

BEWARE THE LAMB



THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST REV 21-22

Revelation 21

(2 Co 5:17) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

(Rev 21:5) And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new...

Return of the King – The Final Chapters:

- Chapter 21 Eternity – All new
- Chapter 22 Conclusion

The New Heavens & New Earth

Revelation 21:1-5

[1] And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

[2] And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. [3] And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. [4] And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

[5] And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

The New Heavens & New Earth

Revelation 21:6-8

[6] And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

[7] He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

[8] But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

The New Heavens & New Earth

Revelation 21:9-14

[9] And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

[10] And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

[11] Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

[12] And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

[13] On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

[14] And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

5

The New Heavens & New Earth

Revelation 21:15-18

[15] And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.

[16] And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

[17] And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

[18] And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

The New Heavens & New Earth

Revelation 21:19-21

[19] And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones.

The first foundation was jasper;

the second, sapphire;

the third, a chalcedony;

the fourth, an emerald;

[20] The fifth, sardonyx;

the sixth, sardius;

the seventh, chrysolite;

the eighth, beryl;

the ninth, a topaz;

the tenth, a chrysoprasus;

the eleventh, a jacinth;

the twelfth, an amethyst.

[21] And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

The New Heavens & New Earth

Revelation 21:22-27

[22] And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

[23] And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

[24] And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

[25] And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

[26] And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

[27] And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie:

but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

And now, the good news

John has seen the doom of the wicked,

Now he sees the bliss of the blessed.

The dream of a new heaven and a new earth was deep in Jewish thought.

"Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things shall not be remembered, or come into mind" (Isa.65:17).

For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. (Isa.66:22).

The New Jerusalem

- 12 Gates, named with the 12 Tribes
- 12 Foundations, named with 12 apostles
- Cubical?
 - 12,000 furlongs *in each of 3 dimensions* (1500 miles?)
- No Temple: dwelling with God
- No night: Lamb is the light thereof
- Tree of Life, etc.

Rev 21:1-8 Free Translation

[1] *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

[2] *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

[3] *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

[4] *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

[5] *And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*

[6] *And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*

[7] *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

[8] *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

11

Revelation 21:1 - "Out of this world"

[1] *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

The history of time is finished - eternity is about to begin.

Outside of "time" → Eternity (*Heb 1:10-12; 12:26-27*).

Heaven and Earth to disappear! The earth as we now know it is no longer.

There is a new heaven and new earth

It's not that the New will be all strange; just cleansed, a replacement for the sin curse creation we have known. When God created it, He declared it good. Now, John sees the New Improved version of God's good creation...

God's Day has come; the earth has been physically and morally cleansed of all evil

(*Mt 24:35; Isa 65:17; 66:22; Heb 11:13-16; 2 Pet 3:7-13*).

God's will is done "...in earth as it is in heaven" (*Mt 6:10*).

God is not dealing with "Adam's sinful race" but with all the redeemed of the ages in God's Utopia - the holy city, the new Jerusalem.

The wicked have been judged at the great white throne and have been cast into the lake which burns with fire and brimstone (*Rev. 20:11-15*).

The heirs of eternal life begin to live in all fullness God intended at the beginning – before Adam fell

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

12

Revelation 21:1 - “Out of this world” “now more sea”

[1] And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

no more sea”: Why?

Not needed for its cleansing action:

70% of earth covered to an average depth of 2.3 miles, antiseptic salinity (3.5%) purges, cleanses, and preserves our planet.

Is the sea evil? (*Mt 8:26*, “rebuked”?)

End of old order? (*Ex 20:11; Ezek 48:28*);

Beast out of the sea (*Dan 7:1-3, 17; Rev 13:1, 6-8*);

Demon swine take refuge in sea (*Mt 8:30*);

Job 26:5-6; Isa 27:1; Jonah 2:1-6; Lk 8:30-3; Ps 69:14-15

Revelation 21:1 - “no more sea”

[1] And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Throughout God's Word, the sea has been the symbol of the Gentile nations who were not in a covenant relationship with God.

- Isaiah speaks of their conversion (*Isa. 60: 3, 5*).
- The wicked are likened to the troubled sea when it cannot rest, “*whose waters cast up mire and dirt, for there is no peace . . . for the wicked*” (*Isa. 57:20, 21*).
- Daniel's dream of the parade of empires causes him to see the mighty kings of the earth come out of the sea (*Dan. 7:1-3, 17*).
- John's vision of the coming Antichrist shows him coming out of the sea (*Rev. 13:1, 6-9*).
- Now, as God takes full authority, the sea is quieted. It is like glass (*Rev. 4:6*).

The activities of the Gentiles and the Gentile nations are over.

Revelation 21:1 - “no more sea”

[1] And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

John's day, the sea meant danger, storms, separation — he was on an island at the time!

Sea – Gentile nations – In Christ we are all one ... no more earthly distinction or segregation

Rom 10:12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

Gal 3:26-29 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Col 3:10-11 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Revelation 21:2 “a holy city”

2] “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband”

John sees the holy city slowly descending out of heaven.

It is the "holy city," the city of the saints.

A city is adorned by – characterized by - its residents.

God had desired such a city for His ancient people Israel.

He had hoped to establish His temple there, and from it the blessings of righteousness and justice were to flow to all the earth.

It was to be the city of peace, called "Jerusalem" (the city of peace in Hebrew). Instead, it became an unfaithful city, disobedient, rebellious.

It was the city over which the Lord wept:

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord" (Matt. 23:37-39).

Revelation 21:2 “a holy city”

2] *“And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband”*

Hebrews 11:10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Hebrews 11:16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

“Down, out of heaven”: Heaven – or – heaven ???

Either way, not of the earth or built up upon the earth

Doesn't necessarily touch the earth!

Paul speaks of the Jerusalem that is above,

Galatians 4:26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

and of the heavenly Jerusalem.

Hebrews 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

Revelation 21:2 “a holy city”

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Heaven is a definite place - A new home.

Dwelling place of God and “His New Creatures” together in perfect fellowship

2 Co 5:17 Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!

Dwelling in a New Jerusalem – a city of peace with God – in the New heavens above the New earth

*Rev 21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make **all things new**. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*

Revelation 21:2 “prepared (adorned) as a bride”

2] *“And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband”*

Throughout God’s Word, the relationship between God and His people has been spoken of in terms of marriage;

- Israel is the bride of Jehovah, and
- the Church as the bride of Christ.

When the spiritual relationship is broken, the wife becomes a harlot.

“How is the faithful city become a harlot! It was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water: Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: everyone loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them” (Isa. 1:21-23).

Any one engaged in conduct not befitting the gospel of Christ is engaged in spiritual harlotry.

