



REVELATION 21:1-8 THE HOLY CITY

The 1000 year reign of Christ Jesus has come to an end.

- The nations, led by Lucifer, have rebelled for the last time in the Battle of Ezekiel's prophecy concerning Gog and Magog.
- The "Great White Throne" judgment of all who have ever existed has occurred.
- People have given their excuses but they have all condemned themselves
- If their name wasn't written into the Book of Life they were tossed – Body, Soul, and Spirit – into the eternally burning "Lake of Fire."

Interesting verses that may exclude children from unbelievers from eternal life?

1 Corinthians 7:13–14

13 And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him.

14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.

No more sin and death

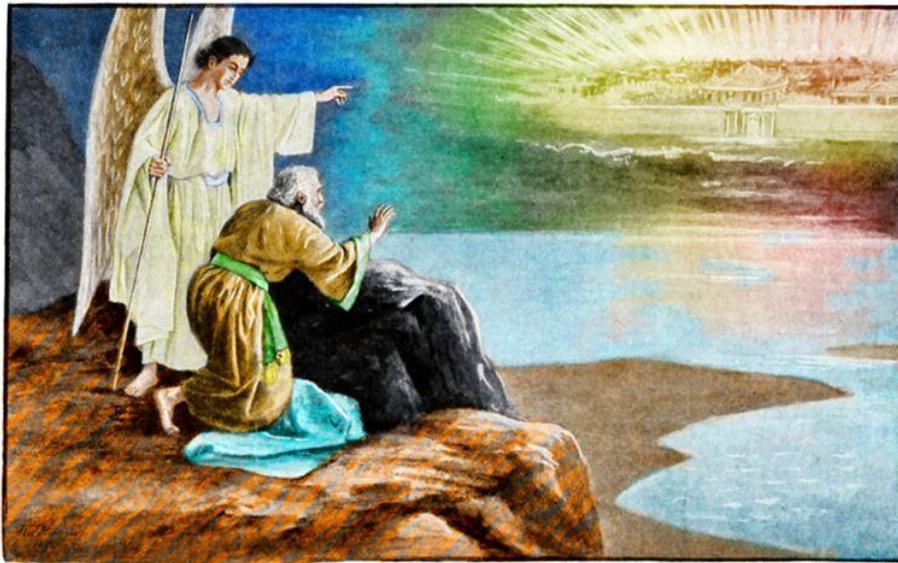
No more foes waging war against the believers.

- No more Lucifer
- No more "course of this world" influence

- No more influence from our “flesh.”

Ephesians 2:1–3

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,
2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world,
 according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works
 in the sons of disobedience,
3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our
 flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature
 children of wrath, just as the others.



THE ANGEL SHOWING JOHN THE HOLY CITY

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” Revelation 21:1,2

Isaiah 65:17-25

17 “**For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth;**
 And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.
18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what **I create;**
 For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing,
 And her people a joy.
19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
 And joy in My people;
 The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her,
 Nor the voice of crying.

Mankind has been longing for Eden's return.

- **Spurgeon:**

“Sad was the hour when with dragon wing the fallen spirit descended into Eden, advanced to mother Eve, and whispered in her ear the fell temptation. Oh, ye seraphs, would God your fiery swords had kept out the arch-deceiver, that this world might never have fallen, that we might have dwelt here amidst sunny glades, by pure rivers rippling o'er sands of gold, a holy and happy race, making every hill and vale vocal with the praise of God. Now, O earth, thou art a field of blood, but thou mightest have been a garden of delights; now art thou one vast cemetery, where all the dust was once a part of the living fabric of mortal men; but thou mightest have been as the firmament filled with stars, all shining to their Creator's praise. Alas that Eden should now remain only as a name,— gone as a vision of the night! Inasmuch as we could heartily wish that evil had never entered into the primeval world, we earnestly deprecate the idea that it should ever defile the new. Shall those new heavens ever look down with amazement upon the flight of a rebellious spirit, flying, beneath their serene azure, on an errand of destruction? Shall the jewelled walls of the thrice holy city be overleaped by an enemy of the king who is there enthroned? Shall the serpent leave his horrid trail upon the heavenly Eden, twice made of the Lord? God forbid! The purity of a world twice made, the perfection of the church of the regenerate, the majesty of the presence of God, all demand that every sinful thing should be excluded. All heaven and heavenly things cry, “Write the decree and make it sure, there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth.” Grave it as in eternal brass, and let omnipotence go with the decree to execute it with the utmost rigour, for it would be horrible indeed if a second time evil should destroy the work of God. Into the church of the firstborn above the breath of iniquity must not enter. It cannot be that the work which cost the Redeemer's blood should yet be defiled. The eternal purpose of the Father, and the love of the Spirit, forbid that the Lord's own perfected church should be invaded by any unholy thing.”¹

