

## Text— Revelation 21:1-7

Fellow redeemed sinners, redeemed by the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Today is the last Sunday after Trinity; so, we are at the end of another Church-year. Hence, it's appropriate to consider the fact that the wicked world in which we live, will also have an end, when the Lord determines the time has come.

In Matthew 24:35, Jesus Christ, who is Truth personified, says, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Indeed, Jesus' Word remains forever sure and certain, while heaven and earth, as we now know them, shall pass away, for 2 Peter 3:10 informs us, "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 also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." Oh, there will be a huge global-warming event, and it will not be the result of fossil-fuel emissions; rather, it will come by the Lord God's almighty power.

Fellow Christians, if you're like me, you're getting sick and tired of all the chronic bellyaching about the need to save so-called "mother earth" by switching all vehicles to electric power, while at the same time the Lord God is ignored or denied, and His Holy Word is altogether cast aside, or at the least, twisted and perverted.

Society at large is grossly enmeshed in wickedness! For example, the majority of sinful human beings apparently approve of the murder of unborn human beings via abortion. Furthermore, the disgusting sinfulness of the so-called LGBTQ community is promoted and celebrated, rather than the sins of sodomy being condemned. Gambling is encouraged, instead of being acknowledged as sinful coveting and stealing. It sickens us Christians to see blatant wickedness on the increase, while repentance and faith in Jesus Christ is on the decrease, as this world's end draws nearer with each passing day.

Fellow Christians, our sermon text can be truly uplifting to us as we ponder its words, for it tells us about:

### "THE GLORIOUS FUTURE"

With that as our theme, may we, in view of our text and with the help of the Holy Ghost, see—

- 1) Who will partake in the glorious future
- 2) What the glorious future will consist of
- 3) Why the glorious future is certain

-1-

The apostle John penned our Scripture selection by inspiration of God, for we read in Revelation 1:1-2, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw." Thus, we need to take our Scripture selection seriously, because it is God's Word.

Verses 1 & 2, ----- (Revelation 21:1-2)

The opening words of our sermon text are taken from the second to the last chapter of the book of Revelation, which is the last book in the Holy Bible. It's interesting to note the vision the apostle John was given relating to a great future event. But, for now, let's focus particularly on the words found in the second verse, those being: *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

Take it to heart, the "holy city, new Jerusalem" is in fact Jesus Christ's bride— the Holy Christian Church, the sum total of ALL true believers in Jesus Christ as their Savior, for Galatians 4:26 says to Christians, "Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." Yes, ALL true Christians are part of the heavenly Jerusalem, which is the bride of Christ, "For the husband is the head of the wife,

even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”— relates Ephesians 5:23. The Holy Christian Church is indeed the bride of Christ.

Realize that ONLY TRUE CHRISTIANS – ONLY people with heart-deep, God-given, faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior – are members of the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the bride of Christ, yea, the body of Christ, for Romans 8:9 informs us, “if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

Furthermore, looking ahead at the 7<sup>th</sup> verse of our sermon text, we read: *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.* Note well, he that overcomes is God’s son – “son” with a lower case “s” – since Jesus Christ alone is God’s Son with an upper case “S”: “the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14) Hence, all true Christians are adopted sons of God, “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”— relates Galatians 3:26-28.

Accordingly, from what we’ve considered thus far in our sermon text, it is true Christians and only true Christians who will partake in the glorious future when the first heaven and the first earth have passed away, and a new heaven and a new earth appear.

My friends, ALL UNBELIEVERS, ALL people who have rejected Jesus Christ in unbelief, will NOT partake in the glorious future, for Revelation 21:8 clearly states, “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the 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.” Yes, the never-ending tortures of hell await all unbelievers, “Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.” (Mark 9:44)

ONLY TRUE CHRISTIANS will partake in the glorious future.

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As we continue to ponder our sermon text, let us see what the glorious future will consist of.

Again, verses 1 & 2, ----- (Revelation 21:1-2)

Think about what happened to the earth when our first parents, Adam and Eve, sinned. We read in Genesis 3:16-19, “Unto the woman he [that is, the Lord] said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” Observe that the ground of the earth was cursed because of man’s sin; the earth itself no longer remained in its original condition of perfection and pleasantness.

