

Revelation 21:1–8

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[0 : 00] 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 and they saw the holy city new jerusalem coming down out of heaven from god Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying behold the dwelling place of god is with man He will dwell with them and they will be his people and god himself will be with them as their god He will wipe away every tear from their eyes and death shall be no more Neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore for the former things have passed away And he who was seated on the throne said behold I am making all things new Also, he said write this down for these words are trustworthy and true And 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 from the spring of the water of life without payment The one who conquers will have his heritage and I will be his god and he will be my son But as for the cowardly the faithless the detestable As for murderers the sexual immoral sorcerers idolaters and all liars Their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur which is the second death This is the word of the lord Thanks be to god. You may be seated Thank you sarah good afternoon to you Welcome to the house of god on this afternoon Thank you musicians and singers for leading us in worship in the presence of god What great words and music we have enjoyed and lifted up to our god on this afternoon Join me in prayer, please

Father we give thanks this afternoon for This opportunity to be here With our faith family And thank you lord that you are here with us Pray that you would open the eyes of our hearts That we might be able to see To behold wonderful things from your word We pray for wisdom for this moment And pray for the editorial privilege of the holy spirit To guide and to guard our hearts and our words even now We commend this time to you We pray all of these things in christ's name Amen Revelation there are four Count them four more sermons in this series We have parked here for a while Probably dave and I are definitely much better

Because we've had the privilege of immersing ourselves in the book And hopefully there have been some takeaway information As well as takeaway momentum for you As you have heard us week by week Unfolding the word of god Look with me at revelation chapter 21 We come to yet another scenery change in the book I remember dave's message about a month or so ago Where he went in revelation 20 actually the first part of it And he talked about the weather changes We certainly have experienced that over the last day or so I mean it was chilly and cold Now it's warm and people are At least my wife is fanning But she fans more often than the rest anyway But you know we fan because it's it's warm And that has been like the change of scenery

In the book of revelation Similarly we have a change of scenery here on this afternoon Look at the previous scene You'll see that in revelation chapter 20 verse 11 Then I saw John writes a great white throne And him who was seated on it And from his presence Earth and sky fled away And there was no place for them Last week we saw a judgment scene But notice the same words that then I saw As a matter of fact the last occurrence of these words In the book itself Then I saw In chapter 21 verse 1 A new heaven And a new earth For the first heaven and the first earth Had passed away And The sea Was No more

[5 : 04] The question answered in the previous scene What happens At the end of the present age The answer we saw on last week Judgment When this age is over There will be a time of judgment We saw this same thing back in revelation Chapter 11 Turn there with me A few pages back 1034 And the bibles That have been provided for you But We saw This same judgment Because as we've seen in revelation That there are certain cycles There is this what's called recapitulation That takes us All the way through the age Ends up with the time of judgment And then it sort of cycles Back that way again This was the end of the cycle In revelation chapter 11 Of the trumpet

judgments

And notice with me I'm beginning to Reading In verse 15 Then the seventh angel Blew his trumpet And there was loud voices In heaven saying The kingdom of the world Has become The kingdom of our lord And of his christ And he shall reign Forever and ever Note verse 16 And the 24 elders Who sit on their thrones Before God Fell on their faces And worship God Saying We give thanks to you Lord God almighty Who is And who was For you have taken your power And begun To reign The nations Rage But your wrath Came And the time For the dead To be judged There it is Right there We see This same Scene At the end Of revelation Chapter 20 Let me just finish Reading here And for The rewarding Of your servants The prophets And the saints And those who Fear your name Both great and small And for the destroying Of the destroyers Of the earth We saw that One by one The great enemies Of the lamb Have been defeated And thrown Into the lake Of fire The beasts Fell The false prophet Fell And Satan himself Cast into The lake Of fire At the end Of this age The dead Will be raised In order to be judged According to What is recorded In the books We saw that On last week Or What has been recorded In the lamb's Book of life Those whose names Are not found In the book of life Likewise Will be cast Into the fire The lake of fire And as we'll see At the end Of chapter 20 That is known As The second death Again By rare summary Revelation 20 Marks

