs. 7**
 - The Victory...
 - He who overcomes!
 - This same statement Jesus gave to all SEVEN churches...
 - There were a variety of REWARDS described – but all with the same CONDITION...
 - OVERCOME [νικάω] – to those who have VICTORY [present]
 - How do we have VICTORY over SIN over DEATH...
 - **I Corinthians 15:57** – “God gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - The Reward...
 - Shall inherit all things - and I will be his God and he shall be My son!
 - The REWARD we get for having VICTORY over SIN...
 - God will give us ALL [πᾶς] things – because we become His CHILDREN...
 - **Romans 8:15** – “[We] received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out – Abba – Father.”
 - When we were in Israel – I heard little kids running after their dads – crying out ABBA...
 - It is an extremely intimate and personal title – like PAPA!
 - And our ABBA [Ἀββᾶ] does not want to give us just what we need...
 - He will give us His whole KINGDOM - bless us beyond imagination – **I Corinthians 2:9**
 - Because we have become HEIRS [κληρονομέω] to all that God has – **Romans 8:17**
 - To the extent we will even sit on Jesus throne with Him - **Revelation 3:21**
 - God does not just provide for our needs – He will give us EVERYTHING!
 - **Luke 12:32** – “It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”
 - **2nd – The Second Death... vs. 8**
 - The List...
 - BUT – sadly there is a SECOND option for what will happen in ETERNITY...
 - John is given a PARTIAL list [not exhaustive] of who will NOT be in the NEW world!
 - Spiritually...
 - COWARDLY – those who DOUBT the Word of God [disciples in the storm] – **Matthew 8:26**
 - UNBELIEVING [ἄπιστος] – anyone who does NOT have FAITH in Jesus...
 - ABOMINABLE – the word means to STINK – spiritually corrupt!

- This is the most important part of this list – because it means a REJECTION of Jesus...
- Those who do NOT believe the BIBLE – are NOT going to believe in Jesus...
- As a RESULT – they will STINK spiritually before the LORD!
- Practically...
 - MURDERER – those who kill – or even HATE others – **Matthew 5:22**
 - SEXUALLY immoral [πόρνος] – any act outside of marriage – **I Thessalonians 4:3**
 - SORCERERS [φαρμακεύς] – those who use DRUGS
 - IDOLATERS – anyone who puts something in life before Jesus – **Exodus 20:3**
 - All [πᾶς] LIARS – this is where the list get convicting!
 - We might ask – how many LIES does it take to make us a LIAR...
 - Well – how many MURDERS does it take to make us a MURDER...
 - The point being – we have ALL told a LIE – so we are ALL liars!
 - This LIST is NOT even complete – it is just a partial list of SINS...
 - Yet even this LIST make it look BAD – because we are ALL guilty of at least one...
 - But we must remember – it is NOT about what we have DONE – but what God DID...
 - When God looks down at us He does NOT see our SINS – He sees Jesus!
 - **Hebrews 10:17** – “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”
- Fire and Brimstone...
 - [They] shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone
 - Which is the second death!
 - We are ALL guilty sinners who deserve the Lake of Fire...
 - But we ALL have the opportunity to put our FAITH in Jesus and be FORGIVEN...
 - Where we will spend ETERNITY hangs on that ONE decision...
 - Either we will get what we DESERVE – and end up in the LAKE of FIRE...
 - Or we will be given GRACE – and get to cry out ABBA Father – in a NEW world!