

Revelation 21:1-8
Our Home in Heaven
HH1603

January 17, 2016 pm
Heaven

“The New World”

INTRODUCTION: One of my favorite movies is *The Hunt for Red October*. (1990)

1. ...based on the 1984 novel of the same name by **Tom Clancy**.
 - a. In his series of books about CIA agent, *Jack Ryan*
 - b. The film role played first by **Alec Baldwin** and then made famous by **Harrison Ford**
 - i. *The Hunt for Red October* (1990) **Alec Baldwin**
 - ii. *Patriot Games* (1992) **Harrison Ford**
 - iii. *Clear and Present Danger* (1994) **Harrison Ford**
 - iv. *The Sum of All Fears* (2002) **Ben Affleck**
 - v. *Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit* (2014) **Chris Pine**
2. In *The Hunt for Red October*, a Russian Submarine Commander, *Cpt. Marko Ramius (Sean Connery)* is attempting to defect, with his nuclear submarine, from the Soviet Union to the USA. *Jack Ryan* helps him do so.
3. As they sail the *Red October* into the mouth of the *Penebscot River* in Maine, Ramius quotes *Christopher Columbus*: “And the sea will grant each man new hope. His sleep brings dreams of home.”
4. Jack Ryan, knowing the seaman’s poem and the author, responds, “Welcome to the New World, Captain.”
5. There is some dispute about whether or not Columbus really wrote or quoted such a poem. But the *Smithsonian Institute* ascribes the quote to the famous explorer.
6. Here’s the point of that scene in the movie.
 - a. Christopher Columbus accidentally discovered what he and European explorers would call *The New World*.
 - b. Something *Amerigo Vespucci, Marco Polo, Vasco da Gama, Marco deBalboa, Ferdinand Magellan, John Cabot* and *Hernan(do) Cortez* all shared as a grand vision...
 - c. ...a place for wealth, new and unspoiled land, religious freedoms, new beginnings, and converts to Christianity.
 - d. Taking *The City of God (church)* to the ends of the earth.
 - e. **George Grant:** *The Last Crusader: The Untold Story of Christopher Columbus*; p. 124.
It was this mandate that originally emboldened the earliest disciples to preach the Gospel—first in Jerusalem and Judea, then in Samaria, and finally in the uttermost parts of the earth (Acts 18). It was this mandate that sustained the faithful church through generations of hardship, persecution, calamity, and privation—provoking it to offer light and life to those ensnared in the miry clay of darkness and death. It was this mandate that sent Columbus—as well as Vespucci, Balboa, da Gama, Cortez, Magellan, and Cabot—out across the perilous uncharted seas.

- f. When *Hernan Cortez* reached the shores of Mexico, he burned his ships – there would be no return to the Old World.
- g. *Cpt. Marko Ramius* says to his submariners, in *The Hunt for Red October*: “When he reached the New World, Cortez burned his ship. As a result, his men were well motivated.” (i.e., to build a new society in the New World)
7. Some say that Christopher Columbus was an evil exploiter of the “noble natives” of North and Central America. **Russel Means**, a Native American Indian activist said, “Columbus makes Hitler look like a juvenile delinquent. He was a racist, a mass murderer, a slave trader, a rapist and a plunderer.”
- An excessive over-exaggeration
 - Without even a least bit of historical evidence to support such a condemnation.
 - A glaring example of politically correct, anti-Christian, and revisionist-history myth.
 - In fact, these were the *very things* Columbus wanted to leave behind in the Old World (Europe).
 - European culture came to the Americas and brought these things; Christopher Columbus did not!
8. What Columbus wrote in his *Journal* was this (Grant; p. 121)
- It was the Lord who put it in me to sail from here to the Indies. The fact that the Gospel must be preached to so many lands—that is what convinced me. Charting the seas is but a necessary requisite for the fulfillment of the Great Commission of our glorious Savior.*
 - And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* (Matthew 28:18-20)
9. In a book he wrote titled *The Book of Prophecies*, Christopher Columbus told of his inspiration for all his voyages to both discover a *New World* and build a *New Society*. His inspiration came from **The Book of Revelation!** (Grant; p. 109).
- I am a most unworthy sinner, but I have cried out to the Lord for grace and mercy and they have covered me completely. I have found the sweetest consolation since I made it my whole purpose to enjoy His marvelous presence. No one should fear to undertake any task in the Name of our Savior, if it is just and if the intention is purely for His holy service. The working out of all things has been assigned to each person by our Lord, but it all happens according to His sovereign will, even though He gives direction. He lacks nothing that is in the power of men to give Him. Oh what a gracious Lord, who desires that people should perform for Him those things for which He holds Himself responsible. Day and night, moment by moment, everyone should express to Him their most devoted gratitude.*
- Jesus said that all things would pass away, but not His marvelous Word. He also affirmed that it was necessary that all things be fulfilled that were prophesied by Himself and by the prophets. Thus, I hold alone to the sacred and holy Scriptures.*
- For this was the alpha and omega of the Enterprise, that it should be for the increase and glory of the Christian religion.*
10. So, when *Cpt. Marko Ramius* quotes Columbus, and recounts Cortez’ burning of his ships, and when *Jack Ryan* says, “Welcome to the New World, Captain,” they are...

