

The New Heavens, the New Earth, and the New City of Jerusalem

Revelation 21

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Introduction

- As the chapter opens, all the sinners of all the ages, both demons and men, including Satan, the beast, and false prophet, are in the lake of fire forever.
- The entire universe as we now know it will be destroyed and be replaced by a new creation that will last forever.
- 2 Peter 3:10-13 tells us: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will

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Introduction

- 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.¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of *persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,¹² 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?

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Introduction

- ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

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God makes a new heaven and earth (21:1)

Revelation 21:1 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.

- Currently three-fourths of the earth's surface is water. The new environment will evidently have a completely different climatic set-up.
- Also, we have no idea what the dimensions of the new earth will be. It may be much bigger than it is now.

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God creates a holy city – New Jerusalem (21:2-3)

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.

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.

- The supreme glory and joy of heaven is the presence of our Triune God (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit).

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The blessings of this new world of tomorrow (21:4-8)

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."

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."

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."

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The blessings of this new world of tomorrow (21:4-8)

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."

• Vs. 7 Anyone who exercises saving faith in Jesus Christ and maintains that faith unto the end ("overcomes") will partake of this blessed eternal state.

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The blessings of this new world of tomorrow (21:4-8)

- Vs 8 gives a solemn, serious warning about the kinds of people who will be denied entrance to this eternal state and consigned to the lake of fire which is the second death.

- "cowardly" – lacked endurance and fell away when their faith was challenged or opposed.

- "unbelieving" -refused to put their faith in Jesus Christ.

- abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars

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The wonders of the New Jerusalem (21:9-27)

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,

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The wonders of the New Jerusalem (21:9-27)

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

- The city is pictured as a bride perhaps because it contains the bride (the redeemed of all ages) and the city reflects the character of its inhabitants.

- Others suggest the beauty of the city is so impressive that it can be compared to the beauty of a bride.

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The twelve gates of the city (21:12-13, 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:

¹³ three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

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.

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The wall of the city (21:14-20)

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.

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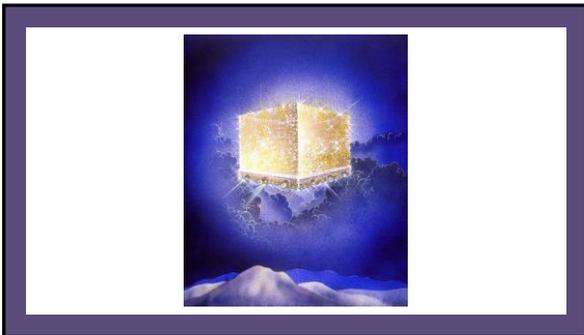
The wall of the city (21:14-20)

- **Length** of wall is 1,342 miles (if 1 furlong = 582 ft); 1,380 miles (if 1 furlong = 607 ft).

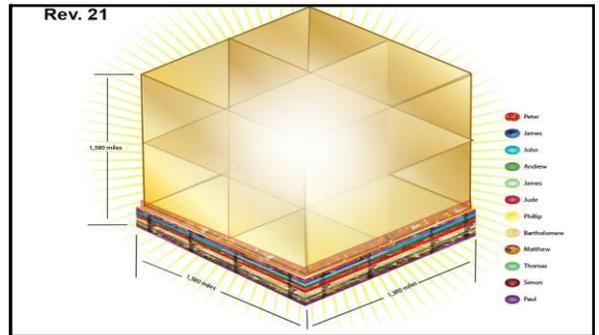
¹⁷ Then he measured its wall: one hundred *and* forty-four cubits, *according* to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.

- Height (or thickness?) of the wall – 216 ft.

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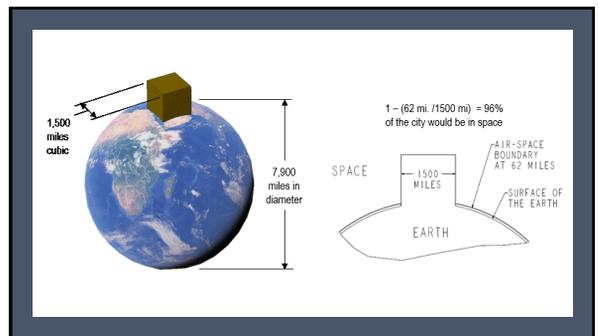
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The wall of the city (21:14-20)

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* (diamond), the second sapphire (blue), the third chalcedony (sky-blue with stripes of other colors), the fourth emerald (bright green),

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The wall of the city (21:14-20)

²⁰ the fifth sardonyx (red and white), the sixth sardius (reddish), the seventh chrysolite (golden), the eighth beryl (sea-green), the ninth topaz (yellow-green), the tenth chrysoprase (greenish), the eleventh jacinth (violet), and the twelfth amethyst (purple).

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

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.

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The wall of the city (21:14-20)

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.

- The probable interpretation is that those of responsibility throughout the cosmos bring all of the glory of the expanse of the new heavens and the new earth into the glorious city.
- After the death of the saints, in the new cosmos, the only thing that the redeemed can carry with them from the old world to offer to God is not literal riches but the reputation of their good works (so 14:13; 19:8), which they can continue to perform by praising God.

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The wall of the city (21:14-20)

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.

- Endlessly in heaven the saints will have opportunity to bring praise to God by offering up to him the best of our accomplishments.

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.

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The wall of the city (21:14-20)

- Scripture emphasizes that only the pure in heart will be in the eternal state.

• **Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.**

- There will be no bitterness, no jealousy, no competition. It is reserved for those who are called, chosen, and faithful.

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