

Experience a Piece of the New Now

Revelation 21

Introduction:

- A. It is hard to imagine the future life that God has for us
 - 1. Being s_____
 - 2. Having perfect h_____
 - 3. Being face to face with the L_____
- B. John receives a vision of the final future for all believers
 - 1. He reveals to us what is n_____
 - 2. God gives us a piece of the future now in our positive experiences in:
 - a. Our relationship to the L_____
 - b. Our relationship to one a_____
 - c. Our relationship with the community of c_____

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth passed away (Rev 21:1).

The new universe and the new earth (21:1)

- A. The Greek word often translated as *heaven* is where we get our word U_____ and has several meanings..
 - 1. The Greek word in the plural (ouranoi - heavens) can mean:
 - a. The u_____ (2 Pet 3:7, 13)
 - b. The s_____ (Matt 24:31)
 - c. The place where God's t_____ is (Matt 6:9)
 - 2. The Greek word in the singular (ouranos – heaven) can mean:
 - a. The place where God's t_____ is (Matt 6:10)
 - b. The s_____ (Matt 6:19)
 - c. The u_____ (Rev 21:1)
- B. We know the Greek word must mean universe in Rev 21:1a because of the following two verses:
 - 1. Genesis 1:1 – *in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*
 - 2. Rev 21:1b - *for the first heaven and the first earth passed away.*
- C. Human conclusions from observation
 - 1. Astronomers
 - a. Our universe is e_____ at the speed of light spawning new star systems.
 - b. Our solar system is t_____
 - c. Life on earth will end when the sun burns its f_____ to a certain degree.

2. 20th century environmentalists predictions by the year 2000
 - a. Man will destroy himself by n_____ war.
 - b. The USA will run out of drinkable w_____.
 - c. The world will exhaust the earth's c_____
 - d. 75% of the animal world will become e_____

D. God's plan

1. He will d_____ this universe and this earth.
2. He will c_____ a new universe and a new earth.
3. He will f_____ the new world with righteousness
(2 Pet 3:13)

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband

The people of God (21:2, 9-21)

A. The holy city, the new Jerusalem

1. Is pictured as a b_____ (v. 2)
2. Is called the bride, the w_____ of the Lamb (vv. 9,10)
 - a. The angel tells John that he is going to show him the bride, the wife of the Lamb, which he knows to be the c_____
 - b. The angel shows him the holy city, J_____
3. Therefore, the holy city, the new Jerusalem in to a p_____ but is the p_____ of God from all time.
 - a. Revelation mentions the holy city four times (11:2; 21:2,10; 22:19).
 - b. Revelation mentions the new Jerusalem three times (3:12; 21:2,10).
 - c. Revelation mentions the bride of Christ four times (19:7; 21:2, 9; 22:17).
 - d. Revelation mentions the wife of the Lamb twice (19:7; 21:9).

B. The b_____ of the church (the people of God as a whole) is pictured in verses 11-21.

1. Perfectly reflects the g_____ of God (v. 11a)
2. The glory is pictured as:
 - a. Extremely b_____ (v. 11b)
 - b. A perfect c_____ (v. 16)
 - c. See Eph 5:25,27)
3. The make up of the church includes:
 - a. All Old Testament believers as seen in the names of the twelve t_____ of Israel on the gates

- b. All New Testament believers (which includes us) as seen in the names of the twelve a_____ on the twelve foundation stones.

Experiencing a piece of the new now

- A. As individual believers we have an o_____ self and a n_____ self (Eph 4:22-24)
1. We are p_____ born with the old self and are commanded as believers to lay it aside because it is sinful.
 2. We are s_____ born with the new self and are commanded to put it on because God created it in righteousness and holiness.
 3. When you put on the new self, you are reflecting the glory of God (righteousness and holiness) and experience the new, now. How hard are you working at reflecting Christ in your everyday life?
- B. As a local church
1. Is there u_____ under Jesus as the head? (Eph 4:3-6; Col 1:18)
 2. Is there unselfish l_____ seen between us? (Jn 13:35)
 3. When we actively show unity and love as a body, we experience the new, now.
 4. How does your fellowship, your attendance, and your involvement in ministries make this church reflect God's glory?
- C. As a group of churches
1. There are two issues of fellowship
 - a. D_____ - the gospel (1 Cor 15:1-8; Gal 1:8,9) – we cannot associate with a “church” that preaches a different gospel.
 - b. L_____ - we cannot fellowship with professing believers who are living in unrepentant sin (1 Cor 5:11)
 2. Ways that a community of churches can reflect God's glory.
 - a. Pastors association (pastors from various denominations meet for encouragement)
 - b. Cooperating in ministries that impact our community
 - 1) Pooling resources to help meet emergency needs in our community (food pantry; help with utilities, rent) – G_____ Samaritan fund.
 - 2) Pooling resources (people and money) to solve the family homelessness crisis – Family P_____
 3. Some scriptures to consider – Jn 17:22,23; Eph 3:22

To God be the glory in me, in you, and in His church. Amen.