- a. Acknowledging mankind's dream for a *New World* free from all the evils, sorrows and sufferings of the Old World,
- b. Reaching for a *dream about home* that lies in the heart of every person,
- c. Stating that one cannot enter the New World unless and until ties to the Old World are *severed and burned forever* – No going back!

11. Where did Columbus, Cortez, Jack Ryan and Marko Ramius get such ideas: **Revelation 21:1-8...**

- a. *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." (Revelation 21:1-8)

- b. **Christopher Columbus:** *Captain's Log*: "Following the light of the sun, we left the Old World."
- c. **Christopher Columbus:** *Personal Journal*: "God is a treasure, and he who possesses it does all he wishes to (do) in this world, and succeeds in helping souls into paradise."

12. The home of all our dreams, of life's long voyage, and of the fulfillment of all our efforts and aspirations is *The New World!*

- a. *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.* (Revelation 21:1)
- b. No more sea, no more voyages, no more Old World
- c. *Christopher Columbus' vision and dream will come to pass!*

13. **Randy Alcorn:** *Heaven*; p. 233.

All our lives we've been dreaming of the New Earth. Whenever we see beauty in water, wind, flower, deer, man, woman, or child, we catch a glimpse of Heaven. Just like the Garden of Eden, the New Earth will be a place of sensory delight, breathtaking beauty, satisfying relationships, and personal joy. God Himself prepared mankind's first home on Earth. In the same way that God paid attention to the details of the home He prepared for Adam and Eve in Eden, Christ is paying attention to the details as He prepares for us an eternal home in Heaven. If He prepared Eden so carefully and lavishly for mankind in the six days of creation, what has He fashioned in the place He's been preparing for us in the two thousand years since He left this world? God poured Himself, His creativity, and His love into making Eden for His creatures. But at that time, that's all we were: His creatures, His image-bearers. Now that

we are both His children and His bride, chosen out of the human race to live with Him forever, would we expect more or less than Eden? More, of course. And that's exactly what the New Earth will be.

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. (John 14:1-3)

14. Here is what Jesus is showing the apostle John...and us!

I. THE NEW WORLD IS THE COMPLETE WORLD (Revelation 21:1-3)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."

(Revelation 21:1-3)

1. At first it appears to us that God is combining two things that usually (?rightly?) belong separate: *heaven and earth*
 - a. *The New Heaven and New Earth = The New World*
 - b. In the Old World, heaven and earth *never* meet.
 - c. *Between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us. (Luke 16:26)*
2. But this is *unnatural*. In the original creation (Eden), God and man lived together in a different world.
 - a. *And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. (Genesis 1:31)*
 - b. *Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.*

*These are the generations
of the heavens and the earth when they were created,
in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens. (Genesis 2:1-4)*
 - c. **Note:** the repeated use of the phrase "*the heaven and the earth*"
 - d. A *cosmos/creation/world* in which the Triune God, angels, men and women, and animal life dwelt together in both unity and harmony.
 - e. A *personal project* of God the Creator (Maker)

- i. *When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. (Genesis 2:5-22)

- ii. An ecological system, a garden, a male, a female, all the animals, a tree of life, rivers to water the earth, a tree of probation (Good and Evil), and a **shared project** between God, angels and mankind...

