

Revelation 21.1-8

It is Done!

CORE VALUE > Western World : SPEED and EFFICIENCY

High Speed Internet / Instant Photo Sharing / Quickie Divorce

OUR LIFE Hurry Up and Wait! LIFE NEVER QUITE WHAT WE EXPECT

Can't Wait to Finish School: Then you have to Find a Job, No More Vacations

Can't Wait to Get Married: But Sometimes you're Surprised by who you Married

Can't Wait to Have Kids: Now you're Longing for a GOOD NIGHTS SLEEP

Can't Wait for Baby to Walk: Then Pick Them Up!! KID PROOF Your Home!

Can't Wait for Kids in School: They Like their Friends More than YOU!

Can't Wait for Kid's Graduation: Then they Go Away and Leave you Lonely!

Can't Wait for Retirement: Then Get Bored and need SOMETHING to DO

IF we MAKE GOD in our OWN IMAGE > We expect Him to be QUICK too!

GOD is NOT in HURRY > Never EARLY, Never LATE > On Time God!

Text > God says: It is Done! > Some Say: FINALLY! What took Him So Long?

### 1. God's Creation

Beautiful Connection > 1<sup>st</sup> & Final Books of Bible - Scriptures // Flower

Seed in Genesis, Grows thru OT & NT, Blooms in Apocalypse

Genesis		Revelation	
Heaven and earth created	1.1	New heaven and new earth	21.1
Sun created	1.16	No need of the sun	21.23
Night established	1.5	No night there	22.5
Seas created	1.10	No more seas	21.1
Curse announced	3.14-17	Curse lifted	22.3
Tree of Life blocked	3.24	Tree of Life accessible	22.14
Sorrow and pain begin	3.17	No more tears or pain	21.4

a. Old v. 1 the first heaven and the first earth had passed away

Heaven & Earth > HEBREW way referring to EVERYTHING THERE IS!

First Heaven and Earth > Replaced by New Heaven and New Earth

New Covenant is Superior To & Replaces Old / BETTER WORLD COMING

1) Fallen > REASON Creation NEEDS Replacement > SIN-SICK, DYING

FALLEN WORLD is a PLACE of SADDNESS

v. 4 He will wipe every *tear* from their eyes. There will be no more *death* or *mourning* or *crying* or *pain*, for the *old order of things* has passed away."

NEW ORDER described by what it's NOT, Not like SAD World know WELL

SIN of 1<sup>st</sup> PARENTS > Brought Judgment on WHOLE FAMILY & WORLD

To Adam he (GOD) said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life."  
Genesis 3.17

The creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it...We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Romans 8.20,22

2) Fighting > for the FOLLOWER of God this has become HOSTILE WORLD

v. 1 there was no longer any sea > BETTER Get SURFING LESSONS NOW!!

MODERN Man: DELIGHT in Sea > ANCIENTS / & Tsunami Victims > Dread

Today HUNDREDS die in Med. Trying to Enter Europe on Rafts from N. Africa

The sea gave up the dead that were in it Revelation 20.13

SEA Pictures Instability of Wicked > The wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud. Isaiah 57.20

ENEMY'S HOME > The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. Revelation 13.1

John writes to 7 Churches SEPARATED by Sea, EXILED on Island of Patmos  
Removal of Sea SYMBOLIZES Harmony, Unity, & Security, God's SHALOM

v. 7 He who overcomes will inherit all this

Each of 7 Letters of Jesus to 1<sup>st</sup> C Churches of Roman Asia > Ends Same Way

### EXHORTATION to OVERCOME

Jesus to Church in Ephesus:	'To him who overcomes....'	Revelation 2.7
Jesus to Church in Smyrna:	'To him who overcomes....'	Revelation 2.11
Jesus to Church in Pergamum:	'To him who overcomes....'	Revelation 2.17
Jesus to Church in Thyatira:	'To him who overcomes....'	Revelation 2.26
Jesus to Church in Sardis:	'To him who overcomes....'	Revelation 3.5
Jesus to Church in Philadelphia:	'To him who overcomes....'	Revelation 3.12
Jesus to Church in Laodicea:	'To him who overcomes....'	Revelation 3.21

