

## Revelation 21:1–22:21 (ESV)

### The New Heaven and the New Earth

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 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 dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Verse 1: No sea. Recall that the sea is represented of evil (recall the beast from the sea). The sea represents chaos. That is, the new heaven and new earth have no chaos, no darkness.

Verse 2: Jerusalem, the holy city on earth. Consider: city of the King (David received the Davidic covenant) and also consider the Temple in the city. God’s glory came into the Holy of Holies. Here, the glory of God comes to His people. “The city is prepared as a bride, for the church.” (LifeLight 51)

Verse 3: “Immanuel” comes to full fruition.

Verse 4: Can any commentary saying it better? All of these things came from sin, death, and devil, but all of these have been thrown into the burning lake of fire.

5 And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6 And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the

detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

Verses 5-6: See Jesus’ words in John 4:14: “but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

Here and at Revelation 1:8, the title “Alpha and Omega” refer to God the Father. When it is listed a third time, however, at Rev. 22:13, it refers to Jesus.

Verse 7: “Son” – male or female person who inherits the Kingdom. All of us baptized into Christ.

Verse 8: We have heard about what happens to the faithless. Why bring it up here again? We are being admonished. We still have a sinful nature. This is the time for all to repent and to remain in repentance.

TLSB 2234:

“The climax of this Book and indeed all of history at last comes clear: the restored heaven and earth is presented to God’s resurrected people. Such a magnificent future and hope call us to rise above the ugliness and sin of this fallen world, because impenitence and a lack of vigilance can still lead to the shipwreck of our souls. At the same time, God is faithful and so will unfailingly fulfill the purposes for which His Son became man; He will remove the curse that so sorely afflicts us.”

9 Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, ‘Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.’ 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 12 It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at

the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— 13 on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Verse 9-10: The angel shows John the new Jerusalem. This is “the Bride, the wife of the Lamb”... once again the picture of Holy Marriage. This is how close God is to us in Christ. God has made all things new, and now we see the result of our redemption in Christ.

Verse 11: Similar to the new temple and city in Ezekiel 40-48 never built on earth. It is now. It is perfection. The value is expressed as “a most rare jewel”.

Verse 12: The perfection of the city is expressed in the number 12. Twelve gates, twelve angels, names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. At verse 14: twelve apostles.

The angels welcome the people of God. The opposite of what the angel did at the garden of Eden after the fall.

15 And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. 16 The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. 17 He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel’s measurement.

Verse 15: The angel is “doing” Psalm 48:12-14.

Verses 16-17: A perfect cube! Numbers are significant: 144 (12 x 12).

18 The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass.  
19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth

emerald, 20 the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, 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 of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

Verses 18-21: “The stones are those that were also placed in the breastplate of the high priest of Israel (Exodus 28:15-21), and each of the stones had engraved in it the name of the one of the 12 tribes (verse 12).

Verse 14 reminds us that the 12 foundations had the names of the 12 apostles.

These support all the royal priesthood of believers (all of us baptized into Christ).

Verse 21: Emphasizes the great value of the new heaven and new earth again.

22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. 26 They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. 27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Verse 22: Speaks for itself.

Verse 23: The glory of God provides all light. Think of the Transfiguration in constant brilliance.

Verses 24-27: Franzmann: “...the nations, no longer aliens and enemies, offer willing tribute to their God; whatever His sovereign control of all histories and

all cultures has brought forth that is splendid and honorable will come home to Him and will be forever kept safe in His city. No one can imperil His gathered treasures; therefore the gates are never shut by day – and there is no more night in which thieves may break in and steal.” (142)

TLSB 2235:

“John continues his description of the glorified Church by focusing upon the splendor of the city in which God’s people will dwell eternally. On the one hand, the incredible beauty of the heavenly Jerusalem stretches our imaginations beyond what they can comprehend; on the other hand, the stern warnings about the impure, false, and detestable seem all too familiar. Yet God will overcome all evil, including that in our lives, for He who has written our names in the Book of Life will Himself see us home.”

The River of Life

22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Verse 1: “The water of life, promised by Jesus to the Samaritan woman (John 4:14) as mentioned above. Also see John 7:37-38, which John identifies as the Holy Spirit (John 7:39), the giver of eternal life...this is trinitarian...as the river flows from the throne of God and the Lamb.

Verse 2: Complete reconciliation between God and man. The tree of life. Genesis 2:9 that was removed. This is what the LORD had intended from the beginning.

Verse 4: Exodus 33:20: no one can see God and live. This changes! His Name on us forever. See the promise in Revelation 3:12.

Verse 5: Franzmann: “‘Let there be light,’ God’s first word at creation, will be His last word too. The Lord Himself will be the answer to His primeval command; and in that light, which makes all other lights superfluous, the servants of God shall live and reign forever.”

TLSB 2235:

“John describes our life in heaven as having no hunger, darkness, loneliness, or pain but rather eternal joy in the presence of the one true God. How, then, can so many people fail to see the blessedness Jesus has laid out for us along the straight and narrow way that shortly leads to unceasing bliss? In many cases, the answer is simply that people do not appreciate the greatness of God’s grace and the magnificence of the glory that awaits the faithful. Inspired by God’s Word and preserved by His Spirit, however, we may already rejoice with those who have gone before us.”

Jesus Is Coming

6 And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”

Verse 6: Christ Himself is trustworthy and true (cf. 3:14, 19:11). Christ who spoke through the O.T. prophets of what was to come, now presents fulfillment.

7 “And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

Verse 7: The words are kept as we trust in the promises of God and as we abide in faith, live for Him. “...if necessary even to the point of death.”  
(LifeLight 53)

8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, 9 but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”

Verses 8-9: John is overwhelmed and starts to worship the angel. Not allowed! But compare to Revelation 1:17.

10 And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. 11 Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.”

Verses 10-11: All is now revealed and no longer sealed. Franzmann: “the times of ignorance are past.” (145)

12 “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Verse 12: See Isaiah 40:10.

Verse 13: Up to this point, the title has been attributed to the Father, now it is attributed to the Son.

14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. 15 Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

Verse 14: Our robes are washed in the blood of the Lamb! This is still available to all people while they draw breath.

Verse 15: Franzmann: “Only the hard will of impenitence will close those gates forever; only those who choose to cast in their lot with the impure...”. (145)

16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

Verse 16: Franzmann: “He has entered our history as ‘the offspring of David’ (cf. Rom. 1:3). The one Man who has a future, the Morning Star (cf. Num. 24:17) who ushers in God’s eternal day, has in this Revelation of John been inviting men into His future.”

17 The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

Verse 17: The Holy Spirit and The Church through which the Holy Spirit speaks through Christ’s Word proclaimed ...all who hear are invited to join, all who desire the water of life.

18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

Verses 18-19: Describes the sanctity of this Revelation. No additions nor diminutions.

20 He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen.

21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

Verses 20-21: Jesus is “the faithful witness” of Rev. 1:5 confirms these things. We cry out in response, “Come, Lord Jesus!” Maranatha = “O Lord, come!” “Grace”...the way we know Christ is for us.

TLSB 2236:



“Because John’s message is about the ultimate triumph of good over evil, it is always relevant and all the more as the world slides further into chaos and corruption. On one level, Rv powerfully confirms what we already fear, i.e., our world and everyone in it is doomed. More profoundly, however, this Book is about transcendent hope. It shows how infinitely greater God is than evil. By offering a vision of the new creation soon to be revealed, Rv draws us on toward our blessed hope in Christ. To Him be power and glory throughout the ages!”