

**THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 7/11-12/2022 Revelation Chapter 21**

***A number of names were inadvertently deleted from the Revelation study Google Group!!!  
If you didn't receive the study notes/mtg announcement yesterday, Sunday July10, PLEASE EMAIL ME  
SO I CAN GET YOU BACK ON THE LIST!!!! Thank you. Phil***

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!**

**MONDAY 7th PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)  
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS  
WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484**

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,87858644763# US (San Jose) +13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)

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**Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>**

**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS  
WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340**

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=TK5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

**Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340**

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## **OPENING PRAYER**

***Revelation Chapter 21 – All Things Made New – vs. 1-8; The New Jerusalem – vs. 9-21; The glory of the New Jerusalem – vs. 22-27***

- **The final chapters of the Revelation take us to the ultimate prophetic vision, which is eternity!** Beyond the Great Tribulation and the Millennial Kingdom lies the final reality, the eternal state! There is a powerful reminder in these two chapters that this present world is not the end, even giving us a description of the new Heaven! There is indeed a new world coming where God dwells among men!

Even the blessings of the earthly Millennium cannot compare with the glorious eternity that awaits the children of God! This will be the place where our hearts are fulfilled!

### ***After Rejoicing in Heaven***

***The New Heaven and the New Earth – The new heaven and the new earth become one, for all eternity!***

***Rev 21:1 Now I saw a new (a new kind, a renewal, not renovated, free from sin and death!) heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.***

- **Last week we read, (Rev 20:11) Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. The Scriptures are quite clear concerning this earth and the heavens, that they will pass away.**
- **Here are a few scriptures that correspond with this first verse. (Psa 102:25-26) Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak **You will change them, And they will be changed.** (Isa 65:17-19) For behold, I create (bara, to create from nothing) new heavens and a new earth; **And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.** But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, And her people a joy. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, And joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor the voice of crying.**
- **The word create here in Hebrew is bara.** It is the same word that is used in Genesis 1:1. In the beginning God created. The word is bara. The Hebrew word bara means to bring out of nothing something into existence. Out of nothing God brought into existence the heavens and the earth. The other word for create or make in the Hebrew is asah, which is the assembling of existing materials.
- **(Isa 66:22) For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me, says the LORD, "So shall your descendants and your name remain."** Jesus said in (Mat 24:35) Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.
- **Peter describes how it is going to happen in (2 Peter 3:10-13) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

***Rev 21:2 Then I, John, saw (observed, perceived) the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.***

- **I, John (using his name emphatically!) saw the New Jerusalem, the city of God, coming down from God out of heaven -the eternal, heavenly city!** John is going to give us a little description of the holy city! In (Heb 11:8-10) By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. They were looking for this New Jerusalem, looking, that is, by faith towards the New Jerusalem. They just said, we are strangers, we are pilgrims here. We are looking for the city of God, the city without foundation, whose maker and builder is God. Now, John is going to describe for us that city that they were looking for, the new Jerusalem that comes down from God out of heaven. It has nothing to do with the present-day city of Jerusalem in Israel.
- **Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.** Indescribably beautiful! It is hard to find a more lovely description! God always seems at weddings to give the bride a radiance and a beauty. I think the reason He does it is that the New Jerusalem where we are going to live, is like the bride adorned for her husband. The bride is adorned! The city is prepared. What a picture we have here! (Joh 14:2-3) In My Father's house are many mansions (abiding places); if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. [3] And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

***Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God."***

- ***And I heard a loud voice*** (last use in Revelation) ***from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them."*** In (*Joh 1:14*) ***And the Word became flesh and dwelt*** (*skenoo* – to reside as God did in the Tabernacle of old) ***among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*** As John tells us in the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God, the same was in the beginning with God, all things were made by Him, without Him was not anything made that was made. Then he went on to say, and ***the Word became flesh and He tabernacled among us, or He pitched His tent among us, referring to Jesus Christ coming to the earth, pitching His tent here for a time.***
- ***They shall be His people. God Himself*** (note emphasis) ***will be with them and be their God.*** This is in that glorious age beyond. Right now, we are waiting for God to bring man's futile attempts at government to an end. It is quite obvious that men are incapable of ruling over other men without being corrupted with their power. In this country, we have one of the finest forms of government that man, with God's help, has yet devised. They sought carefully to sort of divide the power so that there would be a balance of power between the judicial and the legislative branches. But that has been upset, corruption has come in, and we have proved that man cannot rule over his fellow man. Many different forms of government have been tried and all of them end in corruption.
- ***But God is going to send Jesus for the church. We will be caught up*** to be with the Lord for seven years in heaven. We will then return to the earth with Jesus as He comes to establish God's kingdom upon the earth, ruling and reigning with Him over the earth for a thousand years as Satan will be bound and chained in the abusso. At the end of the thousand years, Satan will be loosed for a short season. He will gather together a multitude of people to try to overthrow the kingdom of Jesus Christ, but his attempts will be thwarted. It is at that point that God is going to just obliterate the present universe, the heavens and the earth. He will create the new heaven and the new earth. The former heaven and earth will not be remembered or brought into mind.
- ***What are some of the most beautiful sites that you have seen here on earth?*** But imagine something fresh from God, the master designer and creator, the new heavens and the new earth! They will last forever. They will never pass away. ***God will be there living with the people!*** He will be their God. ***Imagine what that will be like, living together in the presence of God in that new kingdom!***

***Rev 21:4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."***

- ***Note the descriptions, the characteristics of heaven, here, described in the negative, which is comprehensible to us! All of the things that bring hurt, all of the things that bring pain, all things that bring suffering will be gone. He will wipe away every tear! Will anyone cry in heaven! It will be absolute joy and bliss as we dwell together with God in His eternal kingdom! Sounds like it is too good to be true, doesn't it? It sounds like one of the most beautiful dreams you could possibly imagine, and yet as God declares, these words are true and faithful.***

***Rev 21:5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new*** (new and will always be new! the theme of the last two chapters!) ***And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."***

- ***This is such a key verse! Behold*** (imperative), ***I make all things new! Write*** (the last time he is told to write. Jesus is dictating what is true and dependable!), ***for these words are true and faithful!*** It is interesting that God would see that is necessary when He talks of these things of the future because they are so fabulous, so beyond our abilities to grasp or comprehend that He affirms this is true. This is true! It is also interesting that Jesus often used the words *verily, verily*, which is sort of twice for emphasis. You could translate it *truly, truly*, or as is in the original, *amen, amen!* That is, I am telling you the truth. We are given affirmation, over and over again of the truth of God's plan for the future for the church, the bride of Jesus Christ. Glorious things are in store for the child of God. How thankful I am that I am a part of God's eternal plan to bestow upon me His love and the glory of His kingdom forever!

- **Write, for** (because) **these words are true** (*alethinos* – genuine) **and faithful** (*pistos* – dependable, trustworthy, can be relied upon). They do sound too good to be true, but God affirms they are true, they are faithful! You can count on it! You can be absolutely sure of it! What a lack, presently in this world, are words that are true and faithful! Genuine and trustworthy!

**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 of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.*

- **And he said unto me, It is done, or it is finished, completed!** *I am the Alpha and the Omega.* The Alpha and the Omega of the Greek are the first and last letters, or the A to the Z and all in between! *I am the beginning and the end*, which is the eternal God, the first and the last! *It is done!* Complete satisfaction!
- **I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.** Here we are told, in the same structure, being invited at to come to the fountain to glory, as in (**Rev 22:17**) *And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.*
- **Here again Jesus is offering to those that are thirsty.** Jesus is talking about the spiritual thirst within man. Man is a three-fold being; body, soul, spirit. The soul being the emotional area of the man. And there are **physical, emotional and spiritual thirsts**. We all know about the physical thirst, having been thirsty. As the body needs so much water or so much moisture to survive, God has designed that thirst that when the moisture level in the body gets low you begin to get thirsty. There is emotional thirst. The thirst for love, the thirst for meaning, the thirst for purpose. We know the emotional thirst that we have; the thirst for security.
- **But way down deep in man, there is a spiritual thirst.** It is the thirst for God. David said, (**Psa 42:1**) *As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.* Paul tells us that God has made us subject unto emptiness and that by design of the creator so that we will seek after God. There is a drive within man to worship. (**Deu 4:19**) *And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.* You have to worship something.
- **So here, the promise again to those that are thirsty!** God will give the water of life unto them freely. The special promise:

