

“Paradise Lost is Paradise Restored!”**1. Intro:**

- 1.1. **Comic Book Knowledge?** - Metropolis is a **fictional city** that appears in comic books published by DC Comics, and is the home of _____? (Superman).
 - 1.1.1. **Metropolis means** – a very large city, often the capital or chief urban center of a country, state, or region. Also, the **center or principal place** for a particular activity.
 - 1.1.2. So what does this Metropolis look like? What is at its center? Who are its citizens? What are their privileges? Of what blessings are they assured?
- 1.2. **Man has always sought the ideal city or the ideal state!**
 - 1.2.1. Utopia is a name for the perfect society or environment. - *Where everyone lives in harmony, and everything is for the best!*
 - 1.2.2. Problem is Utopia literally means “*no-place*”, or “*a place that does not exist.*” [Greek *ou* “not” + *topos* “place”]
 - 1.2.3. So Heaven is not **Utopian**, but instead **a real place!**
- 1.3. Finally, the redeemed dwell w/their God in *perfect Unity!*
 - 1.3.1. Revelation, a hope to hold on to.
- 1.4. One asked, “*How might I determine the official church view of Heaven & Hell?*” The response came back... “**DIE!**”
 - 1.4.1. These last 2 chapters in revelation give basically the “**only details**” on **heaven** in the Bible!
 - 1.4.2. Most O.T. prophecies speak of the Mill. blessings, rest, & peace.
- 1.5. John Newton(Amazing Grace) said there are **3 wonders in heaven:** [1] **Seeing** those who you didn’t expect to see. [2] **Missing** people you did expect to see. [3] **To find yourself there!**
- 1.6. We’ve been asked to “*Imagine there’s no heaven*”.
 - 1.6.1. Opening line of John Lennon’s best-known song as a solo artist.
 - 1.6.2. They were a **bold challenge** for people to stop using religion, national pride, personal wealth, or anything else to generate unnecessary dissension.
 - 1.6.3. Listen to his dream of more closeness among the citizens of the world. “The brotherhood of man”, “the world will be as one.”
 - 1.6.3.1. **Read song lyrics.**
 - 1.6.4. **No John**(not Lennon) **says** “*Imagine with me... There is a heaven, because there is!*

2. PARADISE LOST IS PARADISE RESTORED! (1-8)

- 2.1. **SEE!** (1,2)
- 2.1.1. Over 50 x's told "to see" in Rev. – here is the last vision.
- 2.1.2. And what a **bright vision** it is!
- 2.2. **New** – think of the emotions that come with "New" – a new car, a new house, a new baby, a new job, or whatever.
- 2.2.1. They evoke a sense of hope, wonder, & a fresh break from the past!¹
- 2.3. For **believers** the future means "all things new"; for **those who reject Christ** it means "the same old sins for all eternity"(8).
- 2.4. The Story of Scripture comes "**full circle**". [Paradise Lost is *Paradise Restored!*]
- 2.5. Human history started with a **garden** & ends with a **city!**
- 2.6. In the beg God created heaven & earth(Gen.1:1); I saw a new heaven & earth(21:1)
- 2.7. The darkness he called night(Gen.1:5); there shall be no night there(21:25)
- 2.8. God made 2 great lights(Gen.1:16); the city had no need of the sun or moon(21:23)
- 2.9. In the day that you eat of it you shall surely die(Gen.2:17); be no more death(21:4)
- 2.10. Satan appears as deceiver(Gen.3:1); Stan disappears forever(20:10)
- 2.11. Walk of God w/man interrupted(Gen.3:8-10); Walk of God w/man resumed(21:3)
- 2.12. Initial triumph of the serpent(Gen.3:13); Ultimate triumph of the Lamb(22:3)
- 2.13. I will greatly multiply your sorrow(Gen.3:16); no more sorrow(21:4)
- 2.14. Cursed is the ground for your sake(Gen.3:17); no more curse(22:3)
- 2.15. Mans dominion broken(Gen.3:19); Mans dominion broken restored(22:5)
- 2.16. 1st paradise closed(Gen.3:23); New paradise opened(21:25)
- 2.17. Access to the tree of life disinherited(Gen.3:24); Access to the tree reinstated (22:14)
- 2.18. Driven from God's presence(Gen.3:24); they shall see His face(22:4)
- 2.19. (1) **Read** - Is.65:17-19 [700 years earlier Isaiah saw God one day doing this...]
- 2.19.1. 2 Pet.3:12,13 "the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for **new heavens** and a **new earth** in which righteousness dwells."
- 2.20. **No more Sea** – the sea is a barrier to the different Landmasses?
- 2.20.1. John's Island he was on(Patmos) was like a prison wall.
- 2.20.2. **What's our sea for?** - It covers 70% of the earth's surface. Average depth is 2.3 miles deep.
- 2.20.2.1. If earth was perfectly spherical, water would cover the entire earth ½ mile deep.
- 2.20.3. The salty brine of the ocean purges, cleanses, & preserves our planet, making it fit to live on. {It is a continuous cycle of "cleansing & renewal"}

