Revelation

Chapter 21

For ages it has seemed that futility rules the world. Year after year, the new year of hope soon becomes the old year of frustration and defeat. Resolutions to do better are regularly promised, and then as regularly broken. If God has had a purpose for the world and for mankind, it would seem He has either failed or forgotten, and things keep getting worse every year.

And yet God is omnipotent and omniscient and cannot fail. He is longsuffering, but the day of the Lord will come. His purpose in creation involves a glorious future for His creatures, and sooner or later that purpose must be fulfilled.

Finally these ages of probation and testing and judgment are over. The dispensations have run their course and "the dispensation of the fulness of times" (Ephesians 1:10) is come. The grand climax of the Book of Revelation—indeed, the climax of God's entire revelation and of all His purposes in creation—is about to be unfolded. The most glorious chapters of the Bible are these last two chapters, opening up the wonders of the endless ages of eternity, and the fruition of all the great plans of a loving God.

Revelation 21:1-3

New heaven, new earth, New Jerusalem

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for
the first heaven and the first earth were passed
away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John
saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down
from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride
adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great
voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the
tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell
with them, and they shall be his people, and God
himself shall be with them, and be their God.

New Jerusalem – A Real City

- ✓ Abraham looked for a city "whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11:10)
- ✓ It is "the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem," where one day will be gathered together "the general assembly and church of the firstborn" with all the "just men" whose spirits have been "made perfect" in a great resurrection (Hebrews 12:22,23)
- ✓ It is that "Jerusalem which is above . . . Which is the mother of us all" (Gal. 4:26)
- ✓ "For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come" (Hebrews 13:14)

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New Jerusalem – A Real City

- ✓ The city had been "prepared" (Rev. 21:2) (Greek *hetoimazo*) completely by God Himself.
- ✓ This is the same word used by the Lord Jesus when He told His disciples, "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2).
- ✓ It is also recorded in Hebrews 11:16: "He hath prepared for them a city."
- ✓ Most beautifully, it is the word chosen by the Apostle Paul in the wonderful promise: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (I Cor. 2:9).

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Revelation 21:4-6

All things new – no pain, crying, nor death

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

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Revelation 21:7-8

We must believe and overcome to get there

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Revelation 21:9-12

The description of New Jerusalem

9And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. 10And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; 12And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

Revelation 21:13-17

Continued description of New Jerusalem

13On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. 14And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. 16And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. 17And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

Revelation 21:18-21

Continued description of New Jerusalem

18And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. 19And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; 20The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. 21And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

Revelation 21:22-27

Continued description of New Jerusalem

22And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. 23And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. 24And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. 25And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. 26And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. 27And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

New Jerusalem

- ✓ The appearance of the city is, no doubt, more glorious than human language can describe.
- ✓ From the outside, the city as a whole appeared "having the glory of God": and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal"

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New Jerusalem

- ✓ Jasper stone was highly valued in ancient times, but it is unidentified today. It was one of the stones in the breastplate of the high priest. Sources suggest that the stone is a fine translucent stone, capable of different colors, primarily white but also with flashing fiery red and purple tints.
- ✓ In any case, there can be little doubt that the wall of the city will be brilliantly beautiful.

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New Jerusalem

- ✓ The city itself is measured to be 12,000 *stadia* or 1,380 miles square and high – a perfect cube, just like the Most Holy Place in the tabernacle and temple – the place where God dwells! – and now with His bride.
- ✓ If this were superimposed upon the United States, its area would cover all the way from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the Atlantic Ocean to Colorado.

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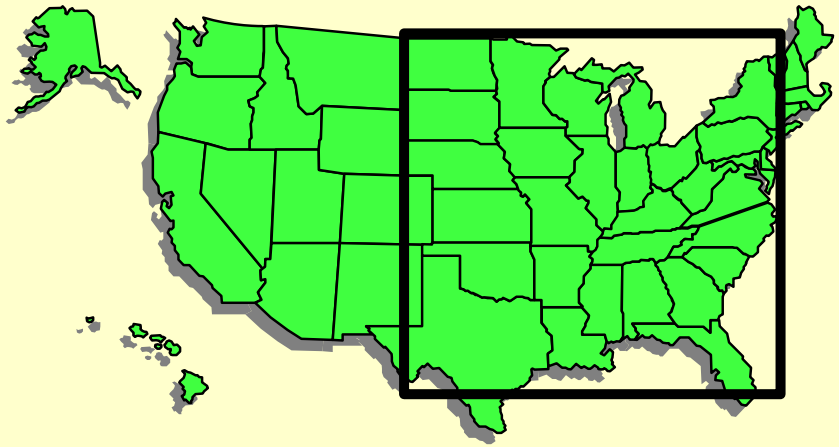

Why So Big?

- ✓ As a wild but educated guess:
  - 40 Billion people lived since Adam (7 Billion alive today)
  - 10 Billion died before birth or in infancy
  - 20 Billion more born during the Millennium
  - That totals 70 Billion souls
  - Assume all infants saved and 20% of the others will be saved – then 22 Billion in heaven
  - Assume 25% of New Jerusalem is residential, the remainder being streets, parks public buildings
  - Then the average "lot" per person would be about 70 acres on each face of a cube

New Jerusalem

- ✓ Each of the four walls of the city will have 3 gates. The gates will be always open and the gates will each be made of "one pearl".
- ✓ Each gate will be named for a tribe of Israel – Old Testament saints will be here!
- ✓ There will also be 12 foundations – each one "garnished with all manner of precious stones"
- ✓ Probably a foundation on each corner and one between each gate.
- ✓ Each foundation will have the name of one "of the twelve apostles of the Lamb"

12 Foundations

1. Jasper (like the walls, presumably a different hue)
2. Sapphire – bright blue
3. Chalcedony – a copper-colored stone
4. Emerald – bright green
5. Sardonyx – deep red layers interspersed with white
6. Sardius – brilliant red quartz

12 Foundations

7. Chrysolyte – yellow-hued gem
8. Beryl – yellow stone
9. Topaz – also a yellow gem
10. Chrysoprasus – gold-tinted green gemstone
11. Jacinth – blue or aquamarine stone
12. Amethyst – beautiful purple stone

New Jerusalem

- ✓ Although the sun and moon will continue to exist and perform their functions, the city will be lighted perpetually by the glory of God – it will never be dark.
- ✓ The streets will go in three dimensions (remember that our new bodies will no longer be limited by gravitational forces – thank goodness) and will be of gold, and yet transparent.

New Jerusalem

- ✓ But with all the things mentioned, none compare with the fact that Jesus will be there!
- ✓ We will live perpetually in the presence and glory of God.
- ✓ We will live perpetually in fellowship with other saints.
- ✓ We will live perpetually without the effects of sin.
- ✓ Won't it be wonderful there!!!!

Next Week

- ✓ Revelation chapter 22
  - – The conclusion of the description of New Jerusalem
  - – An invitation
  - – A warning
  - – A prayer
  - – And the Book of God is complete