

# Bible Prophecy

## The Eternal State

### The Final and Forever Phase of God's Plan

- Our primary source of information on this is Revelation chapters 21-22.
- We can see both the Millennial Kingdom and the Eternal State as two parts of a whole.
  - Illustration – The United States began when independence was declared in 1776, but our current government and Constitution began in 1789. We were under the Articles of Confederation from 1777-1789. Both of those forms of government are considered the United States. Similarly, the Millennial Kingdom and the Eternal State can be seen as two phases of Christ's Eternal Kingdom.

### The New Heavens and New Earth

- We spoke last week on the destruction of the world through fire, purging it from sin and its effects - II Peter 3:10-13, Isaiah 65:17, Matthew 24:35, Hebrews 1:10-12
- Without sin, the new world that is ushered is *holy* and perfect.

### The New Jerusalem

- The idea of a city for the saints to dwell in is not unknown in Scripture – John 14:2-3; Hebrews 11:10, 12:22, 13:14; Revelation 3:12
- Note: While we did not cover it in Lesson #8 on the Millennial Kingdom, many of my favorite prophecy scholars (e.g., Pentecost, Walvoord, McGee) believe this city will orbit earth during the Millennial Kingdom and then descend upon the new earth. To be honest, I am not sure what I think about that.
- I do think it is that the New Jerusalem is what we typically picture as “heaven”.
- Most of John's account of the Eternal State is a description of this city.
  - It descends from heaven/space to earth – Revelation 21:2,10
  - It is presented “as a bride adorned for her husband” – Revelation 21:2,10
  - It radiates the *shekinah* glory of God – Revelation 21:11 & 23, 21:25; Isaiah 60:19
    - *Shekinah* – “Lit. ‘the dwelling’. The majestic presence or manifestation of God which has descended to “dwell” among men.” (jewishencyclopedia.com)
    - This glory-light radiates through the transparent materials of the city
      - Jasper walls, “clear as crystal” – Revelation 21:11,18
      - Gold street, “like unto clear glass” – Revelation 21:18,21

- J. Vernon McGee lists these colors for the 12 foundations in Revelation 21:19-20
  - Jasper – clear
  - Sapphire – blue
  - Chalcedony – greenish
  - Emerald – green
  - Sardonyx – red
  - Sardius – fiery red
  - Chrysolite – golden yellow
  - Beryl – green
  - Topaz – greenish yellow
  - Chrysoprasus – gold-green
  - Jacinth – violet
  - Amethyst – purple
- The river is “clear as crystal” – Revelation 22:1
- It is enormous, measuring some 1,360 miles (assuming *stadia* are 600 feet) in height, length, and width. That is roughly the distance from Dallas to New York City. – Revelation 21:16
  - Some speculate that the city is a sphere, square, pyramid, or other shape.
- The walls are some 200 feet tall (using 18-inch *cubits*) – Revelation 21:17
- No temple is present for we have direct access to God – Revelation 21:22

## The New Reality

- Things that will not be there:
  - The sea – Revelation 21:1
  - Night – Revelation 21:25, 22:5
  - Curse of sin – Revelation 22:3
  - Tears, death, sorrow, crying, pain – Revelation 21:4
  - Sinners – Revelation 21:8,27
- Things that will be there:
  - God Himself – Revelation 21:3
  - Nations and peoples – Revelation 21:24-27
    - Note - I think these are saved/glorified Gentile peoples.
  - Tree of Life – Revelation 22:2