

**August Teaching Theme:** What is the Gospel?

讲员 Speaker: Peter Tian

题目 Topic: "The Hope of the New Heaven & New Earth"

经文 Scripture: Revelation 21:1-8

**Monthly Idea:** This month's theme is "the Gospel" and its implications. **The Gospel of Jesus the Christ is a royal announcement that Jesus is King and his Upside-Down Kingdom will reign forever**, thus we must give our allegiance to King Jesus. Those who give their allegiance to King Jesus are given the indwelling of the Holy Spirit - a downpayment of our inheritance in the Kingdom. **The Spirit applies *the benefits of the gospel* to those who respond with *allegiance!***

This week we explored the ***Gospel benefit of the New Heaven and New Earth***. We as followers of King Jesus know the end of the story, that when King Jesus returns Heaven and Earth will be united once again. Those who give their allegiance to King Jesus will reign forever in New Jerusalem (another image for New Heaven & New Earth) while those who choose not to give their allegiance to King Jesus will be "cast out of the city." Revelation 21-22 gives us the most robust symbolic picture of this new reality to come.

**Resources:**

Bible Project Video: [Heaven & Earth](#)

[Pastor Tian's PPT](#)

[Pastor Tian's Sermon Video](#) (if you need to review)

**Important Notes (from Pastor Will):**

- Notes for Guidance through Revelation 21:
  - "Sea" is a symbol of chaos. Throughout Revelation and other apocalyptic literature, evil's creature (the beast, etc.) come out of the sea. "No sea" means no more evil or chaos. Similarly, "nothing impure will ever enter it."
  - "Bride" symbol for the Church in the NT used to talk about the "New Jerusalem." Both Jesus and Paul use this symbolic language to talk about the Church.
  - "God dwelling place among the people" - how the tabernacle & temple in the OT are described, and how Jesus is described in John 1. Now God will fully be with his people. "Temple" theme is fulfilled as we will be fully present with the Triune God.
  - "To the thirsty water without cost" - Jesus and the women at the well in John 4 (such a beautiful picture).
  - "I will be their God, they will be my children" - 2 Sam 7:14. Multiple Biblical themes come together in this chapter.
  - The idea of "those victorious" and those "who endure until the end," helps us understand the nature of Biblical faith as "allegiance." Biblical faith is characterized by endurance to the way of Jesus and the Upside-Down Kingdom.

- Numbers are crucial symbols in apocalyptic literature like Revelation. Notice the numbers in Revelation 21. The number 12 represents “the fullness of God’s people” as understood through the 12 tribes of Israel (12 Tribes of Israel, 12 Apostles, 12k Stadia, 144 (12x12), 12 Foundation Levels, 12 gates, 12 pearls). The number 7 encompasses the idea of “fullness & completeness” as we recall the 7-day pattern from Creation and the “Sabbath Patterns” of Israel (7th day Sabbath, 7th Year Sabbath Year, 49th (7x7) year of Jubilee, etc.)
- A key to understanding the nature of Jesus’ kingship in Revelation is paying attention to what John “hears” compared to what John “sees.” John often “hears” what Israel thought the Messiah would be like (for example like a “lion” who is a violent warrior), but what John “sees” is what the Messiah (King Jesus) is actually like (for example a slain-Lamb, non-violent, sacrificial love for his enemies). Here in Revelation 21 we see the Messiah as the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