**Rev 21:7** *He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.*

- **He who overcomes.** This is the last promise to the overcomers. As Jesus addressed the seven churches in chapters two and three, He had special promises in each church for those who were the overcomers (all believing Christians!) (**1Jn 5:5**) *Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?* Here is the promise that **He will be our God, we shall be His son.** (**1Jn 3:2**) *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.* (**Joh 1:12**) *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: (Rom 8:14) For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.* The blessed promises to the overcomers! They will be with God in the new heaven and in the new earth!
- **He shall be My son.** This is the only place that John uses the word, *ouihos*, to describe the son. All other times John uses the term *technon*. *Ouihos* is the special use which refers to the son, who will be the inheritor. It seems like he reserved it here to be used to describe this special relationship for all overcomers, believers!

**Rev 21:8** *But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars* (list of forgivable sins -not present in the new city, here for the fearful and unbelieving, unsaved Christians) **shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.**

- **Every person will spend eternity in one place or the other.** In the glorious kingdom of God, as is being described and will continue to be described on through chapter twenty-two, or in the lake that

burns with fire (last use of fire). That is the destiny of every one of us here, right now! We will spend eternity in one place or the other, and it all depends upon our relationship with Jesus Christ. (**1Jn 5:12**) *He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.* (**Joh 3:36**) *He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*

### ***The New Jerusalem***

***Rev 21:9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."***

- **John is invited to observe the new Jerusalem, the city of God.** Now, this is the dwelling place of the bride. The city is not the bride of Christ. Nobody is married to a city. But the bride inhabits the city. So it is that which God has prepared for the bride of Christ, the city of God. We note the detail, twenty-four verses (*Lamb* is used seven times!), which seems indeed to indicate that this is a literal description, not to be spiritualized.

***Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain* (vantage point—what is my vantage point, what mountain are you choosing?), ***and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,*****

- **Certainly this city has no counterpart among earth's cities which are built upon an earthly foundation and are built up** from that base. This city comes down out of heaven. She originates in heaven, and the Lord Jesus is the builder. Although the city comes down out of heaven, there is no suggestion that she comes down to the earth. Just how far down the city descends is a matter of speculation.
- **Two facts are evident from this passage:** It comes down out of heaven, and it is not stated that it comes to the earth. This passage of Scripture leaves the city hanging in midair. This is the dilemma that many seek to avoid, but why not leave the city in midair? Is anything impossible for God to have a civilization out in space on a new planet? This chapter indicates that the city will be the center of all things. All activity and glory will revolve about this city. God will be there! It will be His headquarters, and His universe is God-centered. The New Jerusalem is therefore worthy to merit such a preeminent position for eternity.

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

- ***Having the glory of God!*** The most dominant characteristic of the holy city is the presence of the glory (*doxa*) of God. In the Old Testament, the Shekinah glory rested on the Ark of the Covenant in the holy of holies, but the prophet Ezekiel tells us that the glory departed before the final destruction of Solomon's Temple. While the builders of the second temple prayed for the glory to return, there is no record that it ever did. Israel's only hope in those dark days was that the glory would return one day. (**Hag 2:7,9**) *and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the LORD of hosts. [9] 'The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the LORD of hosts. 'And in this place I will give peace,' says the LORD of hosts."*
- ***Her light*** (outshining) ***was like a most precious stone.*** Notice the description of brilliance! It must have sparkled equivalent to the diamond, a brilliant, clear diamond! If you have ever seen Venus in the morning or in the evening, on a very clear morning just before the sun comes up it sparkles out there like a diamond; or in the evening shortly after the sun goes down, it just sparkles on a clear night. You can just see the sparkle like a diamond, and this is how the city appears as you are approaching it.

