

REVELATION

VISIONS OF VICTORY

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God Will Make All Things New

Revelation 21:1-27 (NKJV) – Bible passage [explanatory notes]

1) The **Foundation** of this New City (Rev. 21:1-2)

¹ Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away [The word “new” (kainos) does not mean “new in time.” (that Greek word is neos), but rather “new in quality or form.” Max Lucado writes, “[This ‘new’] is ‘different and superior in kind to the old.’ ... The new earth will be a better version of the old, renewed to its intended splendor.”¹ The destruction of the old creation by fire (2 Peter 3:10) clears the way for a new heaven and earth.]. Also there was no more sea. [The sea’s removal signifies the elimination of evil and chaos, as the sea often symbolizes turmoil and rebellion.] ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. [The New Jerusalem is the eternal dwelling place of God and His people, described as a bride to reflect its unmatched beauty, purity, and readiness. Jesus promised He was preparing a place in John 14:2-3. It is the capital of heaven, descending to earth, signifying a permanent union between God and His people.]

2) The **Fellowship** in this New City (Rev. 21:3-9)

³ 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. [This fulfills God’s promise to dwell among His people (Leviticus 26:11-12; Ezekiel 37:27). In the eternal state, God will be fully present with humanity, and believers will enjoy unbroken, personal fellowship with Him.] ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” [This highlights the reversal of the curse from Genesis 3. Tears symbolize suffering; death, sorrow, and pain are consequences of sin. 1 Corinthians 15:26 states that death is the last enemy to be destroyed. This verse encapsulates the joy and perfection of the eternal state.] ⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.” [The command to “write” emphasizes the importance and certainty of this revelation.] ⁶ And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. [“It is done” signifies the completion of God’s redemptive plan. As the Alpha and Omega, God declares His eternal nature as the Creator and Completer of all things. The “water of life” is a symbol of eternal satisfaction and spiritual refreshment, offered freely as a gift of grace (John 4:13-14).] ⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. [This refers to believers who remain faithful to Christ (1 John 5:4-5). Their inheritance includes eternal life, unbroken fellowship with God, and the privilege of being His children (Romans 8:17).] ⁸ But the cowardly [Those who reject Christ out of fear or compromise], unbelieving [Those who reject God’s truth and refuse to believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior], abominable [Those whose lives are polluted by sin, engaging in behaviors that show blatant disregard for God’s holiness.], murderers [Those who take life unjustly, whether through physical violence or harboring hatred (as Jesus equates hatred with murder in Matthew 5:21-22).], sexually immoral [Those who practice sexual behavior outside of God’s design for marriage between one man and one woman. This includes fornication, adultery, homosexuality, and other forms of sexual sin. Persistent, unrepentant sexual immorality reflects a heart that has rejected God’s standards for purity.], sorcerers [From the Greek word pharmakeia, which refers to the practice of using drugs, especially in occult rituals or witchcraft.], idolaters [Those who worship anything or anyone

¹ Max Lucado, *What Happens Next: A Traveler’s Guide Through The End of This Age* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2024), 169.

other than God. This includes literal idol worship and placing anything above God in one's life (e.g., wealth, power, relationships).], and all liars [Those whose lives are characterized by deceit, dishonesty, and intentional falsehoods. Lying reflects the nature of Satan (the father of lies – John 8:44) and is incompatible with the truth of God. Persistent lying demonstrates a life that is not submitted to Him.] shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." [The "second death" refers to eternal separation from God in the lake of fire, commonly referred to as hell. The list in verse 8 is not exhaustive – see 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.]⁹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." [The "Lamb" is Christ, and the bride is the Church (see Ephesians 5:25-27).]

3) The Features of this New City (Rev. 21:10-21)

¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, [see Hebrews 11:10 – the city whose architect is God] ¹¹ having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone [diamond], clear as crystal. ¹² Also she had a great and high wall [representing security and separation from sin] with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: [representing the Old Testament Saints] ¹³ three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. ¹⁴ Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. [representing the New Testament Church] ¹⁵ And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. [the "gates" represent access for God's redeemed] ¹⁶ 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. [The cube shape mirrors the Holy of Holies – see 1 Kings 6:20. "12,000 furlongs" represents approximately 1,500 miles in length, breadth, and height, or 2,250,000 square miles – almost twice the size of India.] ¹⁷ Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits [the wall's thickness is 216 feet], according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. ¹⁸ The construction of its wall was of jasper [diamond]; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. ²¹ The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl [the symbolism of the pearl is to reflect beauty coming from suffering, which is how a pearl is made. Christ's suffering provided our salvation.]. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

4) The Focus of this New City (Rev. 21:22-27)

²² But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. [God's presence eliminates the need for a physical temple; He is the center of worship and intimacy.] ²³ The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. [This doesn't mean there is no sun or moon. It simply means we will not need the light from them.] ²⁴ And the nations [peoples] of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. ²⁵ Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). [Gates keep the unwanted out. There will always be access and no need to close the gates.] ²⁶ And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. ²⁷ But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

APPLICATIONS FOR TODAY:

1. **Stay "Homesick for Heaven"** – Allow what you know from God's Word about Heaven to fill your heart with excitement and joy. Heaven is a place of perfect peace and restoration, free from Satan, sin, and suffering (Revelation 21:4). Colossians 3:1-2 says, "Seek" and "Set" your mind on "things above".
2. **Don't Wait to Worship!** – Recognize that the greatest joy of heaven is being with God Himself. Worship Him now in preparation for eternity with Him (Revelation 21:3; Revelation 22:4-5; Psalm 16:11).
3. **Determine to Populate Heaven** – Urgently share the Gospel and live a life of holiness, knowing that heaven is reserved ONLY for those redeemed by the Lamb (Revelation 21:6, 27; 1 Peter 1:4).