

SERMON OUTLINE

In Revelation 21:1-8 we are introduced to 6 broad descriptions of the New Jerusalem.

- I. The New Jerusalem is part of the new heavens and new earth (v. 1).
- II. The New Jerusalem is city-bride coming down from God (v. 2).
- III. The New Jerusalem is where God dwells with his people (v. 3).
- IV. The New Jerusalem contains none of the suffering that was part of the former creation (vs. 4-5).
- V. The New Jerusalem will be home to all who conquer through the Alpha and the Omega's free gift of life (vs. 6-7).
- VI. The New Jerusalem will not be inhabited by those who suffer the second death (v. 8).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 31, 2019

Passage: Revelation 21:1-8

Memory Passage: Revelation 21:3-4

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is. 65:17-25, 66:22-23, & Rev. 21:1-8.** How do the prophecies in Isaiah help you understand Revelation 22:1ff?
- (b) How, exactly, did the first heaven and earth “pass away” (NB: this is a review of your study last week of 20:11 in which you examined Hag. 2:6, Rom. 8:15-25, Heb. 12:26-28, 2 Pet. 3:10, Rev. 6:12-17, & 16:18-21)?
- (c) Why did the first heavens and earth need to pass away, what is “new” about the new creation (the Greek word translated “new” carries the idea of new in quality or essence)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Is. 65:17-25, 66:22-23, Rev. 21:1-8.** Verse 1 contains the final of 23 mentions of the word “sea” in Revelation. What has “sea” symbolized so far in the book (a word search will help you find the 22 former instances if you need help)?
- (b) What does “the sea was no more” represent in John’s vision of the new heaven and new earth?
- (c) “The holy city, new Jerusalem” is mentioned briefly and then expounded upon in vs. 9ff (a regular occurrence in Revelation, as Babylon is but one example [cf. 14:8; 16:19; chapters 17 & 18]). What do we learn in vs. 2-4 about the new Jerusalem and how does this fulfill other prophecies & promises (just to name a few: Is. 52:1-12; 62:1-5; 65:17-25; Ez. 37:27; Gal. 4:26-31; Heb. 11:9-10; 12:22-24)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 21:1-8.** How do we know for sure that the words spoken from the throne are “faithful and true” (cf. Is. 65:16; Rev. 3:14; 19:11; 22:6)?
- (b) What is God claiming about Himself when he says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega” and what does this say about the status of Jesus compared with the status of the Father (cf. 1:8, 17; 22:13)?
- (c) Where is the “spring of the water of life,” why are drinks from it given freely, and what does this spring symbolize (cf. Is. 49:10; 55:1; Heb. 4:16; Rev. 22:1, 17, etc.)?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 21:1-8.** What is “this heritage” promised to the one who conquers (v. 7)?
- (b) Why do you think God specifies these particular sins (v. 8) to describe those who are not part of His people?
- (c) How are the people in v. 8, representing the opposite of those who conquer, related to the warnings given to the letters to the 7 churches in chapters 2 & 3 and the idolatry of the earth-dwellers exhibited throughout Revelation?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 21:1-8.** Application Day: How does this initial description of your eternal state differ from the view you had before you started studying Revelation, and how do these differences encourage and strengthen you?
- (b) Make a quick list of the ways believers’ relationship with God is described in vs. 1-7. In what ways should you be preparing in this life to live intimately with God in the eternal state? In other words, how does your future affect your present?
- (c) Notice that it is not sins in general that are mentioned in v. 8, but sinners described as their sin. Meditate on each of these enemies of God and ask God to reveal if you are guilty of any of these in a way that will exclude you from His eternal kingdom. Open your heart to the one who can “destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matt. 10:28) and repent if needed, turning to God in faith. But if you are in the faith and assured of your eternal destiny, ask God to reveal to you how often your life, even though forgiven, looks like the people mentioned as having no portion in the new Jerusalem and repent as necessary.
- (d) Reflect for a moment on the promises made to the 7 churches in Asia (chapters 2-3) and consider how they are fulfilled in Rev. 21:1-8. Spend time meditating on what this eternal state will be like for you and giving thanks to God for your rich inheritance in Christ which is kept for you and guaranteed by the Holy Spirit.

DATE: March 31, 2019

PASSAGE: Revelation 21:1-8

The New Heaven and New Earth (Part I)