

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

"NEW THINGS OF THE ETERNAL STATE"

I. THE NEW THINGS WHICH GOD WILL MAKE (1-2)

A. Will come into existence after the millennium and the Great White Throne Judgment (1-2).

1. John saw a new _____ and a new _____ (1). Note the first heaven and earth were passed away.

2. Along with the new heaven and earth John saw a new _____ (2). It was coming down out of heaven.

a. Some hold that new Jerusalem will be a satellite city suspended over the earth during the Millennial.

b. Others like myself hold new Jerusalem to be a new city created after the Millennium. The things spoken about this city are related to the eternal state of the saints rather than to the Millennial kingdom.

c. It logically follows since Christ will be reigning during the millennium on the earth in Jerusalem and since Rev. 20:6 states the saints will reign with Him they will not therefore be out in space in some satellite city. Also since Rev. 21:2 is the first mention of new Jerusalem there is no Scripture to support its existence until after the Millennium. Note also if this city is coming down for the saints to inhabit, as a bride adorned for her husband, for whom would it be?

B. Will be a renovation of the first heaven and earth (1).

1. Note the word "new" here means new in _____ and not in kind.

a. This is the same word spoken of a Christian convert (II Cor. 5:17).

b. According to II Pet. 3:7-10, the old heaven and earth will be renovated by _____ after the millennium.

c. What we see here then is the old heavens and earth cleansed by fire and hence new in quality. According to the Abrahamic Covenant Palestine belongs to his seed forever and God won't create another Palestine only cleanse the old.

2. Note the new earth will have no _____. The only water described is that of the river in Rev. 22:1.
3. Concerning the new heaven, the new earth, the new Jerusalem, logical sequence would demand after the _____ the heaven and earth will be renovated by fire then a new heaven and earth will appear with a new Jerusalem on earth.

II. THE NEW BLESSINGS FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD (3-8)

A. Will begin with a new kind of relationship with God (3-4).

1. We see God will dwell with men in a personal and intimate way as before the _____ (3).
2. God will remove the _____ completely and as a consequence all the former things such as death because of sin, sorrow, and pain will pass away (4).
 - a. Some contend that this text teaches the saints will shed tears in heaven for their former failures on earth.
 - b. The emphasis here is not on the remorse of saints but the comfort of God. It's speaking about the curse being finally lifted with all its consequences.
 - c. If the tears are to be identified they will be those of people in the millennium. During that time the curse will not have been completely removed. People will still die and loved ones will still sorrow. After the millennium when Satan heads his revolt, death, sorrow, crying and pain are still existing (Rev. 20:9).

B. Will include the establishment of an eternal abode (5-8).

1. Note the words "it is done" is a reference to God's completed work to provide the saints of all the ages with an eternal _____ (5-6).
2. Here we see the saints will not just possess certain provisions or dwell for eternity as they did in the millennium but rather will inherit all _____ (7). Note here in all of John's writings this is the only time he referred to a believer as a son. This reveals further the new relationship of verse 3.
3. The unsaved by contrast are characterized in verse 8 and will be burned with fire and brimstone eternally as prior judgment has been given (20:15; 21:8).

III. THE NEW CITY FOR THE SAINTS OF GOD (9-27).

A. Is identified as the Lamb's wife (9-11).

1. Note this city is called the Lamb's _____ being pictured as a bride meeting the Bridegroom (9). If the saints and Christ were in it during the millennium why would this figure be used?
2. John was carried to a high mountain to see that new city descending from God (10-11). This means it will be on the new _____.
3. The identification of the new Jerusalem as the Lamb's wife should not be confused with the Lamb's wife of Rev. 19:7 which is the church.

B. Will have foundations, walls, gates (12-14).

1. There will be 12 _____ inscribed with the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel and each gate will be guarded by an angel (12,13).
2. The walls will be built of twelve foundations each inscribed with the names of the twelve _____ (14).

C. Will be equal in length, breadth, and height (15-16).

1. The reed measured about 10 feet and each dimension of the city was 12,000 _____.
2. A furlong is 582 feet so 12,000 furlongs is equivalent to 1,342 _____.

D. Will have a wall around it like jasper (17-18).

1. The wall measured 144 cubits. Assuming a cubit to be 18 inches the wall around the city measured 216 ft. _____.
2. If new Jerusalem were a satellite city why would there be gates and a wall around the city?

E. Will have a wall with foundations of precious stones (19-20).

F. Will have pearly gates and streets of pure gold (21).

G. Will have no temple in it (22).

1. This is unlike the millennium reign which will have a temple for the worship of God.

2. Here we note all shadows and types will be done away with.

H. Will be lighted by the Lamb (23)

1. Once again we note a distinction between this city and that of the Millennium. During the Millennium the _____ and _____ will light the earth.

2. This city will transmit the glory of _____ in the form of light.

I. Will be open to those saved for eternity (14-27).

1. Apparently in God's renewed universe there will be _____ on the earth (24) compare 22:2.

2. The gates will never be shut (25).

3. All glory will be brought and given to God to Whom it belongs (26).

4. The emphasis in verse 27 is not on keeping anyone out of this city but rather on the character of the perfect environment and the objects of God's grace.