

The Great Reversal | A Series through Revelation

Something New

Text: Revelation 21

Synopsis: God's heaven is coming down to recreate earth, and this will be the new temple of His dwelling, illuminated by Jesus.

Read Revelation 21:1-8, 22-26

We all need some good news

What's down here is actually going to be renewed. This is a drastic change from the rest of Revelation! **Eternal perspective changes the way we see our current reality.**

We have reason to celebrate (even right now)

John gives us, the church, a vision. Of an utterly pure bride. Of a wedding celebration.

- **the setting:** marked by the absence of powers that oppose God and diminish life.
- **the wedding party:** characterized by the presence of God.

3 Reasons to celebrate:

God is coming here Rev 21:3-4.

The story of this promise:

1. **Adam and Eve** - starts with two people in a garden.
2. **Abraham** - expands to a family (Israel).
3. **Mobile tabernacle/established temple** - represented the place where God made his presence known to his people.¹
4. **Fully in a human - Jesus** (Immanuel God with us)! He is now the access, the one mediator between God and man (1 Tim 2:5, John 1:14).
5. **A church - through the Holy Spirit** - right now we experience God's presence in Jesus by the Holy Spirit, who is in our hearts through faith (Eph 3:16-17).
6. **The whole world** - God's presence will be unfiltered and not only in the heart! (Habakkuk 2:14) (1 Cor 13:12)

The visuals throughout vs 9-21 are describing this relationship:

- **The dimensions of new Jerusalem (Vs 16).** 12,000 stadia - perfect cube. Holy of Holies - a visual of the new relationship and unfiltered access to his presence.

God's final purpose is fulfilled in dwelling with his people.

Why this matters now: God is with us now because of Jesus Christ through the indwelling Holy Spirit! We don't need a place or a building or a tent or a sermon or another person speaking on our behalf to access his presence. He meets you where you're at! Do we live like that is true?

¹ Tremper Longman III, Psalms. 149-152

God is making all things new Vs 5.

3 times God says it is finished: (three completed works of God).

1. Creation - Genesis 2:3
2. Cross - (John 19:30)
3. Revelation

He will finish what he started. -Vs 6b.

Two disconnects in what we think about heaven and eternity:

1. **Heaven is just a future event.**

New creation begins in us! As followers of Christ we are placed here with a purpose as *ministers of reconciliation here and now* (2 Corinthians 5:17-20).

2. **Heaven is somewhere else.**

Escapism. The reality: Heaven will be here (*vivid description v9-26*)

Why this matters: He IS making all things new. You're not a lost cause. This world is not a lost cause. Don't give up!

What is this city like?

- **SAFE** Vs 8, 12, 14, 25.
- **PRECIOUS** Vs 14, 18-21
- **DIVERSE** Vs 24-26

Eternal perspective changes the way we see our current reality.

Jesus is the Light Vs 24-25 (predicted Isaiah 60:19)

Glory: summation of all God's attributes! Jesus the Lamb is the radiance of his glory

What we see is the Lamb. Again and again and again. The Lamb. He illuminates eternity.

Why this matters now: Are you letting the light of Jesus shine in every area of your life? He wants all of you. Will you let him in?

What Now?

- Do we live like we believe heaven is coming here? Do we live with an eternal perspective?
- Pray for his kingdom to come here and now. (**Matthew 6**).