

December 30

Scriptures: Read Revelation 21

Key Verse: “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. 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.’“ (Revelation 21:3,4)

Overview

Suddenly, there is great excitement as the Lord declares, “I am making everything new!” The old heaven and earth give way to “a new heaven and a new earth” (v.1). And, somehow suspended between the two, the “new Jerusalem” appears.

This new city is called “the bride, the wife of the Lamb” (v.9). It has huge dimensions (a 1400 mile cube! That’s 27,440,000 cubic miles!) and it is overwhelmingly beautiful (v.11-21). It is always daytime there, and there’s no temple, for God and the Lamb are its light and its Temple (v.22-25).

The new Jerusalem, as mentioned above, is somehow “suspended” between the new heaven and the new earth, for the “nations ... and the kings of the earth” have access to it — they “bring their splendor into it” (v.24). These gentiles must be those from every nation (7:9 — including their leaders) who have embraced Christ and “whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life” (v.27).

It’s an exciting prospect. Life will be made new. And we will be fit to live both in the new Jerusalem and on the new earth. There will be no more sin, no more sorrow, and no more pollution. In a very real sense, it will be “heaven on earth”.

Prayer

What a joy to love and serve You, Lord Jesus. There is no doubt in our hearts that You have overcome all the evil results of the fall of our first parents and the results of our own sinfulness. You are truly worthy — worthy — worthy! All worship belongs to You and You alone.