

The New Jerusalem comes down from heaven, and God's throne is there, among men.

And I heard a loud voice out of the heaven, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he shall tabernacle with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, their God.

Rev 21:3

This Lesson Outline was prepared by John M. Wharton April 26, 2007

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Sources -

All bible text, unless otherwise indicated, is the Darby Translation. ASV indicates the American Standard Version, with KJV indicating the King James Version. Quotations are often included from various classic Christian commentaries such as John Gill's Expositor, Jamieson, Fausset and Brown, Robertson's New Testament Word Pictures, and others. Greek and Hebrew word definitions are often included which are from the Strong's Concordance, unless otherwise indicated. All of these sources, both the bible texts, commentaries, and word definitions are taken from the excellent source, the e-Sword Bible computer program, or the pocket e-Sword version, unless otherwise indicated.

Introduction -

In this twenty first chapter of the Revelation we will see the creation, by God, of a new heaven and earth, and the city of God, New Jerusalem, descending from heaven to the earth. We also will see the establishment of God's throne on this new earth. The light of His presence will radiate out over the earth, enlightening the nations, and nothing common, or filthy will ever enter that great city of God.

Lesson Text - Revelation Chapter 21:

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea exists no more.

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea exists no more.

Comments -

God will create a new heaven, and earth, perhaps by reconstituting the earth, and reforming it's surface from the elements. How much of this vast, endless universe He will remake, no one knows. We can't know for certain if the "heaven" referred to here is the portion around the earth, within this solar system we know of, or more. Some writers have wondered if our earth is quarantined from the universe because of the fall. But then, the fall was caused by the tempting of that being Satan, who clearly was already in rebellion along with his minions. Mysteries encompass mysteries. But I believe we will know and understand it all on the other side.

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of the heaven from God,

prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice out of the heaven, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he shall tabernacle with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, their God.

Comments -

The new Jerusalem will be Jehovah God's capital city, from which He will rule and administer the nations of the new earth.

Rev 21:4 And he shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall not exist any more, nor grief, nor cry, nor distress shall exist any more, for the former things have passed away.

Rev 21:5 And he that sat on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he says *to me* , Write, for these words are true and faithful.

Rev 21:6 And he said to me, It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to him that thirsts of the fountain of the water of life freely.

Rev 21:7 He that overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be to him God, and he shall be to me son.

Comments -

Here is the promise given to the believer. He who continues to believe, holding on in faith, and trusting in God to forgive all sin when we ask Him to, will be forgiven, and accepted by God as a son, and will inherit that wonderful eternal life that we see a glimpse of in this verse.

Rev 21:8 But to the fearful and unbelieving, *and sinners* , and those who make themselves abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part *is* in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone; which is the second death.

Comments -

Here is the curse given to the unbeliever. He who continues to not believe, not continuing to hold on in faith, and not trusting in God to forgive all sin when we ask Him to; but rather trying to gain heaven by doing religious work. He will not be forgiven, nor accepted by God as a son, nor will he inherit wonderful eternal life, but rather will receive burning torment, and continual death that never ends. Those God receives, He receives as sons, unreservedly, and forever. Those God rejects, He rejects as loathsome and useless, unreservedly, and forever, without end.

And he carried me away in the Spirit, and set me on a great and high mountain, and shewed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of the heaven from God,

Rev 21:9 And there came one of the seven angels which had had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues, and spoke with me, saying, Come here, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in *the* Spirit, *and set me* on a great and high mountain, and shewed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of the heaven from God,

Rev 21:11 having the glory of God. Her shining *was* like a most precious stone, as a crystal-like jasper stone;

Rev 21:12 having a great and high wall; having twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names inscribed, which are those of the twelve tribes of *the* sons of Israel.

Rev 21:13 On *the* east three gates; and on *the* north three gates; and on *the* south three gates; and on *the* west three gates.

Rev 21:14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Comments -

The twelve foundations are apparently for each of the twelve gates. The foundations have the names of the twelve apostles, one on each foundation. The foundational base for entry into the New Jerusalem is the teaching of the twelve apostles. The entry into the city is the twelve gates which are named after the twelve tribes of Israel.

Rev 21:15 And he that spoke with me had a golden reed *as* a measure, that he might measure the city, and its gates, and its wall.

Rev 21:16 And the city lies four-square, and its length *is* as much as the breadth. And he measured the city with the reed--twelve thousand stadia: the length and the breadth and height of it are equal.

Robertsons New Testament Word Pictures from the e-Sword Bible program -

...It is not clear whether the 1500 miles (12,000 furlongs) is the measurement of each of the four sides or the sum total. Some of the rabbis argued that the walls of the New Jerusalem of Ezekiel would reach to Damascus and the height would be 1500 miles high.

