



The Canadian *Lord's Day* Association

Bible Course

Acts to Revelation

Lesson 88

Name: _____

Read Revelation 21

Only God can make a perfect society. Man's idea of utopia will be insignificant compared to heaven. Read Revelation 21 where John describes the new heaven and the new earth.

Utopia

A utopia is a community or society possessing highly desirable or near perfect qualities. The word was coined by Sir Thomas More in Latin for his 1516 book Utopia, describing a fictional island society in the Atlantic Ocean. [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utopia)

1. And I saw a _____
_____ and a

_____: for the first heaven
and the first earth were passed away.
2. God will make all things new. This will happen in an instant.
 - a. II Peter 3:10-12..But the day of the Lord will come as a
_____ in the _____; in the
which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt
with _____.
 - b. Revelation 6:14... And the heaven departed as a _____
when it is rolled together.

All will be destroyed and reappear but not totally different. The Greek "new" means not different but made new. In Matthew 19:28 Jesus says, "That ye which have followed me, **in the regeneration** when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory..." This refers to this future age when all is made new. So the regeneration of the universe will be a new beautiful creation that we will yet recognize. The regeneration of the individual (made new) is in the moment of justification. The individual is made new. He/she is not a different person, but there is a new internal being that is radically changed. In the resurrection, people will be recognizable.

3. ...and there was no more _____. The sea in the Bible is often a sign of separation. John on the island of Patmos was separate from the churches. The sea was unpredictable...storms could come at any time. The sea represented conflict, storms, change, tumults, ... there will be no more of this in the new heaven and the new earth. For those who are unprepared, there will be continual conflict, danger, separation, hell.
4. The new heaven and new earth will be perfect...the ultimate utopia. John lists five things that are common on earth but will not be present in heaven:
- a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____ (tears, death, sorrow, crying, pain)
5. He that _____ shall inherit all things; and I will be his _____, and he shall by my _____. But the _____ (cowardly), and _____, and whoremongers (sexually immoral), and sorcerers (drug pushers), and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the _____ which burneth with _____ and _____: which is the second death.

Overall message of these first eight verses: There is more beyond this life. This life is not the end. Christ is the Alpha and Omega, the only medicine that will heal. He that overcometh is he that thirsts for God, is washed by Christ, and the direction of his life is thankful obedience.

6. (Return to v. 2) And I John saw the holy _____, New Jerusalem, coming down from _____ out of _____, prepared as a _____ adorned for her _____.

This New Jerusalem is coming from heaven, from God. It is not a human institution, not man's work (not free will). These next verses are like a walk around the "capital city" of New Jerusalem – where the King dwells. This city fills the whole earth. Later Rev. 22 will show the center of the city. This city is 1400 miles in every direction and represents the Lamb's wife, the bride, the true church. So taking a look around this city is a beautiful picture of the church and each Christian.

7. (v. 9+) ...Come, hither; I will show thee the _____, the _____.

- a. Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a _____ stone, clear as crystal. (The Lamb's wife is a **reflection of the glory of God**.) See also v. 18...And the building of the wall of _____ it _____ was _____ of _____: and the city _____ was _____ pure _____.



_____, like unto clear _____. The world may say Christianity is drab or boring. Actually the world is drab in comparison – surface deep, a facade.

- b. (v. 12) And had a _____ great and high. (v. 17) And he measured the _____ thereof, a _____ and _____ and _____ cubits. The walls were over 200 ft thick! The church in glory needs no wall (the gates are left open), all enemies are in hell. The thickness of the walls reminds of the first creation and the new creation. The church is **invulnerable**.

- c. The city had _____ gates, and at the gates _____ (messengers).

The church is made of **all nations**, open in all directions.

- d. And the wall of the city had _____, and in them the names of the _____ of the Lamb. (John must have seen his own name!) This was an

To what city do you belong?

Do you have the citizenship papers for this New Jerusalem?

Do you have the blood passport of Jesus Christ?

encouragement for this last surviving apostle. The apostles (including himself) were laying the foundation for the bride. God uses Christians to **build and lay new stones** on the building. Jesus Christ is the cornerstone. The apostles built their theology on that cornerstone and wrote the New Testament. (The RCC builds on Peter, the first pope, building a church on popes rather than on Peter's confession.)

Evaluator_____

Meditation

A Longing for Heaven

Jerusalem, my happy home,
When shall I come to thee?
When shall my labours have an end;
Thy joys when shall we see?

Thy gates are richly set with pearls,
Most glorious to behold;
Thy walls are all of precious stone,
Thy streets are paved with gold.

Thy gardens and thy pleasant fruits
Continually are green;
So sweet a sight by human eye
Has never yet been seen.

If heaven be thus glorious, Lord,
Why must I deep from thence?
What folly is it that makes me loth
To die and go from hence?

Reach down; reach down Thine arm of
grace,
And cause me to ascend,
Where congregations ne'er break up,
And Sabbaths have no end.

When wilt Thou come to me, Oh Lord?
Oh come, my Lord, most dear!
Come nearer, nearer, nearer still;
I'm well when Thou are near.

My dear Redeemer is above,
Him will I go to see;
And all my friends in Christ below
Shall soon come after me.

Jerusalem, my happy home,
Oh, how I long for thee!
Then shall my labours have an end,
When once they joys I see.

William Burkitt