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. (Genesis 1:26-30)

- iii. Creation...procreation... development...management... improvement!
- iv. *A primeval world of purely good things but not yet developed into its complete perfection!*

3. Then comes one of my favorite verses in Genesis...

- a. *And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.*
(Genesis 3:8)
- b. *They heard the sound of the Lord walking in the Garden...* - a common occurrence in the First World.
- c. *...in the cool of the day:* evening, “suppertime,” after the day’s work
- d. God “coming home” at evening to have dinner with His favorite son and daughter: Adam and Eve, His family.
- e. Why? Fellowship, a meal, intimate conversation, sharing of experiences:
 - i. *What did you do today, Father, in this world of ours?*
 - ii. *What did you, my son and daughter, learn today about this home of ours?*
- f. **Illustration:** Dinner-time growing up in Columbus, Ohio: a sharing of what happened that day – Dad first, Mom second, and then all five kids, in birth order, Ann, Mike, Mary Jo, Steve and Jane.
- g. A meal of shared stories, laughter and tears, listening and caring, instruction and discipline.
(*Building our family together*)

4. But, then, the sad part: “...and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.”

- a. At that moment, three life-altering events took place.
- b. **First:** Adam and Eve acknowledge their *nakedness*: their cloak of shining glory was gone. They looked debased.
- c. **Second:** Mankind was divorced from God: sinful, ashamed, afraid, moving away from God, trying to hide.
- d. **Third:** Heaven and earth were split asunder!
 - i. God and the angels in heaven,
 - ii. Lucifer, demons and mankind on earth,
 - iii. The poor animal creatures caught in between!
- e. *Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. (Gen. 3:22-23)*

5. **Eden faded from our sight:** Heaven left the earth alone. We were rendered to the status of “earthlings” or “worldlings” – but, the remembrance of Eden lingered forever in our *dreams*.

6. **Know this:** for the lost soul, heaven is always remote, forever unseen, and still frightening because God is there and we are not. But for the Christian, heaven and earth have a future. They go together, like...
- North and South: **not** “polar opposites” but counterbalancing forces
 - Male and female: **not** the war of the sexes but pro-creators and co-rulers of the world
 - Body and soul: **not** the choice between two ways of life, but the confluence of two realities – *visible and invisible!*
 - Materiality and spirituality: **not** antagonistic religions but the harmony of true existence
 - The world of God and the world of man: **no longer** at war but now reformed to be what they once were!
7. **Eugene Peterson:** *Reversed Thunder: The Revelation of God and the Praying Imagination*; p. 171.
Heaven and earth are polarities: they designate the two poles of one material reality, neither of which can exist without the other (like north and south) and which together hold everything material between them.
8. The **New World** is already in the making. The process of recreation has already begun...
- Beginning, as it always does, from the spiritual to the material...
 - God the Spirit creating the world of creatures
 - Heaven shaping Earth to look like the Realm of God
 - The soul of people being “fitted” for the New World before the Resurrection body comes
 - From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*
(2 Corinthians 5:16-17)
 - New creatures for a new world
 - Kaine Ktisis:* new creation, but when used of human beings, “new creature”
 - Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.* (2 Corinthians 5:17 (NASB))
 - We no longer regard ourselves only from the “*flesh*”; there is something *new* inside us, changing *what/who* we are.
 - That “*something*” is really Someone –
To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:27)
 - Illustration:** Back in October, 1976, **Cathy L.** came through Memphis and called me for dinner: “*Michael, there’s something about you, on the inside; something new, what’s happened to you?*”
9. The New World is the complete world because it is the world where God lives with man again – in a *New Heaven and New Earth* – and both parties feel perfectly at home!

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (Revelation 21:3)

II. THE NEW WORLD IS THE RESTORATION OF OUR WORLD (Revelation 21:4-5)

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” (Revelation 21:4-5)

1. It is important to **note**: The New World is **not** a *repristination* of all things, **but** rather the *restoration* of all things.
 - a. *Repristination*: returning to Eden’s world (primeval)
 - b. *Restoration*: the removal of all things sinful and the retaining of all good and godly things developed over the course of history.
 - c. *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; and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, 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. (Acts 3:19-21 (NASB))*
2. This has **three new concepts** for us to grasp:
 - a. **First**: The Gospel mission involves some measure of the *Cultural Mandate*.
 - i. *Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” (Gen. 1:26)*
 - ii. Christian Mission has always involved two things
 - *Confronting sin in individuals (repentance)*
 - *Confronting sin in cultures (reformation)*
 - Together they constitute **restoration**
 - iii. This is **not** the “social gospel” but a gospel for all societies.
 - iv. **C. H. Spurgeon** (Grant; p. 123).

