

The New Metropolis

I. Slide1 Announce:

A. Childrens Church - need 2 in *nursery* every other week. 1 in the 2's/3's every week.

II. Slide2 Intro: The New Metropolis

A. **Metropolis** meant the *mother city* of a colony (in the ancient sense). A large city.

1. Slide3 **New York City** has garnered the nickname **Metropolis** to describe the city in the daytime in popular culture, contrasting with **Gotham**, sometimes used to describe New York City at night.

2. So what does **this NEW Metropolis** look like? This new Sky-City. What is at its center? Who are its citizens? What are their privileges? What blessings are assured?

B. Slide4 Man has always sought the **ideal city** or the **ideal state**.

1. **Utopia** is a name for the perfect society or environment. Where everyone lives in harmony, and everything is for the best.

2. Problem is Utopia literally means *no-place, or a place that does not exist*.

3. So Heaven is not **Utopian**, but instead a real place. *I go to prepare a place for you.*

C. Slide5 We are going to hear the word **NEW** a lot in this chapter. Think through the *emotions* that come with *new*...

1. *A new car, a new house, a new baby, a new job, new phone, new recipe, a new gadget, new city.* Our brains are attracted to novelty.

2. **New** evoke a sense of *hope, wonder, & a fresh break* from the past.

3. *I read an article titled: Science Confirms You Like New Things, Just Because They're New.* [we're wired for new]

III. Slide6 NEW COSMOLOGY (1,2)

A. *Do you see what I see?* Over 50 x's we're told **to see** in Rev (here is the last vision)

B. Slide7 **NEW HEAVEN & NEW EARTH** (1)

C. Heaven & earth made new. **A new renovation. A global rehab project.** You've heard of Urban Renewal, this is Global Renewal or **Total Universe Renewal**.

D. 700 years earlier **Isaiah** saw God one day doing this very thing.

1. Is.65:17 *For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.*
2. Is.66:22 *For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me, says the Lord, So shall your descendants & your name remain*
3. 2 Pet.3:12,13 *waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

E. **No more Sea** – the sea is a barrier to the different Landmasses.

1. John's Island he was on, *Patmos*, was like a prison wall to him.
2. **What's our sea for?** It covers 70% of the earth's surface. 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**. (we don't need that anymore)

F. **Slide8 NEW CITY JERUSALEM (2)**

G. **New city** – the final great city, Metropolis, sky city.

1. It's in contrast to *Babylon* in which all evil was concentrated into one place.
2. This new City Jerusalem has been long called *the Holy City*, but finally deserving the title. [It had just been called *Sodom* in 11:8]
3. **Now**, it is ready for God to live among His people.
4. This New Jerusalem, God builds Himself. (Jn.14)
5. The author of Hebrews was looking for the city to come, *For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.* (13:14)
6. *The End of the World* as we define it, is actually **the starting point** for something completely **new & better**.

H. **Her Husband is pleased** - *And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So shall your God rejoice over you.* Is. 62:5

IV. Slide9 NEW HUMANITY (3-8)

A. **Slide10a NEW LIVING SITUATION (3)**

B. Yes, we have a relationship with God now, **but** it will be different. Paul said 2 Cor.5:6,7
*We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. [away becomes **with &** faith becomes **sight**]*

C. **This is it...** if I could only keep *one Scripture* in Revelation this would be it.

1. Gods whole purpose is **to be with His people...** & it's now achieved.

D. **Slide10b** I like what the Message Bible said here, *I heard a voice thunder from the Throne: "Look! Look! **God has moved into the neighborhood**, making his home with men and women! They're his people, he's their God.*

1. We think of **us** going to heaven, **but** this is also the reminder of **Him** wanting to **be/live/commune** with us.

2. **Finally**, Residence with God. United with God.