OUR LORD told Disciples > Night Before HE OVERCAME thru the CROSS

In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! *I have overcome the world.*

John 16.33

This vision is meant to encourage faithfulness, confidence, and hope in Christians, especially those who face persecution. God will fully achieve his purpose, and Christians will inherit his full blessing, however grim their present circumstances may be.

Vern S. Poythress

3) Forgotten v. 1 the first heaven and the first earth had *passed away*

None of the evils and threats of the old world can hinder the saints from fully enjoying the consummate presence of God.

G.K. Beale

Prophets of OT > prophesied Dissolution of Heaven and Earth

They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. Psalm 102.26

The heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail.  
Isaiah 51.6

Jesus: Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.  
Matthew 24.35

Tears of Suffering Shed on Earth for Faithfulness to Christ

v. 4 He will *wipe every tear from their eyes*. There will be *no more* death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has *passed away*.

None less than God will be the consoler of his people. His concern is infinite.  
Leon Morris

WHY STOOP to Praying to People – Like Mary or Saints – God Hears & Cares  
He ALONE has the SOVEREIGN POWER to Save, Sanctify, and Seal Us

He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth.  
Isaiah 25.8

For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.  
Revelation 7.17

b. **New** > word for ‘NEW’ more than Another > NEW in QUALITY, UNIQUE

Seen History’s UGLY END >> Now ETERNITY’S BEAUTIFUL BEGINNING

v. 1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth

View > Dawn of Everlasting Day of God’s Rule of Peace & Righteousness

Judgment is Past > World is Purged > Universal Joy and Harmony Now Present

The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare... That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.  
2 Peter 3.10-13

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!  
2 Corinthians 5.17

Full Transition from 'in Adam' to 'in Christ' > Transformation of Old into New

1) Planned > GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN > Set into Motion before CREATION

When GOD finds our GUILTY Parents in CRIME SCENE of Garden of Eden

Half EATEN Mangoes lying on the GROUND > or were they APPLES??

Adam & Eve in FALL FASHION > Wearing Latest DESIGNER LEAVES

God DID NOT SAY > "Uh, oh! What am I GOING TO DO NOW?...Plan B?"

EVEN the FALL into SIN > With All its EVIL CONSEQUENCES Planned

The LORD does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.  
Psalm 135.6

In Creation we UNDERSTAND PART of God > FALL Reveals MUCH MORE  
Holiness – Justice – Grace – Redemption: REVEALS Father, Son, & Holy Spirit

PLAN OF REDEMPTION BEGAN EVEN BEFORE CREATION

all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb  
that was slain *from the creation of the world* Revelation 13.8

2) Prepared > NEW Creation is MADE BY GOD HIMSELF

v. 2 the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,  
*prepared* as a bride

SALVATION is NOT ESCAPE from PHYSICAL World / Transformed

Risen Jesus was in BODY – Glorified but REAL > Cook Breakfast & EAT!

Anticipating HEAVENLY BUFFET Meals > Best of World's CUISINE

As HUMANS we are PHYSICAL and TEMPORAL – Only God is Above Time

Holy city, New Jerusalem: City with Foundations, Lasting and Free, City of God

NEW is Recognizable // New Body will be Renewed Person // New Jerusalem

## PETER LOOKED FORWARD TO GOD'S DAY OF RESTORATION -

He must remain in heaven until the *time comes for God to restore everything*, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. Acts 3.21

## JESUS > Anticipated the RENEWAL OF ALL THINGS -

Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at *the renewal of all things*, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Matthew 19.28

