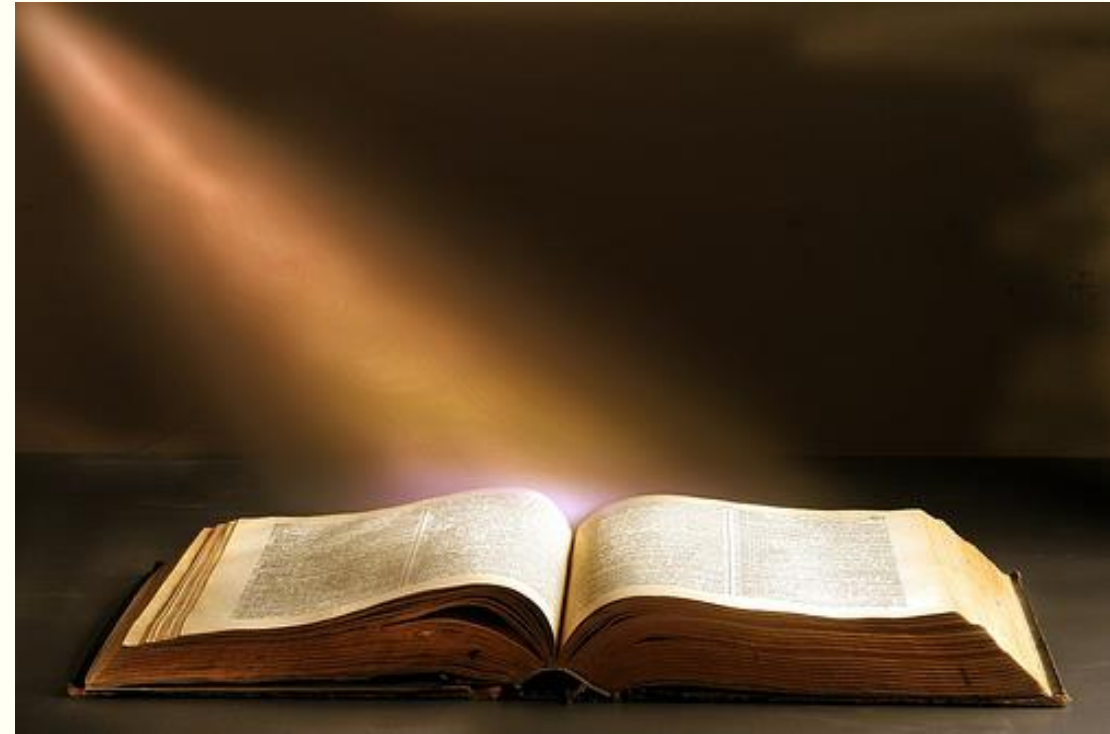




Exploring the Book of Revelation: Verse by Verse

Chapter 21





CHAPTER 21

New Jerusalem, the Bride of Christ

Chapter 21



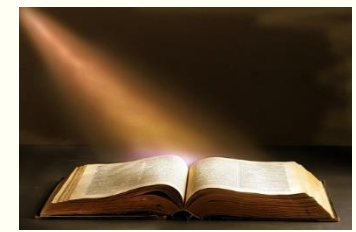
Primary purpose of our Bible study is to understand Jesus' message to His church AND its personal application for us today

Introduction

All things are made new

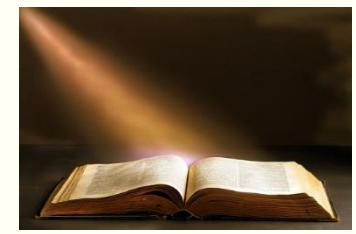
The glory of New
Jerusalem

Revelation 21:1-8



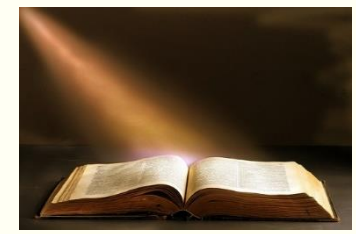
1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.” 6 And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. 8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Revelation 21:9-18



9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” **10** And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, **11** having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. **12** Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: **13** three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. **14** Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. **15** And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. **16** The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. **17** Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. **18** The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

Revelation 21:19-27



19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, **20** the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. **21** The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. **22** But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. **23** The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. **24** And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. **25** Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). **26** And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. **27** But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Introduction

Revelation 21-22 ends the love story. The Bridegroom has come to live forever with His bride. Immanuel – God with us, has made His dwelling with man.