***Rev 21:12 Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:***

***Rev 21:13 three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three***

*gates on the west.*

- **Twelve gates.** The description of the glorious holy city, the new Jerusalem, is too detailed to admit of anything but literal interpretation, though there have been many efforts to try to spiritualize it. There is every reason to believe that John is describing exactly what he saw, and that God means exactly what He says. In other words, the holy city is a literal city on a literal earth, with dimensions and descriptions exactly as recorded.
- **The twelve tribes of the children of Israel.** The fact that both the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve apostles of the Lamb are inscribed on the city's foundational structures indicates that *the bride, the Lamb's wife*, who will indwell and personify the city, is composed of believers from both old and new covenants, both before and after the first coming of Christ, Israel and the church.

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

- **This city has twelve foundations, and the names of the twelve apostles are upon them.** The church today, (*Eph 2:20*) *having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.* When Christ returned to heaven, He committed the keys into the keeping of the apostles. On the human level, the church was in the hands of these twelve men. The Book of Acts gives the order, (*Act 1:1-2*) *The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, [2] until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen.* No one knows whether the twelfth apostle will be Matthias or Paul. Simon Peter held that meeting to elect Matthias before the Holy Spirit came, and was he in the will of God when he did so? You never hear Matthias mentioned again, but you surely hear of Paul the apostle. Many believe he is the one whom God chose to succeed Judas, making Paul the twelfth apostle.
- **To these twelve apostles were committed all the writings of the church.** These men preached the first sermons, they organized the first churches, and they were among the first martyrs. It is not honoring to Scripture to attempt to minimize the importance of the twelve apostles. In a real sense they were the foundation of the church. To them the church shall eternally be grateful. This is not to rob Christ of His place, for He is "*the chief cornerstone,*" but the church is built upon the foundation which the apostles laid.

***Rev 21:15 And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.***

***Rev 21:16 The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal.***

- **Twelve thousand furlongs is approximately fifteen hundred miles, which would make this New City about two-thirds the size of the moon!** Now, the interesting thing is that it seems to be in the form of a cube, foursquare. The length, the breadth, the height all being equal; fifteen hundred miles. Now, you probably won't live on the surface of this large mass, fifteen hundred miles, but within it. In our new bodies and in the new heavens, it is possible that there will be no mass to our bodies if we are spirit beings. If there be no mass, then there is no gravitational pull so that you can live on various levels because there would be no gravitational pull on you.
- **There is probably a lot of interesting fascinating things that God has in store for us that He has not told us.** (*1Co 2:9*) *But as it is written: "EYE HAS NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NOR HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."* We do not know much about the new bodies, which we will have. We do know that when Jesus rose from the dead, His body was flesh, He did not say blood. (*Luk 24:39*) *Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.* He said I am not a spirit because you can see the flesh. His body was probably in a different molecular structure because He was able to pass right through the walls. There will be a lot of interesting things that we will be discovering when God shows us more clearly His plans for the future, and He is waiting for us to get there. He is just going to have a lot of surprises for you with the new body and all.

- **But if you had a fifteen-hundred-mile cube, say that each level was a mile high, can you imagine** if everybody had, for example, a square mile to live in how much people you could pack in a cube fifteen hundred miles squared? There will be sufficient room for all of you. As I say, we will be in a different makeup, our bodies and all. Here, we are limited on the surface, but there you will live probably within the city as it stands.

***Rev 21:17 Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.***

***Rev 21:18 The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.***

- **The wall of the city is for protection.** A walled city is a safe city. The New Jerusalem is safe, and those who dwell therein dwell in safety. The heavenly New Jerusalem will enjoy the fruits of safety and peace. It will be inhabited of those who found peace with God on earth. The city will experience the fullness of peace throughout eternity. The walls are a sign that this city has achieved the full meaning of her name—peace.
- **The walls are 144 cubits in height or about 216 feet.** Herodotus gives the estimation for the walls of ancient Babylon as 50 cubits thick and 200 cubits high. Those walls were built to make the city impregnable. The great height of the walls of the New Jerusalem are but commensurate with the great size of the city. Beauty, rather than protection, is the motive in design. It is a wall with jasper, possibly translated, diamond, built into it and is generally designated as a jasper wall. The hardest of substances and the most beautiful gem constitute the exterior of the city.

