

Holiness Completed Final part of the series, "Set Apart: Experiencing God's Best" Bishop Manny Carlos Sunday, January 28, 2024 | Main Campus - 7:30 am, 9:15 am, 11:15 am

Revelation 21:1-8 ESV

John's vision in Revelation of a new heaven and a new earth comes after God's saving work in Christ to redeem a holy people has been completed at the great white throne of judgment, whose names have been written in the Lamb's book of life.

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. (Isaiah 65:17 ESV)

The new heaven and earth, centered upon the new holy city of Jerusalem, where God and His people would dwell in unending fellowship, are symbolized in four ways:

1. A Vibrant City

"Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for there shall no more come into you the uncircumcised and the unclean. (Isaiah 52:1 ESV)

"And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life." (Revelation 21:23-27 ESV)

2. An Adorned Bride

"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels." (Isaiah 61:10 ESV)

"Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, 'Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.' ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal." (Revelation 21:9-11 ESV)



3. An Accessible Temple

"And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb." (Revelation 21:22 ESV)

4. A Larger Garden of Eden

"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him." (Revelation 22:1-3 ESV)