

11/12/23

## Revelation 21

The thousand year reign of Christ with His bride is over and the White Throne Judgment of every person who ever rejected Christ has taken place, and all have been sentenced and cast into the Lake of Fire. Rev. 20

Now John reveals to us the Eternal state of all things after the 1,000 year reign, the New heaven, the New earth, the New Jerusalem and its glory. Rev. 21

Again, some believe that what is being described from Rev. 21:9-22:7 is a recapitulation of the Millennium by going back and describing it more fully, but if you mark the important differences, they can not be mistaken, you have to ignore them to hold this view that the passage is describing the Millennium.

### 21:1-8      The new and eternal order.

21:1      The New heaven and earth. Rev. 21:1

- 1) The vision of John is revealed, “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth.” vs. 1a
  - a) Three heavens are identified in the Bible.
    - 1)) The first where the birds fly is no more.
    - 2)) The second, the stellar heaven is no more.
    - 3)) The third, where God dwells remains.

- b) The word new “kainos”, means new in quality, recent not renovation as in the Millennium, Isaiah uses the word “bara” to create out of nothing. Is. 65:17
  - c) This is the Eternal State mentioned by Isaiah. Is. 65:17-25; 66:22
- 2) The vision of John revealed a commentary to confirm the contrast of time, “For the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.” vs. 1b
    - a) The Millennial earth and heaven have been judged by fire and disappeared. 2Pet. 3:10, 13
    - b) Some teach this event of the new heaven and earth occur at the start of the 1,000 years quoting Peter out of context.
      - 1)) But John specifies the timeline that the earth and heaven fled away at the end of the thousand years. Rev. 20:11
      - 2)) This verse is also after the White Throne Judgment. Rev. 20:4-6, 11-14
  - 3) The vision of John revealed the particular details to reconfirm the time-line, “Also there was no more sea.” vs. 1c
    - a) During the Millennium there will be vast fishing as the Dead Sea is healed. Ezk. 47:10; Zech. 14:8
    - b) The present oceans occupy 2/3 of the earth and necessary to cool the planet, rain, food and purge waste and sewage.
    - c) In the Eternal State, there will be no sea.

\* Peter says, “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells”, the eternal state, not the Millennium. 2Pet. 3:13

**21:2** The Holy City, the New Jerusalem.

- 1) The vision of John revealed the identity of the city, “Then, I John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem.” vs. 2a-b
  - a) This is a literal city and distinct from the New heaven and earth.
  - b) This city is spoken about in the New Testament.
    - 1)) “Abraham by faith dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country...for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” Heb. 12:8-10
    - 2)) “Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.” Heb. 13:13-14
- 2) The vision of John revealed the origin of the city, “Coming down out of heaven from God.” vs. 2c
  - a) The city is seen descending out of heaven from God.
  - b) Some believe this city will be suspended over the Millennial earth as the dwelling

of Christ and His bride, I don’t see that, but it will be in the Eternal State!

- c) This is due to not distinguishing the Millennium from the Eternal state and interpret the Eternal state as further details of the Millenium.
- d) The new Jerusalem will be suspended over the New earth in the Eternal state.
- 3) The vision of John revealed the purpose of the city, “Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” vs. 2d
  - a) As Babylon represented a system, people and city, so the New City is the abode of the church, the bride of Christ.
  - b) The city is symbolic of a bride waiting and prepared for a specific day and person. Jn. 14:1-3

**21:3-4** The New relationship of God with man.

- 1) The vision of John revealed God will literally live among His people as before the fall in unbroken fellowship, there being no sin-nature or sin, in contrast to the Millennium, “And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.” vs. 3
  - a) The voice is probably an angel, the word behold “idou”, is an imperative

command in the middle voice, to give heed by each person as an exclamation to view with attention that “the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them.” vs. 3a-c

