

“THE NEW WORLD ORDER”

REVELATION 21:1-8

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

INTRODUCTION

Cf. “The New Heavens and a New Earth” of Is. 65:17 [blending of the Millennium and the eternal state in the OT; as with “Gog & Magog in Ez. 38-39]

“The First Heaven and the First Earth passed away.”—the **Old World Order** [cf. the castle for a Queen such as the Taj Mahal—vanity of human works]

God says in v. 5, “I am making all things new.”—Here we see the **New World Order**.

For the Christian the new order begins at salvation—II Cor. 5:17; 3:18.

I CAN’T WAIT TO GET THERE—HOW ABOUT YOU?

I. THE CHARACTER OF HEAVEN

A. “New Heavens and New Earth” (1)

[“Heaven”—relation to the Old Heaven and Earth]

B. New Jerusalem (2)

1. **Holy** City

2. Out of Heaven—source

“from God”—mission

3. “Made Ready”—cf. Jn. 14—a place prepared

4. “As a bride for her husband”—Adornment; this city is the **home of the Lord’s bride**.

II. THE CONTENTS OF HEAVEN

A. Things Missing from Heaven (1, 4)

1. Old Heavens and Earth—“have passed away”; Not annihilation; rather Remodeling

2. Sea

3. Every Tear—*not the tears at the judgment seat of Christ over our failures*; cf. Is. 25:8

4. Death:

- Heb. 2:15—humanity’s lifelong slavery to the fear of it
- Is. 25:8—Death swallowed up for all time
- I Cor. 15:54—Death defeated forever
- Rev. 20:14—Death cast into the Lake of Fire

Illustration: best medical care, doctors, nurses—Yet, death reigns!

5. Mourning—“Man comes into the world with a cry, and goes out with a groan.”

6. Crying

7. Pain

THE FIRST THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY—i.e. the “old order”

B. People Missing from Heaven (8; such is especially true in light of the tribulation period)

1. Cowardly

- “Temporary ‘Christians’—no root (Mt. 13:21)
- Refuse suffering for Christ (Mk. 8:35—they save their life but end up losing it).

2. Unbelieving

- Could be outright “unbelievers”
- Could be “faithless ones”—untrustworthy; they take “the mark of the beast.”

3. Abominable

- cf. Rev. 17:4—the woman riding the beast
- Their natures are saturated with abominations which they practiced in their lifetimes.

- Includes idolatry and “monstrous and unnatural vices.”
- 4. Murderers—includes the persecutors of the martyrs.
- 5. Immoral Ones—fornicators [all three types found in the Scriptures—esp. **literal**]
- 6. Sorcerers
 - Occult and magical rites
 - Use of drugs—*the Greek word is “pharmakos”*
- 7. Idolaters—worshippers of the creation rather than the Creator (Rom. 1:23, 25)
- 8. All Liars
 - **Epecially religious lies**
 - Those who forsake the Truth.
- C. Things Present in Heaven (5)
 - Continual Renewing of “all things”
 - Everything gets newer, not older.
- D. People Present in Heaven (6b-7)
 1. Those who are “sons of God”—through the new birth and adoption (7)
 2. Those who are People of God (3, 7)
 - “They shall be His peoples (3).
 - “I will be his God” (7).
 3. Those who drink from the spring of the “water of life” (6).
 - Those who “thirst”—cf. Ps. 42:1—“As the deer...”
 - “Freely, without cost”—Is. 55:1 (thirsty, without money and without cost)
 - “Drinking from the springs of living water”
 4. Those who have overcome (7)
 - cf. letters to the 7 churches in chapters 2 & 3.
 - They “inherit these things.”
- E. God’s Presence in Heaven (3)
 - His “tabernacle”—cf. the OT tabernacle; cf. Christ “tabernacling” on Earth (Jn. 1:14)
 - He dwells among men and is their God.
 - God Himself—and not another.

III. THE CERTAINTY OF HEAVEN

- A. God’s Character (6)
 1. “I am the Alpha and the Omega”
 2. “I am the Beginning and the End.” [*the Source and the Goal*]
- B. God’s Claim
 1. “It is done!” (6) –**The Future is not uncertain to those who trust God!**
 2. “I am making all things new” (5).
- C. John’s Confidence (5c)
 - “Write”—record all of this.
 - “These words are faithful (reliable) and true.

CONCLUSION

You can “bank on” these words!

Are you among those present in Heaven in that day? Or will you be part of those in the Lake of Fire (8)?
Will you have “life”, or the “second death”?

Here is the invitation: “I will give to the thirsty from the springs of the water of life, without cost.”

If you won’t come, I have one more question: Isaiah 55:2

“Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy?”