### Discussion Questions:

- (1) Read Revelation 21 together. What observations do you make and what stands out to you. What Biblical themes show up in this chapter that you have seen elsewhere in the Bible?
- (2) 约翰向当时教会描述新天新地，新耶路撒冷的原因是什么？What was the reason for John to describe to the church at that time a New Heaven and New Earth and the New Jerusalem?
- (3) 新天新地、新耶路撒冷的三个特征是什么？这对我们今天的信仰有什么启发？What are the three characteristics of the New Heaven/New Earth and the New Jerusalem? What inspiration does this description have on our belief today?
- (4) 启21：6-8节谈到了进入新天新地，新耶路撒冷的两个资格和不能进入的原因，这对我们今天的服侍和信仰生活有哪些提醒？In Revelation 21:6-8 Bible refers to two qualifications for the New Heaven/New Earth and the New Jerusalem, and the reasons for those being denied the entrance, what does this teaching remind us in our service and faith life today?
- (5) Consider one scenario in your life that is hurting and broken. What do you think that situation will look like when it is fully renewed?
- (6) Jesus’ sacrifice created a clean space where heaven and earth continue to overlap. Consider again that scenario in your life that needs renewal. How can you imitate Jesus in that situation? What can you sacrifice that would allow others to see a little pocket of heaven on earth?
- (7) **Memorization Tool:** What is the Gospel? How do we respond to the Gospel? What are we looking forward to?
  - (a) The Gospel of Jesus the Christ is a royal announcement that Jesus is King and his Upside-Down Kingdom will reign forever.
  - (b) We are called to respond by giving our allegiance (inclusive of faith, loyalty, trust) to King Jesus.
  - (c) Our hope is looking forward to Jesus’ return establishing the New Heaven and New Earth, where those who give King Jesus allegiance will live forever.

## Sermon Summary (Elder Yin):

新天新地新耶路撒冷的盼望。田灵慧, 8/9/20

好消息

我又看见一个新天新地；因为先前的天地已经过去了，海也不再有了。我又看见圣城新耶路撒冷由神那里从天而降，预备好了，就如新妇妆饰整齐，等候丈夫。我听见有大声音从宝座出来说：「看哪，神的帐幕在人间。他要与人同住，他们要作他的子民。神要亲自与他们同在，作他们的神。神要擦去他们一切的眼泪；不再有死亡，也不再有悲哀、哭号、疼痛，因为以前的事都过去了。」坐宝座的说：「看哪，我将一切都更新了！」又说：「你要写上；因这些话是可信的，是真实的。」他又对我说：「都成了！我是阿拉法，我是俄梅戛；我是初，我是终。我要将生命的水白白赐给那口渴的人喝。得胜的，必承受这些为业：我要作他的神，他要作我的儿子。惟有胆怯的、不信的、可憎的、杀人的、淫乱的、行邪术的、拜偶像的，和一切说谎话的，他们的分就在烧着硫磺的火湖里；这是第二次的死。」”

启示录 21:1-8 .21.1-8.

耶稣通过约翰告诉我们将来。帮助当时教会的帮助。对我们现仕好帮助

一，约翰向当时教会描述新天新地新耶路撒冷的原因。

背景：受罗马压迫，定要称罗马王为主。当时基督徒不愿如此，受逼迫，被杀被流放。约翰因此被流放到柏帝马岛。为什么上帝允许这样事发生？上帝在启示录让我们知道祂没忘记我们。三个字“祂知道”。启4：上帝还坐在宝座上。启20：神的羔羊得胜，启21-22。祂会擦干眼泪。这应许对当时犹太人在苦难中有什么帮助？盼望会帮助我们度过苦难的时光。Mrs田知道有一天去美国，对北京发生的事情不觉重要了。我们的家不在这里乃在天上。世界上的苦难不那么重要。物质在天国没用。天国好的无比。

二，新天新地的特征

1, 新

全新的天地，和旧全不一样。原文，新事新时。新这里指新质量。提醒这世界是暂时的，有一天我们会离开。我们是被神选的人。但现实生活中我有很多的挑战

2, 城内没有圣殿。

约讲给我们看到。远：整个宇宙都是新的，近：耶路撒冷新的。帐幕和同住意思一样#

外园。：称义，圣所：成圣，至圣所：荣耀。新天新地时不需要帐幕，每人和直接见神，不需要会幕

3, 城中不再有死亡，悲伤，哭泣，疼痛，

启21：4“神要擦去他们一切的眼泪；不再有死亡，也不再有悲哀、哭号、疼痛，因为以前的事都过去了。”

启示录 21:4

分离的痛苦，新天新地.神擦干泪，不再有死亡不再有分离。

### 三，进入新天新地的资格

#### 1，口渴的人，属灵上渴慕。

“神啊，我的心切慕你，如鹿切慕溪水。我的心渴想 神，就是永生 神；我几时得朝见 神呢？”

