

Happily Ever After

1. We were not made for futility

Rev. 21:1 ¶ 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**.

new heaven, new earth

- Rom 8:18-23 (look beyond the futility)

2. We were not made for separation

Rev. 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev. 21:3 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.

dwelling of God is with man

- Gen 2:16-17; 3:8-12, 22-24 (look beyond the separation)

3. We were not made for tears

Rev. 21:4 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."

tears

- Jn 11:28-35 (look beyond the tears)

4. We were made for something better

Rev. 21:5 ¶ 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."

Rev. 21:6 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.

Rev. 21:7 The one who **conquers** will have this **heritage**, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

Rev. 21:8 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."

all things new

- 2 Cor 5:16-17 (all things new)

- 2 cor 5:1-5 (began with us)

- 1 Cor 15:35-55 (all things imperishable)

conquers

- Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 1 jn 5:4-5

heritage

- 2 Pet 3:10-13 (waiting for our heritage)

5. We were made for intimacy

Rev. 21:9 ¶ 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."

Rev. 21:10 And 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, Rev. 21:11 having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

one of the seven

- Rev 17:1 (contrast with Babylon)

the bride

- Rev 19:6-8 (a city is its people)

- Jn 14:1-3 (in communion)

- Jn 17:20-26 (no more loneliness)

6. we were made for significance

Rev. 21:12 It had a great, high wall, with twelve **gates**, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve **tribes** of the sons of Israel were inscribed—

Rev. 21:13 on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.

Rev. 21:14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve **apostles** of the Lamb.

gates

- John 4:19-22 (made for significance)

tribes/apostles

- Eph 2:11-22 (no alienation)

7. we were made for holiness

Rev. 21:15 ¶ And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls.

Rev. 21:16 The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia (1500 miles). Its length and width and height are **equal**. (2.25 million square miles)

Rev. 21:17 He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement.

equal

- 1 kings 6:20 (heavenly holy of holies)

8. we were made for prosperity

Rev. 21:18 The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

Rev. 21:19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with **every kind of jewel**. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald,

Rev. 21:20 the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoptase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

Rev. 21:21 And **the twelve gates were twelve pearls**, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

every kind of jewel; 12 pearls

- Matt 13:44-46 (no more poverty)

9. we were made for light

Rev. 21:22 ¶ And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

Rev. 21:23 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.

Rev. 21:24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it,

Rev. 21:25 and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.

Rev. 21:26 They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

Rev. 21:27 But 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.

Rev. 22:1 ¶ 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

Rev. 22:2 through 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.

Rev. 22:3 No 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.

Rev. 22:4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

Rev. 22:5 And **night will be no more**. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

no night

- John 13:30 (it was night)

- Rom 13:11-12 (but the night is far gone)

- Col 1:13 (transferred to light)

- 1 Thess 5:4-5 (we are children of the day)

Happily Ever After

intro:

what is the answer for tears
what is the answer for terrorism
what is the answer for the terribleness of this world
the cross do you believe it?

Problem:

Phil 3:19-21

we tend to focus on earthly things
but YOLO doesn't erase the futility, rebellion, tears, death, pain and mourning
loneliness, alienation, profanity, poverty and darkness of this life
but our citizenship is in Heaven

Col 3:1-4

we must set our mind on the things above - but what does that even look like? how can we look forward to Heaven
when we have no idea what it is like

...Rev 21 shows us that

Main Idea:

We were not made for futility
We were not made for separation
We were not made for tears
We were made for something better
We were made for intimacy
We were made for significance
We were made for holiness
We were made for prosperity
We were made for light

Implication:

and it is already shining - 1 Jn 2:7-8

Application:

set your mind on the happy ending- Heb 11:8-16
look past your tears, your pain, sorrow death
look past your loneliness, your alienation, your profaneness, your poverty and your darkness
and worship Him here

end:

Heaven is surely more than a state of mind- but it is not less

Articles for further study:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/new-jerusalem.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/new-heavens-earth.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/heaven-like.html>

notes:1.

the new heaven and the new earth created (21:1)

21:1. The opening verses of chapter 21 describe the creation of the new heaven and the new earth, which chronologically follows the thousand-year reign of Christ described in chapter 20. Chapter 21 begins with the familiar words I saw, an expression repeated in verse 2 (cf. v. 22, "I did not see"). This new creation is described as a **new heaven and a new earth**. That it is a totally new heaven and a new earth, and not the present heaven and earth renovated, is supported by the additional statement, **for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away** (also see comments on 20:11). An amazingly small amount of information is given about the new heaven and the new earth. But one major fact is stated in this verse: **there was no longer any sea**.

In contrast with the present earth, which has most of its surface covered by water, no large body of water will be on the new earth. The Bible is silent, however, on any features of the first heaven except the statement in 21:23 that there will be no sun or moon and, by implication, no stars. The new heaven refers not to the abode of God, but to the earth's atmosphere and planetary space.

No landmarks whatever are given concerning the new earth, and nothing is known of its characteristics, vegetation, color, or form. The implication, however, is that it is round and is the residence of all who are saved. A few other references are found in Scripture in relation to the new earth, including Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; and 2 Peter 3:10-13.

Because in some of these passages the Millennium is also discussed, expositors have often confused the eternal state with the Millennium. However, the principle is well established in Scripture that distant events are often telescoped together. Examples of this are Isaiah 61:1-2 (cf. Luke 4:17-19), which speaks of the first and second comings of Christ together, and Daniel 12:2, which mentions the resurrection of the righteous and of the wicked together even though, according to Revelation 20:5, they will be separated by a thousand years. Sometimes even the chronological order is reversed, as in Isaiah 65:17-25 (vv. 17-19 refer to the new heaven and new earth whereas vv. 20-25 clearly refer to the Millennium). End-time events are all also brought in close proximity in 2 Peter 3:10-13, where the beginning and the end of the day of the Lord are mentioned in the same passage.

Though expositors have differed on this point, the principle that clear passages should be used to explain obscure passages supports the conclusion that the second coming of Christ is followed by a thousand-year reign on earth, and this in turn is followed by a new heaven and new earth, the dwelling place of the saints for eternity. With the absence of any geographic identification and the absence of a sea, the new earth will obviously be entirely different. By contrast, the sea is mentioned many times in relation to the Millennium (e.g., Ps. 72:8; Isa. 11:9, 11; Ezek. 47:8-20; 48:28; Zech. 9:10; 14:8). The evidence is conclusive that the new heaven and new earth are not to be confused with the Millennium.

John F. Walvoord, "Revelation," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 983-984.