

An Overview of Revelation 21,22.

These 2 chapters complete the book of Revelation and also the entire Bible. They detail the eternal state, the new Jerusalem, and give God's final word to mankind.

Revelation 1-3, gives a picture of Christ, as John sees Him; addresses to 7 local assemblies; including an overview of the church through the ages.

Chs. 4-6 give a view of the Throne in heaven, and 6 of the 7 seals.

Chs. 7-9 give the 144,000 of Israel sealed, the great saved multitude of Gentiles seen on earth; and 6 of the 7 trumpets.

Chs. 10-13 give the 7 thunders, the 2 witnesses, the woman and the dragon, and the 2 beasts.

Chs 14-16 reveal the Lamb and the 144,000 on Mt Zion, the announcement of Babylon's fall, the harvest of the earth, and the 7 bowls.

Chs. 17,18 detail the fall