An end However In Revelation 21 It marks A Beginning It represents A beginning And our verses Today Introduce These final Verses And chapters Of Revelation And it gives Us a glimpse Into The afterlife This life Is over Period Judgment Has taken place Period What then Huh Afterlife And particularly For those Whose names Are in the Lamb's Book of life That is what We will see The broader Section That we see Here Extends To chapter 22 And verse 5 And what we Have really In verses 1 through 8 Is an Introduction And we see In an introductory Way Some of the Things that we're Going to see Over the next Few weeks In a more Full Way A more Detailed Way But let me Give you An overview Of what I Would like To How I Would like To guide Us Through These 8 Verses On This afternoon Hopefully It will help Us to engage Our thoughts Verses 1 Through 4 I want to Answer the Question What's New In verses 5 through 8 I want to Answer the Question What's Needed And then I would like To wrap Us up With What's Next Or What's Now I want Us to Really Think of The Implications Of what We see Here And help Us to See that It's not Simply Looking at Something That is Far Away In a Telescopic Kind of Way That has No Present Meaning For you And me Here Today But all Scripture Inspired By God It's Profitable For Doctrine For Teaching For Correction For

[10:07] Instruction And Righteousness Even For Those Of Us Who Live Today And I Believe Even With This Scripture That Has An Eschatological Flavor It's Looking Toward The End For Sure But There Are Meaningful Implications For For To!

For! For! For! For! What's New! In Verses 1-4! John Sees A World That Is Characterized By Both Newness And The Nearness Of God I Loved Our Singing On This Afternoon Because It Speaks About Our Present Desires And Longings To Be In The Presence Of God I Think Of The Psalmist In Psalm 27 4 He Said One Thing I Desired Of The Lord That Will I Seek After That I Will Dwell In The House Of The Lord All The Days Of My Life To Behold The Beauty Of The Lord And To In His Temple Even The People Of God The Men And The Women Of God Of Yesteryear Saw The Great Value In Closeness And The Nearness Of God And We Will See How The Nearness Of God Manifests Itself In A In The Future But Note The Several Things That We See Here Look At Verse One We See A There Is A New Place That's The First Thing That John Beholds I Saw A New Heaven And A New Earth For The First Then The Sea Was No More It's A New World Order That Is In View Oh Heavens And Earth They Are Gone The Situation What We See Here Reminds Us Of The First Verse In The Bible In The Beginning God Created What The Heavens And The Earth That Was The World Then Huh Just As In The Beginning God Created The Heavens And The Earth Something New Begins Here In Revelation Chapter 21 Verse 1 In John's

Vision The First Heaven And The First Earth Had Passed Away Scripture Is Not Speaks Otherwise About This Particular Old Order And It's One Day Giving Way To A New Order In Romans Chapter 8 Paul Highlighted The Imperfection Of This Present Order He Described It As It Being In Bondage To Decay Theologians Have Described That This Phenomenon As The Arrested Development Of The Earth Though There Are Marvelous And Beautiful Things In This World This World Is Not Everything That It Could Be Because Of The Presence Of Sin In The World How Many Of

You Have Beheld The Glorious Thing I Love Driving Up And Down Lakeshore Drive Mostly In The Summer Time Because It Is Then That That Lake The Lake Loses Its Hazy Gray Color And It Begins To Be More Brilliantly Blue And Brilliantly Green Huh How Many Of You Have Seen Some Of The Wonderful Marvelous Sights In Our World Beautiful But Even In Spite Of Its Beauty This World Is Not All That It Could Be Created Order Under Sin's Curse And Stain It's Not What It Was Designed To Be And One Day For The Creation Was Subjected To Futility Not Willingly But Because Of Him Who Subjected It In Hope That The Creation Itself Will Be Set Free From Its Bondage To Decay And Obtain The Freedom Of The Glory Of The Children Of God For We Know Listen To This That The Whole Creation Has Been Groaning Together In The Pains Of Child Birth Until Now That's The Condition In This World It's Like A Mother In Labor Huh Trying To Give For And Mothers I Don't Know Anything About It You Know About It And

[14:26] What That Means I Know When I Was Coming To The Service On This My Sermon Almost Got Aborted In The Printer So I Know When I Have Labored To Bring For The Sermon You Know That But Yes Wendy It's Nothing!

