



# REVELATION

## Session 9

November 7th, 2021

### “God’s People in Perfect Glory”

Revelation 21:1– 22:5

#### BIG IDEA

God will establish a new heavens and new earth and a New Jerusalem! Christians will spend eternity in joy with Christ where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.

#### BIBLE CONVERSATION / GENERAL INFO

We have finally made it to the pinnacle of Revelation! Everything we have seen has been leading up to these final outcomes. In a real sense, this is what the Bible in its entirety has been pointing towards. “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people and He will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.” These are some of the most precious promises in all of scripture. They are filled with so much hope and assurance for they tell us that even the pain and suffering that has been inflicted upon us will be forever taken away.

In other words, not only is the sinful and deceptive world done away with, and not only are the great forces of evil done away with, but even the pain and hurt and sorrow which has permeated our lives, is done away with! The great Christian hope is not only an escape from our coercive world, not only the destruction of Satan once and for all, but the end of suffering and sorrow as well. Your suffering will end. The things done to you will cease to cause pain. The effects of sin in our world are remedied by the presence and power of our God, both now and in full measure one day soon to come. Hold to this great hope even in the most dire of situations.

Why does this matter? Or the better question, what does this leave us with? The answer is joy. Once the world is gone and evil is destroyed, and death and sorrow are no more, all we have left will be pure, unadulterated joy. We get an eternity of joy and gladness with God. This joy comes not only from all pain and sorrow being removed but also from the eternal and intimate presence of God. It’s like the joy and gladness of being healed of chronic pain and having with you forever your best friend or loved one who brings you life and happiness.

The book of Revelation, which again is not a story about the end of the world but rather a story about the beginning of perpetual worship and joy, ends with a handful of key promises which Christians in all times get to look forward to. We will enjoy a new heavens and new earth. We will enjoy an eternal

life lived in intimate, personal communion with our God. We will no longer experience the horrible effects of sin. We will enjoy full and final access to the tree of life.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 says “God has put eternity in their hearts.” It is great to know that what God has planted in our hearts - this longing in our very souls for a perfect existence - will one day soon be fully and completely satisfied. We each have this longing in us which nothing in our world can fill. We were made for God alone and His wonderful plan for us. It is what all of history is moving towards. So, come taste and see the Lord Jesus. Come and enter His family. Come and be His Bride and rest in this great hope of an eternity more joyful and wonderful than anything you could imagine. This is what Revelation 21 is all about.

**Read Revelation 21:1-8**

**Question #1** Which statements in these verses resonant with you the most? Which are you most hopeful for? Why? What does your answer here tell you about your own desires?

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**Question #2** What sorts of people are described in 21:8? What does this tell you about God’s opinion towards these things? Does anything on this list seem odd or interesting to you? Who are these people contrasted to? (21:7, also see 12:11, and 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:4-5)

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**SERMON OVERVIEW**

Have you ever wondered what Heaven/Eternity will be like? Well, the Bible gives us some hints. It doesn’t tell us everything about it, but it does tell us what God wants us to know about it. So, let’s ponder some of that.

The heavens and earth described in Revelation 20 are first called “new.” This is newness in terms of quality and time. This means that they aren’t corrupted by the old forces or the old ways. The chaos and sin and evil are gone, and a new heavens and new earth are now present.

And this is where we will get to dwell with God forever! Christ promised to prepare a place for us and bring us there one day (John 14:1-4). We will be with God in perfect joy and bliss. And there is no joy like pure and perpetual love. Our joy will be nothing but the joy of being loved by God and being with Him as He originally intended before sin and death broke in.

Even though mankind sinned and brought death and pain and suffering into our world (Romans 5:12), God has promised to end the effects of that. We won’t have to mourn any longer. So, ponder the new heavens and new earth. Ponder our dwelling with God. And ponder on what will not be there in Heaven/Eternity.

But now also ponder the density of unbelievers; of those who did not overcome. Their place is the lake of fire - the second death - which is a vivid picture of the darkness and separation and agony of those who don't know God. It is hard to stomach but an important reality to consider.

Lastly, ponder two more great and marvelous things. Ponder the "Bride," the church perfected, and all her splendid and vibrant nature. This is a picture of the Church in full glory where the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple and light. Then ponder the tree of life. The very tree which was denied us because of Adam and Eve's sin is now presented to us because sin and death and darkness have all passed away. We have full access again!

**Read Revelation 21:9 - 22:6**

**Question #3** John gives us another long and vivid picture: that of the New Jerusalem. Like we have done with all the other pictures in Revelation, what does this picture tell us of the New Jerusalem and what it is like? What words would you use to describe it?

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**Question #4** In Revelation 22, we see Christians having access to the "tree of life." What does this picture remind you of? Where else in the OT is this tree depicted?

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**OPTIONAL EXERCISE**

Option 1	Option 2
<p>Bible Search:</p> <p>How many promises can you find in Revelation 21:1-22:6?</p> <p>How many things will be done away with or not be present in eternity?</p> <p>*There are at least twelve answers to both questions.</p>	<p>Further Group Questions:</p> <p>What sort of hope does this passage in the bible give you?</p> <p>Why is it important to know how things will end up?</p> <p>What sorts of current brokenness and pain in your life does Revelation promise to fix?</p> <p>How might you become more "heavenly minded" and "heavenly hopeful?"</p>

## PRAYER

Intentionally specific prayer for this week: Pray that we will be a people with Heaven/ Eternity on our minds. Pray that we will be so encouraged and empowered by God's promises that we live courageously in victory. Pray for all those who don't know Jesus Christ as their personal savior to come and enter into His rest and share in His great promises.

### Next Session: Revelation 22:6-21

#### DIGGING DEEPER

#### Heaven

If you are interested in gaining a biblical picture of what Heaven is most like, check out Randy Alcorn's book *Heaven*. He also has a much shorter booklet form of it which is terrific yet brief.

