

REVELATION

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

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- I. **Revelation 21:1 (NASB)** *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.*
- A. Intro to Chapters 21 and 22
1. two things make many think Chapters 21 and 22 refer to the final state
 - a. listed
 - i. Rev 21:1
A/ “new heavens and new earth”
 - ii. Rev 21:4
A/ “⁴ and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be *any* death; there shall no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”
 2. my view
 - a. chapters 21 and 22 refer to the time of the CHURCH, the NEW COVENANT
 3. method of procedure
 - a. I’ll try to neutralize the traditional interpretation of Rev 21:1 and 21:4
 - i. we’ll have long digression on “new heavens and new earth”
 - ii. we’ll drop to Rev 21:4 and take out of sequence
 - b. I’ll point out the many metaphors and symbols in Chps 21 and 22 which obviously point to the time of the CHURCH
- B. “new heaven and a new earth”
1. not chronologically new (“neos”)
 - a. rather, newness in kind, of superior quality (“kainos”)
 2. God’s ultimate aim is to reconcile his creation to himself
 - a. **Colossians 1:19-20 (HCSB)** ¹⁹ For God was pleased [to have] all His fullness dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile everything to Himself by making peace through the blood of His cross— whether things on earth or things in heaven.
 3. ultimately will be fulfilled at the end of time
 - a. but the new heavens and the new earth have already begun to be established, at the cross
 - i. Chilton: “that which is to be absolutely and completely true in eternity is definitively and progressively true *now*.”
A/ like the “kingdom of God”
 - b. the PRIMARY significance of the phrase is symbolic, not physical
 - i. has to do w/ the blessings of salvation
 4. “new”
 - a. the opposite of the decreation language God uses for judgment
 - b. this is RECREATION language
 5. why “new heaven and a new earth” can’t refer just to the final state of bliss
 - a. Is 65:17; 66:22 “¹⁷ For behold, I create NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH; And the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.... (66:22) ²² For just as the new

- heavens and the new earth Which I make will endure before Me," declares the LORD, "So your offspring and your name will endure."
- i. eternal state can't have...
 - (1) death
 - (a) 65:20 "the youth will DIE at the age of 100"
 - (2) sad thoughts
 - (a) 65:20 "one who does not reach the age of 100 will be THOUGHT ACCURSED"
 - (3) labor
 - (a) 65:21 "They will build... they will plant"
 - (4) physical deterioration
 - (a) 65:22 "my chosen ones will wear out [but note, NKJV: "long enjoy] the work of their hands"
 - (5) bear children
 - (a) 65:23 "they will not bear children for calamity, for they are the OFFSPRING of those blessed by the Lord, and their DESCENDANTS w/ them"
 - b. Rev 21:1 "1 And 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.
 - i. the context of this verse is clearly associated with New Covenant CHURCH things
 - A/ **Revelation 21:2 (NASB)** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.
 - 1/ are we the bride of Christ NOW are at the end of time?
 - B/ **Revelation 21:3 (NASB)** And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,
 - 1/ a tabernacle is where God lives
 - a/ and where the Shekinah glory of God lives
 - b/ it's in the midst of his people
 - i/ just like the OT tabernacle was in Jerusalem surrounded by Jews
 - c/ where does God dwell now?
 - i/ ANS: in the midst of his people
 - A) who are his people now?
 - 1) ANS: the church
 - 2/ query: does God dwell with his people NOW in the New Covenant era?
 - a/ or will he have to wait till the end of time to do so?
 - C/ **Revelation 21:6 (NASB)** Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.
 - 1/ Does Jesus give his followers the water of life NOW or at the end of time
 - a/ **John 4:13-14 (NASB)** ¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."
 - i/ parallels Rev 21:6 so obviously that it's not necessary to comment

