

All Things New - Revelation Chapter 21 & 22

John also describes another startling reality; the uncreation of the universe. The earth will still be tainted with sin and subject to the effects of the fall so it will be destroyed also. The present earth will not be moved or reshaped. It will go out of existence. In its place God will create a new heaven and a new earth (Rev 21:1). History has ended, time will be no more, eternity has begun forever and ever.

New Heaven and New Earth

God will create a new realm for the redeemed and the holy angels to dwell forever. Not much information is given about the new heaven and the new earth's characteristics, vegetation, color or form. However, enough information is given that we know that the ordering of the new heaven and new earth will be radically different from the present earth.



There are twelve “No Mores” in the new heaven and new earth:

1. No more sea - Life will no longer be dependent on water for survival. Believer's glorified bodies will not require water.
2. No more tears - Anything that brings sadness or pain will be gone.
3. No more death - The greatest curse of human existence will be gone.
4. No more mourning - Death will be no more.
5. No more crying - Grief and sorrow will not exist.
6. No more pain - There will be perfect holiness and absence of sin. There will be no suffering.
7. No more thirst - God will graciously quench all desires.
8. No more wickedness - All evil will be banished.
9. No more temple - The Father and Son are personally present. (Rev 21:22)
10. No more night - God's glory will give eternal light. (Rev 21:23-25; 22:5)
11. No more closed gates - God's doors will always be open as there is no evil.
12. No more curse - Christ's blood has forever lifted that curse.

No more terminal diseases, hospitals, disabilities, funerals. No more crime, courts or prisons. No more divorces, breakdowns or breakups. No more heart attacks, strokes, or debilitating illnesses. No more doctors, medications or surgeries. No more decay, decline and no waste. No famines, plagues, hurricanes, tornadoes, or devastating disasters. All human experience related to the original creation is gone forever. God has made all things new.

Its Capital

Heaven's capital will be the New Jerusalem. It will be the third city named Jerusalem in redemptive history. The first is the historic Jerusalem, the City of David, which currently exists in Palestine. The second Jerusalem will be the restored Jerusalem where Christ will rule during the Millennial Kingdom. The New Jerusalem is called the holy city because

everyone in it is holy (Rev 20:6). Unlike the prior Jerusalem, the inhabitants in the new Jerusalem will live together in perfect harmony.

The new Jerusalem already exists and is where believers who die go to and where Jesus said he was going before them to prepare a place for them (John 14:1-3). The New Jerusalem does not rest on the earth during the Millennium Period and will be withdrawn from its proximity to the earth when the earth will be destroyed at the end of the Millennium.

When God creates the new heaven and the new earth, the new Jerusalem will descend into the midst of the holy new universe and serve as the dwelling place of the redeemed for all eternity. (Mac Arthur pg 316). John compares the city to a beautifully dressed bride being made ready for the wedding. It is time for the consummation of the wedding - the eternal state for believers.



God's Dwelling Place

The supreme glory and joy of heaven is that God dwells there. No more will God be located far away from believers. No longer will His presence be veiled and no longer will believers not be able to behold His majestic glory. We will live in His glorious presence and enjoy His fellowship. We will see Him as He really is, worship Him, and serve Him.

Its Residents

Heaven belongs to those who are redeemed and are dissatisfied with their hopeless, lost condition and crave God's righteousness. Those are the same ones who have overcome or exercise a saving faith in Jesus Christ. God promises that He will be their God. Our adoption as sons of God will be fully realized (Rom 8:23).

The Outcasts

Those without genuine faith will not be in the New Jerusalem. Neither will the other unbelievers: the abominable, murderers, immoral persons, sorcerers, idolaters, and liars.

General Appearance

The most distinguishing characteristic of the capital city is that it is the throne of God. As such it radiates God's glory so much so that it does not need any other light. There will be no sun or moon to give light; God's glory will illuminate the entire city and its lamp is Jesus (Rev 21:23). Darkness and all the evil it signifies will be gone forever.



The city appeared to John like one gigantic precious stone. The stone, jasper, that John mentions does not refer to the modern stone of the same name, which is opaque. It is

from the Greek word referring to a translucent stone. A crystal clear stone today would be like a flawless diamond. John pictures the New Jerusalem as a huge, flawless diamond, refracting the brilliant glory of God throughout the new heaven and the new earth. ¹

Exterior & Interior Design

John saw an angel measuring the eternal city much like the measuring of the Millennial Temple (Eze 40:3) and the measuring of the Tribulation temple (Rev 11:1). The significance is that it marks out what belongs to God and was measured in human measurements.

The city is laid out as a square and has three gates on each side with an angel standing guard at each gate. The city walls are about 1,380 miles in each direction. Its length and width and height are equal. There will be plenty of room for all the redeemed.

The thickness of the walls was seventy-two yards and was made out of the same diamond-like stone, jasper. The city itself was also pure gold, like clear glass. The walls and buildings of the eternal city must be clear for the city to radiate the glory of God. This also means that the walls are not to keep people out like we have walls today. These walls are simply to radiate the glory of God.

The names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel are written on the gates. In contrast to Revelation 7:5-8, where the 144,000 are sealed for protection to proclaim the Gospel, the tribe of Dan is omitted and Joseph's son Manasseh is included, the original twelve sons are included here.



The foundation stones bear the names of the 12 apostles of Jesus. The names of the stones have changed through the centuries, making their identification uncertain. However these brightly colored stones refract the shining brilliance of God's glory into a spectrum of dazzling colors.

The gates were each made of a single gigantic pearl which would mean that they were nearly 1,400 miles high. All precious gems are metal or stones, but a pearl is a gem formed within the oyster and is the only one formed by living flesh. The pearl represents pain resulting in beauty, suffering crowned with glory. When we read of this symbol of the pearl eternally embedded in the doorways of heaven, it should remind us that Christ's suffering had an eternal purpose and opened heaven for us (John 10:9; 14:6). ²



The streets are made of pure gold. We will walk on the material we hold in highest esteem. Gold will be trodden upon like asphalt. There will be no vanity, no materialism, no envy or greed. Best of all, no one will be poor in a city that paves its streets with gold.

It will contain a river of the water of life cascading down from the throne of God and of the Lamb in a dazzling never-ending stream. It is a symbol of eternal life and the constant flow of everlasting life from God's throne to His people.



It will also contain the tree of life. This is the celestial counterpart to the tree of life in Eden (Gen 2:9; 3:22-24). It symbolizes the blessing of eternal life. The tree's leaves seem to contribute to the physical well-being of those in the eternal state. Healing here is better translated as health-giving rather than our modern day term of healing.

Internal Character

There will no longer be any curse and we will serve God for all eternity. His name will be on our foreheads and we will reign with Them. The city will be the dwelling place of the united people of God - Old and New Testament believers. The nations will be in the city as well as Israel and the

Church. It is evident that the city is the dwelling place of the saints of all ages, the angels, and God Himself, forever.

Jesus' Final Message (Rev 22:7-21)

- Read and share this book - it is not to be hidden.
- The words in the Book of Revelation are prophecy.
- When He comes He will reward based on what we have done.
- Blessed are those who have accepted Him as Lord and Savior and will spend eternity in heaven with Him.
- If anyone adds to or takes away from the words of the prophecy of this book they will not be in heaven.
- Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega; the first and the last; the beginning and the end.
- He is the root and descendant of David, the Bright Morning Star.
- He is coming back.
- The time is near for Him to come back.
- When He comes it will be sudden and quick.



- Blessed are those who read and heed the words of the prophecy of this book.

Amen, Come Quickly Lord, Jesus!

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