



# The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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**Jim Hoffman**

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:1-5

- **You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. 2 For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. 3 They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. 4 They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. 5 They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly.**

# Chapter 21

- **“If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.” C.S. Lewis**
- **We live in a world that is increasingly hostile to Christians and Christian beliefs. (hostile to the truth)**
- **If there were no hope, it would be intolerable, but we have the real hope of a Savior who will come and set things right.**



# Chapter 21

- **Eccl 3:9 What do people really get for all their hard work? 10 I have seen the burden God has placed on us all. 11 Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.**
- **It would seem that God has given all of us an innate sense that what we see is temporary, we sense it, and we know it.**
- **In fact, when we objectively evaluate the “here and now”, we long for the things that last, and that are real – the very things that God has promised.**

# Chapter 21

- **And this I have found to be true – the more we see and understand of our present conditions, the more we long for heaven.**
- **We have lived so long in this world that we have accepted that life is hard, that injustice surrounds us, and that we must lock our doors at night because our world is filled with violence.**
- **But deep within us we have the witness of the Holy Spirit saying to us, “hold on, hold fast, and look for His coming” for when He comes, the old will fade away and the new will appear.**

# Chapter 21

- **Near the end of chapter 20 we read of the “un-creation” of the present earth – Rev 20:11 records for us that “earth and heaven fled away”.**
- **And I suggested that those words may refer to a reverse “big bang” wherein instead of the universe continuing to expand, it would very rapidly contract back to its origin.**
- **Every English translation of the Bible that I trust uses the phrase “fled away” instead of disappear, or some other phrase that might lead one to believe that the universe ceased to exist.**

# Chapter 21

- **So, I believe the “earth and heaven fled away” is to be taken literally for two reasons.**
- **1. There is no contextual language or reason to treat it as figurative or symbolic.**
- **2. With our current scientific advances we know that all of the stars and planets are now, in a sense, fleeing away from each other.**
- **What God once expanded, He may well contract and then explode it forth again.**



# Chapter 21

- **As Chapter 21 opens, John writes, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.”**
- **“Satan hates the New Heaven and the New Earth as much as a deposed dictator hates the new nation and new government that replaces his. Satan cannot stop Christ’s redemptive work, but he can keep us from seeing the breadth and depth of redemption that extends to the earth and beyond.”** Randy Alcorn



# Chapter 21

- Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, 4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” 5 And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He \*said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”

# Chapter 21

- **John writes, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth” because there was an air of familiarity to it, not that John was ever in space and could look back at earth, but because he had just seen the “earth and heaven flee away”.**
- **I think it makes some sense to say that he saw enough similarity between the two to link them together as nearly the same things.**
- **He saw the old flee away, and now he sees the new appear and to John these are same, except one was old, and the other was new.**

# Chapter 21

- **And then we have this phrase, “and there is no longer any sea”.**
- **When we get to verse #4 we will read these words, “there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain”, and no one will question the literalness of those words – so why do we struggle so with “and there is no longer any sea”?**
- **Because we do not see the “sea” as something that is painful, sad, or overtly destructive and wonder if God had something other than the literal meaning in mind.**