- D/ **Revelation 21:14 (NASB)** And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them *were* the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.
- 1/ when did the apostles function?
- a/ at the foundation of the church or at the end of time?
- c. **Matthew 5:18 NASB** “For truly I say to you, until HEAVEN AND EARTH pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”
- i. note implications if “heaven and earth” is physical creation
- A/ every jot and tittle of the law is still in effect UNTIL THE END OF THE WORLD
- 1/ which means that in the NEW COVENANT
- a/ we must stone our rebellious children
- b/ we must not cut the corner of our beards
- c/ can’t plant different seeds in the garden
- d/ can’t eat shrimp
- e/ should worship on Saturday
- f/ we would have to sacrifice bulls and goats
- 2/ but if NHNE is the new covenant
- a/ then all those OC laws are abolished at the cross
- i/ which is exactly what happened
- d. **Heb 12:26-28** “²⁶ Whose voice then shook the EARTH: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the EARTH only, but also HEAVEN. ²⁷ And this *word*, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Wherefore we receiving a KINGDOM which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear”
- i. the shaken things are removed
- A/ and the heaven and earth are being shaken
- 1/ so that means that heaven and earth are being removed
- a/ the old heavens and earth have passed away
- i. and note: the “kingdom” results
- e. **Matt 24:35** “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”
- i. this directly after Jesus prediction of the destruction of Jerusalem in Olivet Discourse
- f. **2 Pet 3:13** “¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH, in which righteousness dwells.”
- i. John Owen, famous Puritan theologian (*Works*, 16 vols., London, The Banner of Truth Trust, 1965-68, Vol 9, p134)
- A/ “I affirm that the heavens and earth here intended in this prophecy of Peter, the coming of the Lord, the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men, mentioned in the destruction of that heaven and earth, do all of them relate, not to the last and final judgment of the world, but to that utter desolation and destruction that was to be made of the Judaical church and state.”

- ii. in favor of new covenant after AD 70 conflagration (as opposed to new physical earth)
 - (1) (v7)...the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment & destruction of ungodly men"
 - (a) PRESENT H&E refers to Old Covenant order
 - (2) Is and Rev metaphorically refer to new covenant
 - (a) so logical that Peter referring to same event
 - (b) 3:13 "ACCORDING TO HIS PROMISE we are looking for a NHNE"
 - i) It was promised in Is 65,66 (see NASB marginal references)
 - a) Is 65:17; 66:22 “¹⁷ "For behold, I create NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH; And the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.... (66:22) ²² "For just as the NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH Which I make will endure before Me," declares the LORD, "So your offspring and your name will endure.”
 - b) and that's obviously not the end of the world
 - (3) if conflagration at end of world, are Xns burnt up?
 - (a) Celsus, antiXn philosopher, 2d century
 - i) It is silly to suppose that when God, like a cook, brings the fire, the rest of mankind will be roasted, & only th Xns will remain... Really, it is the hope of worms! ...It is only the simpletons, the ignoble, the senseless... the most uneducated & common men, whoever is a sinner... or a godforsaken fool." (quoted in Durant, *X & Caesar*, p. 607)
 - A/ and how will Christians answer this taunt?
 - (4) (2 Pet 3:3) "in the last days mockers will come" (Chilton, Rev 21:1)
 - (a) "last days" refers to end of Old covenant
 - i) NT Scriptures (there are more in the OT)
 - A/ Acts 2:16,17 “¹⁶ but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT UPON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;
 - B/ Heb 1:2 “² in these LAST DAYS has spoken to us in *His* Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.
 - C/ I Pet 1:5,20 “⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the LAST TIME... (v20) ²⁰ For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these LAST TIMES for the sake of you “

- D/ I Jn 2:18 “¹⁸ Children, it is the LAST HOUR; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists HAVE ARISEN; from this we know that it is the LAST HOUR.”
- 1/ “have arisen”
- a/ the tense shows antichrists, as of today, already come and gone
- (b) so, context of entire passage is AD 70
- (5) collapsing universe, decreation language not literal in many other places
- (a) 2 Pet 3:10,12 “¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its WORKS will be burned up.
- (i) see on Mt 24:29 “²⁹ "But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken,
- (ii) “works”
- i) possible reference to works of Old Covenant?
- (6) "Day of the Lord" (2 Pet 3:10)
- (a) other places it refers to events other than the end of the world
- i) Mt 24:42-43, refers to AD 70
- A/ ⁴² "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which DAY YOUR LORD is coming. ⁴³ "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.
- ii) Acts 2:16 “¹⁶ but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ 'and it shall be in the LAST DAYS,' God says, 'That I will pour forth of my spirit upon all mankind; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ even upon my bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of my spirit and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ 'And I will grant wonders in the sky above, and signs on the earth beneath, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke. ²⁰ 'The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious DAY OF THE LORD shall come.”
- (7) "ELEMENTS will melt w/ intense heat" (v12)
- (a) literalists have a problem taking this literally
- (b) word is NEVER used of the physical universe
- (c) word (stoicheion) is (arguably) ALWAYS used in other NT places to mean OLD COVENANT ORDER!
- (d) here is exhaustive list of use of the word
- ii) Gal 4:3,9 [context is legalism] "we... were held in bondage under the ELEMENTAL things of the world." (v9) ...how is it that you turn back again to the weak & worthless elemental things, th wh you desire to be enslaved all over again?"

