

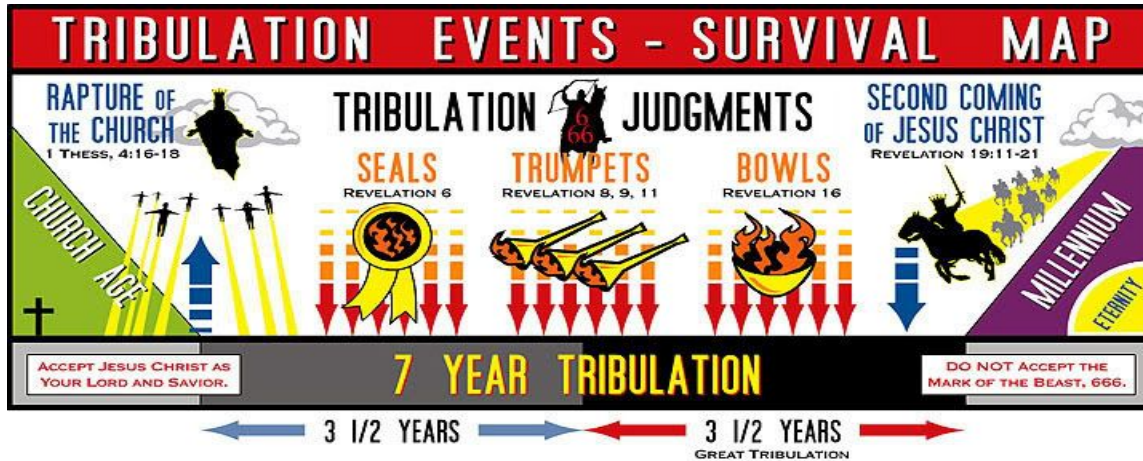


Go for God!

“The New Heaven, The New Earth & The New Jerusalem!”

REVELATION Chapter 21

Review:



~ Where will we dwell forever and ever:

> (v1-8) The New Heaven & The New Earth!

> (v9-27) And The New Jerusalem!

> (v1-8) The New Heaven & The New Earth!

(v1) God proclaimed a new Heaven, a new earth, and a new Jerusalem through Isaiah the prophet seven hundred years before the birth of Christ in:

- Isaiah 65:17-19 - *"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, and her people a joy. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people; the voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, nor the voice of crying."*

- Isaiah 66:22-23 - *"For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me," says the Lord, "So shall your descendants and your name remain."*

And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the Lord.

- Contextual sidenote: Israel's future kingdom will include a temporal kingdom of a thousand years (see notes on Rev 20:1–10) and an eternal kingdom in God's new creation (51:6, 16; 54:10; 66:22; cf. Rev 21:1–8). The prophet uses the eternal kingdom here as a reference point for both. Isaiah's prophecy does not make clear the relationship between the kingdom's two aspects as does later prophecy (Rev 20:1—21:8). This is similar to the compression of Christ's first and second advents, so that in places they are indistinguishable (cf. 61:1, 2).

- What happens to the first Heaven & first earth?

They “passed away.” Jesus prophetically spoke of this event in Matthew 24:35

- Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

- Peter describes this event in 2 Peter 3:10-18 - But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation — as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

- Warren Wiersbe comments on this passage with great insight – Wiersbe writes, “We do not know when it will happen, but we are told what will happen. Kenneth Wuest gives an accurate and graphic translation of these words: “In which the heavens with a rushing noise will be dissolved, and the elements being scorched will be dissolved, and the earth also and the works in it will be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10).

Many Bible students believe that Peter here described the action of atomic energy being released by God. The word translated a great noise in the King James Version means "with a hissing and a crackling sound." When the atomic bomb was tested in the Nevada desert, more than one reporter said that the explosion gave forth "a whirring sound," or a "crackling sound." The Greek word Peter used was commonly used by the people for the whirring of a bird's wings or the hissing of a snake.

The word melt in 2 Peter 3:10 means "to disintegrate, to be dissolved." It carries the idea of something being broken down into its basic elements, and that is what happens when atomic energy is released. "Heaven and earth shall pass away," said our Lord (Matt 24:35), and it appears that this may happen by the release of the atomic power stored in the elements that make up the

world. The heavens and earth are "*stored with fire*" (2 Peter 3:7, Wuest), and only God can release it.

For this reason, I do not personally believe that God will permit sinful men to engage in an earth-destroying atomic war. He will, I believe, overrule the ignorance and foolishness of men including well-meaning but unbelieving diplomats and politicians, so that He alone will have the privilege of "pushing the button" and dissolving the elements to make way for a new heaven and a new earth. Peter no doubt had in mind Old Testament passages such as Isa 13:10-11; 24:19; 34:4; and 64:1-4 when he wrote these words. The first passage is especially emphatic that God will bring judgment and not sinful man. "*And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity,*" says the Lord. It does not sound as though He will give this task to some nervous military leader or some angry politician.

Of course, this great explosion and conflagration will not touch the "heaven of heavens" where God dwells. It will destroy the earth and the atmospheric heavens around it, the universe as we know it; this will make room for the new heavens and earth (2 Peter 3:13; Rev 21:1 ff).

