

Revelation 21 The New Heaven and Earth

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, 4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." 6 Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give water to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life, without cost.

7 The one who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. 8 But for the cowardly, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and sexually immoral persons, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls, full of the seven last plagues, came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

The New Jerusalem

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very valuable stone, like a stone of crystal-clear jasper. 12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on the gates, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.

13 There were three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15 The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. 16 The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, twelve thousand stadia; its length, width, and

height are equal. 17 And he measured its wall, 144 cubits, by human measurements, which are also angelic measurements. 18 The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

19 The foundation stones of the city wall were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; 20 the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; 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 one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. 22 I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illuminated it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. 25 In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; 26 and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; 27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

- What questions were provoked within you?
- Did anything confuse you?
- Did anything move you emotionally?
- Did God instruct you to do something?
- Did you gain any insight into God's character

Paul's observations and insights

1. How do you feel about a new earth because this old earth is passing away?
2. Can you imagine there not being any sea on earth?
3. What is this new Jerusalem all about?
4. What does John mean, 'something is being prepared for the husband'?
5. In the new order, God makes His home, with His people, on the new earth.
6. Jesus came, the Spirit came and now God has come.
7. What might, 'God being among His people on earth', look like?
8. Can you imagine an existence without suffering, crying, pain, death and mourning?
9. All that we have known belonged to the first things!
10. The idea of God, 'sitting and saying' is for Him to be in control and at peace.
11. 'Behold' means to look and to see.
12. It is God who said, 'He is making all things new'.

13. Why is John given instructions to write down what is true?
14. For something to be done is for it to be completed.
15. As the first and the last, the Alpha and the Omega, God is number one.
16. 'Water from the spring of life', is Jesus the word.
17. It is the same promise He made to the woman at the well outside Samaria.
18. Only the overcomers will inherit the Kingdom of God.
19. What will happen to those who don't overcome? Is it possible for them to lose eternal life?
20. How do we 'overcome' anyway?
21. The cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and liars -
they are not getting in!
22. What is the second death?
23. Who is the wife of Jesus the lamb?
24. How do you get carried away in the Spirit?
25. Why did John get shown all these amazing things?
26. The bride looked beautiful – 'she was without flaw' - what does that mean?
27. What is God's glory? How might you describe it?
28. There is a restoration of Israel, a new connection with God?
29. Each of the twelve gates, when the city was first built, had a specific purpose.
30. The twelve apostles received an acknowledgement and they are rewarded.
31. Was Judas included?
32. What is the purpose of measuring the city?
33. Why are the measurement angelic measurements?
34. Glory is represented by what has been presented in the sight of humanity.
35. If you want to make a strong foundation you mix plenty of different stones to bind them all together.
36. What does a pearl represent to you?
37. Why are the streets made to look like gold?
38. For there not to be a temple, is to recognise God's people are constantly in His presence.
39. God is the provider of light and energy for the moon and the sun is no more.