

# The Final Curtain: The New Heaven and the New Earth

Revelation 21:1–8

## Introduction

### The Passing of the Old, the Coming of the New (vv. 1–5)

- The adjective “new” (Gk. καινός) used throughout this passage refers to something previously unknown or unheard of; fresh (Lowe & Nida).
- In the new earth we will not subsist by physical water but rather by the water of life (22:1, 17).
- “Unlike the evil cities of the present earth, the people in the New Jerusalem will live together in perfect harmony” (MacArthur, 316).
- The suggestion has been made that during the millennial reign of Christ the New Jerusalem is suspended in the heavens as a dwelling place for resurrected and translated saints, who will also have immediate access to the earth to carry on their functions of ruling with Christ.<sup>1</sup>
- “The supreme glory and joy of heaven is the Person of God” (MacArthur, 316).

### The Portion of the Just and the Unjust (vv. 6–8)

- The Lord describes himself as the “Alpha and Omega” and “the beginning and the end” (1:8, 22:13). In 22:13 the additional phrase “the first and the last” is used and elsewhere applied to Christ (1:17; 2:8; cf. Isaiah 41:4; 44:6; 48:12 where the same phrase is applied to Jehovah God of Israel).
- “The ‘cowards’ are those who turn back from following God, not those who are fainthearted in their faith or who sometimes doubt or question. They are not brave enough to stand up for Christ; they are not humble enough to accept his authority over their lives.”<sup>2</sup>
- “It should be obvious that this passage is not affirming salvation by works, but rather is referring to works as indicative of whether one is saved or not. Obviously many will be in heaven who before their conversions were indeed guilty of these sins but who turned from them in the day of grace in trusting Christ as their Savior. Though works are the evidence of salvation or lack of it, they are never the basis or ground of it. Similar lists of sins are found elsewhere in Revelation (v. 27; 22:15).”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Walvoord, J. F. (1985). [Revelation](#). In *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, 2:984.

<sup>2</sup> Barton, B. B. (2000). [Revelation](#) (G. R. Osborne, Ed.; p. 258). Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>3</sup> Walvoord, J. F. (1985). [Revelation](#). In *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, 2:985.