

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 57 (PART 1)

PICTURE OF ETERNITY

REVELATION 21:1-8 | *PART 1*



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Three times in the Book of Revelation, John fell down to worship, awestruck and overwhelmed. In Revelation 1:17, he had an encounter with Jesus as the magnificent Son of Man in the fullness of His glory. In Revelation 19:10, he encountered his eternal destiny as the glorious Bride of Christ.

The third instance is in Revelation 22:8 after the angel revealed the beauty of the eternal city to him. John was overwhelmed because he realised this was God's ultimate redemption plan for him! He will dwell forever in that beautiful city with the fullness of eternal life and glory!

**JOHN'S RESPONSE IS
WHAT WE WANT. WE
WANT TO CONNECT WITH
THIS REALITY AND BE
OVERWHELMED BECAUSE
THIS IS WHERE WE ARE
GOING!**

**IF WE TRULY ENCOUNTER
AND GRASP THIS, WE WILL
LIVE OUR LIVES IN A
RADICAL, DIFFERENT
MANNER HERE ON EARTH.**

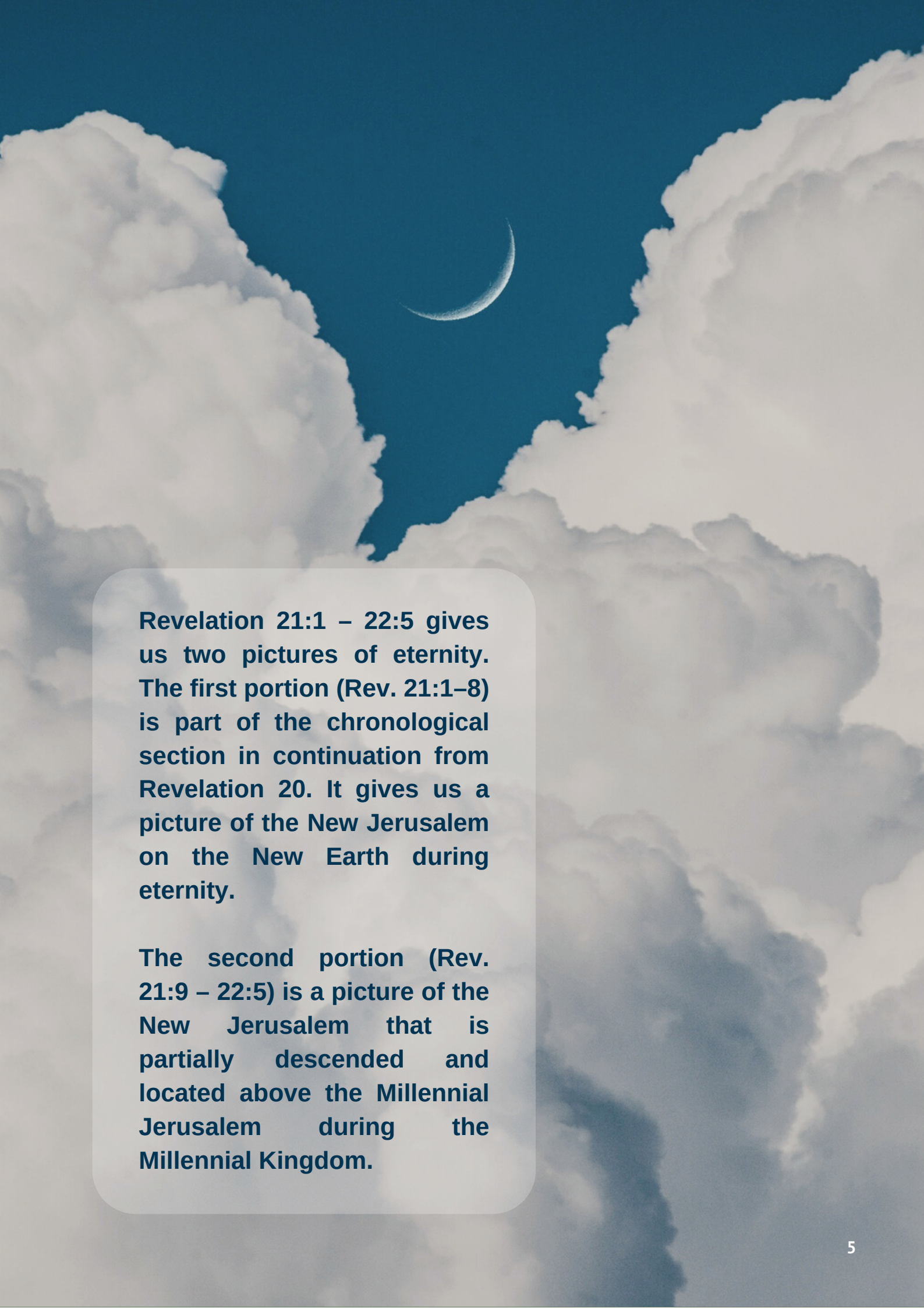
We will be strangers and pilgrims here in this age, just like Abraham and the saints of old, because we are living for an eternal city with no earthly comparison!



