

Chapter 21:

In verse 1 it states there will be a new heaven and new earth. The old ones will pass away. There will no longer be any sea. The sea is known for being chaotic and there will not be any need for this in eternity. In verse 2 we see the Holy City, new Jerusalem, coming down from heaven. Jerusalem is described as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. In verse 3 there is a loud voice from the throne stating that God's dwelling place is now among the people and he will dwell with them. Verse 4 goes on to state there will be no more death, sadness, or pain. Sin and death are gone and the way things used to be is gone.

In verse 5 God states he is making everything new and He tells John to write down what is being said because these statements are going to happen. In verse 6 God states "it is done." He reminds us He is the beginning and the end. To those who are thirsty He will provide water from the spring of life which is Christ Jesus. "Those who are victorious" or the overcomers, will inherit all of this and will be the children of God. Verse 8 reminds us that unreconciled sinners will be destined for the lake of fire as defined in the previous chapter.

In verse 9, one of the seven angels who had one of the bowl judgements told John, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." At the time of writing this study, I am still confused by this and have more studying to do. I have heard the bride of Jesus being the entire church in some publications and by many pastors. I have heard other pastors, and have read in scripture, what sounds like a very specific group of believers that are rewarded this position of being the bride of Christ as a result of their devotion to Him.

If you go back and review the rewards for the overcomers of the 7 Churches of Asia, you will see reference to reigning with Christ as the bride. I believe that this reference to the new Jerusalem being the bride is because that is where Jesus will be with this very specific group of believers that received the greatest of rewards for their devotion to Christ.

Verses 11-14 describe this magnificent city. It shines with the glory of God. It has twelve gates with twelve angels at the gates. The twelve tribes of Israel are written on the gates. We also see 12 foundations referenced here with the names of the twelve apostles of Jesus. The apostles represent the foundation of the church with Christ as the cornerstone. The number 12 represents God's power and authority and serves as the perfect governmental foundation. It also represents completeness and perfection.

Verses 15-21 is more description of this holy city. It is square and symmetrical. It is about 1,400 square miles with the walls being about 216 feet thick. There are different jewels and precious metals referenced here that are used in the construction. We can be sure they all have a meaning and represent something. I do not know what they all represent at this time.

In verses 22-27, there is reference to not needing a temple in the new Holy City because God and Jesus will be among us there. Their presence will be all around us. The city will not need the sun or the moon because the glory of God will light it up and the city will provide light to the nations. Nothing impure will ever enter this city and the people of the nations will be able to visit.