

How Would You Play If You Knew You Couldn't Lose? (Revelation 21-22)

11/23/2025 - Andy Deane — Heaven!

There's a universal human ache for something better, every culture tells stories of paradise, of a restored world where nothing is broken anymore. Even children feel it before they can explain it, this sense that the world isn't what it should be. As C.S. Lewis wrote, "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." In Revelation 21–22, God shows us the reality of that world, the true heaven our hearts have been longing for.

7 Truths About Heaven That Change How We Live Today

1. Heaven is a place God is preparing for us.

Revelation 21:1-2, I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Revelation 22:1-2, Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. & the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

- It has a restored garden.

Romans 8:21, ...creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom...

- It has a capital city.

John 14:2-3, My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me...

2. Heaven is where God dwells with us.

Revelation 21:3, God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them & be their God.' 22:4, They will see his face, his name will be on their foreheads.

- God with us fully, joyfully, & forever (not by sight, not by faith).
- We'll finally see Jesus face-to-face and that will be enough!

3. Heaven is where all suffering is healed.

Revelation 21:4, He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

- The personal touch of God to wipe our tears for that list.
- Tim Keller - "Everything sad is going to come untrue."

4. Heaven is filled with beauty & the glory of God.

Revelation 21:10-11, ...the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

Revelation 21:18-23, The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass. I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

- The things we idolized as precious (gold) are just the streets trampled on in heaven!
- So don't look for permanence in this life, but in the next life.

Hebrews 10:9-10; 13-16, 9 By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God... 13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. 14 People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. 15 If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

5. Heaven is restored culture, true unity, & real purpose.

Revelation 21:24-26, The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. 22:3, No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.

- Restored culture (*glory and honor of the nations*)
- Restored unity (*No longer will there be any curse*)
- Restored purpose (*his servants will serve him*)

6. Heaven is a future so good it changes us today.

- How should we play? We can face difficulty with joy because God writes last chapter!

2 Corinthians 4:17–18, “For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

- C.S. Lewis - “Aim at Heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in’: aim at earth and you will get neither.”

7. Heaven is a free gift—open to anyone who wants it.

- Heaven is offered, not earned. Jesus paid for it.

Revelation 22:17, ...let the one who hears say, ‘Come!’ Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

- Who enters heaven? Those who receive Jesus by faith.

Revelation 21:7, Those who are victorious will inherit all this, & I will be their God & they will be my children.

Revelation 21:27...whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life

- How do we receive this gift of heaven? Be washed in the blood of Jesus.

Revelation 22:14, Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

- Who doesn't enter heaven? Those who reject it.

Revelation 21:8, But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.

Revelation 22:15, Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

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