

## Revelation 21-22: The New Jerusalem

Philippians 3:20; Colossians 1b–2

Heaven – 3 divisions.

Heaven is ...

- first heaven and earth pass away (2 Peter 3:10-13)
- sea will be no more (figurative/literal)
- **new** earth NOT simply a makeover of present earth
- created order suffers because of human sin (Isa 24:4–13) and Paul (Romans 8:20-22)
- God restores fallen world to a pristine state, perfect world.

The new Jerusalem descends upon the new earth (Jn 14:3)

### Will believers go – heaven or the new earth?

- 3 Jerusalem's
- Hebrews 12:22–24
- Heaven = temporary abode (Phil 1:23, 2 Cor 5:8)
- Isaiah 65-66, Jewish Apocrypha - Jubilees and 4 Ezra

Summary

“prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband” (Rev 21:2)

Israel = bride of the Lord; church=bride of Christ

### Virtual Tour of the New Jerusalem (21:9–27)

- contrast 'Jerusalem' (the Lamb's bride) with 'Babylon the great', mother of whores" (17:5)
- real city; no temple (21:22); no more sun or moon

### Return to the Garden (22:1–6)

- River symbolizes spiritual life flowing from the throne
- Genesis 2–3 and Revelation 21–22 – bookends
- River of life (Ezekiel 47:1-12)
- Tree of life

### Promise to Return (22:6–21)

Epilogue to Book of Revelation = divine postscript.

Responses expected of every believer to his revelation.

- Vv. 6-11- targets believers
- Vv.12-21 - targets unbelievers

"I am coming soon" (Vs. 7) - OT and NT speak of imminence of Christ's return (Isa 56:1; Rom 13:12; Ja 5:8; 1 Pet 4:7; 1 Jn 2:18).

The angel instructs John not to seal the scroll – why?

"Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy."

Doesn't God care?

"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

- o Everyone will be treated with complete fairness and justice.
- o Each will receive his/her just deserts.
- o Genuine faith produces good works (Eph 2:10; Gal 5:6)
- o Absence of good works points to lack of saving faith (Ja 2:14–26).

"washing of robes" = symbolism is baptism.

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

Titles speak of the lineage and nature of Jesus.

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

- o Two distinct invitations, separated by "Come!"
- o First addressed to Christ; second to unbelievers.

Verse 18

Book closes with one final reminder and benediction:

"Yes, I am coming quickly" and "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"