There are certain pious moderns who will not allow the preacher to speak upon anything but those doctrinal statements concerning the way of salvation which are known as “the Gospel.” We do not stand in awe of such criticism, for we clearly perceive that our Lord Jesus Christ Himself would very frequently have come under it. Read the Sermon on the Mount and judge whether certain among the pious would be

content to hear the like of it preached to them. Indeed, they would condemn it as containing very little Gospel and too much good works. They would condemn it as containing all too much of the legal. But we must never let be forgotten Christ's emphasis: the law must be perched, for what the law demands of us, the Gospel produces in us, else ours is no Gospel at all.

- v. The **Church's** mission is evangelism and discipleship through its various ministries.
 - vi. The **Christian's** mission is witnessing and cultural engagement in their various callings (careers).
 - vii. *Redemption...Renewal... Restoration...*
- b. **Second:** There is a *correspondence* between life in this world and the world to come.
- i. i.e., what we've begun to experience in this life in Christ, we will completely experience in the New World.
 - ii. Not something other but much, much more
 - iii. **Eugene Peterson:** *Reversed Thunder: p. 172.*
There are intricate and deep continuities between earth and heaven, between what we see and what we don't see. Just as the actions of earth flow into heaven, so the actions of heaven descend to earth. Heaven is as actual as earth.
 - iv. The New World is **not** something odd, bizarre or uncomfortable.
 - v. It is the world in which we say, "Ahhh! *This is what we've always wanted; this is what we were working toward!*"
- c. **Third:** There will be an including of what good we've done on this earth in the New World.
- i. Stated another way, all our good, creative and restorative work over the course of history will not be lost or wasted, but *included* in the New World.
 - ii. Our efforts at knowledge, civility, discovery, racial reconciliation, justice, compassion, human rights, good government, production, commerce that blesses others, creativity in art, music or writing, etc....
 - iii. These things will go with us into the New World and serve as the *springboard* for even greater advances.
 - iv. *Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.* (1 Corinthians 15:58)
 - v. Some say, "Why worry about justice, mercy and righteousness – this whole world is going to burn. Why waste your time patching holes on a sinking ship?"
 - vi. Answer: *Because the ship is not going to sink, but be (1) purged with fire, (2) fitted for a new world, (3) and enhanced to carry more people to a better life!*
 - vii. The **will of God** never changes!
*He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you*

*but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)*

viii. Our efforts at these works of **common grace** do matter, and they matter eternally!

3. **Behold!** God is making all things new! (21:5), and His Chief Contractor in this New Creation is His Son Jesus, who is accompanied by an army of invested, involved and intrepid Christians!

We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. (John 9:4)

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. (John 14:12-14)

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. (John 15:16)

For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. (1 Corinthians 3:9-15)

4. What we do in Gospel mission and cultural mandate helps Jesus Christ create the New World!

III. THE NEW WORLD IS BUILT AROUND ONE RELIGION (Revelation 21:6-8)

And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." (Revelation 21:6-8)

1. There is that title for God and Christ again: "*The Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end*"

- a. The eternal Triune God

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. (John 1:1-4)

- b. The source of all that exists: The Fountainhead Creator
 - c. The God who was, is and shall always be.
 - d. God in the beginning existing before any idols, and God in the end, when all false gods have been destroyed.
 - e. **The only God in the New World!**
2. And His one, true, eternal religion is *Gospel Faith*.
- a. The eternal Gospel for eternal life in the New World.
Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water." (Revelation 14:6-7)
 - b. A religion of pure **grace**.
And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. (Revelation 21:6)
The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. (Revelation 22:17)
 - c. And a religion with the promise of a lasting heritage in the Covenant with God
The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. (Revelation 21:7)
 - d. A religion **by** grace, **through** faith, **in** Christ Jesus, and **for** the good works God has forever predestined for His New World!
 - e. *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10)*
3. And a New World in which **eight classes** of people will **not** be found.
- a. *But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." (Revelation 21:8)*
 - b. *The Cowardly:* Those who through fear of persecution renounced Christ to save their own lives and loved ones.
The Faithless: Those who dropped out of the church; the apostates who quit following Jesus because it was "too hard."
The Detestable: Those who engaged in idol worship and the devotion to "abominable" practices and "detestable" idols.
Murderers: Those who participated in the martyrdom of the saints in loyalty to the Beast.

