

"The Eternal State"

Revelation 21:1-22:5

Part 2

**Introduction:** Today as we return to our study in Revelation we are again returning to Revelation 21 where we find the eternal dwelling place of all the saints. Last week in our study of this chapter we looked at several [points.

I. The New Creation

Notice Revelation 21:1

The earth that we live on today will one day be destroyed. Peter gives to us the best description.

2 Peter 3:7, 10-11

<sup>7</sup> *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

<sup>10</sup> *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.*

<sup>11</sup> *Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

This "UNCREATION" will take place at the Great White Throne Judgment and after the unsaved are judged and cast into the Lake of Fire. God will then speak into existence a new heaven and a new earth. The new earth will have no sea and therefore we can only imagine how much different the new creation will be.

There are many things we are not told about the new earth and one is that we have no idea how large it will be. There will no longer be storms and catastrophic events due to the weather conditions. When this earth was created it never rained until the flood of Noah's day and most likely on the new earth it will never rain.

The storms which we see today are the result of sin entering the world and the curse. When this earth was created in Genesis 1 there was a mist that watered all the earth.

Genesis 2:5-6

<sup>5</sup> And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground.

<sup>6</sup> But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.

Possibly the new heaven and the new earth will be the same.

## II. The New Jerusalem

### Notice Revelation 21:2

As great as the new creation will be there is now something else which steals away the focus of John. It is the New Jerusalem. This is the dwelling place of all the saints. This is what Jesus promised and this is what Abraham looked for.

### John 14:1-3

*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

<sup>2</sup> *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

<sup>3</sup> *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

### Hebrews 11:8-10

<sup>8</sup> *By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.*

<sup>9</sup> *By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:*

<sup>10</sup> *For he looked for a city* which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

John compares this city to a bride adorned for her husband. This speaks of the purity of this city. Let us remember this city will not be like the cities we know today. There will be no darkness, no crime, no hospitals, no prostitution, no murder, no corruption, no drugs and the list goes on and on.

This city and this new creation will be occupied ONLY by saved people with glorified bodies who will be holy. There will be no sin in this city nor in any of this new creation.

It will be in this city where we shall dwell for all eternity. We will get the details of this city later in this chapter.

### III. The Presence of God

#### Notice Revelation 21:3

Here we see that in this verse that God will dwell in the midst of His people. The New Jerusalem will be like the Holy of Holies in the Temple and the Tabernacle of the Old Testament. It was in the Holy of Holies that God met with the high priest once a year. But in the new Jerusalem God will dwell with us. In that day we will be able to look upon His glory for in that day we will be holy. Last week I read the words of another writer which I want to read again:

*"Such an unveiled view of God is impossible for mortal men. No living person has ever seen God in the fullness of His glory; He is invisible and "dwells in unapproachable light", exposure to which would mean instant death for any living person. But in heaven, "the pure in heart . . . shall see God", since they will be perfectly holy."*

This is why Jesus Christ died for us so that we could be made holy and live in the presence of God Almighty.

#### Colossians 1:21-22

<sup>21</sup> *And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled*

<sup>22</sup> *In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:*

This now brings us to where we are in our study today.

### IV. The Conditions

#### Notice Revelation 21:4

Here in this verse John uses negatives to describe what life will be like in the eternal state. Now because he has never experienced the eternal state he has no way to describe what it will be like. So, John will use negative statements in an attempt to help us to know some of what it will be like to live in the eternal state.

#### 1. There will be no more tears in heaven.

This does not mean that when people arrive at heaven they will be crying, and that God will go around and wipe away everyone's tears. Some teach the there will be tears because of

our sin but that is not true. Our sin will not be brought up in heaven or ever because it was all judged in Christ on the cross.

There may be tears due to the previous chapter which is the Great White Throne Judgment. I do believe we will be there and witness that judgment.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

*<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

*<sup>17</sup> Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

From the time of the rapture we shall forever be with the Lord and so we will most likely stand with the Lord at the judgment of the unsaved and witness this judgment. That could be a reason for tears to be shed. Let me show you what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount:

### **Matthew 5:4**

*<sup>4</sup> Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*

Most likely the idea here in this statement of Revelation 21:4 is that in heaven there will be no more tears.