1Co 6:15-18 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. 16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. 17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. 18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Revelation 21:2 “prepared (adorned) as a bride”

2] *“And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband”*

All the adultery, the harlotry is passed,
the bride has been made beautiful for her husband.
The work of salvation is complete.
God, Himself, is to dwell with His people.

God, in the past, made His presence known to His people in various ways.

- He appeared to the Patriarchs in theophanies;
- He spoke to Moses personally;
- When Israel was ready to make their exodus from Egypt, God assured them of His guiding presence in cloud and pillar of fire. (*Exod. 13:21, 22*).
- When our Lord Jesus Christ came to earth, “,,, *the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth. . . . No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him*” (*John 1: 14, 18*).
- Today, along with His Word, God's Holy Spirit dwells within each believer to reveal the presence of God (*1 Cor. 6: 19, 20*).
- In the Millennial Kingdom, God makes His presence known through His reigning Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (*Rev. 20:6*).

Revelation 21:3 “dwell with them”

3] *“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [and be] their God”*

When these events take place, we will dwell together with Him in His presence...

God, Himself, joins His Son to dwell with His people.

The work of Christ is truly finished.

The work of the Mediator has been accomplished; sin is no more.

The hope of every believer is now realized:

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2).

Revelation 21:3 “dwell with them”

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The word used for dwelling-place is "skene," literally a tent;

in religious use it had long since lost any idea of an impermanent residence.

"Skene" is the word used for the wilderness Tabernacle

God is to make his tabernacle with men forever, to give his presence to men forever. Here in this world of time our recognition of the presence of God is spasmodic; but in heaven we will be permanently aware of that presence.

Revelation 21:3 “dwell with them”

3] *“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [and be] their God”*

There are two words totally different in meaning but similar in sound which in early Christian thought became closely connected.

"Skene" is one; and the Hebrew "shechinah," the glory of God, is the other. SKEN-SHECHINAH (compare the Hebrew verb, "shakan," to dwell)

the connection in sound brought it about that men could not hear the one without thinking of the other.

To say that the "skene" of God is to be with men immediately brought the thought that the "shechinah" of God is to be with men.

In the ancient times the "shechinah" took the form of a luminous cloud which came and went. (*1Kgs.8:10-11*).

In the new age the glory of God is not to be a transitory thing, but something which abides permanently with the people of God.

Revelation 21:3

3] *“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [and be] their God”*

Cf. *Jn 1:14; Mt 12:6*.

Jerusalem; *Jireh-shalom*, God provides peace:

- *Mt 23:37-39*, “see me henceforth...”
- *Jn 14:2, 3*, “go to prepare a place...”
- *Heb 11:10, 16*, “...look for a city”
- *Jn 1:14*, “tabernacled among us”
- *2 Cor 5:17*, “all things new”
- *Ex 40:34; 1 Kgs 8:10, 11*, “always fills”

Revelation 21:3

3] *"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [and be] their God*

"I will make my abode among you... and I will walk among you, and will be your God, and you shall be my people" (Lev.26:11-12).

"I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (Jer.31:33).

"My dwelling-place shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (Eze.37:27).

"I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine" (SoS.6:3).

Revelation 21:4

[4] *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

Tears and grief and crying and pain are gone.

Why tears at all?

Lost opportunities?

"They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isa.35:10).

"I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress" (Isa.65:19).

Death, too, shall be gone.

"He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces" (Isa.25:8).

This is a promise for the future. But even in this present world those who mourn are blessed, for they will be comforted, and death is swallowed up in victory for those who know Christ and the fellowship of his sufferings and the power of his Resurrection (*Matt.5:4; Philip.3:10*).

Revelation 21:5

[5] And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

A fresh start!

Not a rebuilding or restoration – that took place at the beginning of the Millennium but a complete destruction and a new creation.

Recognizable, familiar but new !!

Death has been turned to life; sorrow into joy; distress into peace. For the former things are passed away and all things have been made new

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing" (Isa.43:18-19).

"If any one is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2Cor.5:17).

God can take a man and re-create him, and will some day create a new universe for the saints whose lives he has renewed.

Revelation 21:6

And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

We have already come upon this claim by the risen Christ in Rev.1:8.

"I am the first, and I am the last; besides me there is no God" (Isa.44:6).

"Alpha" is the first letter of the Greek alphabet and "Omega" the last.

God is the beginning and the end.

The word for "beginning" is "arche,"

It does not simply mean first in point of time but first in the sense of the source of all things.

The word for "end" is "telos,"

It does not simply mean end in point of time but the goal.

John is saying that all life begins in God and ends in God.

"For from him, and through him, and to him are all things" (Rom.11:36),

"one God and Father of us all, who is above all, and through all, and in all" (Eph.4:6).

Revelation 21:6

And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

And in this new eternal city, there will be no thirst, for the saints will drink freely out of the springs of the water of life.

(Jer 2:13) For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

(Joh 4:14) But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

(Joh 4:10-11) Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. 11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

(Joh 7:38) He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

(Mat 5:6) Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

(Rev 22:1) And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

(Rev 22:17) And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

CF: Neh 9:15; John 6:35; 1Co 4:11; 2Co 11:27

ACIS 1:11 1 THES 5:21

43

Revelation 21:7

7] "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son":

This new relationship with God will be personal as well as corporate:

Can we even imagine what this means? All things! To be to God a son!

"Overcomer"

(1Jn 5:4-5) For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

(Joh 16:33) These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

(Rom 12:21) Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

(2Pe 2:20) For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

(1Jn 2:13-14) I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. (14) I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

(1Jn 4:4) Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

(Rev 17:14)and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

3

Revelation 21:7

7] *"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son":*

The bliss is not to everyone but only to him who remains faithful. To such a man God makes the greatest promise of all--"I will be his God and he shall be my son."

First, made to Abraham.

"I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you, .. to be God to you and your descendants" (Gen.17:7).

Second, it was made to the son who was to inherit David's kingdom.

"I will be his father," said God, "and he shall be my son" (2Sam.7:14).

Third, it was made in a Psalm which the Jewish scholars always interpreted of the Messiah.

"I will make him the first-born, the highest of the kings of the earth" (Ps.89:27).

The promise of God to those who overcome is the same that was made to Abraham the founder of the nation, to David on behalf of Solomon his son, and to the Messiah himself.

Can there be a greater honor in all the universe than that which God gives to the man who is true to him?

Revelation 21:7

7] *"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son":*

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches;

To him that overcometh...

(Rev 2:7)will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

(Rev 2:11) ...shall not be hurt of the second death.

