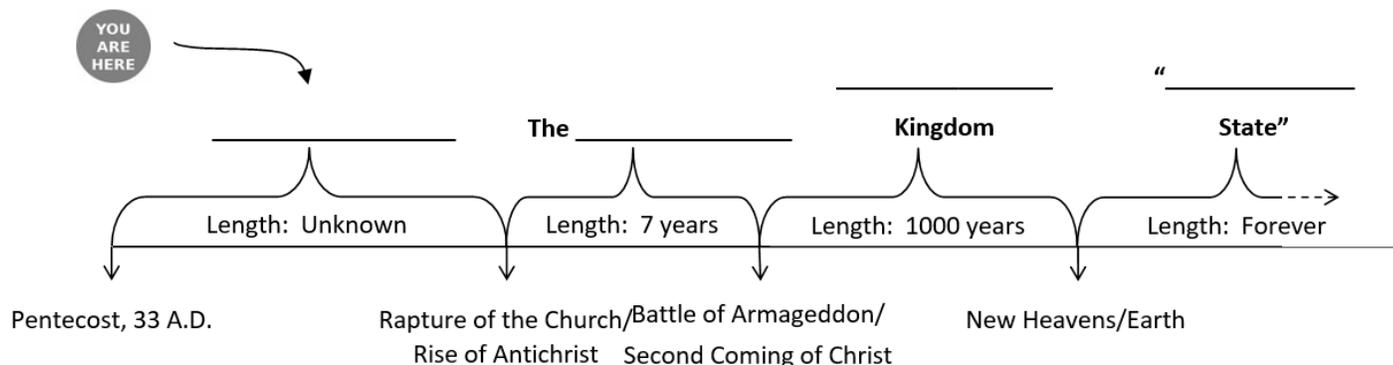


# THE ETERNAL STATE

## A study of Chapters 8 and 9

### REVIEW OF WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED



Final events of the Millennium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Satan is released from the Abyss (Revelation 20:7-8)</li> <li>• Unsaved people from around the world converge upon Jerusalem to destroy it and to overthrow Christ (Revelation 20:9).</li> <li>• Fire comes from heaven and destroys all of His attackers (Revelation 20:9).</li> <li>• Satan is thrown into the lake of fire forever (Revelation 20:10).</li> </ul>
The resurrection of unbelievers	Revelation 20:5
The Great White Throne Judgment	Revelation 20:11-15
Creation of new heavens and Earth	Isaiah 65:17; 2 Peter 3:10-13
The Eternal State begins	Revelation 21:1-7

The eternal state is the future period of existence that will begin after the Millennium and will last \_\_\_\_\_ . Throughout eternity, God’s people will live with Him on a newly-created Earth, and unbelievers will suffer endless punishment in the Lake of Fire.

**For clarification:** The word *state*, as it is used in “eternal state”, does not refer to a government or a political territory, but rather to the condition of existence that will last forever, i.e., “the way things will be for eternity.”

*1000 Years*—Interpreters generally use the terms “eternal state” and “final state” to denote the post-millennial destiny of God’s people and His creation. . . . The Millennium and the eternal state should not be understood as two separate ages, but as two parts of the same era of human history. (p. 110)

Revelation 21:1-7—<sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” <sup>5</sup> He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup> He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. <sup>7</sup> He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

- The eternal state will begin immediately after the Millennium and will last \_\_\_\_\_.
- It will take place upon a newly-created \_\_\_\_\_.
- Only \_\_\_\_\_ will live on Earth in the eternal state. All unbelievers will have been cast into the Lake of Fire.
- Unlike the Millennium, the Eternal State will be totally free of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Things absent in the eternal state**

- No Satan (Rev 20:10)
- No death (Rev 21:4)
- No sun (Rev 21:23)
- No demons (Matt 21:41)
- No sea (Rev 21:1)
- No moon (Rev 21:23)
- No unbelievers (Rev 20:15)
- No tears (Rev 21:4)
- No night (Rev 22:5)
- No sin and evil (Rev 21:27)
- No pain (Rev 21:22)

Revelation 21:27—Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

### **New Heavens and Earth**

- Because the present creation is tainted by \_\_\_\_\_, God will destroy it and recreate it.

Isaiah 65:17—“Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.”

2 Peter 3:10-13—<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. <sup>11</sup> . . . That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. <sup>13</sup> But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

*1000 Years*—Students of Scripture hold differing opinions on whether the new heavens and new earth will be actual replacements of the present heavens and earth, or the current ones made like new through restoration (p. 111).

