

A New Heaven and Earth!

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Revelation 21

World news today with the invasion of Israel, the horrible atrocities, and the evil that has, and continues, to be perpetrated on people and nations, is a *poignant* reminder that we are in the Last Days—Jesus is at the very door and awaiting the time from the Father to return.

¹ Peter 1:13 *“Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled (sober); set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.”*

The Book of Revelation promises a new Heaven and a new earth! What it will be like seems beyond our imagination—just the thought of an *eternity* that never ends, *ever*—is difficult to envision.

All things on earth come to an end—good and bad things; good times and great times; moments of sadness and times to rejoice—all eventually *end*, but eternity never ends!

Paradise *lost* in the Garden of Eden Genesis 3 will be Paradise *regained* Revelation 22. An angel comes down Revelation 20:2 *“He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years”*—they will be thrown into the lake of fire.

God will create a new world to be the eternal dwelling place of all those whose names are written in the Book of Life.

The citizens of eternity will be Old Testament saints, New Testament Christians, apostles, prophets, true believers in Christ, and those converted

during the millennium—they will dwell in the New Jerusalem with God the Father.

Revelation *begins* with Jesus writing letters to seven churches—and it *concludes* with Him saying: Revelation 22:13 *“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.”* The Lord of life and the true King of all eternity will return—suddenly and maybe soon!

Matthew 24:36 *“Of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. ⁴² Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.”*

Jesus went on that if we knew the exact *time* He would return, we ⁴³ *“Would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.”* It is a continual state of readiness!

Heaven seems *far away* and *out of reach*—but it is a *real place* with *real people* enjoying the glories of that marvelous place forever and ever! God’s ultimate plan is to restore all things.

The apostle announced: Acts 3:19 *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.*

²⁰ *“And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: ²¹ Whom the heaven must receive [remain in heaven] until the times of restitution [restoration] of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.”*

The Lord restores the *earth* and He restores our *body* to be like His—Philippians 3:20 *“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly [vile] body that it may be conformed to His glorious body.”*

It is difficult to understand thoroughly, but as we keep our faith in Jesus; as we keep asking God for spiritual enlightenment; and as we learn how to meet things scripturally with the help of the

Holy Spirit, we will grow in knowledge and will understand how it all comes to pass.

Ephesians 1:9 *“Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: ¹⁰ And this is his plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ — everything in heaven and on earth.”*

The restoration of earth is *not* like a *remastering* of a recording, but it is a *complete* remake. There is still a connection between the old and the new Revelation 21:1 *“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. 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.”*

The universe as we now know it, or the *little* we know of it, will be *gone* and *replaced* by a new creation that has no end.

Today three-fourths of the earth’s surface is water, but the new environment will have different climatic conditions. Revelation 22:1 *“And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.”* There is *“the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits.”* It is a marvelous kingdom!

Revelation 21:3 *“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.*

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.”*

This new Heaven and new earth is just ahead—a place where there will be no more oppressions of Satan; no more suffering or sorrow;

no more incidents or accidents to harm or hurt; no more breakdowns or breakups; and no more famines, fires, or freezing temperatures. No more keys or combinations as the door to God's throne of grace is always open!

Everyone loves *new* things—like the latest smartphone; a new iPhone App; larger tablet; fastest computer; the newest software update; or latest clothing styles. God says He will make *everything new*—not just *improved*—but totally *new*.

This means many good things—no more tears, no more hurtful thoughts, no more pain, sorrow, or suffering because God has banished Satan to the pit. No more evil actions or wicked intentions because Jesus reigns on earth.

Revelation 21:5 “*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.*”

It means Revelation 21:6 “*It hath been done!*” It is speaking of absolute *finality*—meaning “*They have become!*” It is the *perfect indicative tense* in Greek—it is a *completed* action. God speaks of the *future* as if it were the *past*.

He does *not* see things as *we* see them—we have a *past* we can recall; a *present* where we live in the moment, and an unknown *future* ahead. God lives in a *complete range* of time—the *future* is the same as the *past* or the *present*. When God mentions the *future*, He speaks of it in the same *accuracy* as the *past* because He *sees* and *knows* all things.

Ecclesiastes 3:15 “*Whatever exists today and whatever will exist in the future has already existed in the past. For God calls each event back in its turn.*” When God says something will be done, *it will be done*—exactly as He said.

A New Heaven and Earth is coming—It *will* happen! Jesus said in four Bible verses: Revelation 22:13 “*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.*”

A writer stated: *God doesn't wear a watch—He sees time differently than we see it.* Psalm 90:4 “*For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.*”

2 Peter 3:8 “*Be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*”

We may not think much about what is *beyond* the Millennial reign of Christ, but even *that* one-thousand years is only a *heartbeat* compared to *eternity*. When Satan is released for a brief time at the conclusion of one-thousand years—that will *end* the Millennium and *begin* eternity.

New Jerusalem comes down from Heaven—sparkling like a precious jewel! Isaiah 65:17 “*For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.*” It is an absolutely perfect environment.

Revelation 21:1 “*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.*”

The apostle spoke of this 2 Peter 3:10 “*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.*”

It will be the culmination of all things that have ever happened in the world since the beginning. It is the final *judgment* of a sin-saturated world, and the eternal *reward* of the faithful in Christ.

This is when the new Heaven and the new earth become *one glorious reality*, and all believers enter into an eternal *timelessness* in a place called Heaven!

It would be easy to think that God is delaying His return, and Israel felt that way before Jesus' first Advent. They asked—*Is the Messiah coming; When will He deliver us from Roman rule and oppression; It has been 400 years since we last heard from a prophet or saw an angel or witnessed a miracle.*

The apostle said Galatians 4:4 “*When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*” At just the *right* time the Messiah was born in Bethlehem.

Many wonder why Jesus has *not yet* returned—since the present world today is in such a horrible condition—spiritually, politically, morally, militarily, and in every other way. And it is getting worse by the day.

Only God knows the *right* time and when the *last* person will repent. 2 Peter 3:9 “*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*” It is a call for us to *maintain* a repentant attitude.

Only God knows when the last person will truly accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. God is giving us *all* more *time* to repent before it is eternally too late to change the result of our decisions!

We must take *advantage* of the *opportunity* to be part of this marvelous new environment called Heaven that God *wants us* to enjoy!



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