(Rev 2:17) ...will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

(Rev 2:26) ...and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

(Rev 3:5) ... the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

(Rev 3:12) ...will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

(Rev 3:21) ...will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Revelation 21:8

8] *“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death”*

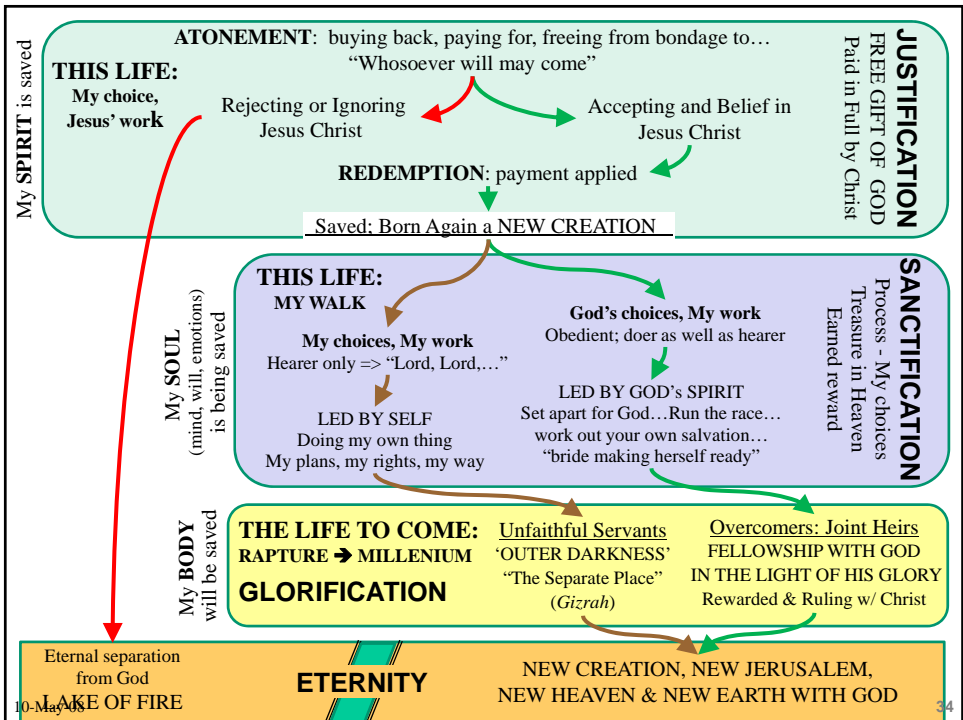
Who are those who are condemned? Those who:

- loved ease and comfort more than they loved Christ,
- in the day of trial were ashamed to show whose they were and whom they served.
The KJV gives a wrong impression when it translates "deilos" by "fearful." It is not fear that is condemned but cowardice. The highest courage is to be desperately afraid and in spite of that to do the right thing and to hold fast to loyalty.
- refused to accept the Gospel or those who with their lips accepted it, but by their lives showed that they did not believe it. *“Believed in vain...” 1 Co 15.2*
- allowed themselves to be saturated by the abominations of the world.
- in persecutions slaughtered the Christians or simply took the lives of others by their indifference or self lust.
- lived lives of immorality.
- worshipped the false gods of whom the world was full.
- were guilty of untruth and of the silence which is also a lie.

...out of the abundance of the heart... ...good water and bad... ...good fruit and bad...

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

33



Revelation 21:8

8] “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death”

God makes it very clear concerning those who will be excluded from it.

When eternity begins, their doom will have been sealed, but John is still in time when he receives and writes this prophecy, , ,

for now, in our day, God indicates to John that the door of grace is still open.

*“The one who overcomes [present tense]
will inherit [future tense] these things.”*

A vivid and instructive catalog.

Note *“the fearful”* and *“the unbelieving”*; Cf. *Mark 4:40; John 14:27; 2 Tim 1:7,8*

Notice that in eternity:

- The status of the lake of fire and the lost is unchanged
- Sin and its potential is totally excluded;
- The lake of fire is eternal; final.

Revelation 21:9-15 Free Translation

[9] And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

[10] And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

[11] Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

[12] And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

[13] On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

[14] And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

[15] And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.

Revelation 21:9

[9] And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

John is given a fuller description of the new Jerusalem.

- he describes its nature (21:9-21),
- he focuses on the temple of the city (21:22-27), and
- he closes describing the refreshing water of life which flows through the center of the heavenly metropolis (Rev. 22:1-5)

He provides his observations of

- the brilliance of the city (21:9-14),
- the size of the city (21:15-17), and
- the beauty of the precious stones of which the city is built (Rev. 21:18-21).

Seiss: Chapter 49 (Revelation 21:9-27)

“2. Its Location. This is not specifically told, but the record is not without some hints. John sees it coming down out of heaven. The idea is that it comes close to the earth, and is intended to have a near relation to the earth; but it is nowhere said that it ever alights on the earth, or ever becomes part of its material fabric. Though coming into the vicinity of the earth, it is always spoken of as the "Jerusalem which is Above" (*Galatians 4:26.*) The nations on the earth "walk by means of its light," which implies that it is over them. John could only get a near view of it by being spiritually transported to the top of "a mountain great and high," like the greatest altitudes of the Alps or the Himalayas. The prophecies also speak of a future Jerusalem as set at the tops of the mountains, and exalted over the hills (*Isaiah 2:2.*) If a final exaltation of the earthly Jerusalem is contemplated in such passages, the language still is borrowed from something higher, in which alone its literal import can be realized, and hence, includes more especially the "Jerusalem which is above," of which the earthly Jerusalem is the type. The probabilities are that it will stand high over Palestine, and perhaps stationary, as the earth revolves under it, not so high as not to be in ample view of all the dwellers of the earth, and not so low as not to throw its illumination upon all nations and countries, and upon at least half the earth at a time. Something like what the pillar of cloud and fire were to the tribes of Israel when they came up out of Egypt, shall the relation and location of this glorious city be, with reference to the generations of people in the new earth.”

(from *The Apocalypse: Exposition of the Book of Revelation*, Electronic Database.

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People, place or thing ...

In studying the city, there is a problem.

- We are given the description of a city in terms of material: walls, streets, foundations, gateways, precious stones, trees and a river.
- Yet we are twice told that the city is made up of people, the bride made ready for her husband.

The book of the Revelation is a "code" book, and that much of the "code" grows out of the Old Testament. We should try to decode the cypher from the Old Testament, taking a middle course between the literal and figurative meanings of the text.

Be certain that:

- the description is of a real, heavenly community of the saints from all the ages;
- in the midst of the city dwells God the Father with the Lord Jesus Christ; and
- this fellowship will not be broken for the author of wickedness and evil is barred from this holy city.