- “New heavens” does not refer to heaven as the place where God dwells, but to the physical \_\_\_\_\_ of stars, planets, and galaxies.
- The most notable aspect of the new Earth God will create is that it will not have \_\_\_\_\_.  
Revelation 21:1-7— . . . and there was no longer any sea.  
Approximately \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the present Earth’s surface is covered by water, so this will dramatically expand Earth’s habitable land area for human beings.
- There may be no sun or moon, and there definitely will be no \_\_\_\_\_.  
Revelation 21:23—The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.  
Revelation 21:25—On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.
- Environmental conditions around the new Earth may mirror those of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

### **The New Jerusalem**

Revelation 21:2—I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

*1000 Years*—Christians widely believe John’s vision was of heaven itself, and the features he describes are things many believers expect to see in heaven, including gates of pearl and streets of gold. . . . John presents this gleaming city as the centerpiece of the new earth and the home of all God’s people in the eternal state (pp. 112-113).

Michael Houdman—The eternal dwelling place of believers will be the new earth. The new earth is the “heaven” on which we will spend eternity. It is the new earth where the New Jerusalem, the heavenly city, will be located. It is on the new earth that the pearly gates and streets of gold will be.

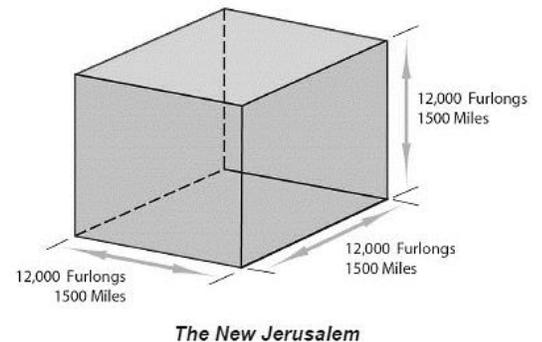
- The New Jerusalem is also called the ‘ \_\_\_\_\_ (Revelation 21:10).

- The New Jerusalem will be the “\_\_\_\_\_” most believers today think of.
- This is the “\_\_\_\_\_” Jesus said He went to prepare for God’s people.

John 14:1-3—<sup>1</sup>“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

- It will be a perfect \_\_\_\_\_, accommodating about two million square miles of ground space.

Charles Ryrie—Shaped foursquare like a cube, the city is 1,380 miles on each face, including height, with a wall 72 yards thick. It has been calculated that even if only 25 percent of this space were used for dwellings, 20 billion people could be accommodated spaciouly.



### **The Curse Repealed Entirely**

Revelation 22:3—No longer will there be any curse. . . .

*1000 Years*—As we have seen . . . during the Millennium God will begin to lift the curse He pronounced upon creation when Adam and Eve sinned in Eden. As we saw in Chapter 3, this partial removal of the curse will probably apply only to the land of Israel at first. But, in the eternal state, God will lift the curse entirely from all His creation. . . . God’s removal of the Curse will impact every aspect of life in the new earth. His perfecting of the natural world will have been limited to Palestine during the Millennium, but in the eternal state, it will extend to every corner of the globe. Every trace of the curse will vanish, including destructive storms and earthquakes, droughts and famine, sickness and disease, and predation in nature (pp. 113, 114).

Revelation 21:4—“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Kendall Easley—The last thought could also be translated, ‘The former things are gone.’ No greater statement of the end of one kind of existence and the beginning of a new one can be found in Scripture.

### **CONCLUSION—SO MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO!**

Grant R. Jeffrey—The greatest adventure we could ever imagine awaits us in the coming kingdom of Christ.

Psalms 16:11—You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

**Four blessings believers will experience in the Millennium and the eternal state**

1. Eternally fulfilling \_\_\_\_\_.

This will result from the absence of sin, which has always produced interpersonal conflict, isolation, and loneliness.

2. Eternal enjoyment of \_\_\_\_\_.

Psalm 27:4—One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ forever.

*1000 Years*—Few words in any language evoke emotions as heartfelt and profound as the word “home.” For believers in Christ, virtually no other word so keenly embodies our expectations of what spending eternity with our Lord will be like (p. 124).

Revelation 21:3—And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.”

Warsan Shire—Maybe home is somewhere I’m going and never have been before.

4. Perfect \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 8:23— . . . we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

*1000 Years*—In the eternal state, you will live in the Father’s presence and serve Him alongside countless fellow believers and angels in a world of unimaginable purity, beauty, and glory. You will not recall anything ungodly or evil, and you will have no recollection of sadness, loneliness, or anxiety, because God will mercifully purge all such memories from your mind (p. 127).