There will be no more tears of heartache, separation, suffering, misfortune or sadness.

### **2. There will be no more death.**

This is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophets.

### **Isaiah 25:8**

*<sup>8</sup> He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.*

### **Hosea 13:14a**

*<sup>14</sup> I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction:*

In the new creation there will be no funeral homes and there will be no funeral directors. There will be no grave yards or tombstones. There will be no sickness and disease to take any lives. There will be no accidents that will take a life.

Jesus conquered death at His first coming and in our glorified body we shall never see death again.

**1 Corinthians 15:51-55**

<sup>51</sup> *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

<sup>52</sup> *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

<sup>53</sup> *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

<sup>54</sup> *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

<sup>55</sup> *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*

We shall see the fulfillment of this when we receive our new bodies, but death will not cease until the Eternal State.

The Millennial Kingdom will be great but there will be death in the Kingdom. But there will be absolutely no death in the Eternal State. Let me show you two wonderful verses from Hebrews.

**Hebrews 2:10, 14**

<sup>10</sup> *For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

<sup>14</sup> *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

**3. No more sorrow.**

In the eternal state there will be no depression, discouragement, or disappointment. There will be no dark gloomy days. There will be no sadness at all. Now let me show you something from Isaiah.

**Isaiah 53:4**

<sup>4</sup> *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

This is a very interesting verse. It is a verse that is describing two things.

- a. What was happening when Jesus died upon the cross.
- b. What those who crucified thought was happening when He died upon the cross.

Let me first of all comment upon what the Jews thought was happening. They thought Jesus was suffering for His own sins. They thought He was under the affliction of God for His own sins.

But in the first part of the verse we can see that He was not suffering due to His own sins, but He was suffering because He was bearing the griefs and the sorrows of the world. Let me explain what Isaiah is saying here.

The word "GRIEFS" here is referring to sickness and disease. When Jesus died upon the cross He took upon Himself the sins of the world and He also took with the sins the PHYSICAL effects of the sin which is sickness and disease. There was no sickness and disease before sin they are the results of sin. So, Jesus not only bear our sins, but He also experienced every sickness and disease that would ever come into this world.

But that was not all. Jesus also took upon Himself the MENTAL effects of sin which is sorrow. When Jesus hung upon the cross He lived every sorrow that we would feel in our lives.

Let me take a moment and show you how we benefit from this today.

#### **Hebrews 2:10**

<sup>10</sup> *For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

#### **Hebrews 4:14-16**

<sup>14</sup> *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

<sup>15</sup> *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

<sup>16</sup> *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

We now have a High Priest that knows our pain, our sickness, and our sorrow. Now let me get you back to Isaiah 53:4. Since Jesus carried our griefs and sorrows for all, those in the Eternal State will see the results of His work when we no longer experience any sickness, disease or sorrow.

#### **4. No more crying.**

**Isaiah 35:10**

<sup>10</sup> *And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*

There will be absolutely nothing in the Eternal State that will cause sadness.

**5. No more pain.**

The new glorified bodies we will have will never experience any pain. There will be nothing in the Eternal State that will cause any pain. There will be no emotional pain or physical pain. All sickness and disease will be gone. There will be no heart attacks, no cancer, no broken bones, no worn out knees or hips. There will be no infections, no rashes, and no allergies.

Let me show you what Isaiah recorded.

**Isaiah 53:5**

<sup>5</sup> *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

The healing spoken of here is not just spiritual healing.

**Matthew 8:14-17**

<sup>14</sup> *And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever.*

<sup>15</sup> *And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.*

<sup>16</sup> *When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:*

<sup>17</sup> *That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.*

All the healing miracles which Jesus did on earth while He was here were a picture of what was to come.

**6. The former things are passed away.**

Life as we know it today will be over. Everything will be new including the quality of life.

**Conclusion:**

**Notice Revelation 21:5**

These Words are True and Faithful. In other words, they will be fulfilled. When I look at what is not in heaven I am reminded that in Hell all these things will be there.

**Luke 16:22-25**

*<sup>22</sup> And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;*

*<sup>23</sup> And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*

*<sup>24</sup> And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.*

*<sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.*

There are tears, there is death in the sense there is separation, there is sorrow, there is crying, there is pain, and there is a remembrance of the former things.