

# The Book of Revelation

## Chapter 21

### Introductory Notes

- After the tremendous events of Chapter 20, we now focus on what some call the Eternal State. Here is described the final reward and home of the saved forever more.
- I think we need to stress that what we see here is “new” and perfect. It is not marred by sin and it will never be.

### Outline

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

### Notes

- vs. 1 – new heaven and a new earth – this is a new reality untouched by sin, as the former fallen reality was destroyed in the previous chapter.
- vs. 1 - no more sea - a curious feature of the New Earth, considering our present Earth is around 70% water. Also, this clearly separates this from the Millennial Kingdom which has many references to water (Ps. 72:8; Isa. 11:9, 11; Ezek. 47:10,15,17,18,20; 48:28; Zech. 9:10; 14:8). This does not mean that there is not water because a river is described in 22:1.
  - Godsoe cites Isaiah 57:20-21 and says that the sea is a “symbol of separation, danger, mystery, change, and conflict”, all of which have passed away.
- vs. 2 – I John – can’t you feel his excitement as he recounts this?
- vs. 2 – as a bride – I would say this is not a reference to a literal bride, but vs. 9 continues this language.
- vs. 3 – a great voice – an angelic herald.
- 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 – WHAT A PROMISE! 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.
- vs. 5-8 - count how many speakers are mentioned. Three “He said”’s. A reference to the Trinity?
- 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 – Walvoord - “Since a city is not a bride nor a wife, the truth here represented is that the city, the residence of the saints of eternity future, is to be compared to a bride for beauty and is intimately related to Jesus Christ the Lamb.”
  - There are also great comparisons hinted here between
    - Bride of Christ and the great whore of 17:1
    - New Jerusalem and Babylon of chapter 18.
- 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 specific 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, probably 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 think it will be a pyramid shape with God's Throne at the apex.
- vs. 17 - cubit - about 18 inches, so the walls are 216 feet tall. That is as tall as a 20-story building.
- vs. 18-21 – I am not going to go into detail on these colors. The city is translucent and beautiful.
- vs. 21 – Godsoe points out that a pearl is “the product of great pain”, perhaps symbolizing Christ's suffering to give us access to this city.
- vs. 22 - no temple - no need for mediation or symbolism. God is present and the relationship unhindered. Worship is universal and unlimited.
- 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 – these are the Gentile believers.
- vs. 25 - no need for defense and no hinderance to come to God.
- vs. 26 - New Jerusalem and God's throne 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.