¹ Idiot's Guide to the Book of Revelation; Pg.167

- 2.21. (2) **New city** – the final great city!
- 2.21.1. *Babylon the great* in which all the evil is concentrated into one center.
- 2.21.2. This city is in contrast (really w/all cities i.e. *crime/corruption*) for it is “**holy**”.
- 2.21.3. It has been long called the **Holy City** but finally deserving the title.
- 2.21.3.1. It was just called Sodom! (11:8)
- 2.21.3.2. But now it is ready for God to live among His people!
- 2.21.4. **New Jerusalem God builds Himself.** (Jn.14)
- 2.21.5. The author of Hebrews was looking for *the city to come* (13:14).
- 2.21.6. *The End of the World as we define it, is actually the starting point for something completely new & better.*
- 2.22. Her Husband is pleased! - Is. 62:5 “**And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So shall your God rejoice over you.**”
- 2.22.1. Read #640 (B.P.) Blind young man/ seeing bride.
- 2.23. **HEAR!** (3-8)
- 2.24. (3) This is it...if I could only keep **one Scripture** in Revelation this would be it!
- 2.24.1. Gods whole purpose is “*to be with His people*”...& it’s now achieved.
- 2.25. “The most important Thing about heavenly city is not **the absence of sin, but the Presence of God** in all His glory!”
- 2.25.1. “*Immanuel for good!...God with us for good!*”
- 2.25.2. This is **eternal life** – **Jn.17:3-5.**
- 2.25.3. **God made man to be with Him & to enjoy fellowship together.**
- 2.26. (4) **Wipe away every tear** – compassion of God!
- 2.26.1. **Ps.56:8 “You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle(wine skin).”** (Lachrymatory- Lack/RA/matory)
- 2.27. **Death, Sorrow, Crying** banished isn’t this what we’re all waiting for?
- 2.28. **Pain** - Physical pain; Emotional pain; Relational pain; Spiritual pain.
- 2.28.1. No longer a pinch of pain, nor a speck of suffering.
- 2.28.2. **No more Death**(but **Life forevermore**); **No more Sorrow**(but **Joy**); **No more Crying**(but **Laughter**); **No more Pain**(but **Pleasure**)!
- 2.29. (6) When the best of the world’s pleasures leave us thirsting for true satisfaction & inner peace, this book beckons us to come “*take the water of life w/o cost*”(22:17).
- 2.29.1. So, one prerequisite, **Be Thirsty!**
- 2.29.2. **On earth nothing satisfies you! Not wealth, fame, pleasure, possessions!**
- 2.29.3. **Only one thing can quench the deep thirst of the soul, & that’s God Himself!!! [to the thirsty God meets their needs!]**
- 2.30. **Alpha & omega** – of **the Father**(Rev.1:8; 21:6); & of **the Son**(22:13).
- 2.30.1. Hebrew word for truth is ahmeth(אמת) {starts w/**Aleph** - ends w/**Tav**}
- 2.30.1.1. Some scholars think the Greek is going back to this origin.

- 2.31. (8) Well, not everyone makes the cut!
- 2.32. **These 3 Attitudes** are the contrast of the over comers of John's churches.
 2.32.1. They have **not overcome** the world system but **embraced it**.
- 2.33. **The Cowardly** - Fearful, afraid to confess Christ, to be in the minority or on the unpopular side!
- 2.34. **The Unbelieving** - Willfully refused to believe w/their hearts.
- 2.35. **The Abominable** - They love the stench of there own sins. They feed there minds w/vile books, movies, music, vile speech, & a vile lifestyle!
- 2.36. **End:**
- 2.37. The Book of Revelation is to bring **hope near**, to **spark our imagination**, & **make the vision real!**
- 2.38. Talmud, "This world is only the vestibule to another; you must prepare yourself in the vestibule so that you may enter the banquet hall." [Altar boy, vestibule]
 2.38.1. Vestibule "a small room between an outer door and the main part of a building."
 2.38.2. Are you dressed? with His robes of righteousness?
- 2.39. Do you have Reservations: 1 Pet.1:4 "...an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you."