And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. (Revelation 13:15)

The Sexually Immoral: Those who loved this world and its lusts and gave themselves to the Whore of Beldan.

The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations.” (Revelation 17:4-5)

Sorcerers: Those involved in witchcraft, the occult, New Age Religion, Mysticism and self-invented spirituality.

Idolaters: Everyone in any religion besides Gospel Faith: Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Shintoism, Taoists, Confusionists, Animists, Evolutionism, Social Gospel Churches. This includes all *Christless Christianity*.

All Liars: Those who both deceive others and are deceived by their own false teachings –

For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. (2 Timothy 3:6-7)

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. (2 Timothy 3:12-13)

4. There is **another place** for them – not a complete world, but an eternal place of eternal punishment: **The Lake of Fire**

- a. i.e., the enhanced, complete and everlasting *Hell* –
- b. Hell on steroids!
- c. The *trash heap* of the Old World: whatever does not belong to the New World **must** be discarded by God and **will** be burned up by Christ.
- d. *Gehenna*: God’s trash heap!

5. **Gehenna:** in the Valley of Hinnom, between Jerusalem and the Hill of Evil Council, South of Jerusalem.

- a. The Valley in which the Israelites sacrificed their children to the god *Molech*.

For the sons of Judah have done evil in my sight, declares the LORD. They have set their detestable things in the house that is called by my name, to defile it. And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into my mind. (Jeremiah 7:30-31)

- b. For that reason, a place made “forever unclean”

- c. It became the trash dump of Jerusalem – where all things unclean, infectious, abominable were burned.
 - d. Jesus talks about Gehenna repeatedly in the Gospels.
 - i. The ESV renders *Gehenna* with the word “hell”
 - ii. *But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matthew 5:22)*
 - iii. Also Mt. 5:29 and 30; 23:15, 33 (cf. Mark 9:43, 45, 47)
 - iv. Jesus describes it to us in trash-heap terms: *Maggots, fire, smoldering smoke – Where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched. (Mark 9:44 (NASB))*
6. In the Book of Revelation, the last **set of sevens** is the seven mentions of the *Lake of Fire* –
- a. *And this is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode them: they wore breastplates the color of fire and of sapphire and of sulfur, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths. By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths. (Revelation 9:17-18)*
 - b. *And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. (Rev. 14:9-10)*
 - c. *And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. (Revelation 19:20)*
 - d. *...and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Rev. 20:10)*
 - e. *Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:14)*
 - f. *And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:15)*
 - g. *But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.” (Revelation 21:8)*
7. That place burns forever and ever, and its huge, billowing cloud of black smoke will be seen in The New World as a reminder of just how serious sin really was and gracious salvation really is, and how God judged the Old World –

And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name. (Revelation 14:11)

And the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning. They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say,

*“Alas! Alas! You great city,
you mighty city, Babylon!*

For in a single hour your judgment has come.” (Revelation 18:9-10)

For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste.”

And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning,

“What city was like the great city?” (Revelation 18:17-18)

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out,

“Hallelujah!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

for his judgments are true and just;

for he has judged the great prostitute

who corrupted the earth with her immorality,

and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

Once more they cried out,

“Hallelujah!

The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.” (Revelation 19:1-3)

8. What we do in this world carries eternal consequence in the worlds yet to come!

CONCLUSION: What do we do with all this information about the New World?

1. The New World is coming. *God’s creative plan will unfold, even if thwarted for a season, by this sinful world.*
2. This world is a *probation*: Here we have the opportunity while life lasts to put our faith in God, follow Jesus Christ and become a New Creature in the Holy Spirit –
Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. (2 Corinthians 5:17 (NASB))
3. This world counts for the next. Each day you live you either contribute to the Fall of Babylon or to the rise of the New Jerusalem.
4. Your worship, work, witness and warfare help shape the New World.
5. We are saved by Christ to be *overcomers (conquerors)* in this spiritual struggle between Heaven and Hell, with the Earth in between. We are in the fight of our lives for the life of the New World.

a. *The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.*
(Revelation 21:7)

b. By living in the love of Jesus Christ, we will be *more than conquerors*.

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:37-39)

c. We are *Victors* in Jesus Christ

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:13-14)

6. We, therefore, must *fight the good fight of faith!*

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. (2 Timothy 4:6-8)