

## I. Recap (if need be)

- **Questions:** Thus far, what do we know about Heaven from **Rev. 21:1-4** (New Earth)?
  - 1. Creation will be renewed and completely purified
    - Now what? So, by working hard and performing well now, we are partaking in that restoration.
  - 2. There will be peace (Reflect on **Is.11:6-9**, the infant will play over the hole of the cobra) that cannot be disturbed.
    - Now what? So, we pursue peace with others, here and now, but we are not injustice mongers; because we also know that this world will not be perfect before Christ's return. Christ will make total peace on Earth.
  - 3. Our transformation process will be complete. We will be just like Christ, perfect and glorified. (Reflect on **Phil. 1:6**)
    - Now what? So, we seek opportunities to be righteous now. By our obedience to God's will, we are partaking in that restoration.
  - 4. We will dwell with God like Adam and Eve did, face-to-face without mediation. He will dwell with us in all of His glory.
    - Now what? So, holiness matters to us. And worship of God (corporate & everything that we do) matters to us.
  - 5. Everything will be perfect and incapable of sin.
    - Now what? So, the hope in the life to come, gives us peace amidst pain and turmoil. Because this is not how life will always be.

**Transition:** Read **Revelation 21:5-8**

## II. Lesson

- **Question:** What do you think will be the most awesome experience in Heaven (New Earth)? Allow for answers.
  - Being with Christ.
  - To put it in a negative manner: if it is not Christ then you may have a misunderstanding of the glory of Heaven. You may be bored with Heaven because Christ is the center of it all and not you. **Respond.**
  - If we are honest, Christ is not our answer. Our lives are not centered around Christ. We may have a difficult time admitting to this, but we regularly seek on this side of heaven something other than Christ for ultimate pleasure. You may need to help them understand what idolatry looks like in the Christian life such as how we revolve our life around acceptance or status or beauty...
  - **Big Idea:** Since Christ is the center of not only history but also Heaven, He is the center of our life.
- **Question:** Is Jesus the center of **Revelation 21 & 22**? **Skim it.**
- Jesus Christ is the center of it all. Heaven is not necessarily about a location but a person. Jesus' presence is what will make Heaven to be Heaven.
- Yes, salvation will be consummated (completed) and the Earth will be renewed and completely purified and the curse of sin will be reversed and sin will be abolished and all that is awesome **but the most amazing experience of Heaven is being face to face with Jesus, our Savior and Lord.** We will hug Him and eat with Him. We will see His scars and all of His glory. **Respond.**
- Take a look at:
  - **Revelation 21:2-** He is the Husband waiting to see the beauty of His bride
  - **Verse 3:** He is the one seated on the throne proclaiming the fulfillment of God's promises to be with His people and be their God.

- **Verse 4:** He is the comforter who wipes away tears
- **Verse 5:** All things are renewed through Him
- **Verse 6:** He is the beginning and the end, eternal, everlasting, almighty God
- **Verse 6:** He gives everlasting life for free to satisfy our souls (Living water: **John 4:10**)
  - Today, Jesus gives salvation freely. "None of us are beyond the need of God's grace and none of us are beyond the reach of God's grace." **Respond.**
- **Revelation 22:1-** Lamb (the Sacrificial Lamb: **John 1:29**)
  - To "Behold the Lamb of God" is to see Jesus as the suffering servant who took the punishment we deserve to give us the grace we could never earn. (**Isaiah 53:4-12**)
  - Jesus is more than a moral model, He is the substitute sacrifice for our sin.
- **Verse 5:** Light (Light of the World: **John 8:12**)
  - He is the sun by which we see all things. He is the source of Joy
- **Verse 16:** Root and Shoot of David (Promised descendant of David)
  - Isaiah prophesies the coming of the Messiah will be from the line of Jesse (**11:1**). "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit." Who was Jesse? He was the father of king David. So, we know that Isaiah is prophesying the fulfillment of **2 Samuel 7**. What was the promise in **2 Samuel 7**? That a son of David (shoot of Jesse) will come and rule God's people and rule the world. Was Jesus from the line of David? Consider **Matthew 1**. Therefore who is Jesus? The Messiah, our Savior and King. The promised one.
- **Verse 23:** Lamp
  - He will be everything in Heaven. He is the glory of Heaven. And we will be like Him and be face-to-face with Him and enjoy Him forever. And we will not want because we will not lack.
  - **Application Questions:** What is the center of your life? The answer to that question is the same answer to these questions: What are you afraid of losing? What do you want most in life? What do you daydream about?
  - We center our life around what we think will satisfy us the best. We were created for satisfaction. Sin changed our hearts to look to things other than Christ for ultimate satisfaction. Through faith in Christ, God provided a way to be satisfied. Even though we have Christ, we seek other opportunities than Christ to satisfy us.
  - Remember in Narnia? Lucy, through eyes of faith, sought after Aslan and trusted he would return. She couldn't wait to be with him! And her relationship with Aslan changed the way she lived. She sought after him in all that she did.
  - Just as Aslan returned, Christ will return and we will be perfectly and fully satisfied in Him. In Heaven, our hearts will be satisfied with Christ alone therefore we will never experience dissatisfaction.
  - Consider **Psalms 23**. Christ is our Shepherd. In whom, we will not want because we will not lack. In Heaven, we will be perfectly satisfied in Him.