The judgment on the wicked is complete. Satan, the originator of evil has been exterminated. All his evil angels have been destroyed. The earth has been purged from every defilement and sin. Now John sees his final vision of the earth restored and made new, the final home and reward of the redeemed.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” – Matt 5:5

“new” (Greek – kainos) occurs four times in Rev 21. It means something fundamentally new in form and quality, of a new kind, unprecedented, unheard of and not an improvement of the old or new in time or recent (Greek – neos)

Ancient Israel longed for the fulfillment of the conditional prophecy when Jerusalem would become the capital and center of the world. Unfortunately, they did not fulfill their part of the covenant promise.

“For he [Abraham] waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God...But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”
Heb 11:10,16



Revelation presents New Jerusalem as the center of the new Earth, and the fulfillment of the all the hopes and dreams of God’s people throughout the ages

Sanctuary typology tapestry - backdrop to Revelation



Prologue: Rev 1: 1-8	
Introductory Sanctuary Scene	Sevens
Lampstands (Rev 1:9-20)	7 Churches (Rev 2-3)
Throne in Heaven: Inauguration of Heavenly Sanctuary (Rev 4-5)	7 Seals (Rev 6:1-8:1)
Altar of Incense: Intercession in Heavenly Sanctuary (Rev 8:2-6)	7 Trumpets (Rev 8:7-11:8)
Ark of Covenant: Judgment in Heavenly Sanctuary (Rev 11:19)	7 Cosmic conflict scenes (Rev 12:1-15:4)
Heavenly Sanctuary closes (Rev 15:5-8)	7 Plagues
Doxology in Heaven (Rev 19:1-10)	7 Cosmic conflict concluding scenes (Rev 19:11-20:15)
Tabernacle of God with men (Rev 21:1-8)	7 Wonders of the New Jerusalem
Epilogue: Rev 22: 6-21	

All things are made new

No more sea (large bodies of water caused by the Flood) can be literal – no more separation, isolation or figuratively – turmoil, social and political upheavals

The New Jerusalem will literally come down out of heaven and NOT as a rebuilt old Jerusalem in Palestine. The saints and the city together are the bride, the Lamb's wife.

Revelation 20 highlights the end of the yearly cycle in Ancient Israel on the Day of Atonement when the scapegoat (Satan) is banished forever.

The last festival of the year is the Feast of Tabernacles (5 days later) at the completion of the harvest which commemorates their deliverance from Egypt, and the end of the 40-year wilderness journey of the Israelites. It was a joyous celebration of God's deliverance and faithfulness.

The Tabernacle (Temple) symbolizes God's abiding presence

“My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” – Exe 37:27

The New Jerusalem has all the characteristics of the Old Testament temple. It is adorned with gold, pearls, angels and precious stones. The floor is covered in gold. It is an exact cube. The Presence of God is fully with man and there is no more separation.

If each saved person were given 100 square feet of ground space, there would be room for 39 billion people. If all the people who have ever lived were saved, there would be plenty of room for them in the Holy city.



All things made new

“Therefore, they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to **living fountains of waters**. And God will **wipe away every tear** from their eyes.” – Rev 7:15-17

“He will **swallow up death forever**, and the Lord God will **wipe away tears** from all faces. The rebuke of His people, He will take away from all the earth; For the Lord has spoken...I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people. The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, nor the voice of crying.” - Isa 25:8, 65:49



Death is an enemy of the human race. Tears, pain, sorrow, separation are the result of the Fall. God will erase every reminder of the regime of evil and sin.

“The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.” – I Cor 15:26

“Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire.” – Rev 20:14

Christ, the Faithful and True Witness guarantees the trustworthiness of this prophecy

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.” begins and ends the Book of Revelation (Rev 1:8, Rev 21:6, and Rev 22:13)

All things begin and end with God. He is in control of the course of history!

All things made new

In the restoration of the earth, our deepest needs will be satisfied. Drinking from the fountain of life is the reward of the redeemed who refused to drink from Babylon's wine.

The 7 promises to those who overcome in Rev 2-3 is topped by the greatest reward: The overcomers shall be children of God with all the rights of heirs. They shall inherit all!

