

**21** 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. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>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 <sup>4</sup>people, and God Himself will be among them, <sup>4</sup>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."

<sup>5</sup>And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He <sup>6</sup>said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>The one who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

<sup>8</sup>But for the cowardly, and <sup>9</sup>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 <sup>10</sup>brimstone, which is the second death."

<sup>9</sup>Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls, <sup>11</sup>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."

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<sup>10</sup>And he carried me away <sup>12</sup>in *the* Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, <sup>11</sup>having the glory of God. Her <sup>13</sup>brilliance was like a very valuable stone, like a stone of crystal-clear jasper. <sup>12</sup>It had a great and high wall, <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>*There were* three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. <sup>14</sup>And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them *were the* twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup>The one who spoke with me had a <sup>16</sup>gold measuring rod to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. <sup>16</sup>The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the <sup>17</sup>rod, <sup>18</sup>twelve thousand stadia; its length, width, and height are equal. <sup>17</sup>And he measured its wall, <sup>19</sup>144 cubits, *by human* <sup>20</sup>measurements, which are *also* *angelic measurements*. <sup>18</sup>The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like <sup>21</sup>clear glass.

<sup>19</sup>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; <sup>20</sup>the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.

<sup>21</sup>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.

<sup>22</sup>I saw no <sup>23</sup>temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its <sup>24</sup>temple. <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth <sup>25</sup>will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup>In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; <sup>26</sup>and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; <sup>27</sup>and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those <sup>28</sup>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

## Why did there have to be a new Heaven and Earth

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- Why did the old have to pass away?
- And there was no longer any sea. What is the significance of this?
- Can you imagine seeing the new Holy city? The new Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven.
- Where did this city come down too?
- John says it was prepared as a bride, how does a bride prepare?
- Why does he use this image? What imagery does this bring up for you?
- Whose voice did John hear coming from the throne?
- It said behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people.... What is God's tabernacle?
- What will our relationship with God be like when the tabernacle is among the people?
- Why can we not dwell with God now? What does the new reality show us about sin?
- The voice tells us of the coming promises of God to us
- Which of the promises in verse 4 are most comforting to you? Why?
- Now we are told about the voice of He who sits on the throne
- What does it mean that He is making all things new?
- What does the name Alpha and Omega mean? What does it tell you about His character?
- What is the spring of the water of life? Why does He give it without cost?
- The one who overcomes will inherit these things, How do we overcome?
- Why is the new Jerusalem described as the bride? Isn't the church the bride?
- What does it mean for the city to have the Glory of God?
- Why are there 12 gates? What are the names of the 12 tribes of Israel?
- There are 12 foundation stones. What are the names of the 12 apostles of the Lamb?
- The city was measured with a gold measuring rod. Is there any significance to its size and shape?
- Is there any reason for the city to have walls? Will it need defences?
- Each of the 12 gates were made of a single pearl
- How can the streets made of pure gold, look like transparent Glass?
- Do you think the beauty of this city reflects the beauty of the creator God?
- No temple is needed in the new Jerusalem Because the Lord God almighty and the Lamb are its temple.
- Because of the work of Jesus on the cross we no longer have limited access to God . He no longer needs a temple with the Holy of Holies. No more curtain to dwell behind. He has made us holy in the sight of God.
- And the city had no need for the Sun or Moon to shine on it.
- In the new Jerusalem He will be that light, The light of His glory will radiate throughout the city
- Who are the Nations that will walk by its light?
- Who are the Kings of the earth? And what does it mean for them to bring glory into it?
- Why will the gates never be closed? Why have gates at all?
- What may be the glory and the honour of the nations that they will bring into the city?
- Verse 27 Speaks of what will not be in the new Jerusalem. All of these have been cast into the eternal fire
- Only those with their names in the Lambs book of life will be there.
- Is your name in the Lambs book of Life?