- iii) Col 2:8,20 "See to it that no one takes you captive thru phil'y & empty deception,... according to the ELEMENTARY principles of the world... (v20)If you have died w/ X to the ELEMENTARY principles of the world... why do you submit yourself to decrees..."
- iv) Heb 5:12 "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the ELEMENTARY principles of the oracles of God..."
 - a) Chilton: "In context, the writer is clearly speaking of Old Cov truths - especially since he connects it w/ the term *oracles of God*, an expression generally used for the provisional, Old Cov revelation (cf Ac 7:38, Rom 3:2)"
 - i) contra: why wd author of Heb say learning elem'y principles is good, if they are to be burnt up (2 Pet 3)
 - b) note: he's writing to Jews, who wd know OT, might have trouble moving on to the New
- v) Heb 6:1 "Therefore leaving the ELEMENTARY teaching about the X, let us press on to maturity"
 - a) refers to Old Cov teaching (cf Chilton above)

(8) Peter uses Day as an exhortation to godliness for FIRST-CENTURY XNS

- (a) 3:11 "Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought YOU to be in holy conduct & godliness"
- (b) the NEARNESS of the conflagration was the incentive to godliness

6. why new heavens and new earth refers to establishment of new covenant

1. the same language was used in re establishment of OLD covenant

a. Scriptures

i. **Isaiah 51:16 (HCSB)** ¹⁶ I have put My words in your mouth, and covered you in the shadow of My hand, in order to plant the heavens, to found the earth, and to say to Zion, "You are My people."

A/ here, a new heavens and a new earth refer to the establishment of Zion

1/ doesn't it make sense that a new heaven and a new earth would refer to the NEW Zion?

a/ **Hebrews 12:22 (HCSB)** ²² Instead, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God (the heavenly Jerusalem), to myriads of angels in festive gathering,

C. "sea"

1. called the "abyss" (the "deep") in Gen 1:2

a. no more abode for Leviathan, who dwelled in the Abyss

i. Leviathan is Satan

ii. Isaiah 27:1 "In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish LEVIATHAN the piercing SERPENT, even LEVIATHAN that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the DRAGON that *is* in the SEA."

2. could just refer to Gentile nations no longer existing [DLT]

II. **Rev 21:2** *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.*

- A. “new Jerusalem”
1. the church of Jesus Christ
 - a. included both present and future aspects of the church
 - i. the church grows from inception to consummation
A/ just like it is said of “the Kingdom of God”
 2. reasons why new Jerusalem is the church
 - a. “bride”
 - i. obvious reference to the church
 - ii. Eph 5: 23,32 “²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. ³¹ For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. ³² This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”
 - b. “holy city”
 - i. Heb 12:22-23 “²² But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the CITY of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ To the general assembly and CHURCH of the firstborn,”
 - c. “coming down”
 - i. Scriptures
 - A/ Rev 3:12 “¹² Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the NAME of my God, and the name of the CITY of my God, *which is NEW JERUSALEM*, which COMETH DOWN out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him MY NEW NAME.*”
 - 1/ Xns with God and Jesus’s name on them live in the city
 - a/ which “COMES DOWN” from heaven
 - B/ Gal 4:26,31 “²⁶ But JERUSALEM which is ABOVE is free, which is the mother of us all... (v31) ³¹ So then, BRETHREN, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.”
 - C/ Heb 11:16 “¹⁶ But now they desire a better *country*, that is, an HEAVENLY: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a CITY.”