## JESUS Could SPEAK with CERTAINTY > HE MADE the PREPARATIONS

In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there *to prepare a place for you*. John 14.2

WHERE was He GOING? To DECORATE HEAVEN?? No! It was READY!  
the *kingdom prepared* for you since the creation of the world Matthew 25.34

ONLY thing NOT READY for HEAVEN is US, Must be REDEEMED from Sin

JESUS WAS GOING TO CROSS > To PREPARE Us > From Sinners to Saints

v. 5 He who was seated on the throne said, "*I am making everything new!*"

### Shift from Future Fulfillment to Present Hope

Promise to all Victorious > God is Always in the Process of "Conquering"

God is continually making all things new, in spite of all appearances to the contrary in ongoing human history. M. Robert Mulholland, Jr

## 3) Presented > Return of Jesus will be GRAND PRESENTATION DAY

v. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

## GOAL of CREATION > EMMANUEL > God with His People FOREVER!

I will put my dwelling place among you, and I will not abhor you. I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people. Leviticus 26.11,12

I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant...  
I will put my sanctuary among them forever. Ezekiel 37.26

GOD Removes Every ENEMY to ACCOMPLISH HIS ULTIMATE PURPOSE

The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 1 Corinthians 15.26

NOW > Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20.14

Fulfillment of Isaiah's Prophecy > The ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. Isaiah 35.10

v. 6 "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End."

God is Beginning and End > Thus, He RULES ALL EVENTS IN BETWEEN

What he starts he brings to fulfillment...The end is implanted in the beginning. The divine Alpha guarantees the attainment of the divine Omega. Philip E. Hughes

## 2. God's Celebration

ONLY SECOND TIME IN BOOK > God Speaks (first time in 1.8)

v. 5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Perhaps John is SO ASTOUNDED he FORGOT to WRITE > He MUST do So!

GOT A WORD FROM GOD? Are you Waiting to HEAR HIS VOICE??

NOAH, Age 500 HEARD 'build Boat, going to Rain, Flood...Collect Animals'

Never Seen Boat > Never before Rained, No Flood? > OUTRAGEOUS

Probably REGULARLY REMINDED by Friends, Family, Neighbors: CRAZY!!

OFTEN HEARD from SCOFFERS and CRITICS > NEVER HEARD from God

Age 600, After 100 years of DIVINE SILENCE > OBEYING by SHEER FAITH

God simply said, "Go into the ark, you, your family, and the animals"

ABRAHAM > FRIEND of God > Waked with GOD for 100 Years

HEARD Voice of God 8 times ONLY, He'd Left Family, Fought, Sacrifice Son  
AGAINST ALL HOPE > BELIEVE / Abram = Great Father > NO KIDS!

NO BIBLE, NO CHURCH, OBEYED NAKED PROMISE

TODAY > have WHOLE BIBLE > Many Translations > Want to Hear Voices?

GOD MUST TALK TO ME! or Else I WILL QUIT!!

GOD is TALKING to YOU, Every Time you Open His Word in Power of Spirit

a. Wedding > Great Joyful Celebration > God and Redeemed People

For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready...  
'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'

Revelation 19.7-9

WEDDING more than Individual Event > JOINING of TWO FAMILIES...

v. 7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

BASED on Promise of God to King David about his son > SOLOMON

NOW One GREATER than Solomon: Died, Risen, Ascended to Ruling GLORY

Only in Him who is Uniquely the Son > NOW Believer is Both Son and Heir

1871 most of City of CHICAGO Burned > including home of Dwight L. Moody  
Friend came to Site to Comfort Moody: "I am sorry you lost everything."

Moody: "Well, you are wrong. I have a good deal more left than I lost."

Friend: "What do you mean, I did not know you were rich!"