Revelation 21:10

10] "And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain"

Mountain (*Dan 2...The dream of Nebuchadnezzar's Image*)

Ezekiel also describes his experience. *"He brought me in the visions of God into the land of Israel, and set me down upon a very high mountain" (Eze.40:2).*

Abraham looked for this city (*Heb 11:10*).

Contrast to the false bride, the prostitute Mystery Babylon,
both a city and a woman,

New Jerusalem will be to eternity what the earthly Jerusalem is to the Millennium.

"She that hath the bridegroom is the bride" (Jn 3:29).

The citizens are identified with the city in *Rev 22:3,6,19*.

Revelation 21:11

11] "Having the glory of God: and her light [was] like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal"

The light from the fires of judgment do not light the holy city; rather it is the glory of God. God had given to the world glimpses of His light;

- to His ancient people Israel His glorious light shone in the temple;
- through the incarnation, Christ became the Light of the world; and
- in the Millennial Kingdom, through God's anointed Messiah, the light shone in royal brilliance.

But now, at last, in the heavenly city, the prophecy of Isaiah comes to its complete fulfillment. Light, "arise, shine..."

"Arise, shine: for thy light is come. And the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people, but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising" (Isa. 60:1-3).

iaspis: diamond, opal, or topaz (various authorities).

Similarity of the Hebrew word for crystal in *Ezek 1:22* to Hebrew word for "ice" suggests diamond. A diamond in a gold setting—appropriate for the bride.

Revelation 21:11

11] "Having the glory of God: and her light [was] like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal"

The word used for "light" is "phoster."

The normal Greek word for "light" is "phos," and "phoster" is normally the word used for the lights of heaven, the sun, the moon and the stars, for instance, in the Creation story (Gen.1:14).

Does this, then, mean that the body which illumined the city was like a precious stone?

Or does it mean that the radiance which lit up and played over all the city was like the glitter of a jasper?

Like a cut gemstone sparkling and reflecting and dispersing light?

We are told the city needs no heavenly body like the sun or the moon to give it light, because God is its light.

A hint in *Php.2:15*. *"You shine as lights in the world."*

The holy city is inhabited by thousands and thousands of the saints of God, and it may well be that it is the light of these saintly lives which gives it this glittering glow.

Revelation 21:12

[12] And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

Approaching the city we see it is surrounded by a very high wall.

A common feature of the old cities of the East was to surround them with high, thick walls which served as a means of protection for the people.

"We have a strong city; God sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks" (Isa.26:1).

"I will be to her a wall of fire round about" (Zech.2:5) .

The wall of the New Jerusalem does not need to serve as a means of protection for God Himself dwells in the city.

This wall may serve as a memorial to God's protection of His people throughout their long history.

Even the New Testament saints should well remember their lives and destiny were *"hid with Christ in God" (Col. 3:3).*

Revelation 21:12

[12] And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

The word for gate is not the normal word which is "pule"; it is "pulon."

The "pulon" could be either of two things.

A large house was built round an open courtyard. It opened on to the street by a great gate in the outer wall, leading into a spacious vestibule. That could be the picture here.

"Pulon" can also mean the gate-tower in a great city, like the gate leading into a battlemented castle.

In the wall are twelve gates, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel - a perpetual reminder that "salvation is of the Jews."

Revelation 21:13

13] *“On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates”:*

Each of the four walls of the city has three gateways which never will be shut.

there is no night in the city to conceal the wickedness of men (*Rev. 21:25*),

there are no evil men to molest the saints (*Rev. 20:11-15*).

At each of the gate there is stationed a guarding angel keeping watch at the gate.

Better to think of these angelic guardians as true gatekeepers - porters with a welcoming message for the blessed who will enter the city by these gates.

Note: *Rev 21:25* The gates are never closed...

“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city” (*Rev. 22:14*).

The gatekeepers welcome people into the city, not keep them out.

Men have already excluded themselves by their rejection of Jesus Christ and because their names are not written in the Lamb's book of life.

[Notice that Peter isn't guarding any of them!]

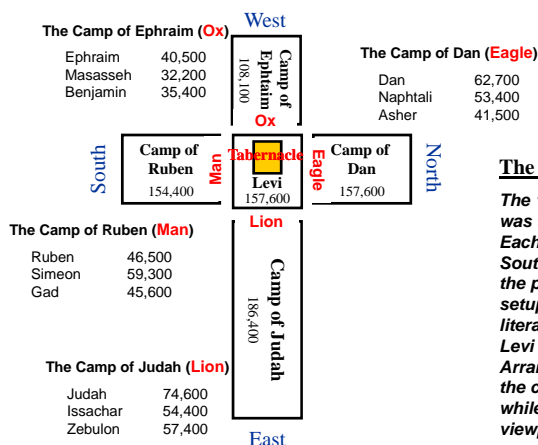
Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

45

Revelation 21:13

13] *“On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates”:*

The 3 gates on each side suggests the order of Israel's encampment around the Tabernacle in *Numbers 2*.



The Camp of Israel – Numbers 1-2

The 12 tribes were organized into 4 camps, each was to rally around the ensign of a specific tribe. Each camp was to camp East, West, North, or South of the central area where the tribe of Levi – the priests - camped and the Tabernacle was setup. If camp instructions were followed literally on one could camp in any direction from Levi but exactly on a compass ordinal. Arranging the camp site in this way and using the census figures, looking at the Israelites camp while in the wilderness from above – God's viewpoint certainly provides a new perspective.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

46

Revelation 21:13

13] “On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates”:

Israel on the earth will enjoy the same relationship to the city that they did toward the wilderness tabernacle, and later, the temple (*Song 8:5*).

They 'encamped' around the outside – not within

They were His people; not by merit, but by sovereign election (*Deut. 7:6-8*).

It was only through the covenant that God had promised to bless the world. Circumcision was the sign of that covenant (*Gen. 17:11*).

No one could be blessed by God apart from the covenant.

The Jews were to make a great point of this in New Testament times (*Eph. 2:11, 12*).

A careful reading of the covenant shows that God made provision whereby non-Jews, "strangers", could enter the covenant and avail themselves of the blessings and promises which God had given to Israel.

The covenant was the "gateway" to God, and the "sons of the covenant" God's B'nai B'rith, Israel, were its trustees.

It is fitting that their names should be inscribed over the gateways of the heavenly city as a memorial of ancient Israel's privileged position.

ACTS 17:11 1 THESS 5:21

47

Revelation 21:14

14] “And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb”

Along with the twelve gates in the wall of the city, there are twelve foundations each inscribed

These two sets of inscriptions are further memorials of God's elective grace. God's ancient covenant people consisted of the twelve tribes of Israel.