诗篇 42:1-2

冒风险也要去喝。

#### 2，得胜的人

“得胜的，必承受这些为业：我要作他的 神，他要作我的儿子。”

启示录 21:7

以弗所，老地加，士每拿，……7个教会有出现问题，象征每一个现在的教会。不是每个去教会的能进入新天新地，胆怯的人：怕受苦的人怕迫害的人。不信的人：不遵神的，不服从神的。叫主啊主阿不都能进天国。不让耶稣成为生命的主。

总结：7完整的数子。我们是有盼望的人，有美好的盼而活在这世上。且传这样美好的盼望的好消息传给周围的人。

The hope of New heaven new earth and new Jerusalem

Peter Tian

Revelation.21 : 1-8

John is not a pastor, encouraging the church, also a tour guide to bring the eyes of present to the future

Jesus, through John, lead the church see the future events

Jesus is the true source of the book of revelation, what did he want to tell the churches then, the meaning for our time now

#### 1. The description of the New Heaven and Earth and New Jerusalem Rev 21:1-5

The reasons John describes the future New heaven new earth new Jerusalem to the churches At that time, churches were not in a safe environment, but facing serious persecution. Roman emperor claimed himself the lord, only be worshiping him the citizens could have peaceful time, which lead to direct conflicts, then persecution of Christians by the Roman government, martyrs and exiled, John was one of them, exiled to the island of patmen. Where is God's present? Why does He allowed happened to us?! Revelation revealed that He knows it all!! He knows their situation and He is still sitting on the throne. Telling the people what will happen when He come back, judge all nations, wipe their tears, live with them forever in glory. The impact of the future events to the suffering Christians

Peter visited US, preparing to bring family back to reunite, a year later. The wife in China had the hope to reunite with her husband in Lincoln, the mindset directed her life in China then, the materials not matter.

Our home is not here, but in heaven. With the perspective of the new heaven, nothing can hurt us, no temptation can allure us from the Lord, like Chinese money cannot spend in US, we cannot bring any earthly achievements to heaven

A. How did John describe the new heaven and new earth: "New"

Rev 21:1-2,5

After He casts Satan to eternal fire,

He describe a new heaven new earth

The two Greek words for "new", the new quality, not the new in time

Reminds us where we live this earth is temporary, one day we will go home, a group saved by god's grace with restored relationship with god

Don't pursue this world as our eternal goal

B. No temple in new Jerusalem

John zoomed in to focus on the new Jerusalem, the city

21:3 god's dwelling place now among his people. The dwelling place, the tent, tabernacle, temple is the same Greek word

Solomon spent 7years to build the temple, same blue print as the tabernacle in the wilderness, outer court, inner court, the most holy

The new heaven new place, man doesn't need the separation, in direct presence w god

That is why no temple in the city, god himself lives with them

C. No more death mourning crying and pain

Rev21:4

We all lost loved ones. Even know the loved one in heaven, now on this earth, never see face to face

Departure of loved one, helpless in physical illness, persecution because of your faith, no more in the new. God himself comfort us

2. The qualifications of entering the new Rev 21:6-8

A. Those who are thirsty

21:6. Thirsty in spirit

Psalms 42:1-2, like a deer panting for water. None can prevent those

B. Those who are victorious

21:7

Will not be hurt by the second death

Will have name on the book of life, dress in white

Sit on the throne with the lord

Seven churches in revelation covered all the problems of churches then, reflecting our current church situations too:

Martyrdom

Facing poverty

Facing persecution

Impurity

False prophets

Material love

Lost the beginner love

those 🙅 cannot enter the new city:

Cowardly

Unbelief, reject god's words, also matt25 those acknowledged god, even serving, but Jesus was not the master in their life

Seven is a complete number in the Bible, especially in revelation

Seven sermons from pastor peter during his internship, good conclusion:

1. The fall of man
2. Jesus the lamb of Passover
3. The exile of the Israelites
4. The Pentecost, descending of the Holy Spirit
5. We are the citizens of heaven
6. Meet at the judgement seat
7. The hope of new heaven new earth new Jerusalem

We are the group of people with hope, so fix our eyes in the future, spread the good news, how beautiful the feet of those who share the gospel