In contrast, those who gave their allegiance to the Satanic trinity are excluded from the inheritance and eternally separated from God (the second death)

Cowardly – those lacking genuine commitment for the sake of inconvenience and to avoid persecution denied Christ, choosing comfort and public opinion (not a naturally timid)

Unfaithful (Unbelieving) – backslide from their faith in Christ, and could not trust God

Sorcerers – those who have a special relationship with Satan and embraced spiritualism

New Jerusalem radiates like jasper sparkling like crystal as it descends and lands on where the Mount of Olives now stands as the mount flattens into a great plain

“And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south...Thus the Lord my God will come, and all the saints with You...All the land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem” Zech 14:4, 5,10



The glory of New Jerusalem

“In the visions of God, He took me into the land of Israel and set me on a very high mountain; on it toward the south was something like the structure of a city.” – Eze 40:2

As the approaching city draws nearer, John describes its radiance and shining glory moving from the exterior city description of its walls and its gates to the inside. From afar, the city looks like it sits on a rainbow as every color of the rainbow is represented

Ancient city of Babylon was an exact square, 120 furlongs (15 miles) on each side

New Jerusalem is a massive cube 12,000 furlongs = 1500 miles (from Persia to Egypt)

New Jerusalem is larger than India with nearly 2 million square miles. The height of the city goes well beyond Earth's atmosphere and into space (600,000 stories high)

The diameter is larger than the moon. The walls are of solid jasper - 216 feet high. The walls of Jerusalem are not for defense, but a symbol of security and safety

The stones of the foundations correspond to the twelve precious stones on the breastplate of the Old Testament priest on which the twelve tribes of Israel were engraved (Ex 28:17-20)

“For I, says the Lord, ‘will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst.’” Zech 2:5

“They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God.” – Luke 13:29



The glory of New Jerusalem

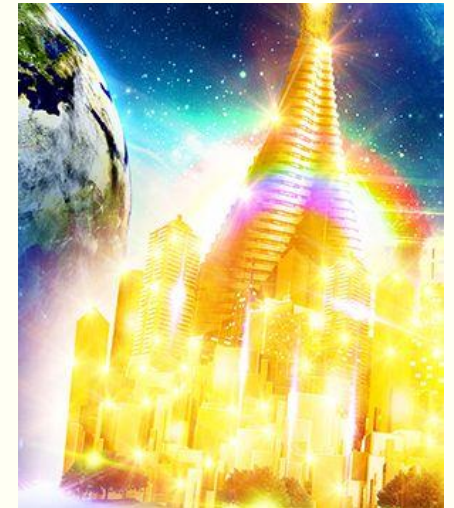
Jerusalem is a universal city and everyone of the redeemed has unlimited access to God. God's people through the ages are symbolized by the Old Testament (the twelve tribes of Israel) and the New testament (the twelve apostles) in their totality

“These are the exits of the city. On the north side, measuring four thousand five hundred cubits (the gates of the city shall be named after the tribes of Israel), the three gates northward: one gate for Reuben, one gate for Judah, and one gate for Levi; on the east side, four thousand five hundred cubits, three gates: one gate for Joseph, one gate for Benjamin, and one gate for Dan; on the south side, measuring four thousand five hundred cubits, three gates: one gate for Simeon, one gate for Issachar, and one gate for Zebulun; on the west side, four thousand five hundred cubits with their three gates: one gate for Gad, one gate for Asher, and one gate for Naphtali. All the way around shall be eighteen thousand cubits; and the name of the city from that day shall be: THE LORD IS THERE.” – Eze 48:30-35

We cannot comprehend the beauty, splendor, glory of the home of the redeemed. The whole world will be one huge garden of unsurpassed beauty, interspersed with lakes, rivers, and mountains

“The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But the Lord will be to you an everlasting light, and your God your glory. Your sun shall no longer go down, nor shall your moon withdraw itself; For the Lord will be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning shall be ended.” – Isa 60:19-20

“Clothe yourself in your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city. For the uncircumcised and the unclean will no more come into you.” – Isa 52:1



The glory of New Jerusalem

The characteristics of New Jerusalem is also the characteristics of the redeemed

“But there shall by no means enter it **anything that defiles...**” – Rev 21:27

“Blessed and **holy** is he who has part in the first resurrection.” – Rev 20:6

God’s people must be careful not to allow anything the defiles enter their minds and hearts. They are called now to be separate from uncleanness and everything impure