3. *The most important thing about heavenly city is **not the absence of sin**, but the **presence of God** in all His glory.*

E. **Merry Christmas** this is *Immanuel*, God with us, *for good!*

1. God made man to be **with Him &** to enjoy fellowship **with Him...** forever.

F. **Slide11 NEW EMOTIONS (4)**

G. Sometimes **heaven** is best described in what to **isn't** or **doesn't have**.

H. **Wipe away every tear** – God has pledged Himself to this. *Oh the compassion of God.*

1. Ps.56:8 *You number my wanderings; Put my **tears** into Your **bottle** (wine skin).*

I. **Death, Sorrow, Crying** banished - **isn't** this what we're all waiting for?

J. **Pain** - physical pain, emotional pain, relational pain, spiritual pain.

1. No longer **a pinch of pain**, **nor** a **speck of suffering**.

2. No more **Death** (**but** Life forevermore). No more **Sorrow** (**but** Joy).

No more **Crying** (**but** Laughter). No more **Pain** (**but** Pleasure).

K. **Note:** *all of these* came into the world through **sin**. **But now**, the **curse** is gone. 22:3

L. **This is...** a glorified body...*like Christs*.

M. **Slide12 NEW EVERYTHING (5)**

N. (5) Behold I make **all things new** - *new heaven, new earth, new city, new living situation, new emotions, new thirst quencher, new inheritance.*

1. For believers the future means **all things new**. [**all**, not a few things]
2. For those who reject Christ it means the same old sins for all eternity. (8)

O. What would you like to see brand new today in your life? Do over?

P. Slide13 The Story of Scripture comes **full circle** in these last 2 chapters.

1. Human history started with a **garden** and ends with a **city**.
2. In the beg God created heaven/earth. I saw a **new** heaven/earth.
3. The darkness he called **night**. There shall be **no night** there.
4. God made **two great lights**. The city had **no need** of the sun or moon.
5. In the day that you eat of it you shall surely **die**. No more **death**.
6. Satan **appears** as deceiver. Satan **disappears** forever.
7. Walk of God w/man **interrupted**. Walk of God w/man **resumed**.
8. Slide14 **Initial** triumph of the **serpent**. **Ultimate** triumph of the **Lamb**.
9. I will greatly multiply your **sorrow**. **No more** sorrow.
10. **Cursed** is the ground for your sake. **No more** curse.
11. Mans dominion **broken**. Mans dominion **restored**.
12. 1st paradise **closed**. New paradise **opened**.
13. Access to the tree of life **disinherited**. Access to the tree **reinstated**.
14. **Driven from** God's presence. They shall **see His face**.

Q. Slide15a **NEW THIRST QUENCHER** (6)

R. (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, that is w/o cost* (22:17 *freely*).

1. **So**, one prerequisite, **come thirsty**.
2. **On earth nothing satisfies you**. **Not** wealth, fame, pleasure, possessions.
 - a) Only one thing can quench the deep thirst of the soul & that's *God Himself!*

S. Slide15b **Alpha & omega** – of the Father (Rev.1:8; 21:6) & of the Son (22:13).

1. **Hebrew** word for **truth** is *ahmeth* (אמת) [**starts** w/Aleph - **ends** w/Tav]

- a) Some scholars think the **Greek** is going back to this origin.
2. **God is absolutely the beginning and absolutely the end.** Everything that is **originates** ultimately in Him. **And** everything will somehow **end** with him.
- a) **God as Creator. God as Consummator.**
3. God is 1st, the beginning. Ps.90:2 *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.* [before Him...nothing. never a time when He was not]
- a) God as **omega**...it ends here! God is the end for the thirsty. He is the end for those **not** thirsty.
- T. **Slide16 (8) Well, not everyone makes the cut.**
- U. These **3 Attitudes** are the contrast of the over comers of John's churches.
1. They have **not overcome** the world system, **but embraced** it.
- V. **The Cowardly** - fearful, afraid to confess Christ, to be in the minority or on the unpopular side.
- W. **The Unbelieving** - *willfully refused* to believe w/their hearts.
- X. **The Abominable** (snowman) - they love the stench of their own sins. **Feeding their minds w/ everything vile.**
- Y. **End:**
- Z. **Why did Jesus give John this preview of eternal glory? To encourage His people who go through testing & persecution.**
1. The Book of Revelation is to *bring hope near, to spark our imagination, & make the vision real.*
2. 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]
- AA. Richard Baxters regular meditation on heaven, *Fetch one coal daily from this altar, and see if your offering will not burn . . . Keep close to this reviving fire, and see if your affections will not be warm.*