

# Eternity Future

## 21:1-27

### Introductory Notes

- After the tremendous events of Chapter 20, we now focus on what some call the Eternal State. Here is described what appears to be the final reward and home of the saved forever more.
- I think we need to stress that what we see here is “new” and also perfect. It is not marred by sin.

### Outline

- New Reality - vs. 1-2
- New Relationship with God - vs. 2-8
- New Jerusalem - vs. 9-27

### Notes

- vs. 1 - heaven - usually this would point to the sky or atmosphere, but I’m not sure this isn’t an entirely new universe of reality.
- vs. 1 - no more sea - a curious feature of the New Earth, considering our present Earth is around 70% water. There does appear to be water, as a river is described in 22:1.
- vs. 3 - God Himself shall be with them - the sin that separated man from God in the Garden of Eden is no more and the relationship is perfect and whole.
- vs. 4 - this verse points to the perfect state, free from sin’s effects and Satan’s torments.
- vs. 5 - He that sat upon the throne - God Himself speaks this proclamation. See 1:8 for what may be the only other time God speaks directly in Revelation.
- vs. 5-8 - count how many speakers are mentioned. Three “He said”’s. I can’t help but think this is an appearance of the Trinity as it is clear that God is speaking.
- vs. 7-8 - the eternal division of mankind into the Saved and the Lost. By this point this separation has permanently taken place.
- vs. 9 - the Lamb’s wife - see our notes on 19:7. Some are tempted to say that the Lamb’s wife is the city that John is about to describe, but I contend it is the city’s inhabitants who are not mentioned until vs. 24. John got a little distracted.
- vs. 11 - light - this is God’s glory, as we will see in vs. 23. The color is described as clear. The name jasper does not point to a specific color and may be generic for any gem.
- vs. 12 - a wall - there appears no need for this most ancient form of defense. I think it practically marks the boundaries of the city and symbolically the former divide between God and men.
- vs. 12 - twelve gates - with angelic “honor guards” and the names of the twelve tribes of Israel possibly as portrayed in Ezekiel 48:31-34.
- vs. 14 - twelve foundations - named for the twelve apostles, giving us both Old and New Testament references in the general features of the city.

- vs. 16 - furlong - *stadion* in Greek, roughly 600 feet, thus making 12,000 *stadion* about 1,360 miles. Using the *furlong*, which is 660 feet, you get 1,500 miles. The map here shows the approximate area of a 1,360 square mile area.
- vs. 16 - as to the exact shape and size of the New Jerusalem there is much debate. Some picture it as a cube. I personally think it will be a pyramid shape with God's Throne at the apex.
- vs. 17 - cubit - estimated to be about 18 inches, so walls are 216 feet tall. That is as tall as a 20 story building almost the same as the Texas Star Ferris Wheel at the Texas State Fair.
- vs. 18-21 - we could spend a lot of time describing the various colors of the substances mentioned.
- vs. 22 - no temple - no need for mediation or symbolism, God is present and the relationship unhindered.
- vs. 23 - In our present world, the sun is the most dominant source of light. The glory of God will drown out even the brightness of the sun.
- vs. 24 - nations, kings - are these a "general populace" of the New Earth. I don't think so, I think this describes the saints and particularly the Gentiles.
- vs. 25 - no need for defense and no hindrance to come to God.
- vs. 26 - the New Jerusalem, and I think the throne in particular, are the center of this New World.
- vs. 27 - this verse highlights the purity and righteousness of the New World. Only the righteous and pure are present, and all things evil and foul have been obliterated.

