

Revelation

Chapter Twenty-One

Revelation 21:1-3

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.”

All Things Made New

- In Revelation 20:11, it said: “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, **from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.**”
- At the end of chapter 20, the old earth and heaven are destroyed and now in chapter 21, begins the fulfillment of the restoration and the relationship between God and man that was lost at the Fall.
- John now in Revelation 21:1, is seeing the result of the new heaven and the new earth.
- In chapters 21 and 22, we are told about a new heaven and a new earth, a new Jerusalem, a new relationship between God and man, new conditions for redeemed man, and new living conditions.

Destruction Of The Old

- The **destruction** of the present heaven and earth was spoken of by the Old Testament prophets and **reconstructed** with a new heaven and earth.
- "Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. **They will perish**, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak **You will change them, and they will be changed.**"-Psalm 102:25-26
- "Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look on the earth beneath. **For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, the earth will grow old like a garment**, and those who dwell in it will die in like manner; but My salvation will be forever, and My righteousness will not be abolished."-Isaiah 51:6
- The present earth and heaven are going to get an Extreme Makeover.

It's All Going To Burn

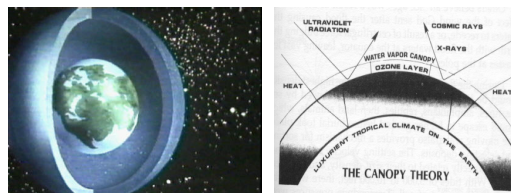
- "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and **the elements will melt with fervent heat**; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the **heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?**"-2 Peter 3:10-12
- The present heaven and earth will be burned up with intense heat that will destroy this place for the reconstruction of the new heaven and earth.

The Present Heaven

- 'Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. **And God called the firmament Heaven.** So the evening and the morning were the second day.'-Genesis 1:6-8
- This expanse is the **first** heaven.

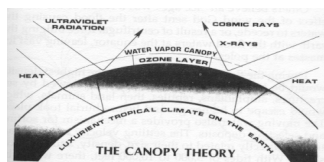
The Creation Of The First Heaven

- Water vapor canopy

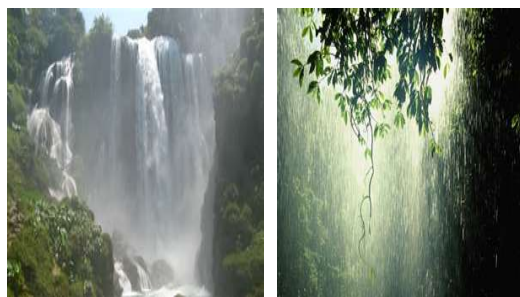


A Division of the Waters

- **Genesis 1:7:** "So God made **the expanse** and **separated** the **water under** the expanse from the **water above** it. And it was so."--NIV
- **Genesis 1:8:** "God called the expanse "sky."--NIV
- *Raqiya`* (raw-kee'-ah) an expanse, i.e. the firmament or visible arch of the sky

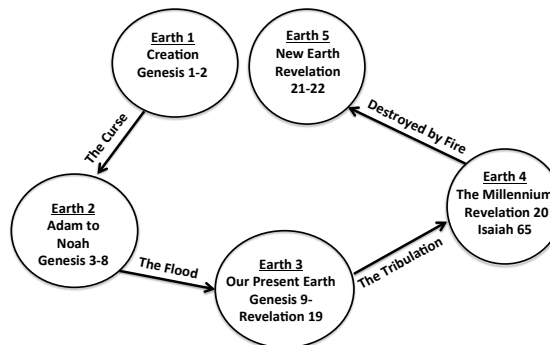


A Beautiful Tropical World



- 'Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. **God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness.** And God saw that it was good."--Genesis 1:14-18
- **This is the second heaven.**
- The first heaven and the second heaven were drastically changed after the flood. (See Genesis 7&8)
- **The first heaven and second heaven are what is demolished in favor of the new heaven and earth.**
- **The third heaven where God dwells comes down to be on earth.**

The Five Stages Of The Earth



The Present Earth

- In Revelation 21:1, John says, “....the first earth had passed away.”
- Jesus said, “For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”-**Matthew 5:18**
- “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”-**Matthew 24:35**
- The Greek word used for “pass away” conveys the idea to cause to pass from one condition to another.

