

Revelation 21:1-8 - New and Improved

Intro.- Many years ago ('70's) a country music star had a song that he called the perfect C & W song. It touched on all the necessities for that genre. The singer even mentions that his name will be called out on Jesus' judgment day. I don't know if the perfect sermon is possible but there would be certain necessities in its content, and it used to be said that 3 points and a poem were required in its delivery.

Well, today's message talks about the new heaven and new earth...eternal state of bliss when God makes all things new. It tells us who get into this Paradise/heaven (defines those who gain entrance) It also tells who is excluded from this new order of things (confined in hell) - 3 very important points.

WHATS NEW WHO'S IN WHO'S OUT (might throw in a poem at the end)

Not a perfect sermon but an important sermon to give hope for the future... believe...don't be deceived

WHAT'S NEW?

1. New heaven and a new earth 21:1 (monumentous statement- new in quality- better)
 - a. And old promise to make things new Isaiah 65:17 Isaiah 66:21 Rev. 21:5
 - b. The present heaven and earth will pass away 21:1 Matt. 24:35
 - i. This creation is reserved for fire 2 Peter 3:7 roar - 2 Peter 3:10
 - ii. 2 Peter 3:13 Anyone ready for a remodel? (eye hath not seen - 1 Cor. 2:9)
2. New environment 21:1b no longer any sea
 - a. This is some serious remodel for the sea dominates our world (70% covered)
 - b. Topography changed. World totally inhabitable
 - c. No more water cycle/clouds/ storms/rain
 - i. Those who look for life on other planets look for water..... eternal life = no sea
3. New City the New Jerusalem 21:2
 - a. Often the eternal state is thought of as "floating on a cloud" - heaven = busy, active city
 - b. Heaven is more earthly than we imagine.
 - i. Correlation to the now - "Jerusalem" but new and holy
 - c. Heaven comes down to earth. Now the redeemed go up, but then heaven comes down
 - i. Jesus said He would prepare a place for us John 14:2
 - ii. Abraham longed for city - Heb. 11:10, 16 Heb. 12:22-23 (what a city!)
4. New Relationship with God 21:3
 - a. Now there is a separation between heaven and earth, between God and men
 - i. Man lost that close communion with his Creator
 - ii. Interactions were veiled. Relate by faith not sight
 - b. In the New that separation will be gone. Heaven will come down and God will dwell
 - i. The walks and talks will be tangible and audible
 - ii. New covenant reality in the new heavens and new earth. Jer. 31:33-34

5. New reality 21:4
- a. We are very familiar with: "that's life" Murphy's law, no pain no gain, need a good cry
 - i. That is the old (present) order of things. God is making all things NEW!
 - b. Tears wiped away by Creator ("why's" will be answered) in the know with no more tears
 - c. Death will die. What a funeral (20:14) "The Death of Death in the Death of Christ"
 - d. No more pain. "No pain no gain" to "no pain"
 - e. Frustration, despair, sorrow, tears.....will pass away. Old gone. New has come!
 - f. Just so we won't think this is too good to be true - 21:5

WHO'S IN?

It is imperative to note who gets entrance into this blessed existence. Two important descriptors

- Those who are THIRSTY 21:6
 - o Thirst can become an all encompassing paramount desire
 - o Matt. 5:6 Psalm 42:1-2
 - o Open invitation for the needy who crave communion with God, forgiveness and life
 - o No sea in new heaven and new earth but there is the spring of the water of life
- Those who are VICTORIOUS 21:7 the overcomer's , those who endure
 - o This was the message to each of the churches at beginning of this book
 - To the one who is victorious.....
 - o He who endures to the end that will be saved. Matt. 24:13 (Heb.3:14; 1 John 5:4)
 - Many start the race but only those who finish will inherit

WHO'S OUT

21:8 Defines those who are excluded by what defines them

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| 1. Cowardly - Matt. 13:20-21(not endure) | 5. Sexually immoral |
| 2. Unbelieving no faith | 6. Those who practice magic arts |
| 3. Vile perverted | 7. Idolaters (religious) |
| 4. Murders 1 John 3:15 | 8. Liars (love falsehood) |

Jesus ends this book with a similar list/warning-22:15.

The Bible is consistent 1 Cor. 6:9-11

good news balance by bad news both sides of coin important. You can't have
 heaven without hell or eternal life without eternal death. Both require each others existence

3 points - WHAT'S NEW? WHO'S IN? WHO'S OUT? Now the poem