

REVELATION 21:1-27

Introduction

Judgment is over. Chapters 6-20 have been the fulfilling of Daniel's **70**th week. Now we are being told, somewhat quickly, of the future **after** the White Throne Judgment has happened.

*Actually, there is very **little** given about eternity in the Scriptures.

A. Revelation 21:1 - And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

1. The present earth and heaven have dissolved, melted away just **prior** to the White Throne Judgment. This is not a makeover or **renovation**, but a **new** creation that **replaces** the old heaven and earth. So the earth, atmosphere, universe, all that had been corrupted by sin, are **gone**!
2. Here (21:1), God creates an all new, fresh, **never-seen-before** Heaven and earth. Likely, for everything to last forever, the 2nd law of thermo-dynamics (everything is running down) evidently will be **removed**. To do this will result in a new kind of creation, a new arrangement of how creation **works** and exists.
3. This will mark the beginning of a new dispensation, having an eternal Bible class. Just imagine what we will **learn**!

Ephesians 1:9-10 - Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: Eph. 1:10 - That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

*[the fulness of times] has the purpose of time moving forward to **fulfill** all of its purposes by gathering together all governments of authority of Heaven and earth with God the **center** of the universe.

4. [and there was no more sea.] This will be an amazing change. Earth today consists of **70-75%** water. There are two main reasons for this.
 - a. The **flood** waters needed a place to go from beneath waters and from above waters.
 - b. It has set the **boundaries** for man.

Acts 17:26 - And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;
5. Without the sea, there will be no hydrological cycle as it was. This will give a **different** climate than earth today, more tropical.
6. Also, this new earth is **not** limited to the size of the earth now, which is 25,000 miles in circumference and 8,000 miles in diameter. With all this land, there will be **plenty** of room!

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

1. John now begins to describe what will fill the new Heavens and earth. Here we see earth will have a new capital city, the new holy city Jerusalem!
2. The new Jerusalem is where God lives. The planet on which God rests is called the heavenly, or new Jerusalem. This is the true bride of Christ, along with those who occupy the city.
3. [prepared as a bride] Who is this? This city is the Lamb's wife.
 - a. This city has been prepared for the people of Israel. She (city) is being prepared to be the seat of authority being the capital city for the government of God. This is where God will dwell and government will be executed through Jerusalem and Israel.
 - b. There will be a united Heaven and earth under the authority of Jesus Christ. The new Jerusalem comes down, being prepared and ready to carry on the functioning of the eternal Kingdom!

To help understand this more:

C. Revelation 21:9-10 - And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. Rev 21:10 - And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

1. As we have seen, this new Jerusalem is the Lamb's wife in the eternal state (verse 2).
2. John is shown more of the bride of Christ as she comes down to the freshly new created earth. The city's origin is in Heaven.

*Some Jewish believers had looked for a Heavenly city.

Hebrews 11:9-10, 16 - By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: Heb. 11:10 - For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God Heb. 11:16 - But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Hebrews 12:22 - But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

D. Revelation 21:11 - Having the glory of God: and her light *was* like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

1. The new Jerusalem will be the capital of the universe. Its description is dazzling glory beyond our comprehension.
2. God's attributes will shine as His unmatched glory lights up the city with colors of the diamond. The city is pictured as a huge, flawless jewel, with God's glory shining through it. It will sparkle.

E. Revelation 21:12-13 - And had a wall great and high, *and* had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: Rev. 21:13 - On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

1. The city has high walls, **not** to keep the enemy out, since there are none. But they are to give those inside comfort, security, and **single** focus as to where they are.
2. The walls have **12** gates, with **3** on each side (N, S, E, W), giving the total of 12 gates. Each gate is manned by an **angel** (12 angels), not to guard, but to welcome and greet. Can you imagine this?
Hebrews 12:22 - But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,
3. Each gate will have one of Israel's twelve tribes' **names** on it. This is similar to the way Israel encamped around the tabernacle.
*Throughout all eternity these Jewish names will be **remembered**.

