

# “We Built This City”

## Revelation 21:1-8

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / November 23, 2025

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**Revelation 21:1-8** “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.’

<sup>5</sup> And He who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’ Also He said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ <sup>6</sup> And He said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. <sup>7</sup> The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be His God and He will be my son. <sup>8</sup> But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.’”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

### I. Revelation 21 is the completion of a long story you’re in the middle of right now.

**Eden** — God’s original design (unhindered fellowship)

**Tabernacle** — God among His people

**Jesus** — God with us

**Holy Spirit** — God in us ← ← ← **You are here**

**New Creation** — God’s original design restored forever!

### II. Even if you’re loving life, you should be longing for heaven.

**Here’s why...**

A. It’s one of the clearest signs that someone truly belongs to Christ.

**Luke 12:34** “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

B. You’ll receive a glorified body.

**Philippians 3:20-21** "...we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body..."

C. It forms the best and most beautiful kind of **Christian character**.

**Colossians 3:2-5, 12** "Set your minds on things that are above... <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God...<sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory...<sup>5</sup> Put to death what is earthly...<sup>12</sup> put on compassion, kindness, humility..."

D. It has a way of **guarding us from sin**.

**Romans 8:5-6** "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace."

E. It will bring **joy and comfort in trials**.

**2 Corinthians 4:17-18** "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

F. It keeps our **service to Christ vibrant**.

**1 Corinthians 15:58** "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

*The most heavenly-minded Christians aren't checked out — they show up with the most joy, the most grit, and the most love.*

### **III. God will use you to call future citizens to the new Jerusalem!**

**Revelation 21:7-8** "The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. <sup>8</sup> But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

A. Nobody is neutral. Everyone will experience one of these eternal realities.

a. Life with God (Rev. 21:5-7)

b. Separation from God (Rev. 21:8)

B. The new Jerusalem is a place of safety and separation.

a. "It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates..." (Rev. 21:12)

C. Right now, the invitation is still open.

a. "The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.' And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desire take the water of life without price." (Rev. 22:17)

D. God makes His appeal through His people.

a. "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." (2 Cor. 5:20)

b. "And how are they to hear without someone preaching?" (Rom. 10:14)

**This week** → Read **Revelation 21:1–8** every morning. Slow down over verses 4–7. Sit with verse 8. Pray: "Lord, help me long for Your city, live like a citizen of Your kingdom, and use my life and my words to lead others to You. Give me courage, confidence, and compassion as I speak, and help me make the most of the time while the invitation still stands."

**Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group discussion:**

1. Scripture refers to heaven over 500 times. Revelation alone mentions heaven about 50 times. How often do you think of heaven?
2. On a scale of 1-10, how much would you say you're longing for heaven?  
(1 = very little, 10 = a lot) (Also Pastor Peter says "Whole numbers only!") 😊
3. Pastor Peter said "If you're having trouble looking forward to heaven, try thinking about what it lacks." Read Rev. 21:4. Today, which of those things are you most thankful will not be in heaven?
4. Revelation 21 gives us a picture of *who* will be in the New Jerusalem and *who* won't (vv. 7–8). How does that contrast affect the way you think about the people in your life who don't know Christ?
5. God's eternal home for His people is a city filled with people from every tribe, tongue, and nation. How does that picture challenge or encourage the way you think about the people around you right now?