

# sermon study summary

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## Our Eternal Home

Revelation Series Part 26

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As we near the end of the Book of Revelation, in Chapter 21 we are given a spectacular vision of our eternal home in a NEW heaven and earth. In his book, *The Eclipse of Heaven*, A.J. Conyers says many believe that this life is ALL THERE IS, resulting in people feeling cheated, bitter, angry and miserable. If our dominant goal in life is believing that we're accountable only to ourselves, life ends at the grave, and THIS is our only shot at happiness, we're likely to attempt to procure everything for ourselves. However, when we believe that GOD loves us so much and wants us to live with Him eternally in heaven, we strive to reflect His ways as we hold Him and heaven in our hearts. We focus on what He wants us to do, which gives our life meaning and direction, and as we worship God in His presence, through our work, relationships, fun times and love for others, it becomes our 'new way of life'. This fallen world is merely the result of our rebellion and sin!

NEW is a keyword in describing heaven! GOD makes EVERYTHING NEW – our intimacy with Him, beauty, community, our nature, and we receive glorified bodies. When we have faith and trust in Jesus, we become citizens of heaven. C.S. Lewis wrote: "If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world". When we see Jesus face-to-face, we begin our true and divine intimacy with Him and He will be our closest and most intimate friend in heaven!

In God's presence, we'll be transformed into sinless, beautiful, loving beings free from envy, dishonesty, distrust, power struggles and competition we see today. Our good, earthly memories are precious, but are a foreshadowing of the REAL community: deep, meaningful and authentic relationships, which we experience in heaven. We will be loved AND accepted without question or criticism! God's greatest treasure in heaven will be His people, you and me, redeemed and made perfect through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. We will have COMPLETE FAITH AND TRUST THAT WE ARE SPECIAL TO GOD! The Apostle John says we shall be like Christ because we see Him as HE is.

Revelation 22:3 says there will be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His servants will SERVE HIM. We were created in God's image, to worship Him through our work, and be co-regents with Him. There is wonderful information packed into Chapter 21, and we will discuss the difference this makes to our lives, in the final message in Revelation Chapter 22.

Finally, anticipating heaven is comforting, and we SHOULD PRAISE GOD that He wants us in Heaven when we're finished here on earth. This knowledge will remind us that when we focus on the Problem Solver and His promises, God will not only be WITH US, but will give us everything we need to keep trusting Him – HE WILL SEE US THROUGH!

We don't know how things will play out, but WE KNOW how it will end! Jesus IS coming again; because He died for our sins and rose victorious over the grave WE shall live victoriously in heaven! Focus on Jesus, what He's done for us, and the stunning vision He gave the Apostle John of our eternal home. PRAISE GOD ALMIGHTY!

# sermon study guide

## IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. What is one of the most beautiful places you have visited? What made it beautiful?
2. What are you most looking forward to about heaven?

## UP – PURSUE GOD

3. Read Revelation 21:1-8. What will be made new, and what is the significance of those things being made new?
4. Read Revelation 21:22-27 and 22:1-5. What are the benefits of having the throne of God and of the Lamb in the city? What does it mean that we will serve and reign with Jesus?

## OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. Which “new” promise mentioned in the sermon or summary means the most to you and why?
6. How can you use the promise of heaven to reach out to those who are not in Christ or to encourage those who are in Christ and yet struggling?

### **For Personal Reflection / Prayer:**

*God is preparing heaven for those who put their trust in Him. How does knowing this encourage you during difficult times? How is God prompting you to live now so as to prepare for your eternal home?*

## THE WORD (NIV)

### **Revelation 21:1-8**

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. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> ‘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.”

<sup>5</sup> 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.”

<sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. <sup>8</sup> 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.”

### **Revelation 21:22-27**

<sup>22</sup> I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup> The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. <sup>25</sup> On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. <sup>27</sup> Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

### **Revelation 22:1-5**

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. <sup>4</sup> They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

This week’s writers: Asha Phillips, Sandi Somers, Alfred Samson, Elsa Henderson, and Jorel Quemuel