This city is the Father's wedding gift to Jesus and His Bride. This city is what our salvation and eternal plan is all about. This is where we are going. This is what we are living for!

What did John see that overwhelmed him? He caught a glimpse of the eternal dwelling place for the people of God, which is also our eternal inheritance, as well as a glimpse of our eternal destiny — we will see the Father face to face!



A background image of a deep blue sky with large, fluffy white clouds. A thin, bright crescent moon is visible in the upper center of the frame.

Revelation 21:1 – 22:5 gives us two pictures of eternity. The first portion (Rev. 21:1–8) is part of the chronological section in continuation from Revelation 20. It gives us a picture of the New Jerusalem on the New Earth during eternity.

The second portion (Rev. 21:9 – 22:5) is a picture of the New Jerusalem that is partially descended and located above the Millennial Jerusalem during the Millennial Kingdom.



Revelation 21:9–21 gives us an **external view of the city**, which is **the ultimate Holy of Holies**. Seeing its beauty, glory and size of the city will cause us to be awestruck.

Revelation 21:22 – 22:5 gives us an **internal view of the city**, which is the **ultimate Garden of Eden**. Seeing the fullness of eternal life and the pleasures found in loving God in this city will inspire us to love Him!

We will go through verse by verse for Revelation 21:1–8 today and the rest of the verses in the next session.

Revelation 21:1–2 is an **introduction to the eternal city, the ultimate dwelling place and inheritance of the saints**. John saw the “renovation” and renewal of the old heaven and earth to become **the new heaven and new earth** (Isa. 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pet. 3:13).

There will be no more sea. This means that we will have **no more fear or uncertainty** because the sea is a symbol of that. When people sailed out to sea in ancient times, there was often great fear and uncertainty because they didn't really know where they were going and whether they could make it back alive.



In Revelation 21:2, John saw the ultimate and complete descent of New Jerusalem onto the New Earth (Rev. 21:2). What a glorious and majestic sight!

This heavenly city has four names revealing four aspects of New Jerusalem:

ONE. THE HOLY CITY (REV. 21:2)

Holy means that the city is totally unique, different, set apart, and reserved for God. It has a certain attribute of God, and it will be totally unlike any other city in the world.

TWO. NEW JERUSALEM (REV. 21:2)

This city is the ultimate promise of God borne out of His faithfulness, firstly to Israel and, secondly, to all mankind.


THREE. THE LAMB'S WIFE, THE BRIDE (REV. 21:9)

The New Jerusalem is referred to as the Bride, the Lamb's wife. Is the Bride the city, or is she the people of God? It is both.

The characteristics of the people will reveal the characteristics of the city, and the characteristics of the city will reveal the characteristics of the Bride. Every city inspires a certain characteristic — this city inspires Bridal love. It is a city that enhances our intimacy and fellowship with God.

FOUR. THE GREAT CITY (REV. 21:10)

There is one city that is truly great, no earthly city can compare to it.



Verse 2 also reveals the **One who prepared the city**. It is the Father who prepared the city as a Bride adorned for her husband, as a wedding gift to Jesus and to us.

Verse 3 reveals **the ultimate redemptive plan of God**. The ultimate desire of the Father is to dwell with men. The tabernacle of God, the New Jerusalem, will come down on the earth. Throughout the Old and New Testament, there are multiple instances where God declares His desire and promise that He will one day dwell with men, that He will be our God, and we shall be His people (Ex. 29:45–46; Ezek. 37:27; Zech. 2:11; 2 Cor. 6:16–18). This is the ultimate fulfilment of God's desire!

