

**[1] Reset update.** Tent-making, support, and equipping.

**[2] Summary:** The old order has passed away (v4, Is 65:17, 66:22, 2 Pet 3:12-13) .It is replaced with the new. The crowning jewel of the new earth will be the City of God, the new Jerusalem.

**[3] Read 21:1-8**

**[4] All About the City**

- **It descends from heaven** (2, 10). We will not live forever in heaven, but on the new earth. God created Earth for humanity to live on; this is a replacement for the Earth we live on now (see 2 Peter 3:10). It needs no sun (23) and has no sea (1).
- **It is dazzling, sparkling, radiant, colorful, beautiful** (2, 11, 19-21) – constructed of pure gold (18b)
- **It is safe**, represented by a great wall made of jasper 244 cubits thick (?) with 12 pearl gates, foundations, open doors (12-14, 17-18, 21). The wall is not for security; this is the ultimate safe place.
- **There is room for all** (12K stadia high, wide, thick; 1400 miles) and square (16). Compare Jn 14:2. None of God’s people are left out!

**[5] Inside the City**

- **God** – this is His dwelling place (3, 22:3b, 22:4). Jesus dwelled among us to save us (Jn 1:14).
- **God’s people** - those who are victorious (7)
- **Healing and life** - the spring of the water of life (6, 22:1), the tree of life (22:2; see 2:7). Isaiah 55:1 invited all those who were thirsty to drink. Cp Jn 7:37.
- **Light** – no secrets, no darkness. No sun, moon or artificial lighting needed (23-25, 22:5)

**[6] Missing from the City**

- **Sin** – in the form of the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars (8); impurity, shameful or deceitful actions (27). *This applies especially to those who worshiped the Beast and received his mark.*
- **Suffering** - tears, death, mourning, crying, or pain (4); any curse (3a). Death is destroyed and sent to the lake of fire (20:14); pain, the first penalty of sin (Gen 3:16), is removed at last.
- **Sacrifice**– there is no temple any more (besides God) (22)
- **Darkness** – there is no night there (25, 22:5). Nowhere to hide, nor any need to.

**[7] Our Future.**

- **Kings and Nations?** There are still kings on the earth, who bring their glory to the great city (24-26). Similarly, the nations are healed by the water of life, 22:2. Cp Isaiah 60:3 – “Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.”
- **Service.** God’s “servants will serve him”, 22:3b. And they will reign with him – 22:5,, compare 2:27, 5:10. “Serve” is the less-common word for serving via religious duties. See Rom. 9:4; Acts 26:7; Heb. 9:1, 6. Paul uses it for Christian service (Phil 3:3)
- **Worship;** we will see His face and bear His name (22:4).

**[8] Paradise Restored**

**Eden**

Humanity rebels against its Creator.  
The serpent tempts people to sin  
Humanity cursed & banished from paradise  
Pain and suffering abound  
Humanity barred from Tree of Life  
Someday the Seed will prevail

**New Heaven and Earth**

God’s people serve him forever  
The serpent is in the lake of fire  
The curse is gone (22:3)  
Pain and suffering are banished  
Tree of Life available to all  
Jesus, Son of David, rules forever

**21** Revelation 21:1-22:5 **1** Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **2** I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem,<sup>1</sup> coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them<sup>2</sup>. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **4** He will wipe every tear from their eyes<sup>3</sup>. There will be no more death<sup>4</sup> or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” **5** He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”<sup>4</sup> Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” **6** 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 water without cost from the spring of the water of life. **7** Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. **8** But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.” **9** One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” **10** And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. **11** It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. **12** It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.<sup>5</sup> **13** There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. **14** The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles<sup>6</sup> of the Lamb. **15** The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. **16** The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long.<sup>7</sup> **17** The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits thick. **18** The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. **19** The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, **20** the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.<sup>8</sup> **21** The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass. **22** I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. **23** The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. **24** The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. **25** On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. **26** The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. **27** Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life. **1** Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb **2** down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life<sup>9</sup>, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. **3** No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. **4** They will see his face<sup>10</sup>, and his name will be on their foreheads<sup>11</sup>. **5** There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

<sup>1</sup> Hebrews 12:22, Gal 4:26

<sup>2</sup> Ez 37:27, Zech 2:10, 8:8

<sup>3</sup> Rev 7:17

<sup>4</sup> Isaiah 43:18, 65:17; 66:22; Ps. 102:25f.

<sup>5</sup> Ez 48:31ff

<sup>6</sup> Mt 19:28

<sup>7</sup> The point here is that the New Jerusalem is a perfect cube, which was the exact shape of the inner sanctuary, the Most Holy Place of the Israelite temple (1 Kgs. 6:19). In earthly Jerusalem the glory of God was limited to a single, tiny, cube-shaped room; in New Jerusalem the glory of God fills a vast cube-shaped city. Not coincidentally, cubes have 12 sides.

<sup>8</sup> The 12 gems correspond closely (eight in common) with the 12 stones on the high priest’s breastplate (Ex. 28:17–20; 39:10ff.; Ezek. 28:13; Is. 54:11ff.). Swete sums up the colors thus: **blue** (sapphire, jacinth, amethyst), **green** (jasper, chalcedony, emerald, beryl, topaz, chrysoptase), **red** (sardonyx, sardius), **yellow** (chrysolite).

<sup>9</sup> Genesis 2:9

<sup>10</sup> 1 Cor 13:12, 1 John 3:2

<sup>11</sup> Name on foreheads – see 3:12; 7:3; 14:1. It’s an interesting sign of ownership and relationship.