



SERIES: October “Back to the Future”

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Thursday, 10/21/2021

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-4

TITLE: The New Heaven and Earth

What will heaven be like? If you watch movies like *What Dreams May Come* or books like *Heaven Is for Real*, you can get some pretty far-out notions of heaven. But we don't want notions, speculations, or wishful thinking. We want to have a biblical worldview. That's why we're going back to the Bible for what heaven will be like.

Listen to a compelling future reality for us in Revelation 21:1-4 (CSB).

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first Heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

“Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more because the previous things have passed away.”

Oh, how I wish I had 30 or 60 minutes to unpack these verses, but I have five minutes or probably 3 at this point.

John, in his final vision, sees after the judgment of the sinner, a new heaven and a new earth. I think when it says “new,” he means new. Scholars debate if new means absolutely new or paradise restored. But regardless, the old will be changed into something better.

The new Jerusalem comes down from Heaven. In John 14, Jesus declared He would prepare a place for the believers. It is here in the New Jerusalem we find that home.

It is also new. The old, beloved city will be no more. What exactly will happen to the old Jerusalem, heaven, and earth? Well, 2 Peter 3 seems to indicate it will be fiery destruction. And the result is a new heaven, new earth, and a New Jerusalem.

It says there will be no more sea. Some people think this is literal, while others think this is figurative for death and the fear associated with the oceans. I sure hope there are beaches and large bodies of water, but once in heaven I won't care either way. Why? Because God will dwell with us. Finally, the spiritual relationship is consummated into a daily walking with God, just like in the Garden of Eden.

And then, in verse 4, we find some of the best news of all: “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more because the previous things have passed away.”

Oh, how I long for that day when we will have no more cancer, sickness, pain, disappointment, lies, attacks, dysfunctions, and so on. It will be paradise with God forever. Heaven is for real and what we know about it is awesome.

So here’s my challenge for you today: Bring a piece of heaven to those around you. God has given us glimpses of paradise through many versions of His grace. What can you do to show people a glimpse of that glorious future?

I long for that glorious day. I pray you do too.