

Chapter 45

A New Heaven And A New Earth

BIBLE

All the people saw him walking and praising God.¹ For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.²

He said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed.³ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, like a trumpet.⁴ I heard, but I didn't understand: then I said, my lord, what shall be the issue of these things?⁵

"Yahweh answered me, 'Write the vision, and make it plain on tablets, that he who runs may read it.'⁶ Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will happen hereafter.'⁷

"Then I saw, and considered well. I saw, and received instruction.⁸ I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth have passed away, and the sea is no more.⁹

"There will be no curse any more. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants serve him.¹⁰ He will wipe away from them every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; neither will there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more. The first things have passed away.¹¹

COMMENTARY

¹ **Acts 3:9**

² **Matthew 11:13** John: "The more I see the less I know for sure."

³ **Genesis 37:6** John is "in the middle of a dream" in "I'm Only Sleeping."

⁴ **Revelation 1:10**

⁵ **Daniel 12:8**

⁶ **Habakkuk 2:2** "Listen to the color of your dreams," John urges us in "Tomorrow Never Knows."

⁷ **Revelation 1:19**

⁸ **Proverbs 24:32** John's solo composition "Imagine," in which he invites us to envision a world at peace, was released in 1971.

⁹ **Revelation 21:1** In "Imagine," the "first heaven" has passed away: "Imagine there's no heaven...no hell below us." The first heaven is a actual place that we hope to go to (instead of hell) when we die. But the new heaven is a place in our consciousness that we can go to now.

¹⁰ **Revelation 22:3** In "Imagine," "all the people [are] living for today," no longer cursed by living in the past or future, outside of God awareness.

¹¹ **Revelation 21:4** In "Imagine," there's "nothing to kill or die for" and "no need for greed or hunger."

“I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.¹² I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its temple.¹³

“The city has no need for the sun, neither of the moon, to shine, for the very glory of God illuminated it, and its lamp is the Lamb.¹⁴ The nations will walk in its light. The kings of the earth bring the glory and honor of the nations into it.¹⁵

“The whole earth was of one language and of one speech.¹⁶ The multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul. Not one of them claimed that anything of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.¹⁷ The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet. They break out song.¹⁸

“Now I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. When I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who had shown me these things.¹⁹ Behold, my eye has seen all this. My ear has heard and understood it.”²⁰

When he had finished prophesying, he came to the high place.²¹ He made the holy anointing oil and the pure incense of sweet spices, after the art of the perfumer.²²

¹² **Revelation 21:2** Albert Einstein: “Logic will take you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.”

¹³ **Revelation 21:22** In “Imagine,” there is no temple because “there’s no religion.” John: “The concept of positive prayer ... If you can *imagine* a world at peace, with no denominations of religion—not without religion but without this my God-is-bigger-than-your-God thing—then it can be true.”

¹⁴ **Revelation 21:23** In “Imagine,” there is no sun or moon; there is “above us only sky.”

¹⁵ **Revelation 21:24** In “Imagine,” the nations will walk in the light of God and “the world will be as one.”

¹⁶ **Genesis 11:1** In “Imagine,” everyone speaks the same language because “there’s no countries.”

¹⁷ **Acts 4:32** In “Imagine,” there are “no possessions” and “all the people [are] sharing all the world.”

¹⁸ **Isaiah 14:7** In “Imagine,” “all the people [are] living life in peace.”

¹⁹ **Revelation 22:8** John and Yoko: “Wishing is more effective than waving flags. It works. It’s like magic. Magic is simple. Magic is real...Magic is logical. Try it sometimes.”

