



Revelation 20-22

GOD'S KINGDOM ON EARTH

There have been times when I think we do not desire heaven; but more often I find myself wondering whether, in our heart of hearts, we have ever desired anything else. —C.S. Lewis

What God made us to desire, and therefore what we do desire if we admit it, is exactly what He promises to those who follow Jesus Christ: a resurrected life in a resurrected body, with the resurrected Christ on a resurrected Earth. —Randy Alcorn

We were created to live in a Garden, in perfect harmony with God, with one another, and within ourselves, ruling over the earth—without sin, without pain, without death. Deep in our hearts, we still hear the echo of this distant land and long for its realization. In Jesus Christ, what, at times, seems only like a dream is actually our certain destiny.

THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM (Rev. 20:1-10)

After Christ returns, He will reign on David's throne and set up His kingdom on *this* earth, restoring it to its pre-curse beauty, abundance, health, and peace (cf. Ps. 72; 96; Isa. 2; 9:6-7; 11-12; 63:1-6; 65-66; Jer. 23:5-6; 30:8-11; Dan. 2:44; 7:13-14; Hosea 3:4-5; Amos 9:11-15; Micah 4:1-8; Zeph. 3:14-20; Zech. 14:1-9; Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 8:19-21).

- The Removal of Satan (20:1-3)
- The Resurrection & Reign of the Saints (20:4-6; cf. Dan. 12:2; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-57; Rev. 1:6; 5:9)
- The Release of Satan (20:7-10)
- The Reasons for the Millennium
 - To _____ this earth.
 - To _____ God's promises & covenants.
 - To _____ the condition of man's heart and the "incurable wickedness" of Satan.

Our greatest affliction is not anxiety, or even guilt, but rather homesickness—a nostalgia or ineradicable yearning to be at home with God.

—Donald Bloesch

The most striking point in the eschatology of the ante-Nicene Age [AD 100-300] is the prominent chiliasm, or millenarianism, that is the belief of a visible reign of Christ in glory on earth with the risen saints for a thousand years, before the general resurrection and judgment.

—Philip Schaff, historian

God hangs on to his fallen original creation and salvages it. He refuses to abandon the work of his hands—in fact, he sacrifices his own Son to save his original project. Humankind, which has botched its original mandate and the whole creation along with it, is given another chance in Christ; we are reinstated as God's managers on earth. The original good creation is to be restored. —Albert Wolters

A perfect environment cannot produce a perfect heart.

—Warren Wiersbe

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT (Rev. 20:11-15)

At the end of the millennial kingdom, all the unsaved dead will be raised to stand for final judgment (Dan. 12:2; Acts 24:15).

- The Judge (Jn. 5:26-29; Acts 10:42, 17:31)
- The Judgment (Jer. 17:10; Rom. 2:1-11)

The absolute purity of God's holiness and absolute perfection of His righteousness condemns everyone who rests on their own works for salvation (Ps. 130:3; Jn. 3:18-19; Rom. 3:1-20).

THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH (Rev. 21-22)

This present earth and atmosphere are wiped away (cf. 2 Pet. 3:10-13) and a new heaven and new earth are created. The New Jerusalem is the glorious city in which all the redeemed through the ages—OT & NT saints—will live (cf. John 14:2).

- The Presence of God—"God with us" (21:3, 22)
- The Absence of Sin, Pain, Sorrow, Darkness, the Curse, and Death (21:4, 27; 22:3, 5)
- The Splendor of the City (21:9-21)
- The Glory of the Nations (21:24-26)
- The Experience of Pure Joy (22:1-5; Ps. 16:11)

The view of heaven and eternity as an ethereal existence of sitting on clouds playing harps is a falsehood. We will live on a new earth in a resurrected body in perfect relationships with all the joy, pleasure, and beauty of our existence amplified.

The paradise of Eden will be restored within a glorified city!

HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?

Everything we have ever experienced is recorded in our brain, from every stranger's face that we have glanced at in a crowd to every spider web we gazed at as a child. ...Our memory is a complete record of even the most mundane of our day-to-day experiences. —Wilder Penfield

Hades refers to the temporary holding place of the unsaved as they await final judgment. The **lake of fire** (or *Gehenna*, hell) is the final place of judgment.

The "new Jerusalem" does not remain in a "heaven" far off in space, but it comes down to the renewed earth; there the redeemed will spend eternity in resurrection bodies. So heaven and earth, now separated, will then be merged: the new earth will also be heaven, since God will dwell there with his people. Glorified believers...will continue to be in heaven while they are inhabiting the new earth.

—Anthony Hoekema

Somewhere in my broken paralyzed body is the seed of what I shall become. The paralysis makes what I am to become all the more grand when you contrast atrophied, useless legs against splendid resurrected legs. —Joni Eareckson Tada

All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story, which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before.

—C.S. Lewis, *The Last Battle*