Moody opened Bible and read > Revelation 21.7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

When God INSTITUTES Marriage in Genesis 2 > Ultimate, Intimate, Permanent  
SAME Three CHARACTERISTICS of WEDDING of the Lamb and His People



1) Ultimate > following Jesus is to call Him LORD > Highest Authority

NOTICE WHAT HEADS LIST of Sins > to US, may not be THAT Serious...

v. 8 But the *cowardly*, the *unbelieving*....their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.

John is not speaking of natural timidity, but of that cowardice which in the last resort chooses self and safety before Christ, and fears the threat of the beast rather than trusts the love of Christ.

Leon Morris

UNFORGIVABLE SIN > Unbelief, Denial of God – His Love and Truth

FOLLOWING by FAITH > Bold and Courageous Act in HOSTILE WORLD

NO ‘secret disciples’ Either Secrecy > Dissolve the Discipleship,  
or Discipleship will Expose the Secret

2) Intimate v. 2 a bride beautifully dressed for her husband

This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5.32

v. 3 They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

NO MARRIAGE / SEXUAL Union: Heaven > NOT Mean NO INTIMACY

Just opposite, PERFECT Intimacy – with GOD and our WHOLE FAMILY in X

I have no doubt that we will share our gifts with one another to a degree unheard of today. We will no longer be suspicious or fearful or envious of one another, so we will share openly what we are, what we think, what we are able to do. I don't know exactly what will replace sexual pleasure, but I know that our intimacy with God and with one another will be something greater and better than anything we know and enjoy on this earth – as everything will be. John Frame

AMAZING GRACE OF GOD > HE IS CRAZY ABOUT US!!

The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm...The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.

Zephaniah 3.14-17

GOD Not STOP LOVING, Even with Pillow Hairdo's or Morning BREATH  
 God wants us to be WITH HIM in New Heaven and New Earth FOREVER

Samuel Morrison served as M in Africa for 25, Returned to USA by Ocean Liner  
 By Chance President Theodore Roosevelt also on SAME SHIP Heading to USA  
 Arrived in NYC Almost Entire City at Docks > Cheering, Bands, Confetti for TR  
 Samuel Morrison quietly walked down Gangplank off the Great Steamship  
 No One Met Morrison > because of Great Crowds could NOT even find a TAXI  
 He cried out to God: *'Lord, the president has been in Africa for three weeks,  
 killing animals, and the whole world turns out to welcome him home. I have  
 given twenty-five years of my life in Africa, serving You, and no one has greeted  
 me or even knows I am here.'*

God reminded Morrison > YOU ARE NOT HOME YET!

3) Permanent > Voice from Throne > Fulfills All God's Covenant Promises

v. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God  
 is with men, and *he will live with them.*

"Come, I will show you the bride, *the wife of the Lamb.*" Revelation 21.9

Fulfillment > Ancient Promise to Abraham > Nations of World would be Blessed  
 God to Abraham: 'through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed'  
 Genesis 22.18

God's Presence with His Peoples, Guarantee Paradise FULLY Restored in Christ

'As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me,'  
 declares the LORD, 'so will your name and descendants endure.' Isaiah 66.22

Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again  
 will he leave it. Revelation 3.12

b. Warning > Not EVERYONE in the CHURCH IS THE CHURCH!

This Text CLOSELY CONNECTED, ch 20, GREAT WHITE THRONE

Final Judgment 2 SIDES: ch 20: NEGATIVE / ch 21: Reward Righteousness

In NEGATIVE Message > Positive Element: Book of Life – Ch 20

POSITIVE Message ch 21, Negative Element: Judgment of False Sons of Church

Kingdom of Heaven like a Man who Sowed Good Seed in His Field

His Enemy > Sowed Weeds among the Wheat > Lord of Harvest told Workers

Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters:  
First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the  
wheat and bring it into my barn. Matthew 13.30

TESTIMONY of 7 CHURCHES: Indeed ALL Churches > Wheat AND Weeds

Jesus to Church in Ephesus: You have forsaken your first love. Revelation 2.4

Jesus to Church in Pergamum: You have people there who hold to the teaching  
of Balaam...you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.  
Revelation 2.14-15

