

Revelation: The End—and a New Beginning
2024-05-19

Revelation 21:1-3

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.

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

3 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.

72 weeks ago, we **started** this wonderful **journey on Route 66....** I’m **sad** to see it **end!**

- **The Bible is not collection of stories but is one unfolding redemptive story....**
 - It’s God **restoration** of the **pre-fall relationship** with Him **through** the **person** and **work** of **Jesus Christ!**

Saw Jesus in **every book** and now int the **end** of Route 66’s “Story of redemption” **with celebration** of **Jesus’ final victory** against sin, **death**, the devil and His **ultimate reign**.

- **THE MAIN POINT: that future events** revealed in Revelation should **cause** us to **WORSHIP** the **central figure** of **history and Scripture.....Jesus Christ!**

The record of Revelation is a vision from Jesus **through an angel** given to apostle John. This book was written around **90-96 AD** on the island of **Patmos**.

- **Tradition** says that Romans throw John in a pot of **boiling oil**, but he does not **die**, so they **exile him**. *See outline at the end.*

The book Revelation is **too mysterious** to **understand** but was **written** to **make** things **clearer!**

- **In Greek**, Revelation means “The **Apocalypse**”, which means **uncovering, laying bare**. *Revelation 1:1-2, Matthew 24:32-36*
 - **It unveils future “end of time” events.**
 - **Is a culmination** of **Old Testament** end times **prophecies**. Daniel, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Zechariah.

Revelation’s **triumphant conclusion** of God’s **redemption is revealed** throughout **Scripture**.

- **Without** Revelation there is **no end** to the story, leaving **hope** for the **future** in **serious doubt**.
- Revelation **gives assurance** and hope to Christians: **History is already determined** by **God** and in His **absolute sovereign control....** when, where and how it **all ends**.
 - Revelation is a **record** of **REAL** events of **last days**.

- It's **more** than **judgement for evildoers**, Revelation is about **hope for Christians**.

After the final **judgement**, Christians will **live** in **renewed creation**. Revelation 21:1-2, Romans 8:21, 1 Corinthians 2:9, Genesis 1:31

- **Nothing inherently sinful**, evil, or unspiritual about **physical** world God made.
 - **All** is **corrupted** by **sin**, yet sin does **not ultimately defeat** God's **purposes**.
- **Fallen creation** will obtain **freedom** from **futility**, evil, and **pain** when the Lord **renews** and **perfects** it and **brings** creation into **harmony** with His **original purposes**.
 - Seems **too good** to be **true** yet is far **better** than you can **imagine**.

All **creation renewed** so **environment fits redeemed**, perfect **spirits and bodies** that **God made** morally, physically **new and glorious**. Revelation 21:4, 27, 22:3a, Philippians 3:20-21

- **Creation** and creatures will be **redeemed** and **pure**... and will be **totally free** from all **evil and sin**.
- **New resurrected body** like Jesus **never die** or get **hurt**, and able to **fulfill** the **purposes** God **originally** gave **man** to **do** on the earth.
 - **Paradise lost** will become **paradise restored**. See slide at the end.

Far greater than **renewed** creation and resurrected body is the **restoration** of the **original relationship** the Lord **had** with **His people**. Revelation 21:3, 22:3-4, Genesis 3:8, Psalm 16:11

- **God is with us now** but something **greater** is **coming**.
 - The **Lord** himself will **uniquely dwell** with us **like** He did with **Adam** and **Eve before the fall**.

We **will see** his face and **know Him more fully** than **ever before**.

- For **all eternity** we will **learn** about our **infinite God**, Savior, and **Friend**.
 - **We will forever live** with pure hearts and glorious bodies on a **renewed earth** in the **presence and glory** of our **heavenly Father**. Revelation 4:8

The **Story** of **Redemption** **begins** and **ends** with **grace** and **one goal**—the **WORSHIP** of the **Lord**!

- **Revelation concludes** Scripture and **Route 66** with **triumphant King Jesus Christ** on His throne **ruling and reigning**, and with His **children** around Him **celebrating His grace forever and ever**.
 - **Do you think** that's **enough motivation** to **live godly** and store **treasure** in **heaven** rather than on **earth**?

Outline of Revelation:

1:1-8	Introduction
1:9-20	Vision of Christ Among the Lampstands
2:1-3:22	Exhortations to the Seven Churches
4:1-5:14	The Throne in Heaven

6:1-8:1	Opening of the Scrolls Seven Seals
8:2-11:19	Sounding of Seven Trumpets
12:1-14:20	The Great Conflict
15:1-16:21	Seven Bowls of Wrath
17:1-19:10	The Fall of Babylon, The Harlot
19:11-21	Final Defeat of the Lamb's Enemies
20:1-21:8	Reign of the Saints and the Last Judgement
21:9-22:5	New Jerusalem
22:6-20	Final Exhortations
22:21	Closing Blessing

Genesis 1-3

1:1 Heaven and Earth Created
1:5, 16 Sun and Moon Appear
3:1 Satan Appears to Deceive
3:6-7 Sin & Death Enter
3:16 Pain Begins
3:13 Initial Triumph of Serpent
3:19 Man's Dominion Broken in the Fall of the First Man, Adam
3:24 Driven from God's Presence
3:23 Paradise Closed and Lost

Revelation 20-22

Heaven and Earth Recreated **21:1**
 No Need of Sun or Moon **21:23, 25**
 Satan Disappears in Lake of Fire **20:10**
 No More Sin & Death **21:4**
 Pain Ended **21:4**
 Ultimate Triumph of Lamb **20:10, 22:3**
 Man's Dominion Restored in the New Man, Christ **22:5**
 Forever in God's Presence **21:3**
 Paradise Opened and Restored **21:25**