

## Revelation 21:1-8 “All Things New”

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**Truth:** God and redeemed humanity will dwell together forever. God will be glorified, and His peoples' longing for eternal peace, life, and fellowship with God will be satisfied.

### 1. The Text

### 2. Theological Systems: Relation to Dispensationalism

- A. Dispensationalism is a so-called “discontinuity system.” But this can be taken too far.
- B. God sovereignly arranges the affairs of his world as He pleases.
- C. The divisions or arrangements (“dispensations”) are in a staircase arrangement.
- D. The Kingdom of God is the grand unifier of the theological system.
- E. Definition of Dispensational Theology.

### 3. Introduction and Need for This Passage

- 1. In a way, this text is straightforward. Yet it presents some difficulties.
- 2. Potential limits on the full appreciation of the text.

### 4. Context

- 1. Prior context: Tribulation and millennial kingdom.
- 2. Upcoming context: Eternal state of the righteous detailed. 21:1-8 are somewhat of a summary.
- 3. John’s setting: caught up in a heavenly vision, seeing and hearing what he then records for us.

### 5. Interpretive Issues

- A. Overall interpretive scheme: futurist, premillennial, pre-tribulational, dispensational (see 5 below).
- B. Genre: the last part of the book is not so symbolic as to be impossible to interpret.
- C. Order of events: same order in which John presents them (Revelation 19-22).
- D. Extent of the new creation: thoroughgoing.
- E. No more sea: read it plainly.
- F. The bride language: a spotless, beautiful city.
- G. People of God: The saved of all ages dwelling together in the new heaven and earth. No eternal “segregation.”

H. Location and nature of New Jerusalem. An actual city on an actual earth.

## **6. Out with the Bad (v. 4, 8)**

A. Removal of the Consequences of Sin

1. The consequences removed: every tear, death, sorrow, crying, pain.
2. How they are removed.
3. Application.

B. Removal of Unbelieving Sinners

1. Revelation 20:11-15, 21:8, 21:27, 22:15, 22:18-19.
2. Supporting texts: Gal. 5:19-21, 1 Cor. 6:9-10, Eph. 5:5-6.

C. Removal of the bad is necessary for the blessedness of God's people.

D. Removal of the bad is necessary for God's glory.

## **7. Emphasis on Co-Dwelling of God with Mankind (v. 3, 6-7)**

A. The main message is that the dwelling of God will be forever with men.

B. God dwelling with man is not a new thing: it has happened in a limited way until now.

C. But *this* in Revelation 21 *is* new.

D. This co-dwelling has been prophesied for millennia and is a key to unlocking the center of Biblical theology.

E. The presence of God brings blessing.

F. God is all in all: the focus is on God, not on us.

## **Conclusion**