Jesus to Church in Thyatira: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a  
prophetess. Revelation 2.20

Jesus to Church in Sardis: I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of  
my God. Revelation 3.2

Jesus to Church in Laodicea: You are neither cold nor hot I wish you were either  
one or the other! Revelation 3.15

Ch 21 ABOUT WHERE WE WILL BE > But WE are NOT THERE YET

Gospel WARNING for PEOPLE INSIDE CHURCHES – God knows HEARTS

v. 8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually  
immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place  
will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.

Shamelessly Persist in Doing Evil > Inheritance: Lake of Fire, Second Death

ONLY the OVERCOMERS will become the INHERITORS

No Inheritance in Holy City for Those who Fear and Serve Men rather than God

Murderers > Count Human Life Cheap > Hands Stained with Innocent Blood

Immoral > Indulge Lust > NO Respect for Sanctity of Marriage Bond

Sorcerers > Ruled by Potions, Stars, Demonic Magic, NOT God's Wisdom

There is no justification for anyone to conclude that because he has told lies or practiced idolatry or engaged in carnal lusts or even committed murder he has shut himself off from the grace of God's forgiveness and redemption. It is sinners of every kind whom Christ came to redeem and the blood of the incarnate Son that cleanses from all sin.

Philip E. Hughes

One UNFORGIVABLE Sin is to REJECT the Gift of the Savior

Jesus alone is the Way, Truth, Life – Only way into New Heaven & Earth

c. Wellspring Arid Climate, Spring of Cool Water: Vivid Refreshment

v. 6 To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.

CONTINUOUS, ULTIMATE SATISFACTION AND JOY > Overflowing!

Death, Mourning, Crying, Pain > Part of "old order of things" > Passed Away

Old Order > Sin and Distress > New and Perfect Order of Eternal Blessedness

The streams of God are filled with water...for so you have ordained it. Psalm 65.9

Thirsty Servants DRY from HEAT of BATTLE > Freely Given Water of Life

Jesus said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me...streams of living water will flow from within him."

John 7.37,38

Drink from Inexhaustible River of God > Always Full of Water > Water of Life

Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life. John 4.14

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb Revelation 22.1

GOD is the WELLSPRING > HE IS Unending Source of Joy and Satisfaction  
There is WELLSPRING in This – Any – Worship Service in Spirit & Truth

Wonderful GIFTS > Spouse, Kids, Jobs, Ministry, Church > HE is the GIVER  
JOY SUSTAINED thru DRINKING from His WELL > NOT by His GIFTS

He ALONE is ALPHA and OMEGA – All things come FROM HIM!

Cannot say to Spouse “Fill Me, I am Empty!” / to Job – “Give me Satisfaction”  
“I don’t get ANYTHING out of THIS CHURCH!” > What did you BRING??

They’re EMPTY VESSELS waiting for YOU to Fill Them THRU GOD’S GIFT  
Worship in Spirit in Truth = BOTH God’s Spirit & Truth AND YOURS are One  
COME w/ HEART PREPARED > COME TO PREPARE HEART > EARLY!

God HIMSELF is our CHIEF INHERITANCE – We glory in Him

“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.”

PASTOR G. MAC DONALD ON MANHATTAN - RODE A BUS TO WORK  
GOT TO KNOW DRIVER - CHRISTIAN MAN - SHARED THEIR LIVES

ONE DAY PASTOR TO DRIVER "How you doing?"

DRIVER "Not good, tired of this boring job, your job is exciting"

PASTOR "come in the bus early and pray, see it as sanctuary"

WEEKS LATER PASTOR SAW DRIVER "How's it been going"

DRIVER "Great, it is wonderful driving the sanctuary of God!"

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Revelation 21:<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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.” <sup>5</sup>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.” <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. <sup>8</sup>But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”