Redemption Of Creation

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.-**Romans 8:18-25**

New

- The word for “new” that is used here is “kainos” and means new in regards to the old becoming obsolete and replaced with something better in quality of a different kind.
- This is different from the word “neos” which means new in regards to the same kind but replaced with something fresh.
- “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.”-**Isaiah 65:17**
- The word create is “*bara*” and means “**to create out of nothing**”; as opposed to “*asah*” which means, “to make something of already existing material”

No More Sea

- The new earth will be totally different. The sea will be gone.
- If the new earth is roughly the size of our present planet there will be at least eight times of fertile land since there will be no more sea.
- The absence of the sea doesn't mean there will be no more water for water will flow in abundance on the new earth.
- The clear pure water of life will proceed out from the throne of God and the Lamb watering the fields, vegetation, and trees.-**Revelation 22:1**

The New Jerusalem

- John sees the New Jerusalem, "...coming down out of heaven from God...."-Vs. 2
- The New Jerusalem is like or as a bride adorned prepared to receive her husband.
- This is how John sees the city of the New Jerusalem beautiful like a bride on her wedding day.
- This is the place Jesus said: **"In My Father's house are many mansions**; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."-**John 14: 2-3**
- The city is holy because it is where God dwells,"... **and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.**"-**Revelation 21:3**

Hebrews 11:8-10

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Abraham Obeyed God

- Abraham acted in obedience to the call that God had placed upon his life.
- Abraham was not following his own dream of moving to Canaan but was answering God's call upon his life.
- The call of God is primary to Abraham. Abraham's response is obedience to what he heard.
- **Faith must rest on God's revelation in Scripture.**
- **Christianity is not a faith based on the religious speculations or philosophies of men but rather on God's revelation recorded in Scripture.**

Abraham's Faith

- Abraham's faith rested on the word of God and his thoughts were occupied with His relationship with God.
- Abraham was not focused on the Canaanites who were living around him because he trusted by faith in God Who could protect him.
- This was opposite of the Israelites who walked by sight and feared the Canaanites.
- "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.**" -Colossians 3:1-2

Abraham Waited For The City Of God

- "*ekdechomai*" is the word used for "waited" it literally means to "look for" or "expect" the event to happen.
- This is a word that conveys to us that Abraham was ready to take hold of the expected promise that God had given to him.
- This was the key to His ability to endure and wait in a temporary situation.

2 Peter 3:11-13

- "Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought you to be** in holy conduct and godliness, **looking for** and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? **Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for** new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."

Revelation 21:4-8

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts."

"He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

A New Order Of Things

- Now that God has come down to earth to dwell with man the earth will be totally different.
- The effects of the curse will be totally gone and He will comfort those who dwell in the eternal state .
- God will wipe away every tear.
- Man comes into the world with a cry; and goes out of it with a groan, and all between is more or less intoned with helpless wailing . . . But the Halleluiahs of the renewed world will drown out the voice of woe forever." (Seiss)
- There will be no more death, no more sorrow, no more pain.

The Alpha And Omega

- These are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.
- This unique title for God is applied to both the Father in this instance and again of the Son in Revelation 22:13.
- Jesus said: "I and My Father are one."—John 10:30
- The term Alpha and Omega is used 4 times in Revelation (1:8,11,21:6,22:13).

The Beginning And The End

- "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."---
Colossians. 1:13-17
- "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.'"--
Isaiah 44:6

Titles Unique To God Only

HIDDEN TRUTH:

GENESIS 1:1

אֶרֶץ אֵת שָׁמַיִם אֵת בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים רֵאשִׁית

LITERAL TRANSLATION

"In the beginning God [aleph tau] created the heaven and the earth".