\* The word tabernacle “skene” is used for the Incarnation of Jesus. Jn. 1:14

- b) The references to, “and they whall be His people” “laos” is plural, indicating Jews and Gentiles, His bride. vs. 3d
- c) The original intent and purpose prior to the fall, “God Himself will be with them and be their God.” vs. 3e
- 2) The vision of John revealed God will remove the former things, there being no sin. vs. 4
  - a) “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” vs, 4a; Is. 25:8
  - b) “There shall be no more death.” vs. 4b; Rev. 20:14; 1Cor. 15:26; Is. 25:8
  - c) “There shall be no more sorrow, nor crying.” vs. 4c-d; Is. 65:19”
  - d) “There will be no more pain.” vs. 4e
  - e) The reason is stated, “for the former things have passed away.” vs. 4f
    - 1)) A child will die at 100 in the Millennium, the eternal state has no more death. Is. 65:20
    - 2)) Some ask will we remember our lost loved ones? I don’t think so.
    - 3)) Others ask will I know my wife or husband? If you knew them here, you

will certainly know them there, but not as husband and wife!

**21:5-6** The stamp of authority for the genuineness of the New eternal order.

- 1) The vision of John revealed that God commanded His words to be recorded, no doubt for those who would read. vs. 5
  - a) He is the One sitting on the throne of total authority and power, “Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” vs. 5a-c
  - b) He declared the Scriptures to be reliable, “And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful”, the title for Jesus, genuine and trustworthy. vs. 5d-f; Rev. 1:5; 3:14; 19:11
    - \* The word write “grapho” is an aorist active imperative command for all to be able to read the revelation.
- 2) The vision of John revealed God declared three things. vs. 6
  - a) The completion of the new work, “And He said to me, “It is done!” vs. 6a-b
    - \* The proclamation is “it is finished”!
  - b) The identity of the One who did it, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.” vs. 6c-d
    - \* “I” is emphatic, Jesus. Rev. 1:8

- c) The invitation to all, “I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.” vs. 6e
- 1)) The same promise was given by Jesus on several occasions. Jn 4:10; 7:38-39
  - 2)) Isaiah says, “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.” Is. 55:1

**21:7-8** The distinction of who partakes in the New eternal order. Rev. 21:7-8

- 1) The vision of John revealed the **saints** live with God for all eternity. vs. 7
  - a) The relationship is of the family of God. vs. 7
    - 1)) They are identified, “He who overcomes”, the word is “nikao”, one who is victorious, the same words used for the seven churches. vs. 7a
    - 2)) They are declared heirs, “shall inherit all things”. vs. 7a
    - 3)) They are one with God as sons and daughters, “I will be their God and he shall be My son”. vs. 7b
  - b) The abode of the saved will be with their heavenly Father.
    - 1)) By grace through faith. Eph. 2:8-9

- 2)) By believing in the atoning work of Christ. 2Cor. 5:21
  - 3)) The characteristics of family are love, honor and obedience.
- 2) The vision of John revealed the **aints** live separated from God for all eternity. vs. 8
- a) The relationship is one of Satan’s family.
    - 1)) The sharp contrast is marked by the word “But”. vs. 8a
    - 2)) The various life practices that characterized them are listed, “The cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars.” vs. 8a-i
  - b) The abode of unsaved is with their Father Satan. vs. 8i-j
    - 1)) The final declaration and confirmation of the abode of the unsaved is stated, “Shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone.” vs. 8i
    - 2)) The final affirmation of the separation, “Which is the second death.” vs. 8j

**21:9-21** **The details of the New Jerusalem.**

**21:9-11** The bride is both the church and the new city of Jerusalem, as Babylon her counterpart was a woman and the city. Rev. 21:9-11

- 1) The vision of John revealed another angel, “Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me.” vs. 9a
  - a) The seven angels poured out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth. Rev. 16:1
  - b) The same angel revealed to John the judgment of the great Harot. Rev.17:1
- 2) The vision of John revealed the angel came to impart details of the eternal order, “and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” is said to be the bride, the Lamb’s wife. vs. 9
  - a) The angels gives an invitation to John, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” vs. 9b-d
  - b) This is a literal city, not symbolic, the figure of speech is called metonymy, using one phrase to substitute for another, the city personifies for the bride, the Lamb’s wife.
- 2) The vision of John revealed the nature of the city to be perfect, pure and holy. vs. 10-11a
  - a) John revealed how he was transported, “And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain.” vs. 10a
  - b) John revealed the “Spirit” to be the agent of the revelation, “and (the Spirit) showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem.” vs. 10b-c

