

## The New Heavens and the New Earth - Revelation 21:1-27 (Part 28)

**Big idea of chapter 21:** God will make a new heaven and a new earth, where Christ will spend eternity among His redeemed people in perfect and constant communion.

### **Genesis**

Heavens and earth created, 1:1  
Sun created, 1:16  
The night established, 1:5  
The seas created, 1:10  
The curse announced, 3:14–17  
Death enters history, 3:19  
Man driven from the tree, 3:24  
Sorrow and pain begin, 3:17

### **Revelation**

New heavens and earth, 21:1  
No need of the sun, 21:23  
No night there, 22:5  
No more seas, 21:1  
No more curse, 22:3  
No more death, 21:4  
Man given the tree of life, 22:14  
No more tears or pain, 21:4

**Revelation 21:1** *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.*

**A new heaven and a new earth:** God will completely destroy the present physical and spiritual realms and create new ones for resurrected believers to live forever.

**The sea was no more:** The seas or oceans were seen as a mysterious and endlessly deep place where the bottomless pit was located. The sea swallowed up millions during the flood of Noah.

**Revelation 21:2** *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

**New Jerusalem ... prepared as a bride:** A city in heaven that will be perfect. It is compared to a bride on her wedding day.

**Revelation 21:3-4** *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

**The dwelling place of God is with man:** Man and God will have a new fellowship as we live together.

**The effects of sin will be gone:** Nothing to cry about, no death, no sorrow, no pain. The results of sin will be no longer.

### **1. We experience God primarily through faith.**

**Revelation 21:5-7** *And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son."*

**Write this down:** God wants John to quote Him and not summarize Him.

**It is done:** All prophesy and all of human history has led up to this point. It is done, Heaven is here.

**To the thirsty:** Physically water was always needed and a necessity for life. Spiritually the desire for everlasting life is found in its fullness.

**The one who conquers:** The one who has placed their trust in Christ as Saviour is an overcomer. He or she will have a new family tree straight to God as the Father.

**Revelation 21:8** *But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."*

### **2. God has given us the ending, heaven.**

**Revelation 21:9-10** *Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,*

**Revelation 21:11-14** *having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 12 It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— 13 on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three*

gates, and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

**Having the glory of God:** The physical manifestation of God presence is at the dominating characteristic of the city.

**A great, high wall:** There will be no need for protection from enemies or security in heaven, therefore the wall is symbolic or part of the necessary construction.

**With twelve gates:** There are twelve entrances into the city all representing the 12 tribes of Israel. Entrance into heaven is through the Messiah from the Jewish peoples.

**Twelves foundations represent the twelve apostles:** The foundation for living in the city is from the Church. Jesus established the Church and gave His life for her.

### 3. The glory of God is our purpose.

**Revelation 21:15-17** *And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. 16 The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. 17 He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement.*

**A measuring rod of gold:** Represents that the new city is God designed, God owned, and God maintained.

**Its length and width and height are equal:** This is either (1) a cube, (2) a pyramid, (3) or a multi-dimensional structure that is beyond 3D description.

**He also measured its wall:** The wall measures to 200 to 250 feet. Maybe thickness rather than height.

**Also an angel's measurement:** The measurements are both human and angelic. This may mean that it is both a physical and spiritual structure.

**Revelation 21:18-20** *The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.*

**Jasper and gold:** John uses the most beautiful and costly objects he knows to describe the most beautiful place he has ever seen.

**12 stones:** This points back to the 12 stones in the Ephod worn by the high priest. The breastplate represented the 12 tribes of Israel and was used to hear from God concerning His direction and will.

**Revelation 21:21** *And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.*

**Gates were twelve pearls:** Obviously not from a real pearl out of an oyster. John is describing the beauty and magnificence of the gates.

**The street of the city was pure gold:** John highlights the cities beauty and splendor. Streets were normally filthy, but here they are clean.

**Revelation 21:22-23** *And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.*

**No temple in the city:** The temple was a place were God's presence could dwell with man on earth with many restrictions on entering. In heaven we will need no restrictions to come near God and be in His presence.

**No need of sun or moon:** There will be no need for light from the sun since God will give all the illumination needed for man.

**Revelation 21:24-27** *By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. 26 They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. 27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

**Nations walk:** Every tribe tongue and nation will be represented in heaven and receive illumination from the light of the Lord.

**Kings bring their glory:** Symbolic of kings bringing their victory spoil into the city. They will give all their glory to the Lord.

**Gates never shut:** The city will be open for all people all day every day. God is easily accessible.

**Glory and the honor of the nations:** The Gentile nations that destroyed the earthly Jerusalem(s) will now come and worship there. They will bring their glory to the city.

**Nothing unclean will ever enter:** The only restriction to entering God's city is salvation. Heaven will be safe and secure.

### 4. Jesus is the center of our life.