

# Revelation 21 - A New Heaven and a New Earth

## A new heaven and a new earth

Rev 21:1-27 ESV 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. 2 And **I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride** adorned for her husband.

### The first heaven and first earth had passed away

- **This takes place on the day of the LORD** - 2Pe 3:9-14 ESV The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 **But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.** 11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 **But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.** 14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.
- **Compared to the permanence of His word** - Mat 24:35 ESV Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
- **Compared to His accomplishing of the law** - Mat 5:18 ESV For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.
- **Wow** - Isa 65:17 ESV "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

### New Jerusalem - prepared as a bride adorned for her husband

- New Jerusalem - coming down from heaven
- The city is as a bride prepared for her husband

3 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." 5 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.**"

## The dwelling place of God is WITH man

- **Moses Tabernacle** - Exo 25:8-9 ESV And let them make me a sanctuary, **that I may dwell in their midst.** 9 Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.
- **Solomon's Temple** - 2Ch 7:16 ESV For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.
- **Jesus "tabernacled" among us** - Joh 1:14 ESV And **the Word became flesh and dwelt [literally "tabernacled"] among us,** and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- John 14:1-3 ESV "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, **that where I am you may be also.**

## He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them

- 1Pe 2:10 ESV Once you were not a people, **but now you are God's people;** once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
- Heb 8:7-13 ESV For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. 8 For he finds fault with them when he says: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, 9 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. 10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and **I will be their God, and they shall be my people.** 11 And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. 12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." 13 In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.
- 2Co 6:16-18 ESV What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "**I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**" 17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, 18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

- Heb 11:24-25 ESV By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 **choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God** than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.
- Act 15:13-14 ESV After they finished speaking, James replied, "Brothers, listen to me. 14 Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, **to take from them a people for his name.**

### **This marks the end of suffering and pain and death**

- He will wipe tears, no more death, mourning, crying or pain
- The former things have passed away, I am making all things new
- These words are trustworthy and true

### The water of life & the lake of fire

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. 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."

- **Rich man and Lazarus - in Hades a desire for water** - Luk 16:22-24 ESV The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, 23 and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. 24 And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and ***send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.***'
- Isa 55:1 ESV "Come, **everyone who thirsts, come to the waters**; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
- Isa 12:2-3 ESV "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." 3 **With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**
- John 4:13-14 ESV Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. **The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.**"

### The Bride, the wife of the Lamb, the holy city coming down from heaven

9 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,**

**The bride is described here “the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God” -** This same terminology is used in Gal 4, describing those who are partakers in the New Covenant as “the Jerusalem above”, and as “free.”

- Gal 4:22-31 ESV For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. 23 But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of **the free woman was born through promise.** 24 Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. 25 Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. 26 **But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.** 27 For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband." 28 Now you, brothers, like Isaac, **are children of promise.** 29 But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. 30 But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman." 31 **So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.**
- **The bride is also described as the church** - Eph 5:31-33 ESV "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

### The description of the bride / the city

So perhaps this description of the Bride/City is not a true city after all, but a description of the glorious church.

11 **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. 15 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. 18 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. 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.

### Having the glory of God

- Eph 3:20-21 ESV Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, **21 to him be glory in the church** and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
- Eph 5:25-27 ESV Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, **26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor**, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

### On the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed

- Eph 2:11-28 ESV Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands-- **12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.** **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14** For he himself is our peace, who **has made us both one** and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility **15** by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might **create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,** **16** and might **reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross**, thereby killing the hostility. **17** And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. **18** For through him **we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.**

### The city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles

- Eph 2:19-22 ESV So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are **fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,** **20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, **21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.**

**The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. ---** The twelve stones are similar to the twelve stones on the breastplate of the high priest

Foundation	Breastplate	Dissimilar	Dissimilar
Jasper	Jasper	Carnelian	Sardius
Sapphire	Sapphire	Chrysoprase	Diamond
Agate	Agate	Jacinth	Ligure
Emerald	Emerald	Chrysolite	Carbuncle
Onyx	Onyx		
Beryl	Beryl		
Topaz	Topaz		
Ameth	Amethyst		

## **Behold the tabernacle of God is with men**

22 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. 24 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.**

### **No temple**

- Rev 21:3 KJV And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, **Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people,** and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

### **No sun or moon**

- **The glory of God gives it light**
- Its lamp is the Lamb
- Only those written in the Lamb's book of life can enter

### **God is truly dwelling with man as He desires**