

I. INTRODUCTION

In Revelation 1:1-3, The apostle John, writing from the island of Patmos where he was exiled, recorded the revelation of Jesus Christ concerning the events that will take place in the Last Days. It depicts the end of the world as we know it, -to be-replaced by a new heaven and new earth. This will happen after the second coming of Christ, after the rapture (Christians caught in the air to meet Jesus Christ) and tribulation, after the millennium, and after Satan and the demons are thrown into the lake of fire.

II. BIBLE READINGS

Revelation 21:1 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. 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. 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. 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." 5 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." 6 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. 7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars- their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death." (NIV)

III. DISCUSSION

A. The New Order (vv. 1-5)

1. In v. 1, what did John see? Why did the first heaven and first earth pass away?
2. Where does the Holy City come from? (v. 2) Why is it described as "prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband"?
3. How is the intimate relationship of God and His people described in vv. 3-4?
4. Take a moment to imagine what it means to have "God live with men". Imagine the most wonderful person you've ever known, spending not just 1 week or 1 year, but eternity with you. How does it feel?
5. What should be our attitude/response to all these wonderful events that will occur? How do these affect us?
6. How did John know that what he saw and heard will really come true? (v. 5)
7. So far we have looked at heaven from man's perspective - how it affects us. But who is really the most important person in heaven? What do we learn about Him in vv. 1-5?
8. How does knowing these things help us worship Him now?

B. The Final Accounting (vv. 6-8)

1. How does God describe Himself? (v. 6)
2. What does it mean that He is "the Alpha and the Omega"?
3. How does knowing God is in control of history help us now?

4. Who shall inherit all that God has prepared? (v. 7)

IV. REFLECTION:

1. Am I one of the “overcomers” (victorious ones)?
2. What are the things I should overcome?
3. What does it mean for me to be His son?
4. Who is to be placed in the fiery lake? (v. 8) Why is it so?
5. But everybody, Christians included, has committed some of these offenses one time or another, in thought if not in deed. Does it mean everybody is doomed to go to hell? Why or why not?
6. What is the meaning of the “second death”
7. Knowing this, how should Christians respond?
8. What do we learn about God in vv. 6-8
9. Again, let us praise and worship Him, mentioning every attribute specifically.

V. CONCLUSION

Now that I have a good idea of what heaven is like, am I ready to meet God face to face? What can I present to Him on that day - my life which has been pleasing to Him . . . the fruits of my work . . . people whom I have led to Christ How pleased will He be with me?