

#### 44. The Joy in the New Heavens and the New Earth

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain what will happen at the great white throne judgment. We also saw that we want to make sure that they can clearly explain the importance of repentance and faith to all those who have not yet believed in Christ. In this topic, we are going to see what happens when the Lord creates a new heaven and a new earth.

In Revelation 20:11, we saw that the present earth and heaven fled away. We saw that fled away means to flee or to vanish. That destruction is described in 2 Peter 3:10-13, where we read: “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” The present earth and heavens have been corrupted by sin.

In Revelation 21:1-4, we read, “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’” Here, we see the new heaven and the new earth that will replace the present heaven and earth. It will have no sea.

Once the new earth is revealed, the New Jerusalem will descend out of heaven from God. This means that the New Jerusalem is already being prepared. Christ told the disciples, in John 14:2-3, “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.” In Matthew 25:10, we see that all saints will come into this new city. That verse says, “And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.” The door was shut to all unbelievers, and they were all judged in our last topic. Now, we see that all believers will be in this New Jerusalem as it comes down out of heaven.

The word “tabernacle” in the Old Testament means *the place where God lives*. Here, we see that God will live with us in the New Jerusalem and we will be His people. This makes it clear that God will live with us for all eternity. He will be with us, and He will be our God. In addition, God will remove all tears of sorrow from our eyes because there will be nothing throughout eternity that will cause sorrow. Then, we are given a short summary of the things that cause tears. Throughout eternity, there will be no more physical or spiritual death. 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

says, “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Sin was the cause of death. Sin, and all of its consequences, are judged in Revelation 20. There will be no death in eternity in the new heavens and the new earth.

The word translated “sorrow” means *mourning or sorrow*. James 4:9 says, “Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom.” Here, the word is translated mourning. Then, Revelation 19:7-8 says, “In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, ‘I sit *as* queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’ Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong *is* the Lord God who judges her.” In these verses, the word is translated “sorrow” twice and “mourning” once. The things that bring mourning and sorrow will be gone for eternity so there will be no more sorrow.

The word translated “crying” is used of Christ in Hebrews 5:7-8, where we read, “Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.” Christ cried out in agony as He prepared for the cross, knowing that while He was bearing our sins, He would be separated from the Father. Luke 22:42-44 says, “‘Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.’ Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” Then, while He was on the cross, Matthew 27:46 says, “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’” There will be no need to cry in eternity, because God will be dwelling with us. In addition, there will be no more pain, because the former things have passed away.

Revelation 20:5 says, “Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ And He said to me, ‘Write, for these words are true and faithful.’” The word translated “new” can mean *recently made* or it can mean *new in kind or something that was never heard of before*. It is used the first way in John 19:41, where we read: “Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.” It is used the second way in John 13:34, where we read: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” Here, Christ told the disciples that it was both possible and also commanded that they love as He loves them. We are also to love as He loves us. That new kind of love happens when we are yielding our human spirit to the Holy Spirit. This word can be used both ways here. In addition to creating a new heaven and a new earth, everything in the creation will be new and different. In addition, there will also be many things which are new in kind and have never been heard of before. We can count on the fact that these things will be true in the new heaven and the new earth, because the words of Christ are always faithful and true.

Revelation 21:6-8 says, “And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” Here, we see how quickly Christ will make all things new. He had just said, “Behold I make all things new.” Then, He said, “It is done.” In the first creation, Christ spoke various things into existence over a six-day period. Here, we see that He will speak, and it will be done.

Then, we are reminded again that Christ is “The Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.” Revelation 1:8 says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End,’ says the Lord, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” This phrase, in Revelation 21:6, is a reminder of the fact that Christ is the Lord “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” Then, Christ reminds us of the water of life which was first offered in the Old Testament. Isaiah 55:1-2 says, “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for *what is* not bread, and your wages for *what* does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat *what is* good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance.”

This same offer is given in the New Testament. John 4:13-14 says, “Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” Then, John 7:37-38 adds, “On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

In addition, all who receive the water of life will inherit all things. John 3:35 says, “The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.” The Father has given all things in to the hand of Christ. Then, Romans 8:16-17 says, “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.” In these verses, we see that we are joint heirs with Christ which means that He will share all things with us throughout eternity.

We also see that those who were judged, in Revelation 20, will not be in the new heaven and the new earth. Instead, they will have their eternal existence in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone and will be eternally separated from God. That is the second death. We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain what these verses teach about the new heaven, the new earth and the New Jerusalem. We also want to help them explain who will be there and who will not be there. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to explain these things.