

A New Heaven And A New Earth
Revelation 21:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

REVELATION 21:6

“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.’”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Butcher paper, markers, glue sticks, catalogs or magazines.

Several sheets of white construction paper, glue, plastic jewels or beads and markers.

Poster board, markers, glue and un-popped popcorn kernels.

ATTENTION GETTER!

A Special Place

On a piece of butcher paper draw an outline of a house with a large yard. Split your class into groups of 4 - 5 children and have them work together. Using catalogs and/or magazine cutouts have the children look for things that would make the house a “special place.” After the children have come up with a few things allow volunteers from each group to use a glue stick and glue the item onto the picture of the house.

After all of the items are glued to the paper explain to the children that today we are going to learn about a special place that God is making just for us.

LESSON TIME!

Have you ever wondered what heaven would be like? The Bible doesn't tell us a lot about heaven, but we get some wonderful insights into what it will be like in Revelation 21. In this chapter we see the new heaven and new earth and also we have a beautiful

picture of New Jerusalem. How wonderful it is to serve a God who is willing to create such a great place for us. **God is preparing a special place for us.**

REVELATION 21:1,2

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.

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

In these opening verses John describes a new heaven and a new earth (which will be the dwelling place of all the saints for eternity). The time that all this will happen is after the rapture (the catching up of the believers in Jesus to heaven), the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, the 1,000 year reign of Jesus and the Great White Throne Judgment. We have been studying these things over recent weeks. After these things comes the new heaven and new earth.

John doesn't really give us much information about the new heaven and earth, but he does tell us that "there was no longer any sea." That's a big contrast to this present earth which has most of its surface covered by water.

John's attention was then directed to a specific feature of the new heaven and earth. He calls it the "Holy City." It's interesting that New Jerusalem is called the "Holy City" in contrast with the earthly Jerusalem, which is spiritually compared to Sodom in chapter 11:8. God's Word says that He makes all things new including us. One day Jesus will set everything in order and the entire city of Jerusalem will be considered "holy."

We also see that the city is described as a bride adorned for her husband. A couple of lessons ago we learned that the church is the bride of Christ. This New Jerusalem will be the dwelling place of all of God's people. **God is preparing a special place for us.**

REVELATION 21:3,4

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.

"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."

Following John's initial revelation of the New Jerusalem John wrote, "I heard a loud voice from heaven" (this is the last of 20 times that the expression "a loud voice" is used in the book of Revelation). The final revelation from heaven stated that God will dwell with men, the saints will be His people and He will be their God.

As we know throughout the Bible all of God's promises are true and faithful. One of the greatest promises in the entire Bible is found in verse 4. It says that there won't be any more death, sorrow or crying. God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. There won't be any more pain. What a wonderful promise for all of us who live in this world where there is a lot of death, sorrow and pain!

Are there things that have happened in your life that has made you sad? In heaven God will take away all of our sorrow. **God is preparing a special place for us.**

REVELATION 21:5,6

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."

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."

John was told by Him who sat on the throne (Jesus) "I am making everything new." Then He instructs John to write these things down that they are trustworthy and true. Jesus calls Himself the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

Those who are thirsty are promised that they will be able to drink from the water of life freely. He isn't referring to physical thirst but a desire for spiritual blessings.

What we learn from these verses is that only God has the ability to do what He has promised. If He is the Alpha and Omega, He is the beginning and ending of everything. He has the power to give the water of life freely and will certainly keep all of His promises to us. When we begin to see Jesus as He really is, suddenly our problems don't seem to be as big as we thought they were.

REVELATION 21:7,8

"He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son."

"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."

Jesus explains that those who overcome will inherit all things and that He will be their God and they will be His children, His sons or daughters. This really expresses the intimate relationship between believers and God. When we are saved, God becomes our Father. We are born into His family. He takes wonderful care of us, and one day we will get to live with Him in heaven forever.

As believers it is very exciting to know that we are sons and daughters of the King, just like it says in verse 7 and that we have an inheritance through Him. Ephesians 1:11; Colossians 1:12; 1 Peter 1:3-4; all these verses mention our inheritance as children of the King and the fact that it is an incorruptible inheritance. Not only does God promise us an inheritance, but He also promises to make all things new.