***Rev 21:19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was 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 chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.***

- **The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper** (Now, try to picture the foundation of the city, and it's going to be a colorful, beautiful thing. Actually, jasper, in the Greek is *iaspas* and its color is clear. It is probably the diamond. It is a crystal clear, the reflector of light and of color. Clean and pure, bright as a transparent icicle in the sunshine.), **the second sapphire** (Its color is blue. This stone occurs in *Exodus 24:10* as the foundation of God, and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in its clearness.), **the third chalcedony** (Its color is greenish. It is an agate and is described as a variety of emerald gathered on a mountain of chalcedony), **the fourth emerald**, (green, of course, in its color), **the fifth sardonyx** (which is red), **the sixth sardius** (which is a fiery red), **the seventh chrysolite** (its color is a golden yellow), **the eighth beryl** (which is, again, green), **the ninth topaz** (which is a greenish yellow), **the tenth chrysoprase** (which is a gold-green), **the eleventh jacinth** (which is violet), **and the twelfth amethyst** (which is a purple).
- **Thus, we can get an idea of the beauty of these gems that make up the foundation of the city.** Just think how much value we place in gold, gems, diamonds, here on earth! But those things, which are so precious and valuable here on earth have really no monetary value in heaven. We are told the streets are of gold. In other words, it is used as asphalt paving in heaven. When we get to heaven, it is likely that God is going to manifest to us that He is not interested in our gold. He is not interested in our silver, our diamonds or our precious gems! But, that He is indeed interested in us! He can make all the gold He needs. He can make all the diamonds He needs, all of the silver He needs. In fact, all of the silver and gold and diamonds, which exist were made by God.
- **Most likely when we get to heaven,** we are going to have an interesting surprise because we will discover that God has some interesting galaxies in our universe. Probably the angels will be able to take us on the universal tour. As we go through universe, as we begin to slow up, the angel will say we are now coming to the diamond galaxy. Every planet and star in this galaxy is a diamond. And we will think, oh, man, I thought I was really something when I had that big two-caret thing on my ring, you know. Here, you see a whole galaxy of diamonds. Then imagine that we will take off and we will head for the golden galaxy, where everything is of gold.
- **We will realize that God wants you!** He treasures you! We are told in the Bible that you are His

treasure. He calls you a peculiar treasure, and I would be prone to agree. It is peculiar that God would treasure me. But we are His treasure. Gold is not His treasure. Silver is not his treasure. Precious gems are not his treasure. That is not the value that God counts. You are the thing that God counts. He only made one of you, and value is usually determined by the rarity. He only made one of you, and He loves you and He values you, and He wants you to be a part of His family. So, He invites us to be a part of the eternal family of God. What a wonderful thing!

**Rev 21:21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.**

- **The twelve gates, twelve pearls.** The pearly gates of solid pearl, three to each side of the of almost 1500 miles, are never closed, thus providing access to the city at every level throughout its great height.
- **The street of the city** must be an inter-connected complex of both horizontal streets and vertical streets (like elevator shafts), all of translucent gold. The glorified bodies of the saints will be like that of Christ, capable of moving at great speed through space, moving easily, both horizontally and vertically about the city. We do not understand how it is that the streets of pure gold can also be like transparent glass. However, (*Hag 2:8*) **'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the LORD of hosts.** He can do with it as He wills. The city will be of indescribable beauty in its total aspect!