The Apostles were the foundation; the footings – the first layer of the Church

Christ, the fulfillment of the covenant - is the chief cornerstone. – the point from which all else is measured and referenced.

The inscription on the foundation stones of the wall is a reminder that the apostles were given the doctrine of justification by faith alone in all of its fullness.

*"Now therefore, you are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together grows to a holy temple in the Lord: In whom you also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (*Eph. 2:19-22*).*

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

48

Revelation 21:14

14] "And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb"

What God did through Christ in making one new man of Jew and Gentile, He now does in all its fullness by making the saints of all the ages one in Himself.

There is no "middle wall" in the heavenly city.

What God began with the Church, He finishes in the heavenly city.

"For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father" (Eph. 2:14-18).

The two inscriptions are a memorial to the fact that Christ began the work of destroying the hostility between Jew and Gentile, making of them one new man in Himself and both in union again with God.

In the heavenly city the work is complete; the saved of Israel and the members of the body of Christ are one in fellowship with God the Father and God the Son in and around the New Jerusalem,.

Revelation 21:15

[15] And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.

John now observes the angel about to measure the city with his golden measuring rod (*Rev. 21:15-17*).

Revelation 21:16-23 Free Translation

[16] *And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.*

[17] *And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.*

[18] *And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.*

[19] *And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;*

[20] *The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.*

[21] *And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.*

[22] *And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.*

[23] *And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*

1

Revelation 21:16

16] "And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal"

John was told to measure the old city he saw back in *Rev 11*.

Now he observes an angel measure the New City.

The city is tetragonal foursquare in shape.

It is possible (but unlikely) that a pyramidal shape is being described.

The dimensions describe a perfect cube - its width, length, and height are equal.

A third thought: The height may not refer to the height of the city but its altitude above the New Earth – above earthly Jerusalem

In a geosynchronous orbit ???

In John's day and before then, the cube was the symbol of perfection.

Both Plato and Aristotle refer to the fact that in Greece the good man was called "four-square" (Plato, Protagoras 339 B; Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics 1.10.11 ; Rhetoric 3.11).

Revelation 21:16

16] "And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal"

It was the same with the Jews.

The altar of the burnt offering, the altar of the incense, and the High Priest's breast-plate were all cubic in the form (*Exo.27:1; Exo. 30:2; Exo. 28:16*).

Again and again this shape occurs in Ezekiel's visions of the new Jerusalem and the new temple (*Eze.41:21; Eze. 43:16; Eze. 45:2 ; Eze. 48:20*).

In Solomon's temple the Holy of Holies was a perfect cube (*1Kgs.6:20*).

The whole of the holy city is the Holy of Holies, the dwelling-place of God.

Revelation 21:16

16] "And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal"

Each side of the city was twelve thousand "stades."

A stade is very nearly a furlong (about 600 feet) → each side is almost 1,500 miles long, and the total area of the city is 2,250,000 square miles.

A city with that area would stretch nearly from London to New York.

Perhaps we are meant to symbolically see that in the holy city there is room for everyone.

More likely, it is just as big as the Bible says,

If you were to place a cube of the given dimensions inside a sphere it would be about the size of the Moon.

Certainly not beyond God's capabilities – just look up some night...

Revelation 21:17

17] “And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred [and] forty [and] four cubits, [according to] the measure of a man, that is, of the angel”

There were several kinds of "cubits" used as units of measurement, John sees that the angel is using the human cubit to measure the city which was the length of one's forearm from the elbow to the center finger. Indicated by the phrase "the cubit of a man."

The term comes from the Latin cubitus which is the Latin word for "elbow."

While there are many variations, all approximate 18 inches.

This makes the walls between 216-266 feet thick !

Herodotus describes the walls of Babylon as 50 cubits thick and 200 cubits high. The wall of Babylon was 300 feet high,

The walls of the porch of Solomon's temple were 180 feet high.

There must be some level of symbolism here.

The only thing this wall can do is mark out the boundary area of the city. It is not for defense or to keep trespassers out... for all hostile beings, spiritual and human, have been obliterated or cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:18

18] “And the building of the wall of it was [of] jasper: and the city [was] pure gold, like unto clear glass”

God is a God of beauty;

Peter wrote of the “manifold” grace of God (*1 Pet 4:10*):

manifold = *variegated, many colored*.

The walls are of jasper and each foundation is studded with a different precious stone.

Study of the colors of these precious stones and you will be brought to think of the colors of the rainbow

God used the rainbow as a promise to Noah that he would never again destroy the earth by water (*Gen. 9:12-17*). A symbol of peace with God.

John's description in *Rev 4-5* of the throne in heaven where God the Father and the Son of God, the Lion of Judah, the slain Lamb were seated described a rainbow surrounding the throne assuring the saints that judgment was over.

We can rest secure in Him who was slain for them.

The city itself was of pure gold, so pure that it seemed like transparent glass.

Revelation 21:18

18] "And the building of the wall of it was [of] jasper: and the city [was] pure gold, like unto clear glass"

On the breastplate of judgment which the high priest wore when he went into the holy of holies, there were four rows of three precious stones each.

These precious stones were like signets for inscribed on each was a name of one of the tribes of Israel.

Similar to those which we discovered in the foundations of the heavenly city.

The shape of the breastplate was similar to that of the heavenly city, tetragonal foursquare indicating God's perfect work.

These stones became the sign of Israel's peace, security and joy.

"And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goeth in unto the holy place, for a memorial before the LORD continually" (Exod. 28:29).

They were taken into the presence of the LORD to receive His mercy; not His judgment.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

57

Breastplate of High Priest 12 Stones for 12 Tribes



And he made the breastplate of cunning work, like the work of the ephod; of gold, blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen 9 It was foursquare; they made the breastplate double: a span was the length thereof, and a span the breadth thereof, being doubled.

10 And they set in it four rows of stones:

The first row was a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this was the first row.

11 And the second row, an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond.

12 And the third row, a jigure, an agate, and an amethyst.

13 And the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper:

they were enclosed in ouches [settings] of gold in their enclosings.

14 And the stones were according to the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names, like the engravings of a signet, every one with his name, according to the twelve tribes.