- 1)) The word showed “deiknuo”, means to expose to the eyes, evident of proof.
  - 2)) The “great city” is identified as “the New Jerusalem” in the Eternal state.
  - 3)) The phrase “great city” is used for Rome, Babylon and Jerusalem in the 7 years of Tribulation, being corrupt, not holy. Rev. 11:8, 13; 14:8; 16:19; 17:18; 18:10, 16,18, 19, 21
- b) John revealed he saw the city coming down, “descended out of heaven from God.” vs. 10d
- 1)) The origin of the city is confirmed, descending out of heaven from God, the third heaven where God dwells. Rev. 21:2; 2Cor. 12:2
  - 2)) Again some teach the New Jerusalem is suspended over the earth during the Millennium for Jesus and the church to dwell, but the context of the city is the Eternal order, not the Millennium. vs. 2e, 10d
- c) John revealed the majesty of the city, “Having the glory of God.” vs. 11a
- 1)) The word glory “doxa”, means splendor, brightness, magnificence, excellence, preeminence and dignity.
  - 2)) The reason is it belongs to God.
  - 3)) When Moses finished and set up the tabernacle, the glory of God filled it,

- and Moses could not enter in because of the Shekinah glory. Ex. 40:34-35
- 3) The vision of John revealed the beauty of this city to be incomparable, for it is one of a kind and described by similies introduced by the word “like”. vs. 11b-d
- a) John saw, “Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.” vs. 11b-d
- 1)) Like a precious brilliant radiant jewel having a semblance like a jasper stone with the appearance clear as crystal.
- 2)) The word jasper “iaspi” describes a stone of various colors, purple, blue, green and the color of brass.
- 3)) Clear as crystal “krustallizo” means crystalline brightness and transparent.
- c. This is the city Abraham look for, “By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” Heb. 11:9-10

**21:12-14** The number of walls and gates of the city are described.

- 1) John by the Spirit saw, the walls and gates, “Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates.” vs. 12a

- a) The high walls indicate exclusive priveledge for the dwelling of the bride of Christ.
- b) The high walls certainly are not for protection, this is the eternal order, there is no more sin, corruption or death.
- 2) John by the Spirit saw guards at the gates, “with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates.” vs. 12a-b
- a) The angels serve as always God and now the city and His bride as an honor guard.
- b) The twelve gates give access to the city.
- 3) John by the Spirit saw names on the gates, “and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel.” vs. 12c-d
- a) Ezekiel also has the twelve names of the tribes of Israel inscribed on the gates of the city in the Millinnium. Ezk. 48:30-35
- b) The New Jerusalem is the eternal state, a much larger city than in the Millennium.
- 4) John by the Spirit saw the locations of the gates, “three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.” vs. 13
- \* All those living in the new earth will have access with no disadvantage, there is no sea as in the Millenium, having a larger population. vs. 24-26: Ezk. 48:30-35
- 5) John by the Spirit saw the foundations of the city, “Now the wall of the city had twelve

foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.” vs. 14

- a) The prophets and apostles are said to be the foundation of the church, Jesus the chief cornerstone, Paul says. Eph. 2:20
- b) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.” Heb. 12:22-24

**21:15-17** The measurements of the city and walls are declared.

- 1) The same angel had a measuring rod, “And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall”. vs. 15
- 2) The angel gave the total measurement of the city, “The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal.” vs. 16
  - a) The city is a cube not a sphere, measured with a reed “kalamos” a stick with a preset measure, like a tape measure.