ZECHARIAH 12:10

אֵת דִּקְרָה בָּבֶטֶן

LITERAL TRANSLATION

"...and they shall look upon me [aleph tau] whom they have pierced..."
THE ALEPH AND THE TAU, THE FIRST AND LAST LETTERS OF THE HEBREW ALPHABET ARE THE SAME AS THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA IN THE GREEK.

This Aleph and Tau, that created the heavens and the earth, is the same Aleph and Tau whom they pierced on the wooden cross erected in Judea almost 2,000 years ago.

אֵת

"sign (marker) of the definite direct object, not translated in English but generally preceding and indicating the accusative case."

- THE DIRECT OBJECT IS GOD
- WHO IS THE BEGINNING AND THE END

Those In The Lake Of Fire

- We already know the Beast, the False Prophet and the Devil are cast into the lake of fire.(Revelation 20:10)
- Here there is detailed description of those characteristics that represent those who were cast into the lake fire at the second death.
- **The Cowardly:** Those who fear man rather than God. (Rev. 13:15; Matt. 10:28; Matt. 25:25; Luke 12:8-9; John 12:43)
- **The Unbelieving:** Those who reject the truth of the gospel. (2Th. 2:12; John 3:36; 1 John 5:10)

- **The Abominable:** Those who engage in unspeakable acts outlined in Leviticus and Deuteronomy.
- **Murderers:** Those who kill.
- **The Sexual Immoral:** Those who commit sexual sins particular to prostitution.
- **Sorcerers:** One who prepares and uses drugs for magical purposes or ritual witchcraft.
- **Idolaters:** Those take part in idol worship or consult false prophets.
- **Liars:** Those who suppress the truth of God for a lie. (Rom. 1:18; 1 Jn. 2:22; 1 Tim. 4:2; 2Th. 2:9; Jn. 8:44)
- Those who reject the gospel and sinners in general who are not redeemed will each have to give an account of their sin. All people without Christ fall into these categories. Jesus is the only hope of redemption.

Revelation 21:9-21

“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.”

“And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.”

“Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal.”

“Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald,

the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.”

John's Vision

- John sees New Jerusalem from a distance coming down out of heaven.
- One of the seven angels, who poured out the bowls of wrath, takes him closer to the city.
- The angel, having one of the seven bowls, refers back to the seventh bowl itself which destroyed Babylon (Rev. 16:19) and invites a contrast between the tale of two great cities: Babylon, the Harlot (Rev. 17) and the New Jerusalem, the bride (Rev. 21:10).
- The city is associated with the bride to awe us with a sense of its beauty.

The City

- The New Jerusalem has the glory of God with its walls.
- The term “Glory of God” or “Glory of the Lord” is a term used throughout the Old Testament to identify the personal presence of God.
- The best example is the book of Ezekiel, where the prophet Ezekiel like John, taken in the Spirit, sees “Glory of the Lord”, in human form (Ez. 3).

The Construction Of The City

- The city had a great high wall with twelve gates.
- On each of the twelve gates was the name of the twelve tribes of Israel.
- The names of the tribes on the gates communicate the unity and heritage that the people of God have with Israel. God will never forget the tribes of Israel even unto eternity.
- God has been and will be forever faithful to His promises to Israel and the people of the church.

- The wall of the city has twelve foundations and upon the foundation was written the name of the twelve apostles of the lamb.
- “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” -**Ephesians 2:19-22**
- The question arises concerning who will be the twelfth apostle. Will it be Matthias or Paul? Matthias was chosen by lot to replace Judas who betrayed Jesus (Acts 1:26). Paul was chosen by the Lord (Acts 9:15). It's hard to know for sure but it is hard to believe Paul doesn't have a place on the foundation with the other apostles.