Man's great works will also be burned up! All of the things that man boasts about - his great cities, his great buildings, his inventions, his achievements - will be destroyed in a moment of time. When sinners stand before the throne of God, they will have nothing to point to as evidence of their greatness. It will all be gone." (from The Bible Exposition Commentary)

(v2) What came down out of Heaven? *The New Jerusalem, the holy city.*

- The city is pictured as a *bride* because it contains the *bride* and takes on her character. The word *adorned* is from the Greek verb *kosmeo* ("*to order*" or "*to arrange*"); thus we get our English word "*cosmetics*."

- Abraham looked for this city in Hebrews 11:8-16 - *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 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. By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude — innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they*

desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

(v3) Who will God dwell with? All who are SAVED!

- Remember what Jesus said in John 3:16-17 - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

- Warren Wiersbe writes about the tabernacle of God, "The most important thing about the city is that God dwells there with His people. The Bible gives an interesting record of the dwelling places of God. First, God walked with man in the Garden of Eden. Then He dwelt with Israel in the tabernacle and later the temple. When Israel sinned, God had to depart from those dwellings.

Later, Jesus Christ came to earth and "tabernacled" among us (John 1:14). Today, God does not live in man-made temples (Acts 7:48-50), but in the bodies of His people (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.) and in the church (Ephesians 2:19-22 - Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.)"

(v4) What will God wipe away forever?

- Every tear, sorrow, pain, and death. All former things have passed away.

- Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 - So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

"O Death, where is your sting?

O Hades, where is your victory?"

The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

(v5-6) Jesus says that we can drink of the Fountain of life!

- Believers in Christ will thirst and be satisfied, Jesus said in Matthew 5:6 - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

- Jesus said to the women at the well in John 4:13-14 - *Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."*

- Also in John 7:37-39 - *On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

- The Psalmist declares in Psalm 42:1-2 - *As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.*

(v7) The overcomers get to inherit all things & we shall be God's children!

- John the beloved affirms our overcoming in 1 John 5:4-5 - *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

(v8) Where will people go that do not want Christ? To the lake of fire (Hell).

- HELL is the place of eternal punishment for the unrighteous.

The word Gehenna occurs twelve times in the New Testament. Each time it is translated as "hell." With the exception of James 3:6.

~ It is used by Jesus in:

- Matthew 10:28 - *And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

- Matthew 23:15 - *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves."*

- Matthew 23:31-33 - *"Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt. Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?"*

(Referenced also in Matthew 5:22,29-30; Mark 9:43,45,47; Luke 12:5).

In Matthew 5:22; 18:9; and Mark 9:47, it is used with "fire" as "hell fire."

In Mark 9:46 and 48, hell is described as a place where "their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched." Repeatedly Jesus spoke of outer darkness and

a furnace of fire, where there will be wailing, weeping, and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 8:12; 13:42,50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Luke 13:28).

- The Book of Revelation describes hell as "a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Rev 19:20; 20:10,14-15; 21:8). Into hell will be thrown the beast and the false prophet (Rev 19:20). At the end of the age the devil himself will be thrown into Hell, along with death and hades and all whose names are not in the Book of Life. "And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever" (Rev 20:10 b). (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

- The root of sin is pride and unbelief which produces an immoral and decadent lifestyle as found in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:2-5.

> (v9-27) And The New Jerusalem!

(v9-11) The New Jerusalem will have the glory of God!

- J.V. McGee writes, "The word light in Greek is *phoster*, which speaks of the source of light. Not reflection like the moon, not generated by combustion like the sun, but it originates light and is the source of light. The presence of God and Christ gives explanation to this, as He declared, "... I am the light of the world" (Jn.9:5). God is light.

- The "Jasper stone" is a diamond. The appearance of the New Jerusalem is a diamond in a gold mounting. Could its symbolism be like a wedding ring for the "bride of Christ!" (Awesome!)

(v12-13) Twelve gates to enter the city – Representing the twelve tribes of Israel.

(v14) Twelve foundations represent the twelve apostles.

(v15-17) Measurements of the city – 1500 miles cubed.

(v18-21) Construction materials for the wall and the foundation are made up of multiple gemstones.

- The gemstones are:

Jasper - diamond

Sapphire - brilliant blue stone

Chalcedony - agate stone, sky blue with colored stripes

Emerald - bright green

Sardonyx - a red and white striped stone

Sardius - quartz stone, shades of red

Chrysolite - transparent gold, yellow-hued stone

Beryl - various colors, shades of green, yellow, and blue

Topaz - yellow-green stone

Chrysoprase - gold -tinted green stone

Jacinth - blue of violet colored stone

Amethyst - purple stone

- Twelve gates each made of *one solid pearl*.

(v24-27) All the redeemed people throughout human history will inhabit the city.

The word for nations in Greek is ethnos, speaking of all ethnicities.

- Jesus will illuminate the city forever and nothing evil will ever be there.

Isaiah prophesied of this in Isaiah 60:19 – “*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.*”