Equal (isa). That is, it is a perfect cube like the Holy of Holies in Solomon's temple (1Ki_6:19)....

Rev 21:17 And he measured its wall, a hundred *and* forty-four cubits, *a* man's measure, that is, *the* angel's.

Rev 21:18 And the building of its wall *was* jasper; and the city pure gold, like pure glass:

Rev 21:19 the foundations of the wall of the city *were* adorned with every precious stone: the first foundation, jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald;

Rev 21:20 the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprasus; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.

Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible from the e-Sword Bible program on vs. 19-20 -

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...**The first foundation was jasper** - A stone very hard, some species of which are of a **sea-green color**; but it is generally a bright reddish brown.

The second, sapphire - This is a stone of a **fine blue color**, next in hardness to the diamond.

The third, a chalcedony - A genus of the semipellucid gems, of which there are four species: -

1. A bluish white; this is the most common sort.
2. The dull milky veined; this is of little worth.
3. The brownish black; the least beautiful of all.
4. The **yellow and red**; the most beautiful, as it is the most valuable of all. Hitherto this has been found only in the East Indies.

The fourth, an emerald - This is of a **bright green color** without any mixture, and is one of the most beautiful of all the gems, The true oriental emerald as very scarce, and said to be found only in the kingdom of Cambay.

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The fifth, sardonyx - The onyx is an accidental variety of the agate kind; it is of a dark horny color, in which is a plate of a **bluish white, and sometimes of red**. When on one or both sides of the white there happens to lie also a plate of a reddish color, the jewelers call the stone a sardonyx.

The sixth, sardius - The sardius, sardel, or sardine stone, is a precious stone of a **blood-red color**.

The seventh, chrysolite - The **gold stone**. It is of a **dusky green with a cast of yellow**. It is a species of the topaz.

The eighth, beryl - This is a pellucid gem of a **bluish green color**.

The ninth, a topaz - A pale dead **green, with a mixture of yellow**. It is considered by the mineralogists as a variety of the sapphire.

The tenth, a chrysoprasus - A variety of the chrysolite, called by some the **yellowish green and cloudy topaz**. It differs from the chrysolite only in having a bluish hue.

The eleventh, a jacinth - A precious stone of a **dead red color**, with a mixture of yellow. It is the same as the hyacinth or cinnamon stone.

The twelfth, an amethyst - A gem generally of a **purple or violet color**, composed of a strong blue and deep red.

These stones are nearly the same with those on the breastplate of the high priest, Exo_28:17, etc., and probably were intended to express the meaning of the Hebrew words there used....

- All emphasis mine.

Rev 21:21 And the twelve gates, twelve pearls; each one of the gates, respectively, was of one pearl; and the street of the city pure gold, as transparent glass.

pure - καθάρως katharos kath-ar-os' Of uncertain affinity; **clean** (literally or figuratively): - clean, clear, pure.

Comments -

Perhaps the meaning is not of some special type of gold unknown on earth, but simply that it is pure totally which is not possible here.

And I saw no temple in it; for the Lord God Almighty is its temple, and the Lamb.

Rev 21:22 And I saw no temple in it; for the Lord God Almighty is its temple, and the Lamb.

Comments -

The beauty of this is that Jehovah God is now, once again on this earth, living with His creation as He always planned from the start. We won't need a special temple, to worship Him in, because He is there among us. We won't need a priesthood because we will commune with Him ourselves.

Rev 21:23 And the city has no need of the sun nor of the moon, that they should shine for it; for the glory of God has enlightened it, and the lamp thereof *is* the Lamb.

Rev 21:24 And the nations shall walk by its light; and the kings of the earth bring their glory to it.

Rev 21:25 And its gates shall not be shut at all by day, for night shall not be there.

Rev 21:26 And they shall bring the glory and the honour of the nations to it.

Comments -

There won't be any need of sunshine or any other light because the light from God Himself shall diffuse over the city and the earth. Is there then no sun, or moon at all? Perhaps we can't know for certain the full exact meaning here. But we in the New Jerusalem won't need any other light, and the nations of the earth, will surely walk in spiritual, and maybe physical, enlightenment from the throne of God in that city.

Rev 21:27 And nothing common, nor that maketh an abomination and a lie, shall at all enter into it; but those only who *are* written in the book of life of the Lamb.



Conclusion -

In this twenty first chapter of the Revelation we have seen the creation, by God, of a new heaven and earth, and also that city of God, the New Jerusalem, as it's descending down from heaven to the new earth.

We have also seen the establishment of God's throne on this new earth in the New Jerusalem. The light of His presence, we are told, will radiate out over the earth, enlightening the nations. This earth is newly made, and the New Jerusalem has come down from heaven, and nothing common, or filthy will ever enter that great city of God.