But The New Heaven And The New Earth And This Is The Deal It Will Be Qualitatively Different Than The Old Order Now There Are Various Opinions As To Both The Continuity And The Discontinuity Of The Present Age And The Future Age The Future Order On The One Hand There Does Seem To Be An Overlap On The Other Hand It's Not Totally!

Is That It Will Be Qualitatively Exponentially Different Than What We Have Here One Of The Joys Of Childhood Was To Every Now And Then Get Some Cracker Jacks And Inside The Cracker Jacks There Was A Toy And Every Now And Then That Toy Was A Ring How Many Have Ever Had A Cracker Jack Ring Some Of You Probably Gave Those Cracker Jack Rings To Your Sweetheart And The Sweetheart Didn't Care It Was A Cracker Jack Ring Brothers Just In Case You're Thinking About Getting Engaged Don't Get A Cracker Jack Ring For Her But That Cracker Jack Ring You Could Just About Do Anything That You Want With It Nevertheless It Was A Ring! In Isaiah Because He Quotes A Lot Of Isaiah He Has A Lot Of Isaiah Ideas In This One Particular Passage Particularly! Isaiah 65 And 17 Listen To What It Says For Behold The Prophet Writes In In The Name Of The Lord I Create New Heavens And A New Earth And The Former Things Shall Not Be Remembered Are Come To Mine Huh It's A New Place In This New World Order But Look At Verse Two There's A New World People That's There The Next Things That Comes Into Coming Down Out Of Heaven From God Prepared As A Bride Adorned For Her Husband Look At What We Have Here Now Over The Next Few Sermons You're Going To Get Some Detail On This New City But Again John Sees It Coming Down From God This Holy City Called The New Jerusalem These [19:15] Are The New World Inhabitants Because We're Talking About Jerusalem There's A Sense In Which Descends From Heaven From God These Are The People Of God The Redeemed Of The Ages Look At Verse 27 Of The Same Chapter It Makes It Clear That These Are The Ones Whose Names Have Been Written In The Book Of Life Look At Verse 27 But Nothing Unclean Will Ever Enter Into It Nor Anyone Who Does What Is Detestable Or False But Only Those Who Are Written In The Lamb's Book Of Life The City Is People New World Inhabitants A People Made Ready The Description Of A Bride Adorned For Her Husband A Holy City Heaven Citizens!

Will Populate The New World Order That's In View These Are Those Who Are Part Of The City Of God The People Of God These Are The Redeemed Those Protected Those Who Were Sealed Those Who Had Been Preserved Some Had Even Been Martyred But Here They Are Descending In This Life They Had Been Spirit Lay These Are Those Who Were Part Of The City Of God Is Contrasted With Babylon The City Of Man On Earth Those Who Will Rule And Reign As Priests And Kings On Earth Revelation Chapter 5 Verse 10 Makes It Clear And You Have Made Them A Kingdom Of Priest To Earth A New Place A New People Oh But I Love What We See In Verses Three And Four Here There Is New Accessibility And Intimacy With God Oh What A Picture It Is That We

See Here Look There With Me And I Heard A Loud Voice From The Throne Saying Oh Look At These Words Behold The Dwelling Place Of God Is With Man He Will Dwell With Them And They Will Be His People And God Himself Will Be With Them As Their God And Notice The Activity Of God He Will Wipe Every Tear From Their Eyes Death Shall Be No More Neither Shall Be God Is God Is God Dwelling With His People As A Matter!

As We See It That Is The Case Here The Absence Of Sin In The Universe Means The Fullness Of The Presence Of God Has Not That Been The Desire Of God Almighty As Expressed Elsewhere In Scripture From The Time Of Exodus That God Dwelling In His People And Of Course He In Fact! That In A Limited Protected Kind Of Way Exodus Chapter 20 Leviticus Chapter 26 Says I Will Make My Dwelling Among You And My Soul Should Not Abhor You And I Will Walk Among You And Will Be Your God And You Shall Be My People That's Why They Had All Of The Cultic Kind Of Laws When God Was Dwelling In Their midst There Were!

