

POWER HOUR

5/4/2025

Lesson Text:
Revelation 21:1-8

Background Scripture:
Isaiah 65:17-25, John 14:1-11

Devotional Reading:
2 Corinthians 5:11-21

“A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”. *Revelation 21:4 NLT*

Time: about A.D. 96

Place: from Patmos

Revelation 21:1 - 8 NLT

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.” 5 And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new!” And then he said to me, “Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.” 6 And he also said, “It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. 7 All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children. 8 “But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

INTRODUCTION

The first chapters of Genesis tell us of the peaceful universe that was created by God at the beginning of time. The last chapters of Revelation tell us of the new heaven and new earth that will replace the heaven and earth now marred by sin. This lesson refers to the New Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven, and it reveals who will

populate it. Its main blessing will be intimate fellowship with God.

The concept of the creation of a new heaven and new earth was known long before John's vision as recorded in the book of Revelation. The Lord foretold through Isaiah that He would "create new heavens and a new earth" that would not suffer under a curse because of sin (Isa. 65:17-25). Peter recognized decades before John's vision that the "promise" believers must look forward to is "new heavens and a new earth" (II Pet. 3:13). John gives us further details for which we yearn when we think of our eternal home. Revelation 21 and 22 give us our fullest picture of what is to come. This lesson's text introduces us to these marvelous chapters.

- **1. New universe (Rev. 21:1).** Commentators have different explanations of what it means that there will be no more sea. However, the use of the word in the preceding chapters of Revelation may give us a clue. In the latter half of the book, the term often refers symbolically to the place where evil dwells or is judged. In 13:1, we find the first beast rising out of the sea. In 16:3, the sea is a place of judgment. In 18:17-19, the judgment against the sea is connected with the unjust practices of merchants, which likely would have made the original readers think of the unjust practices of the Roman Empire, which thrived in part because of its sea ports. In 20:13, the sea seems to be linked with the place of the dead. In light of these connections, the sea spoken of in chapter 21 may have represented the presence of evil and death, especially the evil of the beast. In the new earth, evil and death will be removed.
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- **2. New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2).** List for your class the three things that characterize this city: (1) It will be holy (cf. II Pet. 3:13). (2) It will come down from God out of heaven, implying that it will be beautiful and perfect, as are all His gifts (Jas. 1:17). (3) It will be prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Note similar language used in Revelation 21:9-10.
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- **3. New status (Rev. 21:3-4).** Have your students compare verse 3 with verse 22. Because God and the Lamb (Christ) will be the city's temple, the "tabernacle," or dwelling place, of God will be with His people. The whole city will be a sanctuary. When God dwells among His people, it will be a fellowship superseding any we have yet known. God will provide a new status, free from tears caused by death,

sorrow, and pain.

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- **4. New inheritance (Rev. 21:5-7).** God, sitting on His throne, declared He would make all things new. John was to write down what he heard and saw, for these words were true and faithful (dependable). God called Himself the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end (1:8; 21:6). He knows the end from the beginning and is in sovereign control. The fountain of the water of life is open to His children. Overcomers will inherit all good things, the most precious being a Father-son relationship with God. Further details regarding the water of life are found in 22:1-2.
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- **5. New atmosphere (Rev. 21:8).** John had already said that God would take away tears caused by death, sorrow, and pain, which are common in this existence (vs. 4). Now he added the fact that people who cause themselves and others trouble and grief will be excluded from the New Jerusalem. Verse 8 gives a list of these sinful people. It includes those who are "fearful" (cowardly, contemptible), "unbelieving" (lacking in faith), "abominable" (depraved, perverted), "murderers," "whoremongers" (lewd people, fornicators, adulterers), "sorcerers" (occultists), "idolaters," and "liars." Imagine how different a city's atmosphere would be without their wicked influence. Their destiny is the lake of fire.

POINTS TO PONDER

- Our attention should not be focused on this earth but on the coming new earth and heaven (Rev. 21:1).
- We should desire God's presence as much as God desires to dwell with His people (vss.2-3).
- We can endure pain and sorrow now, knowing they will one day be abolished forever (vs. 4).
- Christ is our perfect Provider, both now and in eternity (vss. 5-6).
- Triumphant faith, which overcomes the world, assures us of God's blessing and keeps us from the judgment that sin brings (vss. 7-8).

CONCLUSION

The Bible makes it very clear that the New Jerusalem has been prepared for those who belong to Him-believers. The righteous will enter the New Jerusalem for a wonderful eternal existence. You may wonder who will live on the new earth. The Bible does not

specifically deal with this. However, 2 Peter 3:13 states that righteousness will dwell on the new earth. Revelation 21:24 says that “the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it [the New Jerusalem]: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.” It is obvious that the new earth will experience the peace it has found elusive throughout its long, violent history.

QUESTION(S)

1. What became of “the first heaven and the first earth” (Rev. 21:1)?
2. What are some possible explanations for there being “no more sea” in heaven?
3. How does the New Jerusalem appear in John's vision?
4. What is the significance of the tabernacle and God's dwelling with men?
5. What will be absent from heaven that is common on earth?
6. How does John's vision of the new heavens and earth assure us in the face of death?
7. Why are the words John heard “true and faithful” (vs. 5)?
8. What does “Alpha and Omega” mean (vs. 6)? Why is God referred to in this way?
9. How is the theme of overcoming seen earlier in the book?
10. What kinds of people will end up in the lake of fire? How can they avoid this judgment?

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is *“The Holy New Jerusalem”*

Lesson Text: **Revelation 21:9–14, 22-27**

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