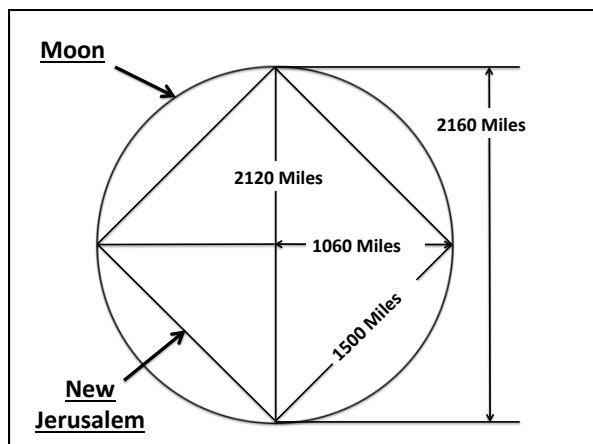
- The city itself is laid out as square.
- The height, width, and length are all equal in distance.
- The city is said to be 12,000 furlongs in equal distance.
- The city is a giant cube. Some have suggested that the city is built like a pyramid. Pyramids are associated with pagan worship. The tabernacle that was given to Moses from God was square.
- The walls of the city are 216 feet thick.
- The walls were constructed of Jasper, a greenish colored stone, and the city was pure gold, clear like glass.

Stadia Or Furlong

- Depending on which translation of the Scripture used it could be “stadia” or “furlong”.
- The Greek uses “stadia”.
- A Stadia = 607 feet
- $12000 \times 607 = 7,284,000$ feet
- $7,284,000$ divided by $5,280 = 1380$ miles
- A furlong = 660 feet
- $12000 \times 660 = 7,920,000$ feet
- $7,920,000$ divided by $5,280 = 1500$ miles

The Size Of The New Jerusalem





- Henry Morris, guessing that there will have been 100 billion people in the human race through history, and that 20% of them will be saved, he calculated that each person would have a “block” with about 75 acres on each face to call their own. This is highly speculative, but illustrates the point that there is plenty of room in the New Jerusalem.

The Foundation Of Precious Stones

- “O you afflicted one, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay your stones with colorful gems, and lay your foundations with sapphires. I will make your pinnacles of rubies, your gates of crystal, and all your walls of precious stones. All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children.” -**Isaiah 54:11-13**
- The assortment of gems are similar to the layout of breastplate of the High Priest given to Moses from God (Exodus 28:15-21)

Precious Stones Of Revelation 21:19-20		
Jasper	Sapphire	Chalcedony
		
Emerald	Sardonyx	Sardius
		
Chrysolite	Beryl	Topaz
		
Chrysoprase	Jacinth	Amethyst
		

The Glory of New Jerusalem



Revelation 21:22-27

“But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.”

Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.”

No Need For Sun

- The glory of God is the light of the New Jerusalem.
- A temple is a symbol for God so that sinful man can worship Him so there isn’t a need for a temple because God is dwelling with man.
- It doesn’t say there is “no sun or moon” it simply states “the city had no **need** of the sun or of the moon...”.
- “Neither the sun nor the moon will ever really be destroyed, of course, since God has promised that they, as well as all the starry heavens, will endure forever (Psalm 148:3-6; Daniel 12:3). It is just that their light is no longer needed to illumine the holy city, for the city itself radiates light to all the surrounding regions (Rev. 21:24). However, the sun and moon will continue to serve their present functions with respect to the nether regions of the earth, serving there as lights by day and night, respectively”. - Morris

- The sun and moon were witnesses to God's eternal promises to Israel.
- "Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name): If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the LORD, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever."-Jeremiah 31:35-36
- "Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before Me; It shall be established forever like the moon, even like the faithful witness in the sky."-Psalm 89:35-37

The Glory Of God Was The Light

- The glory of God and Lamb are the light for New Jerusalem.
- "The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, and your God your glory. Your sun shall no longer go down, nor shall your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning shall be ended."-**Isaiah 60:19-20**

Access To The City

- The gates of the city will be open continually which represents a peaceful climate since gates were closed in walled cities for protection.
- The kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into the city representing the different nations of the earth.
- The statement, "...there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles..." is placed there as a warning for all to give their life to the Lamb now. All those that would defile the city have been cast into the lake of fire.