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Making All Things New

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **November 6, 2016**

Revelation 21:1-8

Introduction: Scripture tells of God's plan for the **future** of his **creation**, and it assures us that he will yet transform it to accomplish his purposes. The picture we find in Revelation 21 is more glorious than any one of us dare to imagine.

Through **VISIONS**, God had shown John how he would **JUDGE**, **CONDEMN**, and **PUNISH** ALL rebellious creatures. At this point, **ALL judgments** were ended, the **thousand-year reign** of Christ had **concluded**; and **rebels** – celestial and human – had been sent to their ETERNAL doom. God was about to reveal what he has in store for the **eternal future**.

(Source: The Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Union Press Publication-Christian Life Series)

Revelation 21:1, And I saw a **NEW** heaven (sky, air) and a **NEW** earth: for the **FIRST** heaven and the **FIRST** earth were **passed away**; and there was **no more SEA**.

New defined 2537, new (especially in **freshness [cleanness, originality]).**

Thought 1. This is a literal new heaven and earth. So literally, there'll be no more sea.

NOTE: and there was no more sea; ...which may be understood either as to the being of it; it was "exhausted" (evaporation), as the Ethiopic version renders it, being dried up by the **conflagration** (the burning of the world at the consummation (completion) of things, when the elements shall MELT with fervent heat); see (Amos 7:4) *(Source: The New John Gill Exposition of the Entire Bible)*

Amos 7:4, Thus hath the Lord God showed unto me: and, behold, the Lord God called to contend by **FIRE**, and it **devoured** the **great deep**, and did eat up a part.

Isaiah 66:20-22, And they shall bring **all** your brethren for an **offering** unto the Lord out of **all nations**... to my holy **mountain Jerusalem**, saith the Lord, **as** the children of Israel bring an offering in a **clean** vessel into the house of the Lord. And I will also take of them for priests and for Levites, saith the Lord. For as the **new HEAVENS** and the **NEW earth**, which **I WILL make**, shall **remain** before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain.

Heavens defined 8064, the **SKY (as aloft; the dual perhaps alluding to the visible arch in which the clouds move, as well as to the higher ether [atmosphere] where the celestial bodies revolve): --air.**

2 Peter 3:10, But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the **heavens** shall **pass AWAY** with a great noise, and the **ELEMENTS** shall MELT with fervent heat the **earth** and the **WORKS** that are therein shall be **BURNED up**.

Elements defined 4747, constituent [applied to PARTS of a thing that are essential to it; Oxygen and hydrogen are the constituent parts of water].

Melt defined 3089, unloose (to lose all connection or union),
dissolve (1. to liquefy 2. to disunite [to disunite particles of MATTER]).

MATTER, In a more general and philosophic sense, the substance of which all bodies are composed; the substratum of sensible qualities, though the parts composing the substratum (in metaphysics, the matter or substance supposed to furnish the basis in which the perceptible qualities inhere) may NOT be visible or tangible.

Matter is usually divided by philosophical writers into FOUR kinds or classes; SOLID, LIQUID; AERIFORM, and IMPONDERABLE. SOLID substances are those whose parts firmly cohere and resist impression, as wood or stone; LIQUIDS have free motion among their parts, and easily yield to impression, as water and wine. AERIFORM substances are elastic fluids, called vapors and gases, as air and oxygen gas. The IMPONDERABLE substances are destitute of weight, as light, caloric, electricity, and magnetism.

NOTE: ...elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat ... By this is meant the basic building blocks of all material things, the very ATOMS themselves. "These words were written by **Peter** long before the **atomic age**, but they fit strikingly into the atomic vocabulary."

...Today, all nations tremble in **fear** of **atomic fires** that may devastate and make uninhabitable the whole earth.

Besides that, the strides in the field of **astronomy** postulate a fate of our earth that almost invariably is described as **fiery** dissolution, whether from the explosion of our **SUN**, or by the SUN'S becoming a "black hole" and drawing our earth into itself! No one knows, of course, how the end will be; but only a fool can believe that the end will not occur; and **there is no reason** at all to **reject** Peter's **prophetic revelation** that the end will be by FIRE, a fate which he prophesied nearly two millenniums ago, and which today is **recognized** as **TRUE** by **every scientist** on earth. (Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bcc/2-peter-3.html>)

2 Peter 3:11-13, Seeing then that ALL these things shall be **dissolved (MELT)** what manner of persons ought ye to be in ALL holy **conversation (behavior)** and **godliness**, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the **heavens** being on **FIRE** shall be **dissolved**, and the **ELEMENTS** shall **MELT** with fervent **HEAT**?