1 Now I saw **a new heaven and a new earth,**
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.
Also there was no more sea.

Genesis 2:1–4

¹ C. H. Spurgeon, “The Barrier,” in *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit Sermons*, vol. 27 (London: Passmore & Alabaster, 1881), 172–173.

1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.

2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work **which God had created (bara) and made (asah).**

4 This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were **created (bara),**

in the day that the LORD God **made (asah)** the earth and the heavens,

- **It's clear that Moses knew what he was doing when he used 2 different verbs to describe the creative work of the Lord:**

- **bara** (out of nothing); and
- **asah** (formed from things already created)
 - **“Created”:** 1254 בָּרָא, בָּרָא, בָּרָא [bara' /baw·raw/] v. A primitive root; TWOT 278; GK 1343 and 1344 and 1345; 54 occurrences; AV translates as “create” 42 times, “creator” three times, “choose” twice, “make” twice, “cut down” twice, “dispatch” once, “done” once, and “make fat” once.
1 to create, shape, form.
1A (Qal) to shape, fashion, create (always with God as subject).
1A1 of heaven and earth.
1A2 of individual man. ²
 - **“Made”:** 6213 עָשָׂה, עָשָׂה [‘asah /aw·saw/] v. A primitive root; TWOT 1708, 1709; GK 6913 and 6914; 2633 occurrences; AV translates as “do” 1333 times, “make” 653 times, “wrought” 52 times, “deal” 52 times, “commit” 49 times, “offer” 49 times, “execute” 48 times, “keep” 48 times, “shew” 43 times, “prepare” 37 times, “work” 29 times, “do so” 21 times, “perform” 18 times, “get” 14 times, “dress” 13 times, “maker” 13 times, “maintain” seven times, and translated miscellaneously 154 times.
1 to do, fashion, accomplish, make. ³

Romans 4:17 (NRSV) as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead **and calls into existence the things that do not exist.** ⁴

- **“New”** is καινόν [kainon]: **“in the sense that what is old has become obsolete, and should be replaced by what is new. In such a case the new is, as a rule, superior in kind to the old.”** ⁵

2 Peter 3:10–13

² James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995).

³ James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995).

⁴ *The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989), Ro 4:17.

⁵ Frederick William Danker and Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 394.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

11 **Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved,** what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God,

because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, **look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

Isaiah 66:22–24

22 **“For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me,” says the LORD, “So shall your descendants and your name remain.**

23 And it shall come to pass That from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath to another, All **flesh** shall come to worship before Me,” says the LORD.

- Beginning with the first verse of this chapter, we are no longer in the Millennial Kingdom: there is no more sin, death, sea, or Temple.

- No Sun, and no Moon?

Revelation 21:23

23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it.

The Lamb is its light.

Ezekiel tells us of the **HEAVENLY Eden** in which God has existed, in the midst of **“fiery stones.”**

Ezekiel 28:14 (regarding Lucifer)

14 “You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of **fiery stones.**

- It may be objected here that Eden was the dwelling place of God and so the “stones of fire” do not only point to the divine beings of Yahweh’s council. That much is true, but there’s more to the phrase than a dwelling

place. Other scholars have also drawn attention to the ancient Near Eastern propensity to describe divine beings as stars. Job 38:7 refers to the sons of God as “stars,” and Isaiah 14:12–13 refers to a being fallen from heaven as the “Day Star, son of Dawn” (esv) who wanted to ascend above the “stars of God” in the divine realm. The “stones of fire” therefore do not only describe an abode, but also divine entities in that abode. ⁶ 7

The permanent nature of God’s Word:

Matthew 5:18 For assuredly, I say to you, **till heaven and earth pass away**, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Matthew 24:35 **Heaven and earth will pass away**, but My words will by no means pass away.