III. **Revelation 21:3 (NASB)** *And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be among them.*

- A. “tabernacle”
1. the tabernacle was in the city
 - a. so now, the tabernacle of God is among Christians, who are the new Jerusalem
 - i. i.e., God dwells among his people NOW
A/ not in some future millennial temple
 2. Scriptures
 - a. 2 Cor 6:16 “...for ye are the TEMPLE of the living God; as God hath said, I will DWELL IN THEM, and walk IN THEM; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”
 - b. Lev 26:11,12 “¹¹ And I will set my TABERNACLE AMONG YOU: and my soul shall not abhor you. ¹² And I will walk AMONG YOU, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.”
 - c. Ezek 37:26-28 “²⁶ Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my SANCTUARY IN THE MIDST OF THEM for evermore. ²⁷ My TABERNACLE ALSO SHALL BE WITH THEM:

yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ²⁸ And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my SANCTUARY SHALL BE IN THE MIDST OF THEM for evermore.”

IV. **Revelation 21:4-5 (NASB)** 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.” (v5) And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I **AM MAKING** all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”

A. “first things have passed away”, “all things new”

1. makes it clear that the establishment of the NC is in mind
 - a. **2 Corinthians 5:17 (HCSB)** ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, [he is] a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come.
 - i. only one difference between 21:4,5 and 2 Cor 5:17
 - A/ Paul talking about redeemed *individuals*, John talking about redeemed *community*
 - ii. In 2 Cor, in the NC church age, old things have already PASSED AWAY
 - A/ doesn't it make sense that in Rev 21 and 22 the “first things” have also PASSED AWAY
 - b. note the tense “I AM MAKING”
 - i. if Rev 21 and 22 is FINAL state, why is God still MAKING things new?
 - A/ “making” is poio
 - 1/ present active indicative form of poieo
 - a/ which means the number of times the action is done is ambiguous
 - i/ could mean one time, or many times
 - ii/ could mean a prediction in the future of God AT ONCE making all things new
 - A/ which would fit the “final state” interpretation
 - 2/ if poio is progressive
 - a/ destroys the final state interpretation
 - i/ there is no progress in the final state
 - b/ examples of translations that translate as present progressive “I AM MAKING”
 - i/ NIV
 - ii/ Christian Standard Bible
 - iii/ New Living Bible
 - iv/ English Standard Version
 - v/ Contemporary English Version
 - vi/ New Century Version
 - vii/ New Life Bible
 - viii/ The Message
 - ix/ New Revised Standard Version
 - x/ Easy-to-Read Version
 - 3/ William Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek*
 - a/ continuous translation is preferred unless there is evidence pointing otherwise
 - C/ seems like John would have said that God WILL MAKE all things new
 - 1/ if indeed Rev 21 and 22 should refer to final state

B. “new”

1. Chilton: “The New Creation will fill the earth; the whole creation will be renewed. This is true definitively, it will be absolutely true eschatologically – and it gives us the pattern for our work in

between, for it is also to be worked out progressively. The New Creation must be unfolded, its every implication understood and applied, by the royal priesthood IN THIS AGE. (emphasis mine).”

C. “no longer”

1. at first glance this presents a problem to a preterist interpretation
 - a. because now, before the final state we still have “death”, “mourning”, “crying”, “pain”
 - b. answer
 - i. note the “wills”
A/ at the **consummation** of the final state, won’t be death, mourning, crying, or pain
1/ the NC, New Creation, NHNE extends through ALL time since the cross
a/ all the way to the end
 - ii. if tears are there to be wiped away, how can it be in the final state

D. “death”

1. spiritually, in NC we will live, no longer will there be death
 - a. Jn 6:51 ⁵¹ "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh."

V. **Revelation 21:6 NASB** *Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of LIFE without cost.*

A. “end”

1. “beginning and end” of what?
 - a. answer: the NEW COVENANT
 - i. Jesus establishes the NHNE, the NC, the New Creation at the beginning at the cross
 - ii. Jesus ends the NC era when he returns to fully redeem the world in the final state
 - b. story begins in Matthew, ends in Revelation
 - i. even our canon reflects the truth that the NC is about the career of the church

B. “water of life”

1. another indication that these passages have a partial reference to the CHURCH age, now
 - a. because “water of life” clearly refers to salvation by Jesus
 - i. Scriptures
A/ John 4:14 ¹⁴ But whosoever drinketh of the WATER that I shall give him shall never THIRST; but the WATER that I shall give him shall be in him a well of WATER SPRINGING up into everlasting LIFE.”
1/ “thirst”, “spring”, “water”, “life”
a/ all four words are common to 21:6 and Jn 4:14
B/ John 7:37-38 ³⁷ In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man THIRST, let him come unto me, and drink. ³⁸ He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of LIVING WATER.”

