

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's turn our bibles to Revelation 21

We are coming to the end of our study in the book of Revelation, two weeks ago we saw the triumphant return of Jesus Christ and how He defeats the antichrist and the false prophet and those who assembled to fight against Him.

Last week, we saw John provide for us some of the details from the vision he saw regarding the Millennial Kingdom – the 1000 years that Jesus is going to reign here on earth along with many of the saints – those who put their trust in Him.

And the scriptures tell us that Satan is going to be released from the abyss after 1000 years and he is going to deceive people once again and lead a rebellion against Jesus Christ and he will once again be defeated.

After the 1000 year reign of Christ comes the Great White Throne judgment where those that rejected Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are going to be sentenced and thrown into the Lake of Fire, along with Satan where they will spend eternity being tormented.

We also saw in scripture where the earth and the heavens and everything left in it will be destroyed as God is done with them.

Chapter 21 is the beginning of what is known as “eternity”, the forever and ever of the bible.

So, John gives us a glimpse of where we are going to spend eternity.

Let's pray...

[Rev 21:1-27 NKJV] 1 Now I saw a **new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. **Also there was no more sea.**

So after the earth is destroyed, John receives a vision of a new heaven and a new earth.

The word that is used here for “new” – it doesn't mean newer.

It doesn't mean a better or updated version of the previous model either. It's not going to be Earth 2.0

God isn't simply going to apply a fresh coat of paint on the old earth for us and call it new.

God is going to create a new heaven and a new earth that is going to be fundamentally and radically different from the earth we know today.

That is what the word “new” means – radically different.

How different is it going to be – well, we see that there is going to be no sea / no oceans –

The earth today – we are dependent on our oceans – they regulate temperature, they bring rain, that is where we dump our sewage.

But this new earth is going to be totally different – no need of an ocean.

So, if you like taking walks on the beach – you better do this before the millennial age comes to an end.

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

New Jerusalem – I don't want you to confuse New Jerusalem with the city where Jesus Christ is going to rule from for the 1000 years.

The city of Jerusalem will be destroyed when the earth is destroyed.

The New Jerusalem is the place that God prepared for us where we are going to spend eternity in.

Now – I am pretty sure some of you are probably thinking – I thought we are going to be in heaven for eternity –

The New Jerusalem is “heaven” as we will be in God's presence.

And we see John trying to describe the beauty of heaven “the New Jerusalem” as he equates it to a bride walking down the aisle ready to meet the man she is about to marry.

For a husband, that is the most beautiful sight they will ever see.

And that is the description that John tries to give regarding the beauty of the New Jerusalem.

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.

In the book of Exodus, God commanded Moses to build Him a Tabernacle – and He gave him precise instruction to follow.

The Tabernacle was the place where God dwelt with His people.

When Jesus humbled Himself by taking on flesh –

John describes it in John 1:14 – that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

The word for dwelt is the word for tabernacle.

So, here – God creates this place so that He can dwell with us forever and ever.

This is where we will have intimate fellowship with God.

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."

Some people believe that when we get to heaven that all our bad memories will be erased.

Everything that brought us pain or anything that brought us to tears on earth will be wiped away from our memories.

I'm not too sure of that.

I don't think heaven is going to be a place where we have blank memories.

I believe that when we get to heaven, if we remember any of these painful things, the promise is that it won't cause us tears any more.

Because it is when we get to heaven that we'll understand why it happened and it will all make sense.

This is where we will begin to grasp God's infinite wisdom, justice and mercy.

5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

While everything in the New Jerusalem will be utterly new – notice that God uses the phrase, I make all things new. Present tense.

He doesn't say, "I will make all things new" Future tense.

And the reason for this is because those that will inhabit the New Jerusalem – the believers, from the time they placed their trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior,

they have been undergoing a transformation as the Holy Spirit works in them and through them as they walk in the Spirit and grow in grace.

[2Co 5:17 NKJV] 17 Therefore, if anyone [is] in Christ, [he is] a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

[2Co 4:16 NKJV] 16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward [man] is being renewed day by day.

I also had you make a note of where God tells John – to write

these words are true and faithful

Translation – you better believe these things are going to happen.

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.

God's eternal purpose in Jesus is now accomplished.

God's plan of salvation for the earth – done.

[Eph 1:10 NKJV] 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him.

7 "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. 8 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

The word that is used here for cowardly – is the word for fearful.