[22 : 34] Certain Things That In The Tabernacle In The Temple Was Dwelling In The Midst Of The People But Notice In Ezekiel Chapter 20 37 Verses 27 To 28 My Dwelling Shall Be With Him And I Will Be Their God They Shall Be My People Then The Nations Will Know That I Am The Lord Who Sanctifies Israel When My Sanctuary Is In Their Mids Forever!

The Reality Of What We Have Here Is Face To Face Fellowship With God A New Arrangement Of Fellowship He Will Be With Them He's Near He's Accessible And God Can Be Near Because The Universe Has Been Renovated Renewed Huh?

Because Of The Depth Of The Quality Of The Renewal And Renovation There Will Be No! Distinction Between The Sacred! And The Common Space God's Dwelling Will Be In The Midst Of His People He Will Pinch His Tent In The Midst Of A Redeemed People Just As God's Holy Spirit Indwells His People Now His Church The World Then Will Be The Dwelling Place Of The Almighty The Old Order Is Gone The New Has Come And Friends There Waits The People There Waits The People Of God For The People Of God A New Order That Is Characterized By Newness And The Very Nearness Of God And Aren't You Glad That Those Who Are In Christ Don't Have To Wait To Taste Of Those Realities We Enjoy Them In Some What Of A Modified Kind Way But Listen To The Word Of God That Reminds If Any Man Is In Christ He's A New Creation All Things Are Passed Away And Be Old All Things Are New The New Has Come And All This Is From God Who Through Christ Reconciled Us To Himself And Gave Us The Ministry Of Reconciliation I Don't Know If Some Of You Women Often!

In Doing Your Baking You To See What The Real Deal Is Going To Be Like And And That Is What We Have In A Sense Now Blessed Assurance Jesus Is Mine Oh What A Fore Taste Of Glory Divine!

[25 : 19] What You And I Experience Now Is A Foretaste Of The Full Taste That Will Be Ours In The New World Order While The Degree Of Intimacy Is Heightened In The New World Order What We See Here Is Not Totally New To You And Me And That's Why There Is A Longing And A Passion For God's Presence The Psalmist Reminds In Psalm 34 Encourages Us With These Words It Says!

Oh Taste And See And We've Sung About That Today We've Sung About Having And Though We That We Will Have That In A Full Sense There's A Measure In Which We Should Be Longing And Desiring That Even Today Huh What's New A Renovated World Characterized By Newness And The Very Nearness Of God The Old World Order Is Gone The New World Citizens Inhabitants They're There Rebellion And Chaos And Disorder Gone The Disruptive Forces Of The Old World Gone The Divisions Between Sacred And Secular Space Gone God's Dwelling Is In The midst Of His People That's What's New In The New World Order But Notice In Verses Five Through Eight What Then Is Needed Again The First Vision The Vision That We See In Verses One Through Four Again It Deals With The Activity Of God But Here The Focus Is In On The Words! God Beginning In Verse Five He Who Was Seated On The Throne Said Behold I'm Making All Things New Here's The Idea Here What's Needed A Posture That Is Characterized By Hearing And Heeding The One Who Sits On The Throne Understand Man This Letter Was Being Read In The Middle Of The Churches Of That Day And In Hearing These Particular Words There Are Certain Things That Would Come To Mind And The People Who Were Hearing Them Would Have Certainly Been Challenged By What Was Being Said But Believers Of All Ages Need To Hear And Heed What's Being Said Here We Need To Understand Who's Doing The Speaking It's The One On The Throne And These Are Powerful Very Powerful Words Indeed He Seated On The Throne He Seated In The Position Of Ultimate Power This Is Not The Oval Office This Is The Throne Room Here And All That That Means!