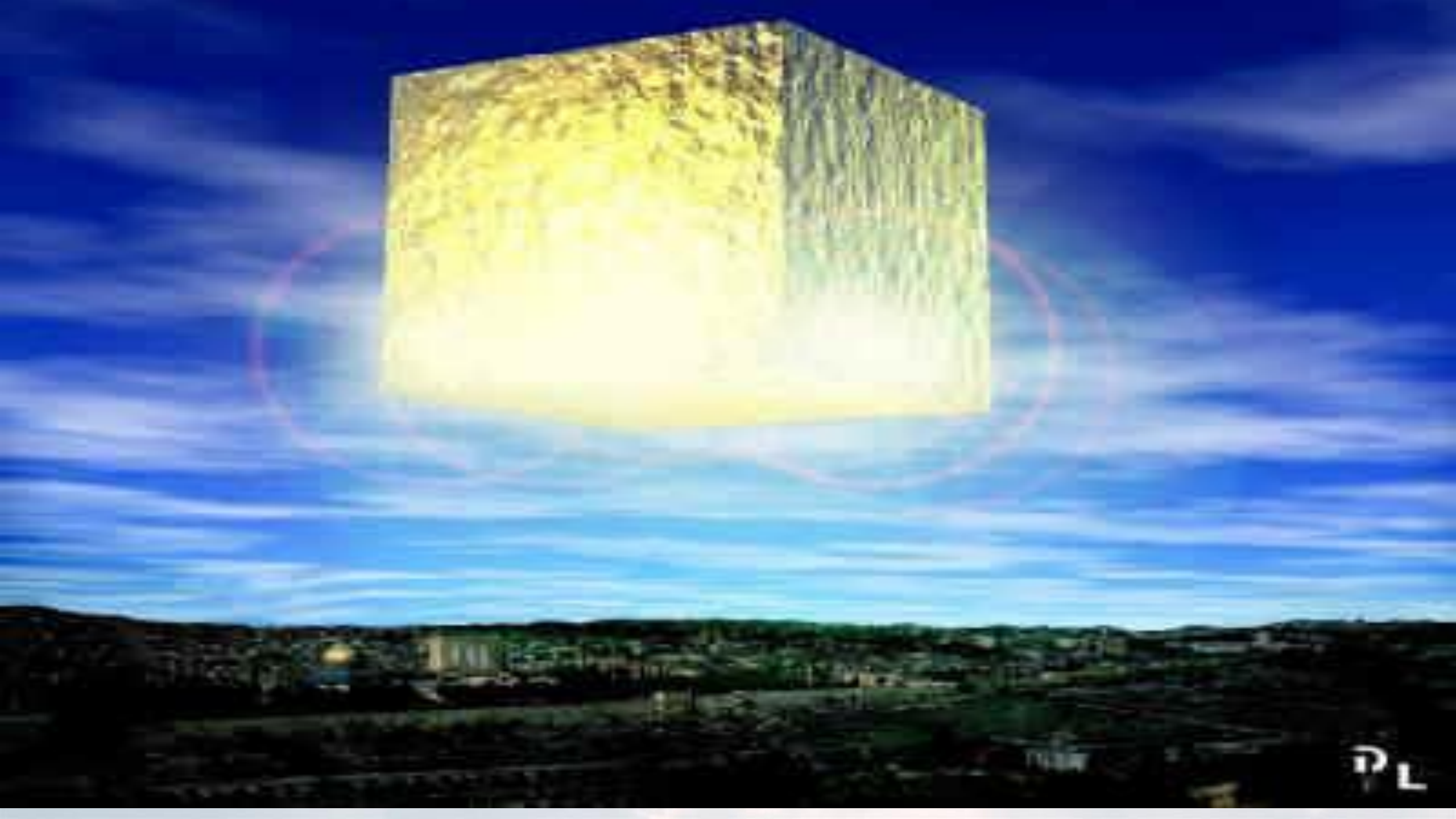
# Chapter 21

- **I confess that I do not know what to do with this phrase, “and there is no longer any sea”.**
- **Some believe that the new earth will not have seas as we know them – there is lots of evidence for water on the new earth, but not so for “seas”.**
- **A few believe that the new creation will not be so water based and so water dependent as this one is –  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the world is covered with water, and even our bodies are mostly water.**



# Chapter 21

- **Next we read, “2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.”.**
- **There is a distinct progression here – first John sees the new heaven and the new earth, then he sees something that is different and separate.**
- **Next he sees “the holy city, the new Jerusalem” descending to earth, and he describes the city as a bride adorned for her husband. (pure and beautiful)**



# Chapter 21

- **Next we read - 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them.”**
- **The day will come when God will live and dwell among His people again – and an important note here is this:**
- **While we often speak of going to heaven to be with God, His ultimate plan calls for Him to come and live with us on the new earth. (what Jesus did for a time in a sinful world, He will do forever in a restored world)**



# Chapter 21

- The “tabernacle of God” is just another way of saying the place where God dwells. It is such an overwhelming thought that John repeats the thought in different forms three times.
- “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them.”
- There is no ambiguity here – what God experienced in the Garden of Eden, He will experience again and what an absolutely staggering thought that this is God’s desire!