Nevertheless we, according to HIS promise, **LOOK FOR** **NEW heavens** and a **NEW earth**, wherein dwelleth **righteousness**.

Revelation 21:2, And I John saw the **holy city**, **NEW Jerusalem**, coming down FROM **God** out of **HEAVEN**, prepared **AS** a BRIDE adorned for her HUSBAND.

Heaven defined 3772, as the abode [home] **of God**.

NOTE: The holy city, New Jerusalem: This is the Jerusalem of hope (Heb. 12:22), the Jerusalem above (Galatians 4:26), the place of our real citizenship (Philippians 3:20).

i. The terms **holy** and **new** distinguish the city. Because it is **holy** and **new**, it is different from any earthly city. The name **Jerusalem** gives it continuity with earth, especially with the place of our redemption.

Hebrews 12:22, But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the **CITY** of the **living God**, the heavenly **Jerusalem**, and to an innumerable company of angels...

Philippians 3:20, For our **conversation (CITIZENSHIP)** is in **heaven**; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ...

ii. It is significant that this glorious **dwelling place** of **God** and **His people** is described as **the holy city**. Cities are places with many people, and people interacting with each other. This isn't isolation, but a perfect **community** of the people of God.

iii. The Christian concept of heaven as a city - a place of life, activity, interest, and people - is very different from Hindu conception of a blank Nirvana. "The consummation of the Christian hope is supremely **social**. It is no 'flight of the alone to the Alone' but life in the redeemed community of heaven." (Hunter)

iv. Man has never known a community unmarred by sin. Adam and Eve only knew a limited community, and community in a larger context only came long after the Fall. Here, in the **New Jerusalem**, we have something totally unique: a **SINLESS, PURE, community of RIGHTEOUSNESS, a holy city**.

v. Problems arise when believers expect this kind of community *now*, or fail to realize that it *only comes down out of heaven*. This city is **NOT** and **NEVER CAN** be the achievement of man, but only a gift from God.

b. ...**AS a bride adorned for her husband**: John used the most striking, beautiful image he could think of. The most beautiful thing a man will ever see is his **BRIDE** coming down the aisle, ready to meet him. John said that this is how beautiful the New Jerusalem will be.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/guz/revelation-21.html>)

Revelation 21:3, And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the **tabernacle (habitation [residence, HOUSE]) of God** is **WITH men**, and he will **dwell WITH them**, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be **WITH them**, and be their God.

NOTE: The tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell WITH them: Moses' tabernacle represented the dwelling place of God on earth. That was past the *representation* of the dwelling place of God; this **tabernacle of God** is the reality of His presence.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/guz/revelation-21.html>)

Revelation 21:4, And **God shall wipe away ALL TEARS** from their **eyes**; and there shall be **NO more death**, neither **SORROW**, nor **CRYING**, **neither** shall there be any more **pain**: for the former things are **PASSED AWAY**.

Thought 1. When scripture says "no more death", this includes "spiritual death!" So, ALL humans will be **like Adam**, "God's son", when he was first made! ALL humans will be sons of God by nature: with **LIFE** in them! No human who is alive will have Satan's nature!

Looking at the phrase "There shall be **NO MORE DEATH**" in the New earth, helps us to understand the **difference** between the Millennium (thousand year) reign and the **NEW earth** that will come and remain for eternity. The thousand-year reign will be great! But there **WILL** be **DEATH** during the thousand-year reign.

Isaiah 65:17-20, For, behold, I **CREATE NEW** heavens and a **NEW** earth: and the former shall **NOT** be **remembered**, nor come into **mind**. But be glad and rejoice for ever in that which I **CREATE**... There shall be no more hence an **infant** of days, nor an **old man** that has **not FILLED his days**: for the **CHILD shall DIE** an **hundred years old**; but the **sinner** being a **hundred years old** shall be **accursed**.

Thought 2. The new earth that John saw had NO SINNERS on it. They were ALL judged in Revelation 20:11-15, and CAST into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:7-9, And when the **thousand years** are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to **deceive** the **nations...** to gather them together to **battle:** the number of whom is as the SAND of the SEA. And **THEY** went up on the breath of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the **beloved city...**

Thought 3. The “THEY” are those SINNERS that refused to accept Jesus during his thousand-year reign. Even then, they’ll have a CHOICE.

