The Eternal State

PART I
Revelation 21:1-8


Its Context (1-2).

- This is not a refurbished earth like the millennium, but a brand new heaven and earth (5; Isa. 65:17; 66:22; Matt. 19:28).
- The present “elements will melt in the heat” (2 Pet. 3:10, 12).
- No more sea – danger, storms, separation, and the home of all evil (Gen. 1:2; Leviathan [Psa. 74:13-14]; Rahab [Psa. 89:9-10]; Antichrist – the beast from the sea [13:1]). Moses (Ex. 14:21-22) and Jesus (Matt. 8:26) had power over the sea.
- The Holy City is holy (27), prepared (John 14:2-3), and beautiful (Eph. 5:26-27). It is “the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God” (Heb. 12:22-23).
- It is adorned (GK = kosmos – cosmetic), coming down out of heaven (10; 3:12). How opposite this is from “formless, empty, and darkness” (Gen. 1:2).

Its Citizens (3-8).

They are described (1-4). Only those from the Book of Life (27).

- No more loneliness: At long last, after being banished from Eden where man walked with God (Gen. 3:23), friendship is reestablished (2 Cor. 5:18-20). God will tabernacle (Ezek. 37:27; Zech. 2:10; John 1:14) among us (Eph. 2:21-22).
- No more tears: He will wipe away every tear (7:17; Isa. 25:8).
- No more death: Death will be swallowed up (Isa. 25:8; 1 Cor. 15:54-55).
- No more mourning: Gladness instead of mourning (Isa. 61:3).
- No more crying: Rejoicing and delight will be God’s people (Isa. 65:18-19).
- No more pain: The pain of childbirth and toiling (Gen. 3:16-17) will be no more (Isa. 66:7). Past troubles will be forgotten (Isa. 43:18; 65:16b, 17b).

They are informed (5). Just as the veil was torn in two when Jesus died, opening a new and living way (Heb. 10:19-20), now all is made new.

They are satisfied (6). Jesus finishes what he begins (John 19:30) – from A (alpha) to Z (omega). Those who thirst spiritually are satisfied without cost (Eph. 2:8-9) from the springs of the water of life (22:17; Isa. 53:11; 55:1-2).

They are overcomers (7-8). Those who overcome with Christ (2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21) will inherit all this. In contrast, those who succumb are cowards (persecution?), unbelievers, vile (27), murderers, sexually immoral, practice magic arts (GK = farmakois – pharmacy, drugs), idolators, and liars. The place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur.