

## **Revelation - Revelation Summary & Chapter 21 & 22**

### **All Things New**

Jesus has established His peaceful and just kingdom on earth and will reign for one thousand years fulfilling many Old Testament prophecies. Satan is chained and thrown into the abyss for one thousand years. Some believers in Christ will survive the Great Tribulation and enter into the Millennial Kingdom as citizens, the martyred believers from the Tribulation were resurrected to reign with Christ for the thousand years, and John saw God's people sitting on thrones reigning with Christ. Judgment is given to them to rule subordinates over every aspect of life in the Millennial Kingdom and carry out His perfect will.

After the thousand years, Satan will be released and will once again deceive the nations, cause the nations to rise up to battle Christ yet again. Like Armageddon a thousand years earlier (Rev 19:11-21), there will be no battle. Fire comes down from Heaven and destroys God's enemies. They are instantly exterminated. Satan's forces will be killed and their souls will go into the realm of punishment awaiting their final sentencing to eternal hell. Satan is thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and false prophet have been for one thousand years. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever (Rev 20:10).

Jesus is seen sitting on a white throne judging the unsaved of all the ages. The Book of Life determines where they will spend eternity; their deeds will determine their degree of punishment in hell. This is the second death.

John also reports 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. In its place God will create a new heaven and a new earth (Rev 21:1).

### **All Things New**

History has ended, time will be no more, eternity has begun forever and ever. 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: no more sea, no more tears, no more death, no more mourning, no more crying, no more pain, no



more thirst, no more wickedness, no more temple, no more night, no more closed gates, and no more 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 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).



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. John pictures the New Jerusalem as a huge, flawless diamond, refracting the brilliant glory of God throughout the new heaven and the new earth.



## Exterior & Interior Design

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).



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.

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!**