Unfortunately, those who refuse to believe in Jesus and don't want to have a relationship with Him will be excluded from the New Jerusalem. This is so sad because it doesn't have to be this way. The Bible describes those who refuse to turn to Jesus. They practice all kinds of different sins and they don't want to give them up. These people will be thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur because they don't want to be in the presence of God. The only place apart from God is a place of suffering, the lake of fire.

Although John tells us of the contrast between believers and unbelievers in verse 8, it is not God's desire for anyone to be cast into the lake of fire, because some will harden their hearts and reject Christ; they will have chosen the lake of fire for themselves.

REVELATION 21:9-11

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

One of the angels of chapter 16 (who had poured out a bowl of wrath on the earth) invited John to see the New Jerusalem as a bride. The overall impression of the city was as a gigantic brilliant jewel that was compared to Jasper (clear as crystal). This indicates its great beauty. John was trying to describe what he saw and to relate it to what might be familiar. However, the revelation goes beyond anything that can be experienced. The Jasper stone is found in various colors and John is probably referring to the beauty of the stone and not to its characteristics. **God is preparing a special place for us.**

Again we see the comparison of the bride. The description of the bride's beauty is so wonderful. Think about how we aren't always so "beautiful." God is still doing a lot of work in our lives. But even with all of our mistakes and sins we will still be called beautiful. This is only because we have Jesus in us.

REVELATION 21:12-21

Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.

The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal.

Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.

The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald,

the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.

The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

Next John saw the walls and gates of the city. It was square in shape and surrounded by a great, high wall with 12 gates and the gates had names written on them. John goes on to describe the

beauty of the city in more detail and again tries to describe it with things that are familiar to us.

Could you imagine trying to put down on paper the vision you saw of heaven? It would just be too amazing for words. John used the most beautiful things he could to describe heaven. He talked about how that the walls and the gates would be adorned with precious gems and jewels, with the city itself being pure gold. What an amazing place! **God is preparing a special place for us.**

New Jerusalem

For this craft you will need to have several sheets of white construction paper, glue, plastic jewels or beads and markers. Have the children draw a picture of a large city with walls and gates. Then decorate the walls and the gates with the plastic jewels or beads by gluing them to the paper.

Another fun idea for a game would be to do the following. Look up the different jewels listed in Revelation 21 and give a description of each one to the children. On twelve 3" x 5" index cards write each jewel. On an additional 12 cards write out the descriptions. Next, attach one card to the front of each child (only use the amount of jewels that will work for the number of children in your class). Have the children then search for their match. The "jewels" will look for the right "descriptions" and the "descriptions" will look for the right "jewels." Have the children raise their hands when they have found their partner. Explain to the children that **God is preparing a special place for us.**

REVELATION 21:22-27

But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

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.

And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.

Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).

And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.

But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

John tells us that he did not see a temple in the city because God is the temple. He tells us that there will be no need for light from the sun or moon because the glory of God will provide the light.

The gates of the city will never be shut, and God's glory will be continually present so there will be no night. He will cover everything in His everlasting light. John tells us that everything that is impure, shameful or deceitful will be excluded and only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will dwell there. **God is preparing a special place for us.**

This revelation given to John by God describes a beautiful and glorious future for all that put their trust in the living God. Have you put your trust in Jesus? God has a wonderful life for you right now and well as a wonderful eternity. Just understand that you have sinned and that Jesus came and died on the cross for your sins and then rose again on the third day. Next, ask Him to come

inside of your heart to live forever. If you believe in Jesus you will be saved and spend eternity with Him.

Popcorn Sun

In Revelation 21 we are told that there will not be any need of the sun or the moon to shine because God's glory will fill heaven with light. On a piece of cardboard or poster board draw an outline of a sun or star. Glue kernels of un-popped popcorn inside the outline to make a mosaic. If you want, have each child make their own sun or star.

Explain to the children how that we won't need the sun any more because we will all be walking in the light of God's glory. Optional: write Revelation 21:23 under the sun.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for all that He is preparing for us in heaven. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.