In verse 4, the Holy Spirit broke in to declare the ultimate reality of eternity — there will be no more struggles and no more pain. Hallelujah!

Seven negatives will be removed.

There will be:

**NO MORE SEA
(FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY)
(REV. 21:1)**

**NO MORE DEATH
(REV. 21:4)**

**NO MORE TEARS
(REV. 21:4)**

**NO MORE SORROW
(REV. 21:4)**

**NO MORE PAIN
(REV. 21:4)**

**NO MORE CURSE
(REV. 22:3)**

**NO MORE NIGHT
(REV. 22:5)**



There are two reasons why these negatives will be no more:

***1. THE REASON FOR PAIN
AND SUFFERING***

God allows pain and suffering to purify and refine us. In Revelation 21, the saints will be perfect. Hence there is no more need for struggles or pain.



2. WHEN WE COME TO REVELATION 21, EVERYTHING IS RESTORED BACK TO ONE.

Before the fall of Satan, everything was one — one God, one kingdom and one will, which is God's will. After the fall of Satan, the principle of duality set in. From then on, everything that God created has to be dual — day and night, male and female, tree of life and tree of knowledge of good and evil, joy and sorrow, pain and pleasure, etc.

Jesus is the One who brings heaven and earth together as one (Eph. 1:9–10). After casting Satan into the Lake of Fire and sending fire to cleanse the earth, He creates a New Heaven and New Earth and brings everything together as one. Hence in eternity, there is no night or day, no male or female, no tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but only the trees of life.

Wow, all things will become one in that Day!

Verses 5–8 is a seven-fold message of the Father which reveals His majesty, generosity, and also His severity. Through this, we can see His steadfast commitment to His people. The seven fold-message consists of:

**1. “I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW”
(V5)**

This is the promise of our ultimate glorification, where we will be given new bodies, new hearts and new minds. We will also be given a new earth.

The concept of “*newness*” in eternity defies our logic. In this age, everything gets older by the day. **But in eternity, we get newer every day (2 Cor. 4:16–17)!**

2. “WRITE” (V5)

The message of eternity and the Millennial Kingdom is such a vital core message that God wanted John to write it down. We have to connect with the reality of this truth, focus on it and teach it to the End-Time Church.

3. “IT IS DONE!” (V6)

This is the ultimate assurance of the Father. He guarantees with certainty that all that we see in Revelation 21 – 22, He will bring to pass!

4. “I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA, THE BEGINNING AND THE END” (V6)

“The Alpha and the Omega” is a title attributed to God, the Leader who has absolute power, complete wisdom, and deep and faithful love for us. When the One who says it will be done is the Alpha and the Omega, we can have full confidence that it will be so. He is the One who holds us in His hand, and nothing can separate us from His love!



The last three in verses 6–8 are
God's three-fold promises.

**5. "I WILL GIVE THE FOUNTAIN OF
THE WATER OF LIFE"
(V6)**

We will have the ultimate experience of abundant eternal life in this city (Jn. 10:10; Isa. 55:1).

**6. "HE WHO OVERCOMES SHALL
INHERIT ALL THINGS"
(V7)**

The overcomer shall inherit every promise and blessing in abundance from the Father. The ultimate reward is that we can see the Father face to face!

9. GOD'S ASSURANCE OF PUNISHMENT FOR THE WICKED (V8)

God listed out eight categories of people who would suffer the second death in the Lake of Fire. The verse is not referring to people who are struggling but people who practice these sins with no conscience, no fear of God and who are totally dominated by them.

The reason He does this is to warn us to keep our hearts and lives untainted and far away from all these sins so that our hearts and consciences will not be hardened.

***WE HAVE COME TO THE END OF TODAY'S
SESSION. I TRUST THAT YOUR HEART IS
STIRRED AND YOU ARE BEGINNING TO
CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THIS GLORIOUS CITY
WHOM THE SAINTS OF OLD LONG FOR.***

MORE TO COME IN THE NEXT SESSION!

CONTINUED IN
SESSION 57 (PART 2)



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