

## What Happens When a Church Worships | Part 10

Lesson 5

Revelation chapter 21

May 7, 2023

### A New Heaven and New Earth

#### INTRODUCTION

Imagine strolling the golden streets of New Jerusalem, awed by the brilliance of God's glory, listening to chimed harmony of angels' voices as they praise God and His Son through song.

Contrarily, imagination might take one alongside a pilgrim named "Christian" who (in John Bunyan's classic allegory, *The Pilgrim's Progress*) struggles heavenward over circuitous paths to evade the City of Destruction.

Salvation has been realized in the first illustration, though yet to be found in the second.

Look beyond imagination's domain and acknowledge the reality of Revelation. As Jesus states in Revelation 21:6-7, "to the thirsty I will give water without cost . . . only the victorious will inherit all this"; the others of verse 8-9 "will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur."

It is not imaginative then, to adopt the resolve of Bunyan's pilgrim: to trek forward to the promise of Christ.

***Memory verse: He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life."—Revelation 21:6***

Pray, and read Revelation chapter 21. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

## **OBSERVATION: What do the passages say?**

1. What happens before a new heaven and new earth come into existence? (Revelation 21:1b)
2. For whom is the “second death” intended? (Revelation 21:8)
3. The New Jerusalem comes down from God and heaven, but it is not until one of the seven angels carries John to a mountain that the apostle is able to see the magnificence of the city. Describe its beauty. (Revelation 21:10-14, 18-21)
4. Why does the New Jerusalem not house a temple, nor have a sun or moon to illuminate it? (Revelation 21:22-25)
5. Who are the residents that are permitted to live in the New Jerusalem? (Revelation 21:27)



4. What do Isaiah 60:1-3, 11, 19 and Ezekiel 40:3, 48:30-34 have in common with Revelation 21:9-27?

**APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?**

1. Death, pain, mourning, and earthly troubles are part of life, not realities easily erased by mere hopes or sporadic prayer. How do we make life more bearable before we join the residents of the New Jerusalem?

