

# Revelation

(A Chapter-by-Chapter Overview of God's Picture Book)

## Lesson #20: Revelation Chapter 21

### Review

#### **Act I: Understanding the Relationship with Christ (Revelation 1-3)**

A glorified Jesus who is "standing among the lampstands" (in the midst of the church), sends letters of encouragement, exhortation, and correction to seven in Asia Minor.

#### **Act II: Understanding the Judgment from God (Revelation 4-11)**

Chapters 4 & 5 - Heaven, the Scroll, the Lamb

Chapter 6 – Opening of the First Six Seals

Chapter 7 – An Interlude

Chapters 8 & 9 -Opening of Seventh Seal, The First Six Trumpets

Chapters 10 & 11 -Interlude, Seventh Trumpet

#### **Act III: Understanding Why There is Opposition (Revelation 12-14)**

Featured in Chapter 12:

The Woman and the Dragon

The Background of Opposition

Featured in Chapter 13:

The Beast of the Sea

The Beast of the Land (666)

Featured in Chapter 14:

The victory experienced by those who overcome

The judgment experienced by those who oppose God

#### **Act IV: Understanding God's Wrath and God's Righteousness (Revelation 15-22)**

Chapters 15 & 16 - The Sevenfold Wrath of God

God's wrath is pictured as seven bowls being poured out by angels on the wicked. The wrath of God is sure. The wrath of God is terrible. The wrath of God is only for the wicked.

Chapter 17 & 18 – The Doom of 'Babylon'

Babylon is described figuratively as a 'great prostitute', worthy of judgment.

Those who were seduced by and benefited from the 'great prostitute' mourn her demise.

Featured in Chapter 19:

A series of 'hallelujah hymns' celebrating God's judgment of the wicked and His blessing of the faithful.

A picture of Jesus as a heavenly warrior defeating the beast.

Chapter 20 – Thousand Years/Judgement of Satan

The Millennium is Now

The Devil is bound now.

Christians reign with Christ now.

We receive our first resurrection now.

The Reality of Opposition: But God's People Win

The Great White Throne

## Revelation 21:1-27 Reward for the Righteous: God with His People

The final scenes help the faithful see themselves as...

The \_\_\_\_\_

The \_\_\_\_\_

The \_\_\_\_\_

### A New Situation for God's People

#### Verse 1

*then I saw* - This phrase once again draws the reader's attention to something important.

*a new heaven and a new earth* - The 'new' heaven/earth is better than the 'first' heaven/earth.

*no longer any sea* - The sea was a symbol of threat.

#### **The Four Heavens** (Jack Cottrell)

The Bible uses the word 'heaven' and describes the concept of 'heaven' in four different senses.

The \_\_\_\_\_ Heaven: God's very being or pure divine presence.  
Matthew 6:9; Deuteronomy 26:15; Psalm 109:19; John 3:13

The \_\_\_\_\_ heavens: The skies above, outer space.  
Genesis 1:1; Psalm 19:1-2; Matthew 26:64; Matthew 24:30

The \_\_\_\_\_ heaven: God's present throne room.  
The created world of the angels.  
Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 6:9  
This is the 'heaven' we go to when we die until the second coming of Jesus.

The \_\_\_\_\_ heaven: Our eternal home.  
John 14:2; 2 Peter 3:13

#### Verses 1-5

God's People

*holy city, new Jerusalem, bride* - The people of God.

God's Presence

*God himself will be with them* - Wherever God is, that is where heaven is.

God's Peace

*He will wipe every tear* - Heaven is the great place of 'no mores'.

*I am making everything new* - We get an 'upgrade'.

#### Verses 6-7

*Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End* - This title was first seen in Revelation 1:8.

*I will give water* - A symbol of God's eternal provision.

*those who are victorious (overcome)* - This reward is designed for the faithful.

#### Verse 8

*second death* - In contrast to the 'new heaven' and 'new earth'.

### Verse 9

*I will show you the bride* - The bride, the wife of the Lamb, and the city are interchangeable terms describing the people of God.

### Verse 10-14

*Holy City, Jerusalem* - It is equivalent with the new heaven and new earth.

Using the image of a city carries with it the idea of \_\_\_\_\_ for God's people.

*shone with the glory of God* - It is a **lighted** city.

*it had a great high wall* - It is a **walled** city.

*twelve gates* - It is a **gated** city.

*twelve foundations with names of twelve apostles* - A picture of how Jesus, using the Apostles, established his church on a firm foundation. (Matthew 16:18)

### Verse 15

*rod of gold to measure the city* - The city is the measured kind. In other words, it is \_\_\_\_\_.

### Verses 16-21

The measuring simply means that God will provide a \_\_\_\_\_ place for his people.

The material list emphasizes the holiness of the place.

*pearl gates* - This is where that popular image of the pearly gates of heaven originated.

### Verses 22-27

*I did not see a temple* - The temple concept has given place to the fullness of God.

*glory of God gives it light* - On earth, day gives way to the darkness of night.

Not so in the new heaven.

*nations and kings of the earth* - In this context, these 'kings' and 'nations' represent the righteous.

*the gates will never be shut* - There will be no more chance of danger or oppression.

*nothing impure will ever enter* - A place of eternal holiness.