F. Revelation 21:14 - And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

1. It has foundations (permanence) in honor of the 12 apostles. One of the 12's **names** will be forever written on each of the foundations.
*Because the 12 were willing to **leave** family, job, all, be martyred, to **follow** Christ, they are given this distinct honor!
2. **Paul's name will not be mentioned here** because he is not one of the 12 apostles, nor the 13th apostle of the kingdom program. Some even hold that Paul was the **true** 12th apostle because Peter got ahead of God by appointing Mathias to be the 12th apostle. Of course, that is **not** true. Why?
3. What **number** is stamped with this present dispensation-Body?
Answer: **One**
Romans 12:5 - So we, *being many, are one body in Christ*, and every one members one of another.
I Corinthians 12:12-13 - For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. I Cor. 12:13 - For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.
Ephesians 2:14-16 - For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; Eph. 2:15 - Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; Eph. 2:16 - And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:
Ephesians 4:5-6 - One Lord, one faith, one baptism, Eph. 4:6 - One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.
4. What is the number stamped with Israel, the Prophecy Program?

Answer: **12** (tribes-thrones-gates-names-foundations)

Note: While we, the Body of Christ, possess a Heavenly citizenship throughout eternity, in all likelihood, we **will** have access to the earth and the new Jerusalem. We are members of the family of God, but Heaven is our **home**.

With this understanding, let us go back

G. Revelation 21:3 - 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.

1. A new emphasis takes place regarding the **F**ather. Christ will not be excluded, but man will see - understand the Father in a **new** light.

I Corinthians 15:22-28 - For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

I Cor. 15:23 - But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. I Cor. 15:24 - Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

I Cor. 15:25 - For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. I Cor. 15:26 - The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. I Cor. 15:27 - For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under *him*, *it is* manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. I Cor. 15:28 - And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

2. One day the entire God-head will be made manifest in a new light like we never could see before. I do not understand **all** this but take it by faith in what He has **said**.
3. [and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.]
 - a. Can you explain this? God will no longer be far off in distance, no longer His glory **hid**, no longer will people need **props** to view God's presence (smoldering mountain, a cloud, or pillar of fire)
 - b. What will it be like for them to live in the **very** presence of God? ***Unimaginable!**

H. Revelation 21:4 - And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

1. There are a number of things that plague us now that will be **missing** from the new creation. The **curse**, and all that goes with it, will be gone.

Revelation 22:3 - And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

2. In all the world, throughout the ages to come, there will be no more tears shed, no one will ever **die** again, and no more pain or **sorrow**.

*This is because, as the former Heaven and earth passed away, so the curse with all it's heartaches has passed **away** here!

3. It is here that the complete accomplishment of the cross is **truly** fulfilled!

Galatians 3:13 - Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

*Everything will be so amazingly different that there will be no need for tears, unless for **joy**.

I. Revelation 21:5-6 - And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. Rev.21:6 - And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

1. John is so amazed at all he has seen. He is so overwhelmed that God has to remind him that the things he has seen and heard are **true**, because they come from **God**, who is true.
2. With "It is done, " God proclaims that His redemptive purpose He wanted originally to do is **finished**. With His now-perfect creation, He has only to fill up the universe with His glory.
3. Christ is the first and the last (22:13).

Revelation 1:8 - I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

*He creates it all, **holds** it all together, and is the consummator of it all.

Isaiah 44:6 - Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

4. Christ fulfills His promise to all who believe in Him, that He will give them that spiritual **water** of eternal life.

John 4:13-14 , 7:37-38 - Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: John 4:14 - But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 7:37 - In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. John 7:38 - He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

J. Revelation 21:7 - He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

*This awaits those **true** believers who do persevere and are faithful to the **end**.

Hebrews 10:38-39 - Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. Heb. 10:39 - But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

K. Revelation 21:8 - But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

1. Unbelievers will **never** be a part of this new Heaven or earth. Not being fulfilled yet, John's writing is a warning to those who remained in unbelief and remained unforgiven of their sins. They will not only not be in this glory, but also will **burn** in the lake of fire.
2. The lost will be completely eliminated from **participating** in these eternal blessings. Notice what God calls their characteristics:
 - a. [fearful] They are afraid to embrace Christ though fearful of **death** (Hebrews 2:14).
 - b. [unbelieving] They are never convinced of Christ and **reject** Him. They are totally caught up with this world and their flesh's desires.
 - c. [abominable] They are vile, detestable, and disgusting. They **love** their wicked pleasures and practices.
 - d. [murderers] They have taken lives because life to them is **cheap**, with little value.
 - e. [whoremongers] The flesh is **uncontrolled** by their desire of immorality, prostitution, homosexuality or sex outside of marriage.
 - f. [sorcerers] The occult practice and wizardly ways **appeal** to them. Man uses drugs to induce mind-altering religious fantasies.
 - g. [idolaters] They worship material objects that represent something religious. It is putting something or anyone **before** God.
 - h. [all liars] Their life is false. They tell **untruths**, falsehoods, deceitful accusations, and wrong teachings.

