

Book of Revelation

Chapter 21



21st letter of the Hebrew Aleph-bet – Shin: letter for Divine power and provision. Shin represents two names of God: Shaddai, the All-Sufficient One, and Shalom, peace. These concepts are represented by God's plan for the New Heavens and New Earth.

“John’s vision of the future utopia now turns to Isaiah’s promise of the new heavens and new earth (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22); in Isaiah as in Revelation, the context also speaks of a New Jerusalem (Isaiah 65:18). The previous earth and heaven had fled from God’s face and God now replaces the old creation with a new one able to endure the revelation of His glory (21:23).” – Craig Keener

Normal story structure: beginning, middle, end.

Hebrew story structure: beginning, middle, beginning.

21:1 The first heaven and earth passed away = died.
2 Peter 3:10-13

No sea could mean no nations.

21:2 The Holy City comes down out of heaven from God – this has no origins on earth.

The City includes the people of God.

21:3 This is a reference to John 1:14 where God, through Jesus “made his dwelling among us.” The only thing close to this event is the incarnation.

21:4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. No more tears because there is no more death, mourning, crying or pain.

Old order of things has died.

21:6 It’s done. The way this will sound familiar is the wording, “it is finished.”

21:7 Overcomers are not: compromisers (2:14, 20), self-reliant (3:17), and they endure persecution (2:10).

21:8 Those who do not overcome:
Cowards, unbelieving, vile, murderers, sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, idolaters and liars.

Two deaths: physical and spiritual.

21:16 The city was laid out like a square. It is not merely square, it is cubic.

The shape of the city is the same as the Most Holy Place.

21:19 The foundation stones are precious jewels – which are derived from the priest's breastplate.

21:22 What's missing? A temple.

21:25 On no day will its gates ever be shut – indicating there are no enemies to fear.