However, it is not the word that used to describe how we are to “fear God”.

The implication here is of an individual of being a coward and not stand up and placing their trust Jesus. They listen to the Good News – and they hesitate to respond to God’s grace. Therefore, by not responding, that individual has in fact responded – and will spend eternity in the lake of fire.

[Isa 55:6-7 NKJV] 6 Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

There will come a day when it is going to be late for some individuals – because they failed to stand up for Jesus.

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." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

When one reads these two verses, it appears that the angel is telling John that the city of New Jerusalem is the bride – but we already saw back in chapter 19, that the church is Jesus' bride.

What the angel is actually doing is taking John up to a vantage point to see New Jerusalem because it is there that the Bride is found.

Remember, earlier John described the New Jerusalem beauty as a bride on her wedding day.

We are going to see John continue to describe the beauty of the city.

11 having the glory of God. Her light [was] like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. 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: 13 three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

As we see John describe the New Jerusalem – we are going to see the number 12 over and over again.

Here he describes the city walls and the 12 city gates with the 12 angels at the gates.

Three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west.

If you read Numbers 2, when the Children of Israel were in the wilderness – God commanded Moses to have the Children of Israel camp around the tabernacle (where He dwelt).

And part of His instruction was to have three tribes on the east,north,south and west,

So we see that it pointed to the New Jerusalem.

So the question becomes – why have the high walls???

All the nonbelievers are in the lake of fire –

The high walls are to show that some will be excluded from the city as only those who put their trust in Jesus Christ will be able to enter.

14 Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. 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.

The city is going to be 1500 miles long, 1500 miles wide and 1500 miles tall.

It is going to be a giant cube.

If two billion believers were to make it to heaven, we could all have a property 1 cubic mile each with land left over.

17 Then he measured its wall: one hundred [and] forty-four cubits (12X12), [according] to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.

1 cubit is 18" – so this wall is going to be 216 feet tall or 216' thick

Massive walls -

The reason that John states according to the measure of man is so that we can grasp how massive these walls are going to be.

Angels don't use our units of measurement -

18 The construction of its wall was [of] jasper; and the city [was] pure gold, like clear glass. 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, 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.

How many different precious stones are mentioned here = 12

In the book of Exodus, when Moses is building the Tabernacle according to God's plans, he builds the clothing of the priest.

One of the articles that the priest wore was a golden breastplate with twelve precious stones attached to it – each one representing one of the tribes.

Here we find some of the same stones – the 12 stones are not identical to the ones on the breastplate and that could be because of the translation between Hebrew, to Greek to English. But the majority of them are included.

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.

We already know how massive the walls are – that means the gates have to be massive too.

But notice, each gate was of one pearl – where do pearls come from???? Oysters.

So as impressive as a gate made from one pearl is – more impressive is the size of the oyster that made the pearl.

Also, we see the streets are made out of gold – but the gold is so pure, so refined that it is transparent – like glass.

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

In the ancient world, it was unthinkable for a great city that had no central temple housing its chief deity.

However, there's no need for a temple in the New Jerusalem because God's presence permeates everything.

Everyone will be in the immediate, manifest presence of God.

Last week I talked about there being a temple during the 1000 year reign of Christ – that was for a memorial. I even talked about how in the book of Ezekiel, it speaks of a return to animal sacrifices.

Here in the New Jerusalem, the temple is everywhere – because God is in our presence.

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.

When the Children of Israel were being led out of Egypt – it was the shekinah glory of God that led them during the day and during the night

You had the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire.

Those two pillars were how God manifested Himself to the Children of Israel.

The burning bush – another manifestation of God

In the New Jerusalem – the Shekinah glory of God will be visible by all – that is why the streets are like glass – so God's glory is able to shine everywhere.

And the Giver of light is Jesus Himself.

[2Co 4:6 NKJV] 6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. 25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). 26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.

It was customary for cities to close their gates at night – just in case someone wanted to attack it.

Since the glory of God is going to be shining all the time – there is no need to close the gates.

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.

The chapter ends here with a warning to us today.

We will not be able to wait for the New Jerusalem to appear and then decide – I want in.

The decision whether or not one is going to spend eternity in the New Jerusalem or in the Lake of fire is based on the decision we make today.

Do we accept or reject the redemptive work on the cross by Jesus Christ.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I

accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word

and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 'May the LORD bless you and protect you. 25 May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. 26 May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