Revelation 20:9, 14-15 ...and **FIRE** came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.
...And **DEATH** and **HELL** were cast into the **lake of fire**. And **WHOSOEVER** was NOT found **WRITTEN** in the **book of life** was CAST into the lake of fire.

Thought 4. So now, only BORN AGAIN people, with LIFE in their spirits, are living on earth. All SINNERS are in the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:5-6, And **HE** that SAT upon the **throne** said, Behold, **I make ALL things NEW (new [especially in FRESHNESS]).** And he said unto me, Write: for these words are TRUE and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am **Alpha** and **Omega**, the **BEGINNING** and the **end**.

Question: Who is this doing the speaking? **Jesus**, or our **Father** Jehovah (Yahweh)?

Answer: Once again, we'll have to look at scripture in order to make this determination.

Revelation 1:8, I am **Alpha** and **Omega**, the **BEGINNING** and the **ending**, saith the Lord, which **is**, and which **was**, and which **is to come**, the **ALMIGHTY**.

Almighty defined 3841, the ALL-RULING, i.e. God (as absolute and universal sovereign [Supreme {highest} in power]):--Almighty, Omnipotent.

Thought 1. Above is the entire definition of the word “ALMIGHTY.” Normally, when we see the word “Almighty” it’s referring to the Father, Yahweh. However, the words “I am Alpha and Omega, the BEGINNING and the end” are concrete PROOF that this is NOT the Father, but our LORD Jesus. FIRST, this is true because our Father, Yahweh, is “the Eternal (WITHOUT beginning of existence).” He’s also the Sovereign (Supreme [highest] in power).

Exodus 6:2-3, And **God** spake unto **Moses**, and said... **I am the Lord:** And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of **God Almighty**, but by my NAME **JEHOVAH (the Eternal** [WITHOUT beginning of existence]) was I NOT known to them.

Luke 1:32-33, He shall be great, and shall be called the **Son** of the **Highest (the Supreme God)** and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob **for ever;** and of his **kingdom** there shall be NO END.

Thought 2. The SECOND set of clues of PROOF are found in the scriptures that clearly point to the TRUTH that Jesus (Yahshua) IS “the BEGINNING of the existence” of ALL things that were CREATED, including the “new Creatures”

Colossians 1:12-18, Giving thanks unto the **Father**, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the **power** of darkness, and **hath translated (carry**

away) us INTO the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who **IS** the **image** (**likeness** [COPY]) of the invisible God, the **FIRSTBORN** (**first-begotten** [first produced { brought into BEING }])) of every **creature** (**creation**): For **BY** (**IN**) him were ALL things **CREATED**, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: ALL things were **created BY** (**through**) him, and FOR him: he is **before** (**in FRONT of**) all things, and **by** (**IN**) him all things **consist** (**stand** [be in a state of fixedness]). And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the **BEGINNING**, the **firstborn** from the **dead**; that in **ALL things** HE might have the **PREEMINENCE** (**be FIRST in RANK**).

Revelation 3:14, And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the **BEGINNING** of the **creation** of God...

Revelation 1:11, 18 ...I am **Alpha and Omega**, the first and the last...
...Fear not; I am the **FIRST** and the **LAST**: I am **he** that **LIVETH**, and was **DEAD**; and, behold, I am **ALIVE** for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of **hell** and of **death**.

Thought 3. The scriptures at which we've looked prove that Jesus (Yahshua) is the "He" that SAT upon the throne in Revelation 21:5-6. As we know, he "SITS" on a throne at the Father's right-hand side. (Heb. 1:13) So, when we look back at the definition of "Almighty", we have to CHOOSE "which PART" that fits Rev. 1:8. From scripture, we know Jesus is NOT "God (as absolute and universal Sovereign [Supreme {highest} in power]), which also means he's not all powerful.

Almighty defined 3841, the ALL-RULING, i.e. God (as absolute and universal sovereign [Supreme in power]):-- **Omnipotent** (all powerful).

So, by the process of elimination, the word "Almighty", in reference to Jesus means he's the "**ALL-RULING**", but under his Father. What we saw with this word "Almighty" is what's also seen in understanding the meaning of the word "God" in John 1:1-2. Just as other scriptures reveal the right choice here, they also reveal Jesus' FORM and position as "a God" WITH his Father in John 1:1-2.

