



The City of God

Revelation 21:1a (NIV)

“Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth’”

Today’s story comes from the last book of the Bible, Revelation.

The Book of Revelation was written by John about a vision. John’s vision shows a new world- a whole new heaven and a whole new earth. Our picture is of a beautiful city.

Revelation means sharing something new in an exciting way. God shared an idea of the future with John in a vision, like a vivid dream. John could see this future so clearly that he wrote down every detail in this book.

In his vision, seven angels whisk John onto a mountaintop. From there, he can see this shining city, a new Jerusalem, the City of God. The city has open gates in every direction. People can enter from any side. Twelve gates (3 on each side), like the twelve tribes of Israel, decorated with jewels and guarded by angels. The city is strong and lasting, with twelve foundations like the twelve apostles of Jesus. In this Revelation, Jesus returns and God comes to live on Earth in this wonderful city. Heaven and Earth come together on this New Earth. In this City of God, there will be no sadness, no death, no crying, no pain. On this New Earth, everyone will drink the Water of Life. There will be fruit trees and healing leaves. God and Jesus will light this city forever.

In John’s vision, God speaks from a throne and tells John to write down what he has seen. Jesus tells John to remind the Churches that this wonderful time will come from their Love and Faithfulness and Patience and Good Deeds.

Because we can read the Book of Revelation, John’s vision can be our vision, too. We can imagine a time when God and Jesus rule the earth. We can see a time when there is no thirst or hunger or sadness or war. We can practice Love and Faithfulness and Patience and Good Deeds to work for the beautiful City of God.

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