**21**Then I saw “**a new heaven and a new earth**,”[Isaiah 65:17] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was **no longer any sea**.**2**I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven **from God**, prepared **as a bride** beautifully dressed for her husband. **3**And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s **dwelling place is now among the people**, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **4**‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’[Isaiah 25:8] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

*v.1 -* ***a new heaven and a new earth –*** *John sees beyond the end of the first world, into eternity. Irenaeus says that the new heaven and earth are comparable to our resurrected bodies.*

***no longer any sea*** *– with its darkness and chaos and dread.*

*v.2 -* ***from God*** *– see Hebrews 11:10 – God is its architect and builder. This is a physical city, but also the symbol of the whole Church of God.*

***as a bride****– see notes on Divine Marriage in the Bible from chapter 19.*

*v.3 -* ***dwelling place is now among the people*** *– See John 1:14, but also Zech. 2:11, Ez. 37:27, Lev. 26:12, Is. 25:8, Is. 65:19 for references to the tabernacle. Brighton, p. 598: “The tabernacle and the temple were mediating structures that enabled the holy God to dwell among sinful people.” In the New Jerusalem they are no longer needed (v. 22).*

*v.5 -* ***everything new –*** *He is restoring everything He created to its original state, in the new heavens and earth (the best we can do in the present creation is to slow the decay).*

**5**He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making **everything new**! ”Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

**6**He said to me: “**It is done**. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End[Rev.22:13]. To the thirsty **I will give water** without cost from the spring of the water of life. **7**Those who are **victorious** will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. **8But the cowardly**, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the **fiery lake of burning sulfur**. This is the second death.”

*v.6 -* ***It is done*** *- = “It has come into being” Rev. 1:8. Although this is a future vision, it is already completed because of everything Jesus has done.*

***I will give water*** *– See Rev. 22:1 and John 7:37; but also Is. 55:1 and Jer. 2:13, condemning people who have “dug their own wells” when God is ready to give them the water of life abundantly!*

*v.7 -* ***victorious****-See Rev. 2- 3 for the seven-fold description of “those who conquer” because Christ has shared His victory with them.*

*v.8 –* ***but the cowardly*** *– a list of moral sins, demonstrating that these people are not “of Christ,” beginning with those who choose their own personal safety over their witness to Christ.*

***fiery lake of burning sulfur*** *–see ch. 20*

*v.9 -* ***one of the seven angels –*** *probably also had one of the trumpets, and also one of the angels of the seven churches => the local church is the place that most clearly shows us the Bride of Christ.*

*v.10 -* ***a mountain great and high****- Babylon, the harlot-city, is eternally destroyed in a wilderness (Rev. 17:3); Jerusalem, the Holy City, is eternally exalted on a great and high mountain.*

**9One of** **the seven angels** who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” **10**And he carried me away in the Spirit to **a mountain great and high**, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. **11**It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. **12**It had **a great, high wall** with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the **names of the twelve tribes of Israel**. **13**There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. **14**The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the **names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb**.

**15**The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. **16**The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be **12,000 stadia** in length, and **as wide and high as it is long**. **17**The angel measured the wall **using human measurement**, and it was **144 cubits thick**. **18**The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. **19**The foundations of the city walls were decorated with **every kind of precious stone**. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, **20**the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21&version=NIV#fen-NIV-31074f)] **21**The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a **single pearl**. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

*v. 12 –* ***a great, high wall –*** *all our enemies will have been conquered; the wall is the symbol of Christ’s care for us; Is. 26:1.*

*v.12 & 14 -* ***names of the twelve tribes of Israel. . . names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb*** *- the city is memorializes the faith of very human individuals: every one of them saints and sinners at the same time. 12 tribes + 12 apostles = 1 Church, the Bride of Christ.*

*v.16 –****12,000 stadia*** *- That is, about 1,400 miles or about 2,200 kilometers*

***as wide and high as it is long*** *– that the city is in the shape of a cube, plus its immense size, is meant to give the impression of its complete and utter perfection.*

*v.17 -* ***using human measurement*** *- there is nothing “astral,” “spiritual,” or “otherworldly” about this city – it is physical and material in every best sense of the words.*

***144 cubits thick*** *- That is, about 200 feet or about 65 meters*

*v.19 -* ***every kind of precious stone*** *- not purely for decoration, but because these precious stones would have captured and re-transmitted the light of God each in its own way and thus made the city appear even more glorious.*

*v.21 -* ***single pearl*** *- though not mentioned in the Old Testament, by Jesus’ day pearls had taken their place among the list of “precious stones.” (Matt. 13:45)*

**22I did not see a temple in the city**, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. **23**The city does not need **the** **sun or the moon** to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. **24The nations** will walk by its light, and **the kings** of the earth will bring their splendor into it. **25On no day will its gates ever be shut**, for there will be no night there. **26**The glory and honor of the nations **will be brought into it**. **27**Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

*v.22 -* ***I did not see a temple in the city*** *- see v. 3 – God does not have to hide His glory from His people inside a Temple. (Deut.31:17-18) See also Ez.40-48 and Heb. 9:1-8*

*v.23-* ***the sun or the moon*** *- Brighton notes that the sun, moon and stars may still be in their places in the resurrected creation, delighting simply to exist for the glory of God; but their light is no longer necessary to mark day and night and they are definitely not necessary for astrological purposes!*

*v.24 -* ***The nations. . . the kings*** *– see Is.60:1-3 and Matt.2:1-12. Not the kings under the domination of the Satanic Beast (Rev. 13), but believing kings who come in faith.*

*v.25 -* ***On no day will its gates ever be shut -***  *the arms of the Welcoming Father are always open to those who will return to His love in faith. (Luke 15)*

*v.26 -* ***will be brought into it*** *- as in “offering processions” in some worship services in some cultures.*

Notes on INCLUSION and EXCLUSION in the Holy City:

INCLUSION – what gets brought in:

* The **splendor** of the kings of the earth (v. 24)
* The **glory and honor** of nations (v.26)
* Those **whose names are written** in the Lamb’s book of life (v. 27)

EXCLUSION – what NEVER gets brought in (v.27):

* Anything **impure** (see Leviticus)
* Anyone who does anything **shameful**
* Anyone who does anything **deceitful**

Final note: make sure **all terms in red** are defined in relation to the work of Jesus and our salvation by grace through faith!