C. “it is done”

1. just what Jesus said on the cross
 - a. to inaugurate the NC
 - i. one more piece of evidence that Chs 21 and 22 refer to the church age

VI. **Revelation 21:7 (NASB)** *“He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.”*

- A. “overcomes”
 1. John doesn’t even contemplate any other kind of Christian but the victorious Christian conqueror
 - a. he doesn’t allow for defeatist Christianity
 2. query: what about the weak Christian?
 - a. will God not be his God and will he not be God’s son?
 - b. answer: ALL Christians are said to be overcomers
 - i. **I John 5:4 (NASB)** “⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”
- B. “son”
 1. this happens in the NC church age
 - a. as well as for all eternity in the final state

VII. **Revelation 21:8 NASB** *“But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murders and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”*

- A. a great verse for anyone dumb enough to believe in universal salvation

VIII. **Revelation 21:9 (NASB)** *Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls 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.”*

- A. “bride”
 - A. John had already been shown the whore of Babylon
 - a. the *false* Jerusalem
 - b. now he will be shown the *true* bride
 - i. the *new* Jerusalem

IX. **Revelation 21:10-11 (NASB)** *And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city [KJV: great city], Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, (v11) having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.*

- A. “high mountain”
 1. far away from the “wilderness” where the whore of Babylon was
 2. wilderness is where demons and tribulation are, mountains are where God is
 - a. examples
 - i. wilderness
 - A/ children of Israel wander in wilderness for 40 years
 - B/ demons search for waterless places when cast out
 - C/ woman in Rev 12 protected in the wilderness from the Devil
 - D/ Jesus tempted for 40 days in wilderness
 - ii. mountains
 - A/ Mt of Transfiguration
 - B/ Jesus ascends to heaven from Mt of Olives
 - C/ Ten Commandments given on Mt. Sinai
 - D/ Isaac, type of Jesus’s sacrifice, offered on Mt. Moriah
 - E/ the city of God, the symbol of the people of God, is Mt Zion

B. “glory”

1. the Shekinah Glory had already left the Temple, and thus the old Jerusalem

a. how do we know

- i. the split veil at Jesus’ crucifixion [** cite]
- ii. Ezekiel

A/ saw the glory cloud leave the temple

- 1/ Ezek 10:18,19 “¹⁸ Then the GLORY of the LORD departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims. ¹⁹ And the cherubims lifted up their wings, and mounted up from the earth in my sight: when they went out, the wheels also *were* beside them, and *every one* stood at the door of the EAST gate of the LORD’S house; and the glory of the God of Israel *was* over them above.”
- 2/ Ezek 11:22,23 “²² Then did the cherubims lift up their wings, and the wheels beside them; and the glory of the God of Israel *was* over them above. ²³ And the GLORY of the LORD went up from the midst of the city, and stood upon the mountain which *is* on the EAST side of the city.”

B/ saw the glory cloud return to dwell in the New Temple, the church

- 1/ Ezek 43:1,2,4,5 “¹ Afterward he brought me to the gate, *even* the gate that looketh toward the east: ² And, behold, the GLORY of the God of Israel came from the way of the EAST: and his voice *was* like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory...⁴ And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect *is* toward the EAST. ⁵ So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the GLORY of the LORD filled the house.”

iii. Josephus

A/ Pentecost of 66 AD, as priests were going about their duties, there was heard “a violent commotion and din” followed by “a voice as of a host crying, ‘*We are departing hence!*’”

- 1/ Josephus, vi.v.3

B/ Josephus records the feelings of many in Israel at the time

- 1/ God “had turned away even from his sanctuary” (II.539)
- 2/ the Temple was “no more the dwelling place of God” (V.19)
- 3/ “the Deity has fled from the holy places” (V.412)

C. “brilliance”

1. lit., “luminary”

- a. see NASB margin
- b. means “light-bearer”
 - i. used in Genesis to refer to sun, moon, stars

2. one more piece of evidence that New Jerusalem refers to the NC church

- a. Christians are said to shine as “luminaries” in the world
 - i. Phil 2:15 “¹⁵ That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as LIGHTS in the world;”
 - ii. Dan 12:3 “³ And they that be wise shall SHINE as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the STARS for ever and ever.”

