

# CHAPTER 21

## Revelation 21:1–8

**[1] Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. [2] And I 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 the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. [4] He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” [5] And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” [6] And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. [7] The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. [8] But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”**

# CHAPTER 21

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John begins with the description of what the New Heavens and New Earth look like. The first interesting point is that there is no sea. And this in contrast to the fact the earth we inhabit today in which there is more sea than land.

Next the Lord places a new city on the earth, a new Jerusalem. It isn't a city made of earthly things but rather a city that descends from the heavens. It's appearance will be like that of a bride who appears for the first time to her husband. It's dramatic and anticipated and so is this moment of the appearance of the New Jerusalem to the earth.

John hears a declaration from heaven of the arrival of the city. And with it, God dwells again with man on the earth. John says that all of the markers of sin have been removed as well.

## CHAPTER 21

There are not tears, not death, no mourning. All of the sources of rebellion are cleansed and a holiness of sorts has been restored to the earth. Holiness is not just something that we live our lives seeking after. In the end, God Himself will bring this idea of holiness to all of creation.

This portion ends with a call to salvation to the reader. The reason is two-fold. The first is so that salvation may be found while it is available, before it is too late. This is a call to call Jesus Lord of your life before its too late.

The second is because this is what is waiting believers who call Jesus Lord of their lives. It is something that can be achieved. And it is something awaiting us if we persevere.

Who will dwell in this city? The book of Hebrews lists out that the entire Trinity will dwell in this city along with the angels and all believers. What an incredible gathering this will be!

# CHAPTER 21

## Revelation 21:9–14

**[9]** Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” **[10]** And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, **[11]** having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. **[12]** It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed—**[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 on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

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## CHAPTER 21

The angel escorting John through this city describes the city as the Bride of Christ. This title in the New Testament is reserved for the church in the rest of the New Testament, but here it transfers to the New Jerusalem. And this makes sense if we remember that the Bride of Christ refers to where the Spirit of Christ dwells. In the New Jerusalem, Christ dwells with the Father in the temple of the city.

John describes the city shining bright, as bright as the sun. There are walls surrounding the city, not for protection but for a testament to God's previous creation. And each gate has an angel stationed at it, twelve total representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Gates are entry to the city, so we are reminded that Israel is the gateway to the redemption and knowledge of God.

God worked through Israel to fulfill His promises of redemption for all the world. These gates are arranged in three's which reminds us of the Trinity.

John also mentions there are twelve foundations with the twelve names of the twelve apostles of Christ. Which also makes sense as the apostles laid the foundation for the church after Jesus left the earth.

# CHAPTER 21

## Revelation 21:15–21

[15] And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. [16] The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. [17] He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. [18] The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. [19] The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, [20] the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. [21] And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

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## CHAPTER 21

John describes the city being 1,500 miles x 1,500 miles. That's an incredibly large city which today would span most of the continental United States.

The city is also a perfect cube extending up 1,500 miles. This means the city will reach up to the height of a satellite's orbit.

You will notice the measurements are built on a different unit of measurement from modern measurements. And you will notice in this passage that they were all divisible by 12. Again if you remember from earlier, the number 12 indicates God's perfect ruling through man.

So the city is a testament to God's plan perfected through Israel and the Church. The building materials are filled with grand extravagance. The very thing that we treasure and desire, gold, precious gems are all building materials in the new city.

# CHAPTER 21

## Revelation 21:22–27

[22] And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. [23] And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. [24] By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, [25] and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. [26] They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. [27] But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

### Notes:

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## CHAPTER 21

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John says that there is no temple in the city, for God Himself is the temple. There will be no need for a physical building because sin has been erased. And notice that the Father and the Son dwell together in the New Jerusalem.

John says there is no need for sun or moon because God's glory itself will be the light for the city. He says that the gates of the city will never be shut, so again the walls aren't for protection, but as a testament to God's prior creation. And John adds that there will be no night in this city.

The fact that God Himself is the light of the world suggest that this new city is flat, something that could not be possible if the new world was a sphere. Another interesting thing to point out is that there really isn't a measurement of time because there is no night since darkness does not exist.