**Rev 21:22 But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.**

- **Now, in the first heaven where we will go when Jesus comes for the church.** He takes us there in the first heaven, prior to the return to the earth in the kingdom, and there is a **temple**. The earthly tabernacle was a model of **the temple** that was in heaven. When God instructed Moses in the building of the tabernacle, he instructed him to be careful to make it exactly according to the plan for it was a model of heavenly things. There is a **temple in heaven**.
- (*Rev 7:15*) **Therefore they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.**
- In (*Rev 16:1*) **And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. (Rev 16:17) And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.** The judgments of God complete with that last vial of the wrath of God that were poured out. In the new heavens, **"I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it."** We will be dwelling with Him. He is the temple.

**Rev 21:23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.**

- **Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."** There will be **no need for sun, no need for a moon** at night to reflect the sun. But there will just be that iridescent light from the presence of Jesus there. In the new creation He is the direct physical as well as the spiritual light, *for the glory of God illuminated it!*
- **In the tabernacle there was the golden lampstand,** which is one of the finest pictures of Christ. In the New Jerusalem, He *is* the golden lampstand. The nations of the world will enter the Holy City as the priests entered the Holy Place in the tabernacle for the purpose of worship. The nations of the earth, as well as Israel, will come to the New Jerusalem as the high priests of old entered the Holy of Holies. Instead of the blood being brought, the Lamb is there in person. What a picture we have here!
- **The temple, which superseded the tabernacle back in the nation Israel, was an earthly enclosure** for the shekinah glory. It was a testimony to the presence of God and the presence of sin. Where sin existed, God could be approached only by the ritual of the temple. However, in the New Jerusalem sin is no longer a reality, but like a hideous nightmare, is even locked out of the closet of memory.
- **For the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.** The actual presence of God with the redeemed, eliminates the necessity for a temple, although the whole city may be thought of as a temple. Some have called attention to the fact that the New Jerusalem is the same shape as the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle and temple where God dwelt: a perfect cube. In the city of light, God is present, and sin is absent; therefore, an edifice of a material substance is no longer necessary. The physical temple was a poor substitute for the presence of God. The New Jerusalem possesses the

genuine article—God in person! It is probably the first place where God will make a personal appearance before man. What a glorious prospect this is!

- **The New Jerusalem will be independent of the sun and moon for light and life.** What a contrast to the earth, which is utterly dependent upon the sun and the moon. It may be that the sun and moon will even be dependent upon the celestial city for power to transmit light, since the One who is the source of light and life will dwell within the city. Neither will light be furnished by an electric utility company. The One, who is light, will be there, and the brightness of His glory will be manifested unhindered in the New Jerusalem!

***Rev 21:24 And the nations (ethnos-possibly ethnic groups) of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.***

- ***And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light!*** It does not say they will live there, but that they will walk in its light! The glory of God in the New Jerusalem, instead of the sun and the moon, will give light unto the earth.
- **The reference to “nations” and “kings” should not be too surprising to us.** Jesus promised in (*Mat 24:14*) *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.* John has earlier introduced us to those in heaven (*Rev 7:9*) *After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands*

***Rev 21:25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).***

(*Mat 27:51*) *Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, (Heb 10:20) by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,*

- **And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day. Continual access!** It shall be constantly open, allowing free ingress and egress to all who reside there. The language is derived from (*Isa 60:11*) *Therefore your gates shall be open continually; They shall not be shut day or night, That men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles, And their kings in procession.* Applied to the future state of the blessed, it would seem to mean, that while this will be their permanent abode, yet that the dwellers there will not be prisoners. The universe will be open to them. They will be permitted to go forth and visit every world, and survey the works of God in all parts of His dominion.
- **For there shall be no night there.** It shall be all day; all unclouded splendor! When, therefore, it is said that *Its gates shall not be shut at all by day*, it means that they would never be shut. It is said that there would be no night there, which seems to mean that there would be no literal darkness. There will be nothing of which, night is the emblem: no calamity, no sorrow, no bereavement, no darkened windows on account of the loss of friends and relatives!

***Rev 21:26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.***

- **It seems, a select part of each nation; that is, all which can contribute to make this city honorable and glorious,** shall be found in it; as if all that was rich and precious throughout the world was brought into the holy city.

