

The Book of Revelation – Part 30
The Eternal State – A New Heaven and New Earth
(Revelation 21:1-8)

Introduction:

All believers will live eternally *“where righteousness dwells”* (2 Peter 3:13b). *“Dwell”* - To house, reside, inhabit permanently!

1. The new creation declared.

- John’s gaze is on a new creation - *“a new heaven, earth, and new Jerusalem”* (v.1-2). *“First passed away”* is a redemptive expression!
- The new earth has *“no longer any sea”*. (v.1b)
Water and land divided to create absolute Paradise!!

2. The Holy City’s descent.

- John’s attention is firmly fixed on *“the Holy City”* (v.2)
The words *“Holy City”* emphasize the character of the city because it is *“the city of...God’s dwelling place...among the people.”* (v.3)
- The city *“prepared as a bride beautifully dressed.”* (v.2b)
- In eternity God will *“dwell”* on earth in the New Jerusalem.

3. The citizen’s delight.

- Every believer’s earthly experience will never be remembered in eternity (v.4; Isa. 65:17b). A perfect state of eternal peace and uninterrupted bliss because the *old order of things has passed away!*
- People will not live in a vacuum in eternity.
NASB - *“Behold, I am making all things new”* (v.5)
- *“It is done”* – God’s world program brought to completion. (v.6)
Christ is the *“Beginning (first) and the End (finisher)”* will faithfully guide the destiny of His creation to its designated conclusion!
- The eternal New Jerusalem - a satisfying and fulfilling place!
Souls of the redeemed totally satisfied with *“the water of life”* (v.6b).
“Those who are victorious will inherit all this” (v.7a). All the glories of the New Heaven, earth & Jerusalem! This applies to all true believers are - *“overcomers”!* (1 John 5:4-5)
A third promise exceeds them all. NASB – *“I will be his God and he will My son”* (v.7b). God’s intimate Father/Son relationship with the glorified saints! This is even more incomprehensible!

A sober reminder of eight categories of people who will spend eternity in *“the fiery lake of burning sulfur”*, along with Satan, the beast, and the false prophet. (v.8) (Rev. 19:20; 20:10, 14-15)

This is called the *“second death”*. This is an eternal death (not annihilation), which means that these people will be separated from God, cast into outer darkness, and suffer eternally in the lake of fire!

We have a very short time on this present earth! A lack of long, serious, and sober thinking about our promised future glory is a major cause of our often lukewarm lifestyle!

Setting our affections on the glorious new heaven and new earth will motivate us to pursue that which gives honour to our Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ, the one who sits enthroned eternally!

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