John 1:1-2, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was WITH God, and the Word was **God** (**a deity**). The same was in the beginning with **God**.

God defined 2316, a deity, the supreme (Highest in authority) **Divinity**.

Ephesians 4:4-6, There is... One **LORD** (**RULER**)... One **God** (**supreme** (Highest in authority) **Divinity**) and **Father** of ALL, who is **above** all, and through all, and in you all.

1 Corinthians 8:6, But to US there is but **ONE** **God** (**supreme Divinity**), the **FATHER**, of whom are all things, and we in him; and **ONE Lord** (**RULER**) **Jesus Christ**...

1 Corinthians 15:25-27, For he (*Jesus*) must **reign RULE**, till he (*God the Father*) hath put all **enemies** under his feet. The last **enemy** that shall be destroyed is **death**. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, **ALL THINGS** are put under him, it is **manifest** (**clear**) that he (*the Father*) is **EXCEPTED**, which **did PUT** all things under him (*Jesus*)...

Revelation 21:6-7, I will give unto him that is **athirst** of the fountain of the **water** of **LIFE**

freely. He that **overcometh** shall INHERIT ALL things; and I will be his **God**, and he shall be my **SON (used very widely of immediate KINSHIP)**.

Thought 1. Jesus, our **brother**, is the oldest child in God's family. He came here a human (Heb. 2:11-12). He died, physically and SPIRITUALLY. And as we saw in Colossians 1, he was the **FIRST** human to be "BORN AGAIN" from being "spiritually DEAD." So, ALL Christians are his brothers and sisters: "immediate KIN" by birth from the SAME Father!

Hebrews 2:11-12, For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are ALL of ONE: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them **BRETHREN**, Saying, I will declare thy name unto **my BRETHREN**, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

Revelation 21:8, But the **fearful**, and **UNBELIEVING**, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the **LAKE** which **burneth with FIRE and brimstone**: which is the **SECOND death**.

NOTE: Here observe, (1.) The sins of those who perish, among which are first mentioned their cowardliness and **unbelief**. *The fearful* lead the van in this black list. They durst not encounter the difficulties of religion, and their slavish FEAR **proceeded from** their **UNBELIEF**; but those who were so dastardly as not to dare to take up the cross of Christ, and discharge their duty to him, were yet so desperate as to **run into all manner** of abominable wickedness— *murder, adultery, sorcery, idolatry, and lying*.

(2.) Their punishment: *They have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.* [1.] They could not burn at a stake for Christ, but they must burn in hell for sin. [2.] They must die another death after their natural death; the agonies and terrors of the first death will consign them over to the far **greater terrors and agonies of ETERNAL DEATH**, to die and to be always dying. [3.] This **misery** will be their proper part and portion, what they have justly deserved, what they have in effect chosen, and what they have prepared themselves for by their SINS. Thus the misery of the **damned** will illustrate the **blessedness** of those that are **SAVED**, and the blessedness of the saved will aggravate the **MISERY** of those that are **DAMNED**.

(Source: *The Matthew Henry Commentary on the whole Bible*)

Isaiah 66:22-24, For as the **new heavens** and the **new earth**, which **I will make**, shall REMAIN before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, *that* from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to WORSHIP before me, saith the LORD. And they shall go forth, and **LOOK UPON** the **CARCASES** of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their **fire** be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

NOTE: Those that have been worshipping the Lord of hosts, and rejoicing before him in the goodness of his house, shall, in order to affect themselves the more with their own happiness, take **a view** of the **misery** of the **wicked**. ...It may be meant especially of the **unbelieving** Jews that rejected the gospel of Christ. (2.) What **their misery is**.

...But our Saviour applies it to the **everlasting misery** and **torment** of impenitent **sinner**s in the **future state**, where their *worm dies not*, and their **FIRE** is **NOT quenched** (Mk. 9:44); for the soul, whose conscience is its constant tormentor, is **IMMORTAL**, and God, whose wrath is its constant terror, is **ETERNAL**.

(3.) What notice shall be taken of it. **Those that worship** God shall **go forth and look upon them**, to affect their own hearts with the LOVE of their Redeemer, when they see what misery they are redeemed **from**.

(Source: *The Matthew Henry Commentary on the whole Bible*)