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# GRASPING REDEMPTION

## HEAVEN

PEACE FOR TODAY — HOPE FOR TOMORROW

**Week 3**  
CHAPTERS 8-10

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*HEAVEN*  
PEACE FOR TODAY  
HOPE FOR TOMORROW

## SCRIPTURE

- ❖ REVELATION 21:1-4
- ❖ REVELATION 21:9-14
- ❖ REVELATION 21:18-23
- ❖ REVELATION 21:15-17
- ❖ REVELATION 22:1-5

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# THIS WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME ...

## OR IS IT?

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## OUR LONGING FOR EDEN

- ❖ We are homesick for Eden
- ❖ We long for a return to Paradise — **a perfect world**, without the corruption of sin, where God walks with us and talks with us in the cool of the day.
- ❖ **God promises us exactly that** — a home that will not be destroyed, a kingdom that will not fade, a city with unshakable foundations, and an incorruptible inheritance.

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# OUR ETERNAL HOME



## REVELATION 21:1-4

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. I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.

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## HEAVEN ON EARTH

"God will make the new earth his dwelling place.... **Heaven and earth will then no longer be separated as they are now, but they will be one.**"

**Anthony Hoekema**

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# HEAVEN ON EARTH

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"Our destiny is an earthly one: **a new earth, an earth redeemed and transfigured**. An earth reunited with heaven, but an earth, nevertheless."

**Paul Marshall**

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Are there any clues as to what the  
**ETERNAL HEAVEN**  
will be like?

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# NEW EARTH

The New Earth  
needs a great  
capital city!

- God doesn't promise us a non-Earth. He promises us a **New Earth**.
- If the word Earth in Rev. 21:1 means anything, it means that we can expect to find earthly things there—including **atmosphere, mountains, water, trees, people, houses—even cities, buildings, and streets.**
- Inhabited by Believers **with gifts, skills, and talents, just like we have today, but likely even better.**

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# NEW ENDURING CAPITAL

## HEBREWS 11:10

For he was looking forward to **the city** that has foundations, whose **architect and builder is God**.

## HEBREWS 13:14

For we do not have **an enduring city** here; instead, we seek the one to come.

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# GLORIOUS SIGHT TO BEHOLD

## REVELATION 21:9-14

<sup>9</sup>Then one of the seven angels, who had held the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues, came and spoke with me: "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." <sup>10</sup>He then 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, <sup>11</sup>arrayed with God's glory. Her **radiance** was like a **precious** jewel, like a jasper stone, **clear** as crystal. <sup>12</sup>The city had a **massive** high wall, with twelve gates. Twelve angels were at the gates; the names of the twelve tribes of Israel's sons were inscribed on the gates. <sup>13</sup>There were three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. <sup>14</sup>The city wall had twelve foundations, and the twelve **names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb** were on the foundations.

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# NEW CITY

Then the one seated  
on the throne said,  
"Look, I am making  
everything new."

Rev. 21:5

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## REVELATION 21:18-23

<sup>18</sup>The building material of its wall was jasper, and the city was pure gold clear as glass. <sup>19</sup>The foundations of the city wall were adorned with every kind of jewel: the first foundation is jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, <sup>20</sup>the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. <sup>21</sup>The twelve gates are twelve pearls; each individual gate was made of a single pearl. The main street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.

<sup>22</sup>I did not see a temple in it, because the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup>The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because the glory of God illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

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# NEW CITY

Then the one seated  
on the throne said,  
"Look, I am making  
everything new."

Rev. 21:5

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## BUILDING MATERIALS (Rev. 21:18-21)

### ➤ Walls:

- Jasper (red)
- Pure gold (clear as glass)

### ➤ Foundations (12):

- Jasper
- Sapphire
- Chalcedony
- Emerald
- Sardonyx
- Carnelian
- Chrysolite
- Beryl
- Topaz
- Chrysoprase
- Jacinth
- Amethyst



*Doesn't need the sun or the  
moon for lighting.*

### ➤ Gates (12): Solid pearl, made of a single pearl each

### ➤ Streets: Pure gold (transparent as glass)

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# MASSIVE CAPITAL CITY



**1,500 MILES ACROSS EACH WAY  
792,000 STORIES TALL**

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<sup>15</sup>The one who spoke with me had a golden measuring rod to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. <sup>16</sup>The city is laid out in a square; its length and width are the same. He measured the city with the rod at 12,000 stadia. Its length, width, and height are equal. <sup>17</sup>Then he measured its wall, 144 cubits according to human measurement, which the angel used.

## Revelation 21:15-17

*From the Canadian border to the Mexican border  
From the Appalachian Mountains to the California Border*

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# THE SOURCE OF LIFE

**Revelation 22:1-5**

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<sup>1</sup>Then he showed me **the river of the water of life**, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>down the middle of the city's main street. **The tree of life** was on each side of the river, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree are for healing the nations, <sup>3</sup>and there will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship him. <sup>4</sup>They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>Night will be no more; people will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will give them light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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# THE NEW EARTH

- God always sees us in light of what he intended us to be, and he always seeks to restore us to that design.
- He sees the **earth in terms of what he intended it to be**, and he seeks to restore it to its original design.

**God has never surrendered his title deed to the earth. He owns it—and he will not relinquish it to his enemies.**

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## EARTH REDEEMED

**God's  
Renewal Plan**

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### GOD IS IN THE SALVAGE BUSINESS

**Reconcile – Redeem – Restore – Recover**  
**Return – Renew – Regenerate – Resurrect**

All of these biblical words begin with the **re-** prefix, suggesting a return to an original condition that was ruined or lost.

- **Redeem** means to buy back what was formerly owned.
- **Reconcile** means to restore or reestablish a prior friendship or unity.
- **Renew** means to make new again, restoring to an original state.
- **Resurrect** means becoming physically alive again, after death.

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# THE EXTENT OF REDEMPTION

*"Whatever sin has touched and polluted, **God will redeem and cleanse**. If redemption does not go as far as the curse of sin, then God has failed. **Whatever the extent of the consequences of sin, so must the extent of redemption be.**"*

Steven J. Lawson

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**PRESENT  
HEAVEN**

## WAITING FOR THE RIGHT TIME

- ✓ Peter preached that Christ "must remain in heaven **until the time comes for God to restore everything**, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets."  
(Acts 3:21)

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## The New Earth is the Old Earth Restored

Jesus will come from Heaven to Earth, not to take us away from Earth to Heaven, but to restore Earth to what he intended so He can live with us here forever.

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**HEAVEN**  
PEACE FOR TODAY  
HOPE FOR TOMORROW

**WE LONG FOR EDEN BECAUSE WE WERE MADE TO DWELL THERE WITH GOD FOREVER**

**GOD HAS GIVEN US MANY CLUES AS TO THE NATURE OF OUR ETERNAL HOME**

**WE LIVE IN THE IN-BETWEEN TIME, WAITING FOR JESUS TO RESTORE ALL THINGS**

**THE REDEMPTION OF EARTH IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF GOD'S PLAN**

**THE NEW EARTH WILL BE EVEN GRANDER THAN THE OLD EARTH WAS IN THE BEGINNING**

**BUT THE NEW HEAVEN IS NOT OUR DEFAULT DESTINATION, ONLY BELIEVERS MAY ENTER.**

**A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO ENTER HEAVEN.**

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# ANTICIPATING RESURRECTION

## HEAVEN

PEACE FOR TODAY — HOPE FOR TOMORROW

**Week 4**  
CHAPTERS 11-13

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