D. “jasper”

1. a red quartz
2. just like God

- a. “Rev 4:2,3 “² And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne. ³ And he that sat was to look upon like a JASPER...”

X. **Revelation 21:12-14 (NASB)** *It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. (v13) There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. (v14) And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*

A. “twelve”

1. 12 tribes + 12 apostles = the people of God
 - a. both OC and NC

B. “gates”

1. pointed towards all four directions of the compass
 - a. the gates of the NJ are open to every tribe, people, tongue, and nation of the world
 - i. Scriptures
 - A/ **Luke 13:29 (HCSB)** ²⁹ They will come from east and west, from north and south, and recline at the table in the kingdom of God.
 - B/ **Revelation 21:24-26 (HCSB)** ²⁴ The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵ Each day its gates will never close because it will never be night there. ²⁶ They will bring the glory and honor of the nations into it.
 - 1/ gates are never closed
 - a/ the church is always willing and able to bring the lost into salvation
 - b/ the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of God’s Anointed One

C. “foundation”

1. another indication that the NJ is the church of JC
 - a. the foundations of the NT Temple are the apostles
 - i. **Ephesians 2:19-22 (HCSB)** ¹⁹ So then you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God’s household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ The whole building, being put together by Him, grows into a holy sanctuary in the Lord. ²² You also are being built together for God’s dwelling in the Spirit.
 - b. both metaphors representing the NC people of God have apostles as the foundation
 - i. NT temple, the New Jerusalem

XI. **Revelation 21:15-17 (NASB)** *The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall. (v16) The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. (v17) And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements.*

A. “one”

1. one of the bowl-angels (v9)

B. “measure”

1. the *sanctuary* had been measured earlier (11:1-2)
 - a. now the city is to be measured
 - i. for the City is the Temple
 - ii. indicates its sanctity and protection

C. “equal”

1. a perfect cube like the HOH
 - a. where God also dwelled

- D. “fifteen hundred miles”
 - 1. a city this big on a side is absurd, if taken literally
 - a. a city this high is also an absurdity, if taken literally
 - 2. all translations which convert to the English system of measurements are utterly foolish
 - a. they completely cover over the symbolic meaning
 - 3. in the Gk, its “12,000 stadia)
 - a. symbolic
 - i. twelve is the symbol of the church
 - ii. 1000 is the symbol of “manyness”
 - iii. idea: there are going to be a heap of people in the NC
- E. “seventy-two yards”
 - 1. absurd for a wall be LITERALLY 72 yards
 - a. especially defending a city that’s 1500 miles high!
 - i. the wall, although ridiculously high, would be dwarfed by the city it’s designed to protect
 - 2. in the Greek, it’s “144 cubits”
 - a. symbol of the church in its majesty, vastness, and perfection
 - i. twelve times twelve
 - 3. NIV interprets the measurement to be thickness, not height
- F. “angelic”
 - 1. Chilton
 - a. there are divinely ordained correspondences between angels and men
 - i. angelic activity in heaven is a pattern for our own activity
 - A/ when we see God’s will done in heaven, we are to mirror that activity on earth
 - 2. NIV
 - a. “by man's measurement, which the angel was using.”

XII. **Revelation 21:18-21 (NASB)** *The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. (v19) The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of PRECIOUS STONE. The first foundation stone was JASPER; the second, SAPPHIRE; the third, CHALCEDONY; the fourth, EMERALD; (v20) the fifth, SARDONYX; the sixth, SARDIUS; the seventh, CHRYSOLITE; the eighth, BERYL; the ninth, TOPAZ; the tenth, CHRYSOPRASE; the eleventh, JACINTH; the TWELFTH, AMETHYST. (v21) 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.*

- A. “precious stone”
 - 1. note: there were twelve, one for each apostle (cf “twelfth”)
 - 2. the NJ described in terms of jewelry
 - a. to show that it is the fulfillment of the original pattern set at Eden
 - i. Ezek 28:13 “¹³ Thou [Tyre] hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.”
 - ii. Isaiah described coming salvation as a City adorned w/ jewels
 - A/ Isa 54:11,12 “¹¹ O afflicted one [Israel], storm-tossed, and not comforted, Behold, I will set your stones in antimony, And your foundations I will lay in sapphires. ¹² Moreover, I will make your battlements of rubies, And your gates of crystal, And your entire wall of precious stones.”