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city,
New Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

- Like any city, “Jerusalem” meant both the place and the people who lived there; **the new Jerusalem is thus a bride because its residents are a bride** (19:7). ⁸

God has prepared a great city for his people

John 14:2–3

2 In My Father’s house are many mansions;
if it were not so, I would have told you.
I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come again and receive you to Myself;
that where I am, there you may be also.

Hebrews 11:16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God,
for He has prepared a city for them.

⁶ Clifford’s treatment of the astral language of Ezek 28 and Isa 14:4b–21 in his work on the cosmic mountain and divine council is illustrative of the clear connections between the terminology and divine beings. See Clifford, *Cosmic Mountain*, 160–73. See also John Gray, “The Desert God ‘Athtar in the Literature and Religion of Canaan,” *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 78 (1949): 72–83; Ulf Oldenburg, “Above the Stars of El: El in Ancient South Arabic Religion,” *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* 82 (1970): 187–208.

⁷ Michael S. Heiser, *The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible*, First Edition (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2015), 80.

⁸ Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), Re 21:2.



- The holy city is not “heaven,” although the new Jerusalem is usually what is meant when people speak of “going to heaven.” Rather, it comes down from heaven. In this context, heaven is merely the earth’s atmosphere, which has just been made “new” by the same God who has also made the new Jerusalem.⁹

3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying,
“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,
and He will dwell with them,
and they shall be His people.
God Himself will be with them and be their God.

- In a chorus consisting of the Elders, the 4 living creatures, and the Bene Elohim – they declare:
 - God is (again) with men
 - Dwelling with man
 - God declaring that His people shall now ALWAYS be His people,
 - He in the midst of them,
 - He be adored, served, and worshipped as He walks among us.

4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes;
there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying.
There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

- As He walks in our midst Jesus will comfort and wipe each tear from our eyes.

⁹ Henry M. Morris, *The Revelation Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Prophetic Book of the End Times* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1983), 438.

- **His consolation is:**
 - No more death
 - No more sorrow
 - No more crying
 - No more pain
 - Everything that once beset us is now no longer able to touch us.

5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make **all things new.**"
 And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."



The Father now reports to all people and creatures:

- **BEHOLD** – look and see with eternal assurance – ALL THINGS ARE NEW!

The Father then reports to JOHN:

- "Make sure they believe what I AM telling you!"
- Here is the Father's great seal of truth:
 - **"These words are true and faithful"**
 - 1st – they are absolute truth – nothing hidden, no mystery here.
 - 2nd – you may place all assurance and faith in this REALLY happening for all my true children.

6 And He said to me,
"It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.
I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.
7 He who **overcomes shall inherit all things,**
and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

Heirs of the "throne of Glory":

Romans 8:16–17

16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs

— heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ,

if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. ¹⁰

1 Samuel 2:6–8

6 "The LORD kills and makes alive;
He brings down to the grave and brings up.

7 The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
He brings low and lifts up.

8 He raises the poor from the dust
And lifts the beggar from the ash heap,
To set them among princes

And make them inherit the throne of glory.

"For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's,
And He has set the world upon them.

Revelation 21:7 is the most explicit link between divine sonship and conquering evil and the nations: "The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son" (esv).

A "heritage" is of course an inheritance. Israel was Yahweh's inheritance, his portion (Deut 32:9). We are part of that (Gal 3:26–29) and also govern it as sons and daughters of his royal, divine household council. The inheritance of the believer is dominion with Christ and God. ¹¹

8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

¹⁰ *The Holy Bible: New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1984), Ro 8:16–17.

¹¹ Michael S. Heiser, *The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible*, First Edition (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2015), 381.