Exodus 39:8-14

Revelation 21:19-20

Authorities differ on specifics; these are hard to establish with certainty:

1. Jasper (*iaspis*): clear / reflective. [Associated with Pisces, and Simeon]
2. Sapphire (*sappheiros*): blue. (Ex 24:10, the foundation of God.
(Moffatt: blue; Pliny, opaque with gold specks; Petrie agrees.)
[Associated with Aquarius, Reuben]
3. Chalcedony (*chalkedon*): greenish;
(Robertson, green silicate of copper.) [Associated with Capricorn,
Naphtali]
4. Emerald (*smaragdus*): green [Associated with Saggitarius, Asher]
5. Sardonyx (*sardonux*): red;
(Robertson: white with layers of red.) [Associated with Scorpio,
Dan]
6. Sardius (*sardios*): fiery red;
(Pliny, red for Sardis; Swete, fiery red.) [Associated with Libra, Levi]

Mazzaroth [H4216] – not Zodiac as we know it Gen 1:14 Job 38:32 2 Ki 23:5

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

59

Revelation 21:19-20

Authorities differ on specifics; these are hard to establish with certainty:

7. Chrysolite (*chrusolithos*): golden yellow;
(Moffatt, golden hue; Robertson, golden like our topaz.)
[Associated with Virgo, Zebulon]
8. Beryl (*berullos*): green;
(Robertson, like an emerald; Pliny, sea green.) [Associated with Leo,
Judah]
9. Topaz (*topazion*): greenish yellow;
(Robertson, golden greenish stone) [Associated with Cancer,
Issachar]
10. Chrysoprasus (*chrusoprasos*): gold-green;
(Robertson, a golden leek; International Bible Encyclopedia, sea
green.)
[Associated with Gemini, Benjamin]
11. Jacinth (*huakinthi*): violet; hyacinth. [Associated with Taurus, Joseph]
12. Amethyst (*amethystos*): purple. [Associated with Aries, Gad.]

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

60

Revelation 21:21

21] “And the twelve gates [were] twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city [was] pure gold, as it were transparent glass”

Pearls were not “kosher”: cf. Mt 13:45, 46.

They come from the sea, not the land;

They grow in response to an external irritation;

They grow by accretion; depositing layer upon layer

They are removed from their place of growth to become an item of adornment.

The church will be the fairest jewel of all (*Mal 3:17, 18*).

So – we have Israel, the Apostles and the Church represented in the walls and gates of the New Jerusalem

This was the pathway to citizenship God used to bring those who are His to His dwelling place.

Revelation 21:22

22] “And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it”

John is amazed to find no temple in the city - There is no need for any.

Mat 12:6 But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple.

The Father and the Son are the temple in the new city each seated on the Throne.

No longer is God to be worshiped in a place made with hands;

He is to be worshiped face to face from the heart.

Jesus spoke of this to the woman at the well. He pointed out that the hour would come when God would not be worshiped in a temple or upon a mountain, but those who would worship God would worship Him in Spirit and in truth (*John 4:21-24*).

Revelation 21:23

23] "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb [is] the light thereof"

Each time the Son is referred to, He is spoken of as "the Lamb."

It was He who was slain before the foundation of the world. (*1 Pet. 1:18-20*).

The raptured saints sing of this before His throne in heaven (*Rev. 5:6*).

Four times the Father and the Son are closely linked together in our passage (*Rev. 21:22, 23; 22:1, 3*).

One of the greatest petitions in our Lord's high priestly prayer is answered.

"Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world" (John 17:24).

Although the Lord was praying from the upper room physically, spiritually He was praying from the throne in heaven as though the cross, to which He had yet to go, were already passed (*John 17:1-5*).

Now we see Him victoriously enthroned with His Father in the heavenly city.

Revelation 21:24-22:5 Free Translation

[24] And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

[25] And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

[26] And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

[27] And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

[22:1] And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

[2] In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

[3] And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

[4] And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

[5] And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 21:24-27

[24] “And the nations shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it”

It does not say the nations will live in the New Jerusalem;

There are millions of men who were neither part of Israel nor part of the born again Church

These who are believers – those declared to be righteous – those whose faith was “accounted to them as righteousness – those born before Israel or after the Church will dwell on the New Earth

The New Jerusalem will light the earth.

[25] And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

[26] And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

[27] “And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither [whatsoever] worketh abomination, or [maketh] a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life”

God has apparently accomplished His original purpose for man.

Ephes. 2:7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Revelation 21:24-27

Judaism and Israel forgot God’s purpose for them – to make the nations jealous of their special relationship to God and to draw them to God also. It was written over and over in the OT...

Isaiah has a picture of the day when all nations will go up to Mount Zion to be taught the law and to learn to walk in the ways of God (*Isa.2:2-4*).

God will set up an ensign to which all the nations will come (*Isa.11:12*).

"I will give you for a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth" (*Isa.49:6*).

The isles will wait upon God and in his arm will they trust (*Isa.51:5*).

Nations who never knew God will run to him (*Isa.55:5*).

The sons of the stranger will learn to love God and to serve him. God will gather others to him (*Isa.56:6-8*).

It is Israel's task to declare God's glory among the Gentiles (*Isa.66:19*).

The ends of the earth are invited to look to God and to be saved (*Isa.45:22*).

Need to carefully consider where scripture passages are describing conditions during the Millennium versus conditions in the New Creation...

Revelation 21:24-27

Judaism and Israel forgot God's purpose for them – to make the nations jealous of their special relationship to God and to draw them to God also. It was written over and over in the OT...

All nations shall be gathered to Jerusalem, and shall recognize it as the throne of the Lord, and will no more stubbornly follow their evil heart (*Jer.3:17*).

The Gentiles will come to God from the ends of the earth, confessing and repenting of the previous errors of their ways (*Jer.16:19-21*).

All peoples, nations and languages will serve the one who is like a son of man (*Dn.7:14*).

All men shall worship God, everyone from his place, even all the isles of the heathen (*Zeph.2:11*).

God will give all men a pure language in which they may with one consent call upon him (*Zeph.3:9*).

All flesh will be silent before God (*Zech.2:13*).

Many people and the inhabitants of many cities will come to Jerusalem. People of all races and tongues shall "take hold of the robe of a Jew, saying, Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you" (*Zech.8:20-23*).

The day will come when the Lord will be king over all the earth; in that day there will be one Lord (*Zech.14:9*).

Need to carefully consider where scripture passages are describing conditions during the Millennium versus conditions in the New Creation...

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

67

Revelation 22:1-2

[1] And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. [2] In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Every great city has its main street or avenue.

The Greek term plateia is usually translated "street," here it is a broad central boulevard with a river of the water of eternal life running through its center issuing from the throne of God and the Lamb.

The banks of the river are adorned by the tree of life, the fruit of which nourishes the saints and the leaves of which furnish healing for the nations.

The tree of life is a miraculous tree in that it bears twelve times a year, each month (there will be some form of time measure there), the tree gives fruit.

All the saints may partake of this tree.

Eternal life: the reward for those who have been written in the Lamb's book of life

Sin will not keep them from this tree as it kept Adam and Eve from Eden's tree (*Gen. 3:22-24*).