[28 : 39] True Words That You Can Bank On He Can Be Trusted And The Way That The Lord Is Identified In This Section It Goes Back To Verses The Way That We've Seen Him In Chapters 1 Through 3 Particularly In Chapter 3 And Verse 14 Turn Back With Me In Revelation To That

Particular Text You Remember The Churches Were Challenged With Various Things And He Spoke About The One And The One Who Overcomes And We're Going To See That Word As We Go On Down In Our Present Text Today But Look In Chapter 3 And Verse 14 Said To The Angel Of The Church And Laodicea Write The Words Of The Amen The Faithful And The True Witness The Beginning Of God's Creation His

Voice Again At The End Of The Letter Saying Some Of The Similar Things That Were There Some Of The Same Images That Were Earlier And Speaking To The Churches Particularly! In Chapters 2 And 3 Here We Are Again At The End Of The Letter And The Church Is Hearing These Things Again! Huh? He Said It's Done Write It Down It Said His Words Can Be Trusted His Signature Being The Alpha And The Omega The Beginning And End The Originator And The Consummator The Signature Can't Be Forged In Any Way And Notice Particularly In Verses 6 And 7 Because It Is There That He Speaks Words Of Encouragement He Said To Me It Is Done I Am Alpha And Omega The Beginning And End To The Thirsty I Will Give From The Spring Of Water Of Life Without Payment On The One Hand That Was Speaking About Future And We'll See That In The Chapters And Verses

That Remain But It Had Definitely Application To Those Who Were Hearing And Perhaps Were Part By Reason Of Their Sojourn In Life The Promise Of The Future Could In Fact Invade The Present The The The Already Of The Kingdom But The Not Yet Of The Kingdom Those Things That Will Be In Full We Can Taste And Receive Of Those Things Even Now So These Are So These Are Words Of Encouragement!

He Speaks As The Originator And The Consummator Of All Things He Speaks Authoritatively And He Reminds His Own Of Their Glorious Heritage As The Children Of God His Word Is From The Throne And It's A Word Of Encouragement To Those That Are There Speaks About The Conquerors That Are There And Notice As The Words Were Read And As They Went Across The Audience And They Heard Them And Those Who Were In The Thick Of Life Perhaps Like Some Of You Today And Maybe There Is A Deep Longing Of That Which Is To Come By Reason Of The Life Pressures That You And I Experience On A Daily Basis But That Which Is Future Invades The Present Now And There Is A With What He Has To Offer And

[32 : 24] He Says And This Is For Through The One Who Overcomes Verse Seven Will Have This Heritage What Heritage The Heritage Of Those Things That Were Spoken Of Previously This New World Order This Dwell I Mean That Belongs To The People Of God God The Heritage Of The People Of God Is God Himself He Is Our Inheritance And Our Heritage But Notice The Shift There He Speaks Words Of Encouragement In Verses Six And Seven But He Speaks Really What Amounts To A Word Warning In Verse Eight It's Interesting That What We See Here Has Parallels In The Messages To The Churches In Chapters Two And Three Look At Who He Speaks To Particularly!

As For The Cowardly The Faithless The Detestable As For Murderers The Sexually Immoral The Sorcerers The Idolaters And All Liars Their Portion Will Be In The Lake That Burns With Fire And Sulfur Which Is The Second Death There Could Have Been Those Who Were Professing Believers That Were In The Midst Of The Churches And Even Here Is A Word For Them Did You Notice The List Who's There It's A Warning First On The List It Really Has Meaning For You And Me It's A Warning Against Wimping Out It's A Warning For The Cowardly Those Who Perhaps Don't Have The The Holy Spirit Boldness Perhaps For Witness Or The Holy Spirit Boldness For Taking A Stand When We Really Need To Take A Stand It's A Warning But Notice Also I Mean It Sort Of Goes From Things That May Deal We Have To Deal With Inwardly To The More External Kinds Of Things That Even People In Churches Need To Be Warned About Well You Would Say Well Pastor There's Nobody And You Know They're They're Not Murderers In The Church And There's Not Sexually Immoral In The Church Well You And I Know Better Don't We We've Been Around Long Enough Need To Be And So Here And Throughout The Ages As As We Speak To The People Of God There Are People Of God Who Are Challenged By The Very Things That You And I See On This List What It Amounts

To Is A Warning That Goes Out It Is A Reminder Of Who It Is That Has Their Part In The Lake That Burns With Fire And Brimstone And Often!