- **It should be obvious that this passage is not affirming salvation by works, but rather is referring to works as indicative of whether one is saved or not.**
 - Obviously many will be in heaven who, before their conversions, were indeed guilty of these sins but who turned from them in the day of grace in trusting Christ as their Savior.
 - **Though works are the evidence of salvation or lack of it, they are never the basis or ground of it.** 12

Cowardly is **δειλοῖς** [deilois]: “timid [ones],”¹³ “persons showing fear in a shameful way.”¹⁴ **The word is used to describe lack of faith** (Mat. 8:26; Mark 4:40).

During the Tribulation, the Beast worshipers took his mark, partly out of fear of losing their lives (Rev. 13:15). They were among those who, because of fear, saved their lives, but ultimately lost both their soul and body in hell (Mat. 10:28).

The wicked and lazy servant hid his talent in the ground out of fear rather than investing it for the Lord's benefit. He was cast into outer darkness (Mat. 25:25; Luke 19:21).

Those who deny Jesus before men, possibly out of fear, will not be confessed by the Son of Man before God and His angels (Luke 12:8-9).

Many of the religious rulers believed in Jesus, but for fear of being put out of the synagogue by the Pharisees, would not confess Him. *They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God* (John 12:43).¹⁵

Abominable:

948. βδελύσσω *bdelússō*; mid. *bdelússomai*, to render foul, from *bdéō* (n.f.), to stink. **To cause to be abhorred, to turn oneself away from a stench, to feel disgust, detest (Rom. 2:22; Rev. 21:8, polluted with crimes;** Sept.: Lev. 26:11; Deut. 23:7; Amos 5:10). In the perf. pass. part. *ebdelugménos*, abominable, detestable, i.e., polluted with crimes (Sept.: Lev. 18:30; Job 15:16; Prov. 8:7; Is. 14:19; Hos. 9:10).¹⁶

Sexually immoral: “ pornos ”

88.274 πόρνος, ου m: **one who engages in sexual immorality, whether a man or a woman, and in some contexts, distinguished from an adulterer or adulteress—‘a sexually immoral person.’** ἔγραψα ὑμῖν ἐν τῇ ἐπιστολῇ μὴ συναναμίγνυσθαι πόρνοις ‘in the letter that I wrote you I told you not to associate with sexually immoral people’ 1 Cor 5:9.¹⁷

Sorcerers: drugs (φαρμακεία, pharmakeia), magic, horoscopes, palm readers, fortune tellers, etc.

¹² John F. Walvoord, “Revelation,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 985.

¹³ Danker, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, 173.

¹⁴ Friberg, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, 105.

¹⁵ http://www.spiritandtruth.org/teaching/Book_of_Revelation/commentary/htm/chapters/21.html#81861E

¹⁶ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

¹⁷ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 770.

53.101 φάρμακος, ου m: (derivative of φαρμακεία ‘to practice magic, to engage in sorcery,’ 53.100) one who uses magic and sorcery—‘sorcerer.’ ἔξω οἱ κύνες καὶ οἱ φάρμακοι καὶ οἱ πόρνοι καὶ οἱ φονεῖς ‘outside (the city) are the perverts, the sorcerers, the immoral, and the murderers’ Re 22:15.¹⁸

Liars: acting like Lucifer!

Jesus told the Pharisees, “You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. . . . there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, **for he is a liar and the father of it**” (John 8:44).

The coming of the lawless one, the Antichrist, was with all power, signs and *lying* wonders (2Th. 2:9). Those who continue to lie will ultimately fall prey themselves to lies: they will not come to the truth (2Th. 2:11-12). Eventually, their own conscience becomes seared (1Ti. 4:2).

All who reject salvation are ultimately liars: “Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ?” (1Jn. 2:22).

The truth of God has been made known to men through general revelation, but men actively *suppress the truth* (lie) in unrighteousness. Knowing the truth, they promote false ideas such as God doesn’t exist or that His existence cannot be known (Rom. 1:18).¹⁹

Benediction

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God,
that the words, which we have heard this day with our outward ears,
may through Thy grace be so grafted inwardly to our hearts,
that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living,
to the honor and praise of Thy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¹⁸ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 544.

¹⁹ http://www.spiritandtruth.org/teaching/Book_of_Revelation/commentary/hm/chapters/21.html#81861E