

The New World Order

Study 23. Revelation 21:1-8

By James T. Bartsch, WordExplain.com

A. John's Vision of New Heaven and New Earth. 21:1

1. What did John see? _____
2. What had happened to the first heaven and the first earth? _____

 - a. How does this relate to what John saw in Rev. 20:11? _____

 - b. How does this relate to what Peter predicted in 2 Pet. 3:7-12? _____

3. What will not exist on new earth? _____ ¹
4. Thought question: Why is there a need for a new heaven and a new earth?

B. John's Vision of the Holy City. 21:2

1. What did John see descending? _____
2. From what place was it descending? _____
3. To what did John compare its appearance? _____

4. This is in sharp contrast to the city of Babylon, which was compared to what?
(Rev. 17:1-5) _____

¹ 21:1 - no longer any sea: Presumably this refers to the absence of any salty ocean, for that is what most uses of *thalassa* (2281) indicate in the book of Revelation. We are not told why there will be no sea on New Earth. My own speculation is that the sea that has existed for millennia was made salty by the exceedingly turbulent conditions of Noah's global Flood. The increased mineral content, making it unfit for humans and most animals to drink, was the result of God's judgment upon sinful earth. Since salt water was the result of God's judgment, I infer that there will be no large bodies of salt water on New Earth. I do not think John's statement rules out the possibility of fresh water lakes. After all, the river of the water of life that proceeds from the throne of God and the Lamb will have to flow somewhere (Rev. 22:1-2).

C. John Hears a Loud Voice. 21:3-4

1. Where did this voice come from? 21:3 _____

2. This voice made four statements to describe the fact that God would now live among men. What are the four statements? 21:3
 - a. Dwelling: _____ ²
 - b. Dwelling: _____ ³
 - c. Relationship: _____
 - d. Relationship: _____
 - e. What does this mean to you? _____

3. In Rev. 21:4 the voice from the throne announces God's care for men.
 - a. What will God do for all (redeemed) men: _____
_____. What does this mean to you personally?

 - b. Four things will no longer exist. What are they?
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____

² 21:3 - the tabernacle of God: A tabernacle (noun, *skênê*, 4633) is a portable tent similar to that which nomads such as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob lived in. Presumably the voice is that of God. Why does He describe is future dwelling with man as living in a tent?

³ 21:3 - and He will dwell among them: "Dwell" is the verb *skênoô*, 4637, "to tabernacle" or "to tent." Literally, this Scripture states that God's tent is among men, and He will tent with them. Again, why does God describe His future existence with man as "tenting" in a "tent"? My suggestion is that it is because God is forever leaving His fixed abode, the Temple, up in heaven, and He is descending to earth to "tent" forever with Man on New Earth. We will not be "tenting" in New Jerusalem, because we were made for the earth. But God will leave His home and come "tent" with us. This is a remarkable passage demonstrating God's eternal love for mankind (John 3:16; 1 John 4:10).

c. Why is this true? Because _____.

D. God's Announcements. 21:5-8

1. Making all things new. 21:5

a. Who spoke? _____

b. What did He announce? "_____."

c. How reliable are His words? _____

2. The completion of His program. What did the One sitting on the throne next announce to John? "_____."

3. How did He identify Himself?

a. "I am _____ and _____,

b. The _____ and the _____." Taken together, what do these two statements mean?

4. His renewed offer of salvation. 21:6-7

a. What does He pledge to give to the one who thirsts? 21:6 _____

b. The pledge of blessing: 21:7

1) How does one qualify for this blessing? _____⁴

2) What will he inherit? _____

3) What will God be? _____

4) What will the one who conquers be? _____

c. Conclusion: Salvation is free to us (21:6); but succeeding in the Christian life requires great effort (21:7).

⁴ 21:7 - He who overcomes: the word is *nikaô*, 3528, meaning, "to conquer." It is used in Revelation more than in any other book: 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 5:5; 6:2; 11:7; 12:11; 13:7; 15:2; 17:14; 21:7.

5. His exclusion of the doomed. 21:8
 - a. What is the character of those doomed?
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
 - 5) _____
 - 6) _____
 - 7) _____
 - 8) _____
 - b. What is the destiny of the doomed? _____

 - c. What is this destiny called? _____
 - d. What is your reaction to this sobering exclusion? _____

6. What is your assessment of this New World Order? _____

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