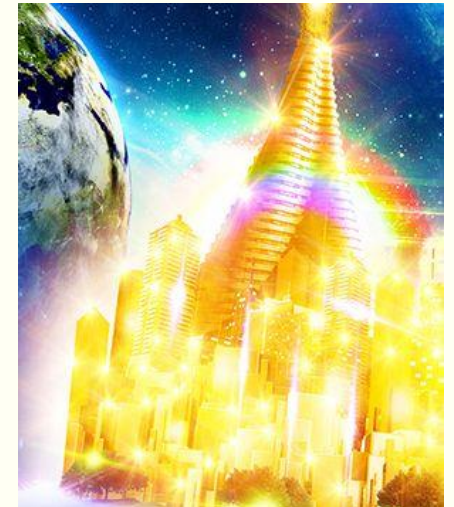
“...neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.” – John 10:28

Angels guard the gates of the city just as cherubim guarded the entrance to the Garden of Eden. Just as the city is secure, **we can rejoice in the security we have in Jesus**

In the OT, the temple of God was inside the Jerusalem. However, the entire city, New Jerusalem is the temple. Except for the High Priest, no man could enter the Most Holy place in the OT. However, we will dwell in the very presence of God in the New Earth.

“He who overcomes, I will make him a **pillar in the temple of My God**, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the **New Jerusalem**, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.” – Rev 3:12

12,000 furlongs (each side of the city) x 12 sides (perfect cube) = **144,000**



The glory of New Jerusalem

Earthly kings will not resume their kingly positions in the New Earth. The redeemed from all nations will reign as kings and priests forever

Only those who have totally surrendered in loyalty and obedience to Jesus on earth will live in the New Earth. The stone of Daniel 2 which represents the kingdom of Christ has become a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

“But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” – 1 Cor 2:9

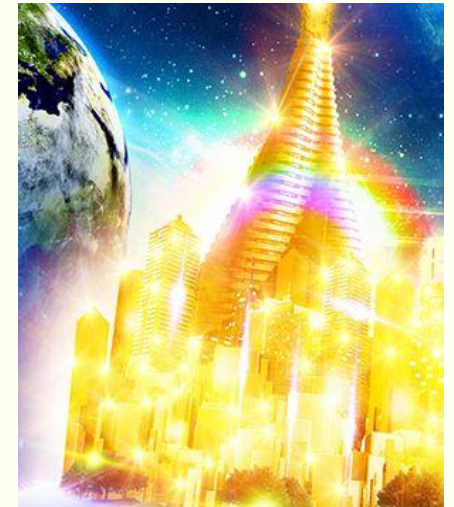
The tree of life is in the middle of the city just as it was in the middle of the garden of Eden. It will bring unending life and restore the vigor, stature, intellect and vitality of man

Time will be replaced by Eternity. There will be no night and no need for sleep. The weekly and monthly cycle will continue, and the multitude of the redeemed will come to the Holy city from their country homes each Sabbath to worship their Creator

“And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me,” says the Lord.” – Isa 66:23

The Great Controversy between good and evil is ended. **The regime of rebellion is over.**

The redeemed will experience their deepest desires. The paradise lost to Adam will be restored by the second Adam. Jesus will retain His humanity forever!



“Every faculty will be developed, **every capacity increased**. The acquirement of knowledge will not weary the mind or exhaust the energies. There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, **the loftiest aspirations reached**, the **highest ambitions realized**; and still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body. **All the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God's redeemed**. Unfettered by mortality, they wing their tireless flight to worlds afar—worlds that thrilled with sorrow at the spectacle of human woe and rang with songs of gladness at the tidings of a ransomed soul. With unutterable delight the children of earth enter into the joy and the wisdom of unfallen beings. They share the treasures of knowledge and understanding gained through ages upon ages in contemplation of God's handiwork. **With undimmed vision they gaze upon the glory of creation**—suns and stars and systems, all in their appointed order circling the throne of Deity. Upon all things, from the least to the greatest, the Creator's name is written, and in all are the riches of His power displayed. And the years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase. The more men learn of God, the greater will be their admiration of His character. As Jesus opens before them the **riches of redemption** and the amazing achievements in the great controversy with Satan, the hearts of the ransomed thrill with more fervent devotion, and with more rapturous joy they sweep the harps of gold; and ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of voices unite to swell the mighty chorus of praise.”

GREAT CONTROVERSY, PAGES 677-678

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