*These unbelievers mentioned here had allowed their depravity to go unchecked.

Back to the new Jerusalem

L. Revelation 21:15-17 - And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. Rev. 21:16 - And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. Rev. 21:17 - And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred *and* forty *and* four cubits, *according to* the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

1. The new Jerusalem will be **gigantic** in its size. To impress upon John's mind just how large the city is, the angel actually measures the city for John (and all) to see its tremendous size.
2. The length of the city's four sides are equal. Even its height is the same as each length of one side. Each side is 12,000 furlongs as well as 12,000 furlongs high, or a **1500** mile square. It is like a **cube**! Its width, height and length will all be equal.

*It is the largest city **ever** known to man!

M. Revelation 21:18 - And the building of the wall of it was *of* jasper: and the city *was* pure gold, like unto clear glass.

1. The walls are **216** feet thick. Its material will be (verse 11) jasper-diamond-like.

- With its walls being translucent, the city of translucent gold, can we imagine the glory of God's brightness radiating through and **from** this city?

*This square city's size will be **2,250,000** square miles (that is only **one** level).

N. Revelation 21:19-21 - And the foundations of the wall of the city *were* garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation *was* jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; Rev. 21:20 - The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. Rev. 21:21 - And the twelve gates *were* twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city *was* pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

- Notice its **beauty** with precious stones being its material. I believe these jewels match the 12 stones on the breastplate of the **high** priest.

jasper	a radiant diamond
sapphire	a brilliant blue stone
chalcedony	a blue-green with stripes
emerald	a bright green stone
sardonyx	a red and white striped stone
sardius	a fiery red
chrysolite	a golden yellow stone
beryl	a lighter aqua green
topaz	a transparent, greenish yellow
chrysoprasus	a gold-tinted green stone (aquamarine)
jacinth	a blue violet stone
amethyst	a purple stone

- Can you imagine each stone glowing, with the foundation **1500** miles in length, **216** feet thick, and only God know how **deep**?!
- The new Jerusalem city will have 12 gates, 3 on each side. Each gate is made of a single **huge** pearl. It will be 1500 miles high allowing access to all levels at all times. It will never close (verse 25).

O. Revelation 21:22 - And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

- There will no longer be the need for the Temple. All believers will no longer have a **sin** nature that separates them from God's presence. Access will always be there to enter into His presence.
- It mentions the **Lamb** again here, in that believers will always be **reminded** of Christ's sufferings and sacrifice for them. When we see the Lamb, His nail-scarred hands, feet and side, it will remind us that the **only** reason anyone has the privilege to be there is because of God's love, sacrifice, and grace.

P. Revelation 21:23 - And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb *is* the light thereof.

1. It does not say there is **no** sun or moon, they are just **not** needed because of God's glory and light.
*Perhaps the sun and moon are for the rest of the earth?
2. Paul says: I Timothy 6:16 - Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom *be* honour and power everlasting. Amen.

Q. Revelation 21:24 - And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

1. These are **Gen**tile believers who live **out**side the city. They bring their gifts into the city to honor and glorify God.
2. In this new dispensation, "the fullness of time", there will be **na**tions in the earth. These are Gentiles who are saved in the O.T., Tribulation, and in the Millennium.
*Remember, God's purpose is to always bless the Gentiles through **Is**rael.
Galatians 4:26 - But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

R. Revelation 21:25-26 - And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.
Rev. 21:26 - And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

1. God will have an **open** door policy for all to come and worship Him. Since there is no night, there will be **con**tinuous activity within the city.
2. The world (here only believers) **fin**ally learns:
Jeremiah 9:23-24 - Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty *man* glory in his might, let not the rich *man* glory in his riches: Jer. 9:24 - But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I *am* the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these *things* I delight, saith the LORD.
Revelation 4:10-11 - The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,
Rev. 4:11 - Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

S. Revelation 21:27 - And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

1. This is **not** saying that sin is present and it could be possible for sin again to enter into the world or Holy City. It is just showing the contrast to the **for**mer city, or **past** dispensations.
2. John is assured, and God wants **all** believers to be assured, that never again will there be contamination by **sin**!

*Here, you have a perfect God, a perfect city, a perfect earth, a perfect people, and perfect environment. **Only** those saved in the Lamb's book of life, who have eternal life, who are absolutely moral and pure, will be **in** the new Heavens and new earth.