

This is the future – what Jesus says “will take place later.”

Ch. 21 “The New Jerusalem”

This occurs after the seven seals are opened, and the seven trumpets are heard, the seven angels pour their bowls of wrath onto the earth, the city on the coast is destroyed, the anti-Christ & false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire, Satan is thrown into the pit for 1,000 years, Satan is released, and Satan is bound and thrown into the lake of fire.

**Rev. 21:1-3** – “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. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.”

Heaven – three distinct elements

1. First Heaven – the atmosphere or sky
2. Second Heaven – the cosmic space, **Psalm 8:3** – “When I consider the heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place...”
3. Third Heaven – the dwelling place of God, paradise

Have you ever considered the distinctions between different heavens referred to in the Bible?

**2 Cor. 12:2-4** – Paul wrote: “I know a man in Christ (himself) who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know – God knows. And I know that this man – whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows – was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell.”

Paul is sure of this remarkable experience, but he is unsure whether this rapture (being caught up) was one that included the body or one that took place in separation from the body. The third heaven designates a place beyond the immediate heaven of the earth’s atmosphere and beyond the further heaven of outer space and its constellations into the presence of God himself. How do you envision the third heaven?

**Phil. 1:21-24** – Paul wrote: “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.”

What does this tell us about our lives and our purpose of living?

**What’s Not in Heaven**

1. Tears and Mourning – there is no emotional stress and worry in heaven
2. Pain – there is no emotional and physical pain in heaven, no depression, rejection, and personal trials
3. Death – there is no death in heaven, no funeral homes, obituaries, or cemeteries
4. Some Souls –

**Rev. 21:8** – “But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

How does the third heaven differ from the world we are in now? Do you recognize these attributes around you?

**The New Jerusalem**

**Rev. 21:9-14** – “Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” And he 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, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed – on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.”

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Matthias who replaced Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

Why are the tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles honored in this way?

**Rev. 21:15-21** – “And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel’s measurement. The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoberyl, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. And the

twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.”

Measurements: 12,000 stadia = 1,431 miles (New York City to Miami); about 3 billion cubic miles

Cubit – elbow to the fingertips; 144 cubits = 216 feet

What is God telling us about the new Jerusalem from what it is constructed with and its size?

**Rev. 21:22-27** – “And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day – and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, not anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”

There is no need for a temple structure to house or represent God. God is the light of the world, and the light source is Jesus. All the inhabitants of the new Jerusalem will glorify God. There is not darkness. Our eyes are open to the truth and the light.

### Ch. 22 “The Last Words of Jesus”

**Rev. 22:1-5** – “Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city;

(**Psalm 46:4** – “There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place, where the Most High dwells.”)

Also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.”

**Gen. 2:8-9** – “Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground – trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

1. Tree of Life – signifying and giving life, without death, to those who eat its fruit
2. Tree of Good and Evil – signifying and giving knowledge of good and evil, leading ultimately to death, to those who eat its fruit

Adam and Eve possessed both life and moral discernment as they came from the hand of God. Their access to the fruit of the tree of life showed that God’s will and intention for them was life. In eating the fruit of the tree of good and evil, Adam and Eve sought a creaturely source of discernment in order to be morally independent of God. How does the Revelation Tree of Life relate to the Genesis Tree of Life?

**Rev. 22:6-9** – John “fell down to worship at the feet of the angel.”

“The words of this angel remind us that we are not to worship the Bible, a preacher, a denomination, a religion, or a church. We are to worship God alone.”

Have you or someone you know fallen into the trap of worshipping something other than God?

**Rev. 22:10-11** – “And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.”

What is he telling us about the end times and how we should live?

### I Am

**Rev. 22:12-13** – “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” Why is Jesus coming?

**Rev. 22:14-15** – “Blessed are they who have their robes washed white, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and that they may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.” How do we wash our robes? Why are the impure mentioned?

**Rev. 22:16-19** – Jesus calls everyone to come to him, to take the water of life. And Jesus warns to not add or take away from this book of prophecy. Why do you think he states these things?

**Rev. 22:20-21** – “He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.” Jesus tells us he is coming soon. And John reiterates it by saying “Come Lord Jesus!”

What is “the grace of the Lord”?

**Ex. 34:6-7** – Moses chisels the new tablets and went up Mount Sinai; “And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.”

Why is it important for the grace of Lord Jesus to be with us? When is He coming back?