



Revelation 21—part 1
(Verses 1-3)
From Sermon 4.28.19

Read *Revelation 21:1-3*

Questions, Answers, and Review: John is given a brand new vision of a brand new heaven and earth. Sin has never touched or tainted what he sees. The Holy Spirit gives us two glorious chapters of heaven (10% of the book + earlier sections), after 20 on judgment. New Heaven has a capitol center called New Jerusalem. It will be the city God always planned for it to be = us with Him.

Homework: Study Guide “Drawing Near” Questions (page 127), The Context (page 127), & Keys to the Text (page 128)

John closes his book with God’s promise of a new heaven and a new earth. What do you think heaven will be like? Various personal answers

Does the thought of eternity make you happy or fearful? Why? Various personal answers

As we come to the end of this study, what new things have you learned about God? Various personal answers

- Someone read “The Context” on page 127- top of 128: Comments?
- Someone read “Keys to the Text” (page 128). [No need to look up cited verses at this time]

It was pointed out that modern/western world Christians have a diminishing desire for the things and discussion of heaven. What are some of the possible reasons for this? Because our Christian life is so easy and safe compared to other (all) periods of time and other parts of the world, we aren’t longing for something better as they are/did. We spend so much time building heaven on earth (comfort, beauty, leisure...), heaven is just a future benefit, not our heart’s home. Also, like the subjects of sin and judgment, heaven has been removed from the preaching.

How we do correct this issue? Make a commitment to study and meditate on heaven scriptures. Be involved in studies like this. Examine our attitudes and priorities—see if I’m investing in this world or the eternal kingdom to come. Thank God, often, that I’ll be there one day.

See *Psalms 73:25, Philippians 1:21-23, & Colossians 3:1-2*

There used to be an old church saying: “Don’t get so heavenly-minded that you’re no earthly good”. What do you think of this statement? Is it also possible to focus too heavily on eternity? Yes, as with anything. Example: We aren’t to sell everything and go live on the mountaintop. We are to be actively involved in fellowship, ministry, and evangelism, while looking forward to/longing for heaven.

Read *1 John 4:12-13*. What is our current union with God? We are His Children and the Holy Spirit lives in us. We have fellowship with one another (the body of Christ).

What is still incomplete in this relationship? We are not yet glorified, therefore cannot be in the unveiled presence of God/Christ. We cannot see Him as He is or be with Him physically.

How does that change in Heaven? We won’t just be declared righteous, but will be fully. Our union with Christ will be as that of husband and wife...the two become one. We will see Him as He is physically. See also *1 John 3:2 & Revelation 22:4*