# Chapter 21

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 6:16** And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: "I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people." (this is now)
- It becomes rather obvious from scripture that it is God's desire to live in and among us.
- **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

# Chapter 21

- **4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”**  
**5 And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”**
- **Tears, death, mourning, crying, and pain will all be gone – these are the “first things” – the things that were never intended for the first creation, but became an everyday occurrence when sin was introduced.**

# Chapter 21

- **And then John writes, “Behold, I am making all things new.”**
- **The language here is difficult because the verb for “making” (poieo) is translated from the Greek to the English about 50 different ways in the Bible.**
- **So I am going to fall back on what I believe the Bible teaches – that Satan will not win the battle for the earth, and that what the devil soiled and damaged will be restored by an omnipotent God who can do anything.**

# Chapter 21

- **Acts 3:19** Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, *in order that times of refreshing* may come from the presence of the Lord; 20 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, 21 whom heaven must receive *until the period of restoration of all things* about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.
- “The Old Testament saints were not looking for a new Earth because it was all they could relate to. They were looking for a new Earth because that is what God promised.” Randy Alcorn



# Chapter 21

- **Let's focus for a few minutes on this phrase, "Behold, I am making all things new."**
- **Isaiah 65:17 "Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth, and no one will even think about the old ones anymore."**
- **In the redeemed universe no one will even think about this universe – it will evidently be gone from our memories and it will not come to mind. (for such memories would bring sadness)**

# Chapter 21

- **So think about this – everything is new.**
- **1<sup>st</sup> Cor 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.**
- **Rom 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.**

# Chapter 21

- **6 Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. 7 He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. 8 But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” 9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”**

# Chapter 21

- **John writes, ““It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.” and perhaps would have compared that to what Jesus said on the cross, “it is finished”.**
- **On the cross the work to accomplish our redemption was completed. In Rev 21, all of the acts of redemptive history are completed.**
- **When the one speaking identifies himself as the Alpha and the Omega, we know from Rev chapter 1 that is Jesus.**



# Chapter 21

- **Here John describes the two things that are true of all who will be with God as He tabernacles with people forever.**
- **Those who are “thirsty” and those who have “overcome”.**
- **These are descriptive words John uses of the people who will populate the new earth – they are thirsty, and they are overcomers.**

# Chapter 21

- **Matt 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.**
- **The people of Heaven will be those who were thirsty for righteousness – they recognized a life and death need in their own lives that Jesus describes as being “hungry and thirsty”.**
- **These are people who, they struggle with sin in this life, they have a distinct longing for righteousness. (these are people with new natures from a new birth)**

# Chapter 21

- **You see we came to Christ thirsting for what He offers, but it didn't become ours until we believed that He was God's Son, God's Christ.**
- **1<sup>st</sup> John 5:5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**
- **1<sup>st</sup> John 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.**

# Chapter 21

- **Rev 21:7** He who overcomes *will inherit these things*, and I will be his God and he will be My son.
- Here we see that those whose thirst led them to Jesus and made them overcomers, have an inheritance – something referred to as “these things”.
- Well, what have we reading about in this chapter? The new heaven and the new earth are at least a part of our inheritance.



# Chapter 21

- **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.**
- **On the other hand ... 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?** Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor [effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

# Chapter 21

- **And just in case the rest of scriptures were not clear, John writes ... 8 But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.**
- **Do not be confused here – it is not as though these unbelievers are still around with their fate undecided, they were already dealt with in chapter 20.**

# Chapter 21

- **9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb”.**
- **And this is where we will start next week .....**

# Questions