***Rev 21:27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.***

- **Nothing will pollute this city. No sin! No wickedness!** Nothing will be allowed in it of a polluting nature, just purity. Blessed are they which, do hunger and thirst after righteousness, they shall be filled. As we read these things, they sound unreal, unearthly, and they are definitely unearthly. But that is why God over and over in the last four chapters, when He is giving us a description of heaven affirms to us that these are the true and faithful sayings of God. Often, when God spoke of the future and prophesied things that were going to come, because they seemed so out of the ordinary, God would affirm, these are the true sayings, these are the faithful sayings. I have spoken it! I will do it! He affirms the truth of what has been written.
- **Now it leaves us in the position of believing or not believing.** It sounds remarkable. It sounds tremendous, and I can believe it or not believe it! That is a matter of choice. I choose to believe, or I

choose not to believe. If you choose to believe then it belongs to you. You will be a partaker in these things. If you choose not to believe, then you will not partake in these things. For the fearful, the unbelieving will all have their place in the lake that burns with fire.

- **A great deal has been written about whether this language is literal or symbolic, or just describing a supernatural phenomenon.** It probably combines all these elements. The whole book is filled with symbolic language. Therefore, we cannot overlook certain obvious symbols here; twelve gates, twelve foundations, four square. It is also obvious that John is attempting to describe the indescribable. Human language though inspired, is not fully adequate to describe the glories of the heavenly city! Thus, we read of *transparent gold* and *gates of pearl!* What is clear is that John is describing a real place where the saved, and only the saved, will dwell with God forever! The unsaved are excluded from this city totally and completely. Satan and those he has deceived are all in the lake of fire, from which there is no escape. He has already referred to believers, who reign with Christ, (**Rev 5:10**) *And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.*
- **But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.** The bottom line is emphasized again in this verse. *Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life can live in the holy city. This includes all the redeemed of all time!* Old Testament saints, The New Testament church, Tribulation saints, and millennial saints. Thus, we see the perfect blending of the redeemed in the holy city in that the twelve gates are named for the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve foundations for the twelve apostles.
- **What a unbelievable picture and how difficult it is to deal with it!** Oh, if only both you and I could be lifted up so that we might get a glimpse of the glory of that city and of the glory of the One who is its chief adornment, even the Lord Jesus Christ, and of the glorious prospect and privilege of being with Him throughout eternity! But we believers will be there soon! There is nothing to compare to it!

## CLOSING SONG:

**THE HOLY CITY** Stephen Adams; words by Frederick E. Weatherly Ande Rieu (5:15)

*Last night I lay a-sleeping There came a dream so fair, I stood in old Jerusalem Beside the temple there. I heard the children singing, And ever as they sang Methought the voice of angels From heaven in answer rang, Methought the voice of angels From heaven in answer rang. Jerusalem! Jerusalem! Lift up your gates and sing, Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna to your King!*

*And then methought my dream was changed, The streets no longer rang. Hushed were the glad Hosannas The little children sang. The sun grew dark with mystery, The morn was cold and chill, As the shadow of a cross arose Upon a lonely hill, As the shadow of a cross arose Upon a lonely hill. Jerusalem! Jerusalem! Hark! How the angels sing, Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna to your King!*

*And once again the scene was changed, New earth there seemed to be. I saw the Holy City Beside the tideless sea. The light of God was on its streets, The gates were open wide, And all who would might enter, And no one was denied. No need of moon or stars by night, Or sun to shine by day; It was the new Jerusalem That would not pass away, It was the new Jerusalem That would not pass away.*

*Jerusalem! Jerusalem! Sing for the night is o'er! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna forevermore! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna forevermore!*

## CLOSING PRAYER:

Father, we thank You for the promises that You have given! What You have spoken You shall indeed make to occur. Though heaven and earth will pass away, Your Word will stand forever. Lord, we thank You that we can put our hope, our confidence, our lives, and our future in Your Word. Thank You Lord for Your word. May we walk in its light. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Read and meditate over Chapter 22! What a chapter! – The final chapter of Revelation and of the Bible!**