"Leaves": (not the fruit) were for the healing of the nations – note the tense...
no physical or spiritual sickness, yielding continuous health.

Revelation 22:3

3] *“And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him”*

There will be no more curse; there will be no more night (Rev. 22: 3, 5).

No more sin;

No more death.

Nothing will be lost.

[Entropy will be checked - the “second law” of thermodynamics will be repealed...

Decay will cease,

information will never be confused,

ordered systems will not deteriorate, etc.]

Nothing will ever defile the city.

Judgment / punishment will not be necessary.

Righteousness has come to dwell in the city; it has not merely come to reign as in the millennial city.

GOD WILL RESTORE ORDER AND STOP THE CURSE CAUSED BY SIN

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

69

Thermodynamics

The study (and the laws) of thermodynamics was developed to describe the operation of the steam engine [thermo (heat) - dynamics (power)] dates back to the 19th century.

Thermodynamics is based on three main laws.

While they can be described using math, like many – if not most – scientific laws, they can't be proven mathematically; But then, neither have they every been proven wrong in physical nature.

The laws of thermodynamics are universal for everything in the physical, Newtonian world of time and space in which we live.

The first law of thermodynamics

“The total amount of energy in the universe does not change.”

When energy disappears in one form,
it appears in another form at that same moment
– sometimes as another form of energy, sometimes as matter.
What ever Mass or Energy that exists in the Universe, it is constant.
It is the form in which it exists and how we choose to use it that
changes.

**You cannot end up with more than you started with.
You cannot win.**

The second law of thermodynamics

**The amount of energy a system puts out
cannot be greater than the amount of energy
put into the system.**

No system is perfect. Something is always lost in the process. So ,if I
want to keep something going or even just keep it stable, I need to keep
replacing the converted energy that the system is continually losing.

You cannot get something for nothing.

No change is free.

You cannot break even. = “Entropy is!”

The third law of thermodynamics

The third law of thermodynamics states that all things – left to themselves - will become less and less organized.

Left to themselves, without the input of energy from another source every system or process will decay and descend toward disorder and increase in 'ENTROPY'.

Entropy: a measure of the amount of energy which is unavailable to do work.

Entropy: a measure of the disorder of a system.

Unless you somehow stop everything – cease all kinetic activity (which is something you cannot do), not only will things not get better or improve on their own but Law #2 takes over and they will move toward chaos and disorder. You've got to constantly be involved and attempt to control things.

You can't 'not play' and still survive.

You cannot get out of the game.

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TJL 06 VSM FSM

73

Thermodynamic Laws Summed

So, here they are...

You can't stop chaos unless you control it (Law 3).

To control it you have to add energy / work toward it (Law 2)

Which means you have to give up something else (Law 1).

LEFT TO ITSELF (YOURSELF) -

1. **You can't win.** You can't end up with more than you started with...
2. **You can't break even.** You'll always lose something in the process...
3. **You can't get out of the game.** If you don't keep adding to it, monitor it and control it, you and it will descend toward chaos, randomness and disorder...

And, in the absence of some external intervention or influence, nothing can be done about it.

Heb 1:1-3 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 **Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;**

Revelation 22:4-5

[4] And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. [5] And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Immanuel = "God with us," finally fulfilled.

The saints see the face of their God;

At last, the saints can see by sight what they have held by faith through God's Word:

"And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not" (John 1:5).

There is no darkness; There is no need for the light of the sun.

The Light that is God the Father, and the "sun of righteousness" who is God the Son, light the city with Divine brilliance as the heavenly glory shines all around.

His name is upon their foreheads;

They serve and worship Him (*Rev. 22:3, 4*).

Heaven will be place of ceaseless activity.

Revelation 22:6-21 Free Translation

[6] And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

[7] Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

[8] And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

[9] Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

[10] And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

[11] He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

[12] And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

[13] I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

[14] Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

[15] For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Revelation 22:6-21 Free Translation

[16] *I, Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.*

[17] *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

[18] *For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:*

[19] *And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

[20] *He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

[21] *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

Back FROM the Future

John is brought back to the present.

Our Lord gives His last invitation to all men so that they can be prepared to enter the heavenly, holy city and to be a partaker of the water of life.

The Lord Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, pays great honor to the written Word of God.

We are living in a day when men are attempting to downgrade the written Word in favor of the living Word.

In every phase of His ministry, the Lord Jesus was careful to honor the written Word and to submit Himself to it.

Our Lord joined Himself with God the Father by magnifying the written Word – can we do less.

"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name" (Ps. 138:2).

Remember how the Lord Jesus made it clear that by His first coming He did not intend to destroy, nor even relax, the Word of God, but to fulfill it in every jot and tittle – every punctuation mark !!!

Revelation 22:6

[6] And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

The visions and the messages which accompanied them, given to His prophets through His Spirit throughout the ages, are from the Lord God Himself.

These prophetic truths are to show to God's servants what must come to pass speedily.

John is the agent of truth and not the victim of some delusional, religious experience or some prisoner or age dementia which is nothing more than psychological fantasy or subjectivism.

John was "born along by the Holy Spirit" as the prophets of old (2 Pet. 1:21).

The Revelation, having God's own certification, is a book to be open to all and its readers are instructed to give heed to it (22:7, 10).

Rev 1:1 and 22:6. 'faithful and true'

No man is to trifle with these words by "spiritualizing" them or rendering them into meaningless symbols.

The Lord is talking about reality.

Heaven is more than a destination: it is a motivation!

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

79

Revelation 22:7

[7] Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

The outstanding feature of our Lord's last words to John is "*Behold, I come speedily!*" (Rev 22:7, 12, 20).

Christ is the centerpiece of this book.

"Quickly" = *tachu*, = rapidly [Not shortly, immediately, or soon.]

(7X in Revelation; 3X in this chapter v.7,12,20).

In verse six, our Lord had told John that the things written in this book must "come to pass speedily."

Speedily → not in the sense of time like hours, days, months, years, but in the sense of a series of events happening in rapid succession once they start.

We do not know when our Lord will return, nor when the prophetic visions of John will be fulfilled (*Mark 13:32*), but we can know that when the time arrives the events will follow one another in rapid succession.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

80

Revelation 22:8-9

[8] And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. [9] Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

“Book,” 7X this chapter 7, 9, 10, 18(2X), 19(2X).

Faith = more than just believing

James 2:19-20 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. [20] But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Confidence that results in deeds because God is and He keeps His word

Revelation 22:10

[10] And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

Seal NOT the sayings of the prophecy of this book vs. *Dan 8:26; 12:4,9* which was sealed).

Spread this around – Teach it – Study it – Broadcast it – Don't ignore it or keep it a secret

The Time is at hand

(*kairos*, proper or opportune time; next event, vs. *chronos*, time,

We must note the time expression in the tenth verse of our chapter.

