

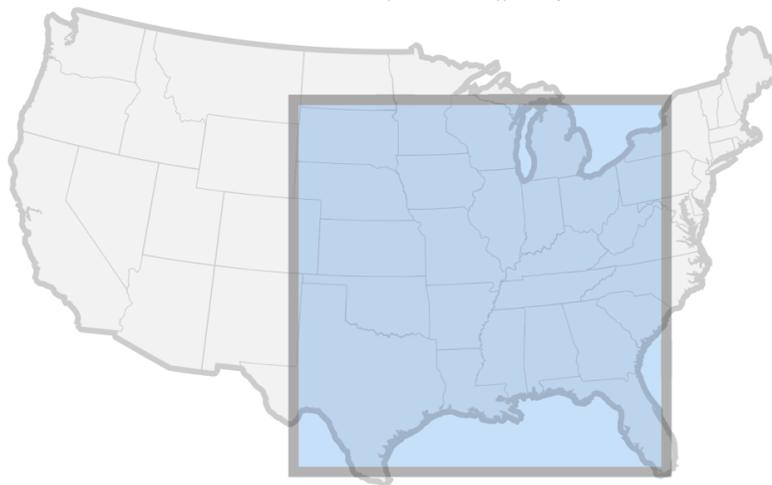
Revelation Chapter Twenty-One

- In the final two chapters of Revelation, we find a description of the new heavens and new earth.
 - At the end of the Millennial Kingdom, the current heavens will be destroyed [20:11; 21:1; 2 Pet 3:7, 10].
 - The new heavens and new earth will form the environment for a new dispensation known as the Fullness of the Times [Eph 1:10].
 - The stage will be set for this final stewardship when the last enemy of Christ (death) has been abolished [1 Cor 15:24-28 cp. 20:14; 21:4].
- John sees a new heaven and a new earth [21:1].
 - This new heaven will replace the first heaven (of the physical universe), not the heaven where God sits.
 - On the new earth, there is no sea [21:1].
 - Prophetic passages that mention the sea should not be associated with the Fullness of the Times.
 - There is also no mention of any “under the earth” which exists in the current universe [5:3, 13; Phil 2:10].
 - Although there is no sea, there is a river on the new earth [22:1].
- John then sees the New Jerusalem [21:2].
 - The holy city is coming down out of heaven.
 - The holy city is “made ready” as a bride.
 - The Church, a living body of believers, made herself ready for the Royal wedding [19:7].
 - The city, an inanimate object, is made ready by God.
 - Jehovah is the husband of Israel [Jer 31:32; Hos 2:19] and married to Jerusalem [Isa 62:4].
 - The New Jerusalem pulls all of these marital images together as all people of God will inhabit this holy city.
- A voice from heaven declares that Edenic conditions will be restored on the new earth [21:3-4].
 - God Himself will “tabernacle” among the people on the new earth and in the New Jerusalem [21:3].
 - As in the garden, intimate fellowship with God will be possible with sin and rebellion no longer in the way.
 - In eternity, everyone will remain faithful.
 - All of the negative aspects of our fallen life on this earth are eliminated by God from the new earth (death, mourning, crying, pain) [21:4].

- God the Father declares from the throne that all things are made new [21:5].
 - This goes beyond the new heaven and new earth to include the transformation of the mortal bodies of the Millennial saints [1 Cor 15:52-53; Phil 3:21].
 - Jesus Christ assures John that these things are true.
- Christ then states that “It is done.” [21:6].
 - The redemptive work of God on behalf of fallen man and creation itself is now complete.
 - Never again will anyone “thirst” [John 4:10, 13-14].
- In the Fullness of the Times, Christ will take on His prophesied role of Eternal Father [21:7 cp. Isa 9:6].
- While those who have overcome through faith in Christ will enjoy eternal blessings, unbelievers are in the lake of fire and have no part in this [21:8].
- One of the seven angels who had the bowls now shows John the New Jerusalem [21:9-27].
 - This is likely the same angel who showed John the judgment of the Great Harlot [17:1].
 - The city shines with the very glory of God [21:11].
 - The city has a great wall with 12 gates [21:12-14].
 - The gates are named after the 12 tribes of Israel.
 - An angel is posted at each of the 12 gates.
 - The foundation stones of the wall are named after the apostles of the Lamb.
 - Measurements are to be taken, but this time by the angel [21:15 cp. 11:1].
 - The city is huge, 1500 miles by 1500 miles by 1500 miles [21:16].

The Golden City in Revelation

The new Jerusalem in Revelation 21:9-27 is a square 12,000 stadia (approximately 1,380 miles) on each side:



- The wall of the city is 72 yards tall [21:17].
- The wall is made of jasper and the city is made of pure gold [21:18].
 - The wall of jasper is not like what we know today – it is clear allowing God’s glory to shine through [21:11].
 - The city of pure gold is not like what we know today – it is clear like glass [see 21:21].
- The 12 foundation stones are described [21:19-20].
 - 8 stones match the tribal stones worn by the priest.
 - The stones are named for the apostles, not the tribes.
- The gates are pearls and the streets of the city are pure gold, like transparent glass [21:21].
- There is no need for a temple in the New Jerusalem because God and the Lamb are its temple [21:22].
- The glory of God illuminates the city, eliminating the need for celestial sources of light [21:23].
- The millennial kings get to bring the people’s tribute to the New Jerusalem for all eternity [21:24-26].
 - They are not kings on the new earth [1 Cor 15:24].
 - The city will be “open” 24/7 for them to come.
- As opposed to Jerusalem on this earth, only believers will be present in the Fullness of the Times and the New Jerusalem will not be defiled by the unclean unbelievers [21:27].
- While the city is described in great detail in this chapter, no explanation is given for the meaning of the types of stones, pure gold streets, etc.
- What we can glean from this is that everything about the city is pure, including its inhabitants.