

A New Home

Restoration of Faith Bible Study Notes (Revelation 21:1-9)ⁱ

Friday 05 August 2022

Introduction/Background

Last week we ended our study of the Book of John in the Last Supper with Jesus promising the Holy Spirit to His disciples. The key verse for last week was John 14:16 *“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever. – 17 the Spirit of truth.”*

Tonight we are going into a short 4 week study on one of the Apostle John’s other books in the Bible, namely the book of Revelation. Back during the pandemic, I taught pretty fully through the first parts of the book of Revelation at that time, but there were certain chapters that were left out of that study at that time. This study for the month of August picks up at the end of the book of Revelation and only covers Revelation chapters 21-22. Tonight we are going to cover the first part of chapter 21 with Revelation 21:1-9. The title for tonight’s study is “A New Home.”

Background Context

The book of Revelation was written about the year 95-96 AD by the Apostle John on the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea. The island is located off of the coast of modern day Turkey which was off the coast just west of the city of Ephesus in his time. John was the pastor at the church in Ephesus that had been started by Paul on one of his previous missionary journeys (Ref: Acts 18-19). John had been punished and exiled to the island of Patmos by the Roman Emperor Domitian for preaching Jesus and evangelizing in Ephesus. The island of Patmos is about 13-14 square miles (34 square km) so it is a small island, mostly barren, and today it has about 3000 people who live there that mostly support their tourist trade. In the first century, only people who were exiled by the Romans lived there. It was the practice

of the Romans to kick you off of the boat in the bay and then when you got to shore you were on your own to fend for yourself on the island. That was your punishment which was banishment.

John was having a vision on the Lord's Day Sunday when he wrote down the vision and it became the book of Revelation. (Ref: Revelation 1:9) I note here that the name of the book is Revelation. Note, no 's' on the end, it is not Revelations plural, it is Revelation singular. The book features a type of literature known as apocalyptic. The root of the word apocalypse does not mean "worldwide catastrophe" as we often think of it today, but rather it means "uncovering the hidden" or a revealing. The book's purpose is to uncover or to reveal and give a revelation of Jesus Christ and God's end time's plan that conquers evil satan and his allies.

[United \(Revelation 21:1-4\)](#)

[Heaven and Earth](#)

[Read Revelation 21:1-2]ⁱⁱ

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

I am not certain whether sea in verse 1 refers to the glassy sea in heaven, or the sea of water here on the earth. The earth is destroyed by fire, and heaven as we will know it today when we get to go to heaven are both destroyed at this point back in Revelation chapter 20, so it could refer to either sea in my opinion.

This new Jerusalem, God's holy city, is descending down to the new earth. And it is so beautiful as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I still remember the day of my wedding some 24 years ago now, and standing at the altar when my wife came into the church beautifully dressed and everybody stood up for her to make her entrance. It was a beautiful sight to see, as will be this event.

[God and His People](#)

[Read Revelation 21:3-4]

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

Here we have God speaking from His throne saying that God now dwells among the people. Not in the temple on the throne, but now amongst us His people. What a promise he now gives in verse 3, no more tears, no more death, no more sadness and crying, and no more pain because the old order of things has passed away and the new heaven and new Jerusalem are now here.

Separated (Revelation 21:5-8)

A New Creation

[Read Revelation 21:5-6]

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ 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 water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

This verse is an assurance by Jesus. The Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet, and the Omega is the last letter of the Greek alphabet, so He is basically saying that He is the A and the Z, he is the beginning and the end of everything. I like the phrase "it is done," which reminds me of "it is finished" the words of Jesus at the cross but with more finality to it.

With the Holy Spirit within us as spirit filled believers, we have rivers of living water flowing from within us. In verse 6, Jesus promises us the water of life. To me this speaks to the most important part of this which is thirst. We need to be a people who are hungry and thirsty for the things of the Lord while we are on this earth now. We need to humble ourselves and seek Him more and more while we still can.

Fire Lake

[Read Revelation 21:7-8]

⁷ Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. ⁸ But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.

Verse 7 is another assurance by Jesus. We have an assurance that we who are victorious will inherit this New Jerusalem and new earth. The contrast though is that those who practice sin, and it names a few here, will not inherit and they will suffer the same fate as satan and his minions and be consigned to the lake of fire. This is a reference to Revelation 20:10 in the previous chapter which is the enemy's judgment.

[Transition \(Revelation 21:9\)](#)

[Read Revelation 21:9]

⁹ One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

So this angel who was one of the angels previously mentioned as having a part in the punishment of God upon the earth is now talking with John and telling him to come and see the bride the wife of the Lamb.

That is where we will leave off this week, and I will leave you in transition. We will pick up the rest of this chapter in next week's Bible study where we will talk about the New City.

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