- b) The city is not only flat surface area, but the volume will be occupied by the bride in glorified bodies.
  - c) The Holy of Holies was a perfect cube 15’ x 15’, I believe foreshadowing the city in heaven, the New Jerusalem.
  - d) The city is much larger than the city of Ezekiel during the Millennium. Ezk. 48
  - e) Some believe it is the shape of a step pyramid, but it is not in the text.
  - f) The later J. Vernon McGee believed it is a square inside of a sphere, but again a sphere is not described in the text at all.
- 3) The angel gave the total measurement of the walls, “Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.” vs. 17
- a) A Biblical cubit is 18 inches, elbow to middle finger, though there is a longer cubits, making the wall 216 feet high.
  - b) The walls of Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar were 300 feet high, 80 feet thick and extended 35 feet below the ground.

**21:18-21** The constructing material of the walls, the city and the gates are described.

- 1) The angel revealed to John, “The construction of its wall was of jasper.” vs. 18a

- \* The word construction “endomesis” means the material it is composed of, the only time it appears in the New Testament.
- 2) The angel revealed to John, “and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.” vs. 18b-c
  - \* What men live, die and kill for God uses as buliding material.
- 3) The angel revealed to John, “The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones, twelve to be specific.” vs. 19-20
  - a) The first foundation was jasper. vs. 19b
  - b) The second sapphire. vs. 19c
  - c) The third chalcedony. vs. 19d
  - d) The fourth emerald. vs. 19e
  - e) The fifth sardonyx. vs. 20a
  - f) The sixth sardius. vs. 20b
  - g) The seventh chrysolite. vs. 20c
  - h) The eighth beryl. vs. 20d
  - i) The ninth topaz. vs. 20e
  - j) The tenth chrysoprase. vs. 20f
  - k) The eleventh jacinth. vs. 20g
  - l) The twelfth amethyst. vs. 20h
  - \* The breastplate of the High Priest had twelve stones, four rows, three in each, bearing the names of the twelve tribes of Israel over his heart. Ex. 28:15-21
- 4) The angel revealed to John, “The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl.” vs. 21a-b
  - a) Pearls were Gentile gems not Jewish.

- b) The Parable of the Pearl of great price, who sold all to purchase the field to obtain the pearl. Matt. 13:46
- 5) The angel revealed to John, “And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.” vs. 21c-d
  - a) What is hidden and valued on earth to be possessed will be considered common, open for all to see in the New Jerusalem.
  - b) The word street “plateia” literally means a broad way, if such was on earth, men would be jack-hammering chucks out.
- 6) The potential room of a 1500 square miles cube is about the size of the moon.
  - a) A total of 3.375 billion cubic miles of volume the bride will be living within.
  - b) Considering a single individual occupying a building one mile long, one mile wide, and ten feet high, there could be 1.78 Trillion people occupying the New Jerusalem.
  - c) 178 Billion people at 100 feet high and one mile square.
  - d) This is 33 times more than the world population of 1991 of 5.3 Billion.
  - e) The population Oct. 20, 2023 is 8.1 Billion, still with plenty of room to spare.

**21:22-27**

**The glory of the New Jerusalem.**



**21:22** There will be no temple in the New Jerusalem.

- 1) John says about his vision, “But I saw no temple in it.” vs. 22a
  - a) The word temple “naos” is the the temple proper, the Holy of Holies, where the High Priest once year on Yon-Kippor entered to atone the sins of the Israel.
  - b) Not the entire temple building and courts.
- 2) John gives the reason by his vision, “For the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.” vs. 22b
  - a) The Holy of Holies is all about the the presence of God and the Shekinah glory.
  - b) There have been two temples.
    - 1)) The temple of Solomon.
    - 2)) The temple of Ezra and Zerubabbel, after the Babylonian captivity.
      - \* Herod’s temple only enlarged and beautified Zerubbabel’s temple.
  - b) During the seven year tribulation, the Antichrist will build the third temple for the Jews and he will stop the sacrifices at half way point. Matt. 24:15; Dan. 9:27
    - \* At this time he will enter the temple, declare he is God and demand all to worship him and to receive his mark or be beheaded. Rev. 13:16, 17; 14:9; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20