The earth was later again changed for the worse because of man’s wickedness, when God flushed the world with a planet-wide flood in the days of Noah. We read in Genesis 6:5-14, “GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. And Noah

begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.”

Genesis 7:11-24 adds, “In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights. In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark; They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort. And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in. And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth. And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters. And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered. And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth:

and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.”

Subsequently, the oceans were left after the earth was drained of excess waters. Fossils on mountain tops prove the world-wide flood took place, NOT some bogus “ice age” as man’s science-falsely-so-called would have people believe. Again and again man’s sinfulness has brought curses upon planet earth.

Think about conditions now, as violence fills the earth. Wars, widespread violence and murders, rapes, and so forth. In Luke 17:26-30, Jesus says, “as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.” Hence, the present world is growing ripe for judgment and destruction, which will come.

Fellow Christians, now consider the glorious future which the apostle John was permitted to see in a God-given vision, for John relates: *I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

Note it well: no more sea on the new earth, for all traces of sin and its effects will be gone. Beautiful will be the bride of Christ, the Holy Christian Church in total perfection, the living city of God. A glorious future indeed!

Verse 3, ----- (Revelation 21:3)

Observe that the glorious future will include God dwelling with His people, God dwelling with the sum-total of ALL true believers in Jesus, in a new, visible, and glorious manner. It's as 1 John 3:2 relates, where we read, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." A glorious future indeed!

Verse 4, -----. (Revelation 21:4)

Fellow Christians, when we look around us each day in this world, which is growing bolder in its wickedness, it causes us to weep as we see the true God and His true Word treated with mockery and contempt. We sorrow over our sins and the sins of others. But, that time of sorrow will cease, *for God shall wipe away all tears from our 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.* Yes, it will be a glorious future indeed! No more death; no more sorrow; no more pain; no more crying; no more of any suffering for God's children, the true believers in Jesus Christ! So, I repeat, a glorious future indeed!

Verse 5, -----. (Revelation 21:5)

Note well how it is that the glorious future will surely come to pass: we have GOD'S WORD that so it will be! Yes, *for he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*

God is omnipotent, all powerful, "For with God nothing shall be impossible."— declares Luke 1:37. Furthermore, God commanded the apostle John to write it down, since God's words are faithful and true: God does NOT lie! Thus, GOD MAKING ALL THINGS NEW is what the glorious future will consist of— a glorious future indeed!

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As we continue to ponder our sermon text to its

conclusion, let us see why the glorious future is certain.

We've already noted from the 5<sup>th</sup> verse of our sermon text that God's Word is true and faithful. Thus, the glorious future described in our text is certain!

Now, let's consider verses 6 & 7, -----.  
(Revelation 21:6-7)

Fellow Christians, God's Word is sure, it is done; all that God says will happen, will surely come to pass exactly as He has said.

Think about it. GOD IS ALPHA AND OMEGA, the beginning and end, Himself not subject to time, being the eternal, all-powerful, I AM!

God is so gracious and merciful that He promises to *give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.* Yes, let us never forget that God in Christ supplies folks with the water of life, for Jesus once said, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)" (John 7:37-39)

Indeed, God the Holy Ghost is who gifts folks with faith in Jesus Christ, grows folks in that faith, and makes folks fruitful in that faith, by His power as He works through His Holy Word. It's as Holy Writ informs us: "by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed

from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." (Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 10:17; 1:16-17; 1 Corinthians 12:3; Philippians 2:13) God does the saving, all of it; consequently, the glorious future is certain! We who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ will surely partake in the glorious future! All thanks and praise be to God!

Let us daily and sincerely repent of our sins; let us, by God's power working through His Word in our hearts, cling to Christ Jesus in true faith as our Savior and Lord, looking forward to the glorious future He earned for us. God grant it, for He promises: *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.* Oh, fellow Christians, we are so very privileged to be God's adopted children. Amen.

m.e.l.