²⁰ **Job 13:1**

²¹ **1 Samuel 10:13**

²² **Exodus 27:39**

Smoke went out of his nostrils.
Consuming fire came out of his
mouth. Coals were kindled by it.²³
Immediately his ears were opened,
and the impediment of his tongue was
released, and he spoke clearly.²⁴ “I
will ascend above the heights of the
clouds! I will make myself like the
Most High!”²⁵

He dreamed yet another dream, and
told it to his brothers, and said,
“Behold, I have dreamed yet another
dream: and behold, the sun and the
moon and eleven stars bowed down to
me.”²⁶ Look to the heavens, and see.
See the skies, which are higher than
you.²⁷

“I saw in the visions of my head on
my bed, and behold, a watcher and a
holy one came down from the sky.”²⁸
On the top of high places by the way,
where the paths meet, she stands.²⁹
She is more precious than rubies.
None of the things you can desire are
to be compared to her.³⁰

“Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I
heard behind me the voice of a great
rushing, saying, Blessed be Yahweh’s
glory from his place.”³¹ I saw in the
vision; now it was so, that when I
saw, I was in the citadel of Susa,
which is in the province of Elam; and
I saw in the vision, and I was by the
river Ulai.³²

²³ **Psalm 18:8**

²⁴ **Mark 7:35**

²⁵ **Isaiah 14:14** “Climb in the back
with your head in the clouds and
you’re gone,” John sings in “Lucy
In The Sky With Diamonds.”

²⁶ **Genesis 37:9** John was inspired to
write “Lucy In The Sky With
Diamonds.” after his young son
Julian showed him a picture he had
made of a friend named Lucy.
Julian had sketched in some stars in
the sky above Lucy and called the
drawing *Lucy In The Sky With
Diamonds*.

²⁷ **Job 35:5** In “Lucy In The Sky
With Diamonds,” John sees the
“marmalade skies.”

²⁸ **Daniel 4:13** In “Lucy In The Sky
With Diamonds,” John has a vision
of Lucy “in the sky.”

²⁹ **Proverbs 8:2**

³⁰ **Proverbs 3:15** Rubies, like
diamonds, are considered *precious
stones*.

³¹ **Ezekiel 3:12**

³² **Daniel 8:2** John invites us to share
his vision in “Lucy In The Sky
With Diamonds”: “Picture yourself
in a boat on a river.” John had a
great imagination, and he knew that
visualization was the first step in
creating a better world for
ourselves. We could picture
ourselves on a river, or we could
picture ourselves living in a world
with everyone in peace.

“By the river on its bank, on this side and on that side, shall grow every tree for food, whose leaf shall not wither, neither shall its fruit fail: it shall bring forth new fruit every month, because its waters issue out of the sanctuary; and its fruit shall be for food, and its leaf for healing.”³³

“The flowers appear on the earth. The time of the singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.”³⁴

“It will happen in that day, that the mountains will drop down sweet wine, the hills will flow with milk, all the brooks of Judah will flow with waters, and a fountain will come forth from the house of Yahweh, and will water the valley of Shittim.”³⁵

“Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,³⁶ who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and eternal power. Amen.”³⁷

This is the disciple who testifies about these things, and wrote these things. We know that his witness is true.³⁸ Many of the multitude therefore, when they heard these words, said, “This is truly the prophet.”³⁹

³³ **Ezekiel 47:12** In “Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds,” John describes the “tangerine trees” and “marmalade skies.” The fantastic images in the song were inspired by the work of Lewis Carroll. Two of John’s favorite books as a child were Carroll’s *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through The Looking Glass*. Carroll is one of the celebrities portrayed on the cover of the Sgt. Pepper album.

³⁴ **Song of Solomon 2:12** In “Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds,” John describes the “cellophane flowers” that “grow so incredibly high.”

³⁵ **Joel 3:18** John, who describes a place where “everything flows” in “Glass Onion”, tells us about “a fountain” by “a bridge” in “Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds.”

³⁶ **Ephesians 3:20** “Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds” was initially banned by the BBC because of the fact that the first letters of the three nouns in the song’s title spell out LSD. Although John was using acid on a regular basis during the time he wrote the song, he always maintained that the LSD acronym was a pure coincidence.

³⁷ **1 Timothy 6:16**

³⁸ **John 21:24**

³⁹ **John 7:40** John: “Surrealism had a great effect on me because then I realised that the imagery in my mind wasn’t insanity. Surrealism to me is reality.”