- b. like the precious stones on the High Priest's breastplate
 - i. each representing a tribe of Israel
- c. there is no known correspondence between the order of the stones and...
 - i. the signs of the Zodiac (R.H.Charles)
 - ii. the order of the tribes
 - A/ w/ each tribe having a correspondence with a stone
 - iii. the order on the high priest's breastplate
- d. the builder is supremely wealthy, and totally unconcerned about attack
 - i. the stones would be worthless militarily
 - A/ and easy to pick
- e. descriptions of each of the precious stones (dictionary.com)
 - i. jasper
 - A/ opaque
 - B/ red or yellow or brown or dark green
 - ii. sapphire
 - A/ sky-blue
 - iii. chalcedony [kal-**sed**-n-ee, **kal**-suh-doh-nee]
 - A/ translucent to transparent
 - A/ milky or grayish
 - iv. emerald
 - A/ transparent
 - B/ green
 - v. sardonyx [sahr-**don**-iks, **sahr**-dn-]
 - A/ jet black with red and white bands
 - vi. sardius
 - A/ reddish-brown gem
 - vii. chrysolite (krĩs'ə-ĩĩt')
 - A/ brown, yellow-green, olive
 - viii. beryl
 - A/ both opaque and transparent
 - B/ usually green
 - 1/ but also blue, rose, white, and golden
 - ix. topaz
 - A/ yellow
 - x. chrysoprase [**kris**-uh-preyz]
 - A/ apple-green
 - xi. jacinth [**jey**-sinth, **jas**-inth]
 - A/ a/k/a hyacinth (hĩ'ə-sĩnth)
 - B/ deep purple
 - xii. amethyst [**am**-uh-thist]
 - A/ moderate purple or violet

B. "pearl"

- 1. gates don't need to be strong to defend, because now there are no enemies

XIII. **Revelation 21:22-23 (NASB)** *I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. (v23) 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.*

A. “no temple”

1. the City in which God and the Lamb live is itself the Temple
2. no walls or doors separate the residents from immediate presence of God
 - a. **Revelation 7:15 (HCSB)** ¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God, and they serve Him day and night in His sanctuary. The One seated on the throne will shelter them:

B. “illuminated”

1. **Isaiah 60:1-3 (HCSB)** ¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD shines over you. ² For look, darkness covers the earth, and total darkness the peoples; but the LORD will shine over you, and His glory will appear over you. ³ Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your radiance.

Isaiah 60:19-20 (HCSB) ¹⁹ The sun will no longer be your light by day, and the brightness of the moon will not shine on you; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your splendor. ²⁰ Your sun will no longer set, and your moon will not fade; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and the days of your sorrow will be over.

XIV. **Revelation 21:24-27 (NASB)** *The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. (v25) In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; (v26) and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; (v27) and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.*

A. “glory”, “honor”

1. Isaiah prophesies that all the nations will bring their glory, honor into the people of God
 - a. **Isaiah 60:5-6 (HCSB)** ⁵ Then you will see and be radiant, and your heart will tremble and rejoice, because the riches of the sea will become yours and the wealth of the nations will come to you. ⁶ Caravans of camels will cover your land— young camels of Midian and Ephah— all of them will come from Sheba. They will carry gold and frankincense and proclaim the praises of the LORD.
 - b. **Isaiah 60:9 (HCSB)** ⁹ Yes, the islands will wait for Me with the ships of Tarshish in the lead, to bring your children from far away, their silver and gold with them, for the honor of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.
 - c. **Isaiah 60:11 (HCSB)** ¹¹ Your gates will always be open; they will never be shut day or night so that the wealth of the nations may be brought into you, with their kings being led [in procession].

B. “nations”

1. indicates that this is now, not just in final state
 - a. probably not going to be nations in the final state

C. “gates will never be closed”

1. note how Isaiah’s prophecy in chapter 60 says the same thing