- c) During the Millennium there will be a fourth temple described by Ezekiel. Ezk. 40-48
  - 1)) All have to come at the feast of Tabernacle or will receive no rain Zech. 14:16-17.
  - 2)) But during the “eternal State”, God Himself will be the temple, the abiding place of His people.
- d) During the “eternal State”, the Father and the Lamb will be the temple, the abiding place of His people.
  - \* Solomon at the temple dedication said, “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot **contain** You. How much less this temple which I have built!” 1Kings 8:27

**21:23** There will be no sun or moon in the New Jerusalem. vs. 23

- 1) John says in his vision, “The city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it.” vs. 23a
  - a) No sun, a light generator, no moon, a light reflector! vs. 11a
  - b) God created the sun and moon to distinguish the day from the night, for signs and the seasons and for the measure of time. Gen. 1:14-15

- 2) John again in his vision gives the reason, for the glory of God illuminated it.” vs. 23b  
\* God’s glory will radiate from the city!
- 3) John reveals in his vision the source of it’s glory and light, “The Lamb is its light.” vs. 23c; Jn. 1:7-9; 3:19; 8:12; 9:5; 12:35
  - a) Jesus is the true light and said, “I am the light of the world.” Jn. 1:9; 8:12
  - b) Isaiah confirms the Eternal state and city, “The sun shall no longer be your light by day, Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, And your God your glory. Your sun shall no longer go down, Nor shall your moon withdraw itself; For the LORD will be your everlasting light, And the days of your mourning shall be ended. Is. 60:19-20
  - c) The Shekinah glory is all-present, “Having the glory of God” like in the tabernacle and temple of Solomon. vs. 11a
    - 1)) Jesus was the true light. Jn. 1:9
    - 2)) Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” Jn. 8:12
    - 3)) John tells us, “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.” 1Jn 1:5

21:24-27 There will be no rebellion or opposition in the New Jerusalem.

- 1) The vision of John revealed the nations and kings in the Eternal State living on the new earth will make visits to the New Jerusalem, “And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.” vs. 24
  - a) The nations “ethnos” various ethnic races and kings, are those from the Millennial reign that did not follow Satan’s last rebellion at the end of the Millennium.  
\* The word bring “phero” is in the present tense denoting their habit.
  - b) In the Millennium, though Jesus reigns with a rod of iron, those living on earth repopulate, have sin-nature, a free will, sin and rebel, not in the Eternal state.
  - c) Those in the Eternal State and the New Jerusalem are in their glorified bodies and there is no sin-nature or sin present.
  - d) Since the New Jerusalem is suspended over the new earth and the nations and kings come and bring their glory into the Heavenly City, the inference is clear, they do not reside in the city, but on the new Earth and come up into the New Jerusalem.
- 2) The vision of John revealed all the nations, kings and people will have equal and complete access in the Eternal state and New Jerusalem. vs. 25

- a) There will be no danger, “Its gates shall not be shut at all by day”. vs. 25a
- b) The explanation is that there, “shall be no night there.” vs. 25b
  - 1)) There is no sun or moon. vs. 23
  - 2)) They were originally created by God to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and **seasons**, days and years” for man. Gen. 1:14
- 3) The vision of John revealed the purpose of the nations and kings and their coming to God, “And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.” vs. 26
  - a) This has already been stated. vs. 24
  - b) Both words are the same, all man will glory in and honor will be God!
- 4) The vision of John revealed the only one entering the city of the New Jerusalem are the glorified saints. vs. 27
  - a) The exclusion is that sin and evil exist no longer, “But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie.” vs. 27a-b
  - b) The inclusion identifies all believers, “But only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.” vs. 27c
    - 1)) The church saints, the bride of Christ, who reigned with Christ during the Millennium.
    - 2)) The tribulation saints martyred for their faith and those who survived.

- 3)) The nation of Israel, Yahweh’s wife reconciled, fulfilling all the promises of the Old Covenant and the New.
- 4)) Those saved during the Millennium, who did not follow Satan’s last rebellion.
- 5)) The author to the Hebrews says, “For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.” Heb. 13:14