What He is saying to us is that now the prophetic truth is to be unsealed;

God's people are to be made aware of it; now is the time to know what the future holds, and by knowing the future we can be prepared to meet it.

Revelation 22:10

[10] And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

The Lord Jesus Christ will return - everything that will occur hinges upon His coming.

- 1] Many do not believe in the 2nd coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and many who claim they do believe in it do not live like they believe..
- 2] For some, their thoughts and hearts have never allowed the Lord Jesus Christ to rise from the dead. There can be no returning by Christ without Christ having risen. To these Jesus is no more than a historical figure.
- 3] There are those who have been overwhelmed by the monotonous continuity history they cannot now conceive that Eternity will again break into Time by the return of our Lord.

Revelation 22:10

[10] And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

"This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: Knowing this first, that there will come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation" (2 Pet. 3:1-4).

All of the prophetic events which are described in the book of the Revelation, and the facts concerning our Lord's return, we, as true believers, take by faith.

Thus, when the Lord Jesus Christ returns, He will vindicate us by demonstrating to the world's sight that which we have accepted by faith. And in so doing, He will vindicate Himself by proving that His Word was trustworthy. And furthermore, His return vindicates the Father who through the Lord's return has proven faithful to His Word.

Revelation 22:11-12

[11] He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

The sinful condition of the lost is a permanent and eternal thing.

“All things continue ...” (2 Pet 3:1-4).

[12] And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Quickly again = reward is with me

Matt 6:33 >>

Matt 25:14 >>

Luke 19:13 >>

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

85

Revelation 22:13

[13] I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

“Alpha and Omega”, (4X: Rev 1:8, 11; 21:6; 22:13).

“Beginning and the End”

“First and the Last”

What He starts, He will finish.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

86

Revelation 22:14

[14] Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Seventh beatitude (Blessed) in this book (*Rev 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7,14*).

Obedience is a mark of true salvation. We are to keep our lives clean:

7 glories of redeemed:

1. No curse
2. Throne of God and Lamb
3. His servants shall serve Him
4. Eternal vision: His face
5. His Name in their foreheads
6. Eternal day; no night
7. Eternal Reign

Amen. Even so, Come, Lord Jesus!

Revelation 22:15

[15] For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Dogs come off rather badly in Scripture: (*Isa 66:3; Mt 7:6; Ps 22:16, 20; Jer 15:3; Deut 23:18; 2 Pet 2:22*);

they were the scavengers of the ancient world, and considered unclean.
were a designation for Gentiles (*Mt 15:21-28*) and
Paul's label for Judaizers (*Phil 3:2*).

Without → Excluded – separated - In outer darkness, weeping, wailing and gnashing teeth, suffering...

Revelation 22:15

[15] For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Our Lord knows that many men will reject this final invitation to escape judgment and to know the mercy of God.

Though He is still willing to invite them, He will not beg them to come to Him.

Men resent the holiness of God, they will not respond to the righteousness of God, and they are not only indifferent to the love of God, they despise it, misreading it as a sign of God's weakness instead of His grace.

This last invitation is an invitation of mercy before judgment falls.

This prophetic book is opened that men may read and give heed, that they may come to know that the days of grace are about to end and that the days of God's damnation are about to begin.

"For the dam of God's mercy will break and the floods of His judgment will rush forth to sweep the lost before it into the lake which burns forever and ever."

They will be eternally separated from the God whom they have rebelliously rejected.

Revelation 22:15

[15] For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Our Lord reviews for John those who will be excluded from the heavenly city (22:11)

In describing the citizens of the heavenly city, John was specifically told who would be included and who would be excluded (21:7, 8).

The Bible presents a faith that is false and a faith that is true;

- False faith, believing in vain is formal, a mere mental assent;
- True faith is genuine and has an effect on the conduct of the believer.

The devil believed everything that is true concerning God and His Son. He believed that Jesus Christ was God. He believed Jesus could do miracles. Yet these truths which the devil believed had no affect upon him or his deeds (*Matt. 4:1-11*).

True biblical belief demands an absolute change in conduct.

"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: The demons also believe and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"
(*James 2:19-20*).

By pointing out the workers of iniquity who will be excluded from the heavenly city, our Lord is not teaching salvation by works, but He is showing that real faith demands a change in one's life, "*with the heart man believeth unto righteousness*" (*Rom. 10:10*).

Revelation 22:16

[16] I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

Sun of righteousness

Malachi 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

The personal pronoun "I," our Lord emphasizes the fact that He Himself is speaking.

By identifying Himself as "Jesus," He not only brings to our attention that He is the Saviour of the world, but also that His witness is the spirit of prophecy (*Rev. 19:10*).

As the "root and offspring of David," we see Him as Israel's greater David Israel's Messiah, as promised to King David in the covenant which God had made with him (*2 Sam. 7:12 -16*).

Revelation 22:16

[16] I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

Christ refers to Himself as "the bright and morning star."

To the people of the East, the stars had great meaning.

They were the heavenly time pieces by which the shepherds told the different seasons of the year, and the various watches of the night.

It was the "morning star" which heralded the sunrise and the breaking of a new day.

It is fitting that our Lord Jesus in relation to His return should be spoken of as "the bright and morning star," for He will usher in God's new, eternal day.

While we await the coming of our Morning Star, we heed the word of Peter regarding God's Word:

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy, whereunto ye do well that you take heed as unto a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts" (2 Pet. 1: 19).

Revelation 22:17

[17] And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

3X in this chapter:

"I come quickly" (vv 7, 12, 20).

Revelation 22:18-19

[18] For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: [19] And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Deut 4:2, "Ye shall not add to the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it."

"For thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name" Ps 138:2.

"They that are unlearned and unstable who wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction" (2 Pet 3:16).

The seriousness with which the judgment of God is to be taken is further shown by the warning that God gives to those who would tamper with His Word.

Revelation 22:20

[20] He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Are you ready?

This book was written not only to inform the believer, but was also written to warn the lost of their eternal doom and to bid them to seek the Savior who alone can deliver them from a godless eternity

Why do you suppose Satan has deceived many into reserving it for the 'spiritually deep' or the theologians?

How far away is eternity?

Only a heartbeat, for all of us.

Revelation 22:21

[21] The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

The Bible begins and ends with a garden in a place where God walks and talks with man.

Everything which began and was lost in Genesis has its culmination and is re-established in Revelation

After completing your study of the Book of Revelation, an excellent place to go next is the Book of Genesis.

After you have gone through the entire Bible (not necessarily in order), return and re-study the Book of Revelation again.

It will surprise you—every time.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you All. Amen