There Are Those Lists That Come I Think Of The List In First Corinthians Chapter Six Where Those Are The People Who! And Then Paul Turns The Curve He Says Such Were Some Of You But You Are Washed You Are Cleansed You Are Sanctified You Are Justified In The Name Of Our God That

Even As We Walk In This Life There Are Certain Things That We Feel So It A Warning And Again Think As The Letters Read The Weight Of What Was Being Said Landing With Varied Kind!
[36 : 06] Force On Those Who Are Hearing And Even Us Today Different Weight Because Of Different Situations In Life And As The Word Of God Was A Warning To Them Then So It's A Warning And It's A Word Of Caution Because While The Heritage Of The People Of God Is God Himself The Heritage Of Those Who Are On This List Is The Lake Of Fire Eternal!

Punishment Away From God What's New? The Newness Of A Renovated World Order And The Nearness Of God What's Needed Hearing And Heeding The One Who Speaks From The Throne Finally What's Next Huh?

I Encourage Each And Every One Of Us Here Today To On The One Hand Anticipate The Future If If You Find Yourself As One Who Has Embraced Christ One Who Is Walking With Him And Living For Him Anticipate The Future And All That Will Be By Reason Of Christ Atoning Death Who Is Totally Satisfied And We See That In Revelation Chapter 12 Christ Reigned And The Enemy Was Destroyed And Defeated On The Basis Of What Christ Did His Saving Death That Satisfied The Just Demands Of A Holy And Righteous God And Our Inheritance Is On The Basis Of What Christ Has Done For Us Anticipate The Future But Participate In The Present If If You If You Are In Verse 8 You Need To Avoid The Future And Make Adjustments

Now If You Are A Citizen! Of Heaven Live Like It On Earth Paul's Words In Philippians Speak To That He Says Our Citizenship Is In Heaven That's The Real Deal!

And We As Believers Just Simply Live As A Colony Of Believers That Reflects The Reality Of Heaven On Earth But Our Citizenship Is In Heaven And From It We Await A Savior The Lord Jesus Christ And Listen What He Will Do Who Will Transform Our Vile King James Lowly Body To Be Like His Glorious Glorious Body How Is He Going To Do It By The Power That Enables Him To Subject All Things To Himself If You're Thirsty You Don't Have To Wait To Drink From Him In The Future Participate In The Reality Of The Refreshment That Comes From Him Now As His Children Draw Him Now And Experience Him In This World We Taste In Part What We Will Absolutely

[39 : 30] Feast On In The Future Enjoy The Appetizers Now And you Know Sometimes You Can Have A Meal On Appetizers Oh Taste And See Friends That The Lord Is Good If You See Traits Of Yourself In Verse Eight Come To Him In Confession And Repentance Drawing Near To Him With Your Understanding That The Nearness Of God Is You Good We Don't Understand Fully What The Future Holds But The Big Scheme Of Things We Get A Glimpse In Texts Like This That Help Us To See That There's A New World Order That Is Characterized

By Newness And Nearness And What We Need Now Is To Hear And Heed The Voice Of The One Who Sits On The Throne And We Need To Enjoy And Participate Now In As Much As We Can In The Realities Of The Future You Remember Jesus Prayer Your Kingdom Come Your Will Be Done On Earth Just Like It Is In Heaven Peter Put It Well It Says Though You Have Not Seen Him You Love Him And Though You Do Not See Him You Believe In Him And You Rejoice With Joy That Is Inexpressible And Full Of Glory Even Now That's What We Need To Do Now Is To Embrace The One Who Has Prepared And Is Preparing For Us A Place With

All Of Our Heads And All Of Our Hearts And All Of Our Affections And The Whole Direction Of Our Lives Thirsty Ones Drink Now Hungry Ones Come Now Let Us Pray Lord We Celebrate You This Afternoon And Give Thanks Because You Are The Living God And Has Satisfied The Very Longings Of Our Soul Lord May We Pull All Of Our Straying Affections Off Of The Idols Of This World May They Be Totally Devoted To You Our One And Only Lover Jesus You Are The Lover Of Our Souls We Do Desire

And Lord One Day In Your Courts Better Than Thousands Elsewhere And Lord Because Of These Realities And What You Have Planned For Us On This Afternoon We Are Thankful That We Can Sing To You And Sing Of Our Redeemer We Do So Now Lord Jesus In Your Name Won't You Stand With Me Let's Continue Our Godward Look With Our Hearts And Sing We Will Glory In My Redeemer God