

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Revelation 21

Revelation 21: Heaven Shines by the Father and Son

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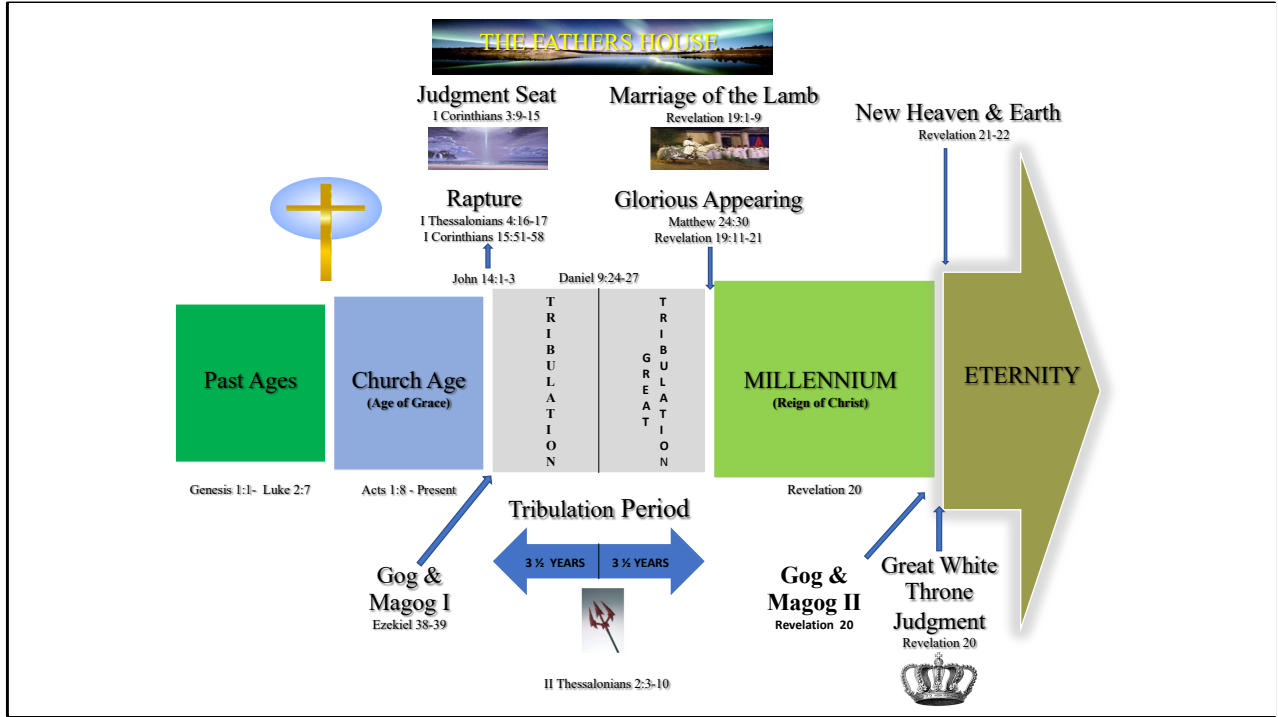



“For I will create a new heaven and a new earth, the past events will not be remembered or come to mind” (Isaiah 65:17). Our sin will be remembered no more!

Revelation Rhymes

Revelation Chapter 1: A Picture of the Eternal Son
Revelation Chapter 2: Work of the Church to Do
Revelation Chapter 3: Where Should Our Church Be?
Revelation Chapter 4: God Worshiped By 24 and More
Revelation Chapter 5: Jesus the Lamb Alive
Revelation Chapter 6: Judgment and Seals Mix
Revelation Chapter 7: Two Great Multitudes (One in Heaven)
Revelation Chapter 8: Silence, Prayer, and Trumpets Great
Revelation Chapter 9: Woe, Woe, Woe: Men Seek to Die
Revelation Chapter 10: The Little Book Consumed Within
Revelation Chapter 11: Two Witnesses Ascend to Heaven
Revelation Chapter 12: Israel Into the Wilderness to Dwell
Revelation Chapter 13: Antichrist the Great Unclean
Revelation Chapter 14: 144,000 in a Heavenly Scene
Revelation Chapter 15: Praise to the Lamb the Victors Sing
Revelation Chapter 16: Bowls of Judgment to Be Gleaned
Revelation Chapter 17: Scarlet Woman of Filthy Sheen
Revelation Chapter 18: Babylon's, Babylon's Destruction Seen
Revelation Chapter 19: Jesus Christ Reigns Supreme
Revelation Chapter 20: Righteous Judgment Dealt in Plenty
Revelation Chapter 21: Heaven Shines by the Father and Son








Fulfilled Promises

“Therefore, a Sabbath rest remains for God’s people”
(Hebrews 4:9).

“But based on his new promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness dwells”
(2 Peter 3:13).

The New Creation

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.



We will bridge Chapter 21 to Chapter 22 in a few weeks, but note quickly here that there are seven “news” in these two chapters. Again, seven is a number of completion, or of perfection, in Scripture (particularly in Revelation).

Scriptures teach us on numerous occasions that the old heaven and earth must disappear (Psalm 102:25-26; Isaiah 34:4; Isaiah 51:6; Matthew 24:35; 2 Peter 3:10, 12; Revelation 21:1).

The argument is whether the heaven and earth will be recreated or simply renewed and transformed. The plainest reading in the Greek suggest that the old will disappear and that the new will instantly appear (certainly this is possible given that God *initially* orchestrated all creation).

³Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.

There will no more sea, death, mourning, tears, pain, curse, or night.

There will be new heaven, earth, Jerusalem, things, paradise, place for God's throne, and Light Source.

God will live in eternity with His peoples.



Some lament the loss of the sea, but the sea in Scripture represents chaos and disorder. Whether this is literal or not is up for interpretation, but to be sure, chaos and disorder will completely cease.

⁵ Then the one seated on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new.” He also said, “Write, because these words are faithful and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will freely give to the thirsty from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son. ⁸ But the cowards, faithless, detestable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars—their share will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

“The Lord does not delay his promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but **all to come to repentance**” (2 Peter 3:9).

⁸ On the contrary, what does it say? **The message is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.** This is the message of faith that we proclaim: ⁹ If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, **Everyone who believes on him will not be put to shame,** ¹² since there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord of all richly blesses all who call on him. ¹³ **For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**” (Romans 10).

“Both the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” Let anyone who hears, say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come. Let the one who desires take the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17).

ALL people without Christ.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

¹⁶ For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God” (John 3).



⁹ Then one of the seven angels, who had held the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues, came and spoke with me: “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” ¹⁰ He then carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹ arrayed with God’s glory. Her radiance was like a precious jewel, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. ¹² The city had a massive high wall, with twelve gates. Twelve angels were at the gates; the names of the twelve tribes of Israel’s sons were inscribed on the gates. ¹³ There were three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. ¹⁴ The city wall had twelve foundations, and the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb were on the foundations.

God’s Presence: He will dwell with us;
we will be His people. He will be our God!

Judah, Reuben, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin (Based on Revelation 7)

Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Phillip, Thomas, Bartholomew, James, Matthew, Thaddeus, Simon, Matthias (or Paul?)



“Twelve can be found in 187 places in the Bible. Revelation alone has 22 occurrences of the number. The meaning of 12, which is considered a perfect number, is that it symbolizes God's power and authority, as well as serving as a perfect governmental foundation. It can also symbolize completeness or the nation of Israel as a whole.” – biblestudy.org

¹⁵The one who spoke with me had a golden measuring rod to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. ¹⁶The city is laid out in a square; its length and width are the same. He measured the city with the rod at 12,000 *stadia*. Its length, width, and height are equal. ¹⁷Then he measured its wall, 144 cubits according to human measurement, which the angel used. ¹⁸The building material of its wall was jasper, and the city was pure gold clear as glass. ¹⁹The foundations of the city wall were adorned with every kind of jewel: the first foundation is jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, ²⁰the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. ²¹The twelve gates are twelve pearls; each individual gate was made of a single pearl. The main street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.



The City is a tremendous cube, 1,500 miles long, wide, and deep

The Walls: 216 feet thick x 1,500 miles high

The Twelve Gates: Each made of a single pearl.

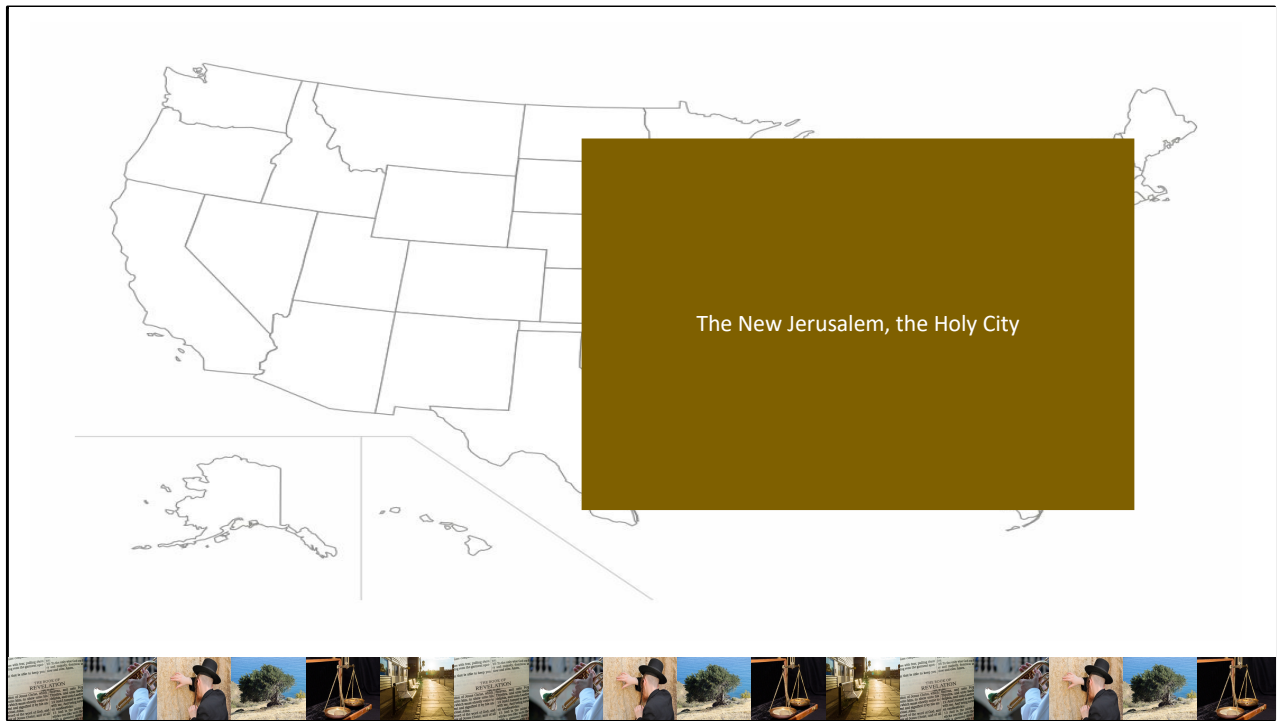
The Twelve Foundational Stones Colors: Diamond, deep blue, green, layered red, blood red, golden yellow, sea green, greenish/yellowish gold, gold green, violet, purple quartz.

The Street: Polished, brilliant gold.

The River: Crystal-clear from the main street to the Throne of God.

The Tree of Life: Eternal access





Hitchcock states that if you draw “a square from Miami up to Maine then westward to Minneapolis then south to Houston and then back to Miami,” that this measurement will be roughly the size of the city.

²² I did not see a temple in it, because the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because the glory of God illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵ Its gates will never close by day because it will never be night there. ²⁶ They will bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. ²⁷ Nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those written in the Lamb's book of life.

“Genesis 1:3-5 describes God's spoken command, 'Let there be light.' God's pronouncement of his own creative light was that it was 'good' and resulted in the first evening and the first morning. That God created light in his first command using merely two words in the Hebrew language is extraordinary, indicative of his supremacy over the earth he created and perhaps of his introduction to the light thematic which would proceed intermittently through his inspired biblical texts. Revelation 21:23 states, "The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because the glory of God illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb" (Langner).

Greg Boyd proclaims, 'When God shines, in other words, it looks like Jesus.'

“Christocentric reality bursts forth in the very first words of the Bible; darkness itself is interrupted by the Word's brilliance” (Langner).

[According to] Bonhoeffer, 'If the preceding word about the darkness upon the deep was the first thing that pointed to the passion of Jesus Christ, so now the light that frees the subjected, formless deep so that it comes to have its own being points to the light that shines in the darkness.'

The light of Genesis 1:3 was not the sun, which would not be created until the fourth day. To the writer of Genesis, the visible source of light does not seemingly matter. The focus, instead, is on the Creator from whom the light derived” (Langner).



The Whole Creation Story from Genesis to Revelation

Heavens and Earth created
Sun created
Night created
Rivers in the Garden of Eden
Curse announce
Death enters the scene
Man denied access to the Tree of Life
Sorrow and pain begin

-Hitchcock

New Heaven and Earth
No sun
No night
Rivers in the New Jerusalem
No curse
No death
Access to the Tree of Life restored
No sorrow or pain

-Hitchcock

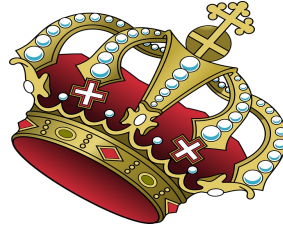
Other Themes: Babylon is built in Genesis and destroyed in Revelation; the First Marriage is in Genesis and the Last Marriage is in Revelation; The Redeemer is promised in Genesis and The Redeemer reigns in Revelation.
-Wiersbe



“...Worship
God, because
the testimony of
Jesus is the
spirit of
prophecy.”

-Revelation 10:b

“Christocentric truth...”
-Langner



All Prophecy in some
way relates to the
Messiah, beginning in
Genesis and fulfilled in
the Revelation.

Genesis 1:3, 3:15; Isaiah 53;
Luke 24:27, 44-48; John 1:1-18;
Hebrews 1; 1 Peter 1:11-12



Throughout the
Revelation, the Spirit of
God and the Person of
Jesus Christ are
“intricately linked.”

-Thomas
Revelation 2:2, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22;
11:8; 13:9-10, 18; 17:9-10



The Coronation of our Heavenly King, the very essence of our praise and worship, rests on our understanding that the Eternal Christ, in His desire to share His love to all people, spoke the world into existence.

Read Colossians 1:15-20.