

Seoul Grace Community
Revelation: A Study of Seven Churches
"The New Heaven and New Earth"
Revelation 21:1-8, 22-27
September 11, 2016

1. Introduction

- a. What's the end game. Where are we headed as a church and people of God? What's the culmination of the story between God and His people—the new heaven and new earth
- b. Heaven comes down to earth.
- c. John isn't writing to communicate academic symbols.
 - i. He wrote to churches without hope.
 - ii. And he wanted to give them a living hope.
 - iii. Not an abstract idea. But a hope.
 - iv. The new heaven and new earth and points to something to come.

2. What is the New Heaven? (the nature of this hope)

- a. It's the God coming down and heaven breaking in.
- b. The climax of human history is not human souls going up one by one and floating around
- c. It's heaven coming down and changing the earth. It restores. (v. 5, Behold I am making everything new)
 - i. A healed world. A material world restored. Not ethereal hovering
 - ii. You eat. As Jesus ate a fish after being resurrected (Luke 24).
 - iii. You walk. You hug. A feast on earth—like we saw last week.
 - iv. V3. Spiritual healing in relationship with God (9 He will dwell with them, and they will be his people)
 - v. V4. But every tear is also wiped away. The "ultimate Kleenex". Physical and real restoration
- d. Implication: It means your work matter. Life here matters. What we build, write, paint, sculpt, think of
 - i. What you do now is building towards something.
 - ii. Eternal implications when it's made new!!!

3. Why you need the New Heaven? (the need for the hope)

- a. Who was John writing to? People in suffering.
- b. See v4 here. People were about to experience more pain and death than we most likely will
 - i. John doesn't give them a pep talk or a lesson in religion and morality.
 - ii. He gives them a vision of a new heaven coming down to them!!
 - 1. And historically we know his was effective and helpful.
 - 2. We have stories of incredible suffering and yet Christians would be singing hymns while burning—because they had this hope of restoration and it shaped the way they lived their lives to a great degree.
 - 3. How you live today incredibly is effected by your view of the future. The now is controlled by the "then"

4. How do you get the New Heaven? (how to get the hope)

- a. You have to believe in both the death and resurrection of Jesus.
 - i. You have to believe in the cross—the only true answer to death and suffering (the only true quenching of thirst).
- b. To him who is thirsty (v.6), you get the water from the river of life without payment.
 - i. What is he referring to?
 - ii. John 4 Jesus meets the woman at the well and promised her a water that would quench her like nothing else (i.e. living water)
 - iii. The deepest longing of your heart is answered in the river waters of Jesus Christ literally poured out for you BY GRACE (without payment!!)
 - iv. Then, later in John 19:28, he says "I thirst"
 - 1. It wasn't just physical thirst—He was experiencing spiritual thirst.
 - 2. This is why he cries out after then in his death.
- c. Revelation 21:6. He says it's done.

- i. It's a repeat of his utterance on the cross.
- ii. He stamping us approved. It's done.
- iii. Not by what you've done.
- iv. Death hit Jesus. We can only be hit by the shadow of death. If we believe in the resurrection and the future restoration of the new heaven and new earth.
- v. This greatly changes our long term perspective on current day struggles
- vi. George Herbert "Dialogue Anthem:"
 - 1. **Christian:** ALAS, poor Death! where is thy glory?
 - 2. Where is thy famous force, thy ancient sting?
 - 3. **Death:** Alas, poor mortal, void of story!
 - 4. Go spell and read how I have killed thy King.
 - 5. **Christian:** Poor Death ! and who was hurt thereby?
 - 6. Thy curse being laid on Him makes thee accurst.
 - 7. **Death:** Let losers talk, yet thou shalt die;
 - 8. These arms shall crush thee.
 - 9. **Christian:** Spare not, do thy worst.
 - 10. I shall be one day better than before;
 - 11. Thou so much worse, that thou shalt be no more.
- vii. "Death used to be an executioner, but the gospel has made him just a gardener."

5. Conclusion

- a. What's the result? A place where hope is everlasting and we need not search for happiness anymore because it will be all around us:
 - i. 22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.