

TO THE THIRSTY CONQUERORS!

HOME SWEET HOME
GOD WITH US, US WITH GOD ... FOREVER

WELCOME HOME, CHILDREN!



OUTLINE ... (Revelation 21:1-27 ESV)

1. **HOME SWEET HOME: GOD WILL BE WITH US AND WE WILL BE WITH GOD FOREVER IN THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH, 21:1-4.**

- (Revelation 21:1–4 ESV) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne

BOOM!

saying, “**Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.**”

BANG!

POW!

4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Scene #1 ... The scene in John's vision cuts immediately from the great white throne to a view of a new heaven and a new earth.

- **A VERY IMPORTANT INTERPRETIVE PRINCIPLE:** As we study the events and descriptions concerning the new heaven and the new earth, new Jerusalem, etc., we need to understand that our best approach is to determine to **fully accept the stated biblical facts as presented to us** knowing that further description or explanation is not necessary to God's purposes and our blessing. **And** we must also realize that **human speculation beyond the text does not add to but takes away from** what God has determined that we need to know and what is best for us to know.

- A. The new heaven and new earth appear and are contrasted with the first heaven and first earth that will have passed away.

*****There is a major contrast between *καινός* and *πρῶτος* (*kainos*, *prōtos*, new, first), with *καινός* emphasizing more qualitative newness than temporal newness. **There will be a whole new reality**, a new kind of existence in which all the negatives of the “first” (*Genesis one*) world will be removed, all the discoloration by sin will be gone. [Osborne, G. R. (2002). *Revelation* (pp. 729–730). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.]

- B. The holy city, new Jerusalem, comes down out of

heaven from God.

- C. Our new relationship with God in the new heaven and new earth is proclaimed.

God will dwell with us, we will be his people and he will be with us as our God.

- D. God establishes and settles us in the kingdom of heaven.

God will remove every single, lingering trace of our sin-damaged past. Specifically, he will wipe away every tear from our eyes and assure us that the old order of the first heaven and earth—death, mourning, crying and pain—is gone forever.

What does that mean? It means that through his compelling, infinite, eternal, powerful, holy, majestic, loving action and presence, God will be with us in ways inconceivable to us in our current status as those redeemed but not yet glorified. God will be God in our lives beyond our wildest dreams. Our Shepherd will effectively heal us from the wounds of the old world and so enabling us to thrive in our new world.

WOW!

Scene #2 ... The scene in John's vision cuts to God seated on the throne and his announcement that he will make all things new.

2. **HOME SWEET HOME: GOD WILL MAKE ALL THINGS NEW IN THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH, 21:5-8.**

- (Revelation 21:5–7 ESV) And he who was seated on the throne said, “**Behold, I am making all things new.**” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6 And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. **To the thirsty** I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7 **The one who conquers** will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

- A. God announces that he is making all things new.

- B. God commands John to ... “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

- C. God declares as Alpha and Omega that “It is done”—that these actions stand as already accomplished.

D. God identifies **who will be part** of the new heaven and new earth.

i. **The thirsty will be part of this new world.**

- (Revelation 21:6b ESV) To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.
- (Matthew 5:6 ESV) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- (Psalm 42:1–2 ESV) As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

ii. **The thirsty will be given the water of life that cannot be purchased but only given by God—this is grace.**

- (Revelation 7:17 ESV) For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, **and he will guide them to springs of living water**, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.
- (Revelation 22:17 ESV) The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, **“Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.**

2 LESSONS FROM ISAIAH CONCERNING THE THIRSTY ...

Lesson One: Those who are called to come to the waters are described in two ways: 1) The thirsty. These people have come to know that what they hunger for only God can supply. And, 2) they know that they have nothing to offer toward the purchase price.

- (Isaiah 55:1 ESV) **Come, everyone who thirsts**, come to the waters; **and he who has no money**, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Lesson Two: Not so with the “un-thirsty” who believe their hard work adds value to their project and helps toward the purchase price. God rebukes these people in two ways. 1) You spend your religious currency on something that does you no good, and 2) you work for a salvation that does not save.

- (Isaiah 55:2 ESV) Why do you spend **your money** for that which is **not bread**, and **your labor** for that which **does not satisfy**? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

iii. **Those who conquer will be part of this new world and will receive their inheritance.**

- (Revelation 21:7 ESV) **The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.**

All the blessings of the inheritance flow from this—**“I will be his God and he will be my son.”** All of the conqueror rewards are attendant to *(as a result of, occur because of)* this inheritance.

iv. **John points to the same truth—the one who conquers is the one who has been born of God.**

- (1 John 5:4–5 ESV) **For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world.** And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

v. **Each letter to the seven churches in Revelation contained a promise to the conquerors.**

- Revelation 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:26, 3:5, 3:12 and 3:21.

vi. **Conquerors conquer by the blood of the Lamb.**

- (Revelation 12:11 ESV) **And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony**, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

E. God also identifies **who will not be part** of the new heaven and new earth.

- (Revelation 21:8 ESV) But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, **their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.**

God makes it a point of emphasis that everyone will receive their respective portion. The books were opened at the great white throne and the unsaved were judged accordingly.

3. HOME SWEET HOME: GOD WILL BRING THE PROMISED CITY, THE NEW JERUSALEM, DOWN FROM HEAVEN, 21:9-21.

- (Revelation 21:9–21 ESV) Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, **and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,**

11 having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 12 It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— 13 on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. 16 **The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal.** 17 He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. 18 The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. 21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

A. The holy city is an actual, literal city.

Although it will be a literal city, it will exceed any conception of a city known to us. However, we do know some things as the physical dimensions are given. And it is huge. The city is a cube and depending on which measurement for stadia is used it is either 1,400 or 1,500 miles on each side. So it is either 2,744,000,000 or 3,375,000,000 cubic miles.

B. The holy city Jerusalem comes down out of heaven having the glory of God.

C. The holy city has been designed and built by God.

- (Hebrews 11:10 ESV) For he was looking forward **to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.**
- (Hebrews 12:22 ESV) But you have come to Mount Zion and **to the city of the living God**, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering.

D. Coming to the holy city to be forever with God is the heart's desire of all true pilgrims.

- (Hebrews 11:16 ESV) But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, **for he has prepared for them a city.**
- (Hebrews 13:14 ESV) For here we have no lasting city, but **we seek the city that is to come.**

4. HOME SWEET HOME: THE GLORY OF GOD PROVIDES THE LIGHT AND THE LAMB PROVIDES THE LAMP FOR OUR FOREVER "HOMETOWN," 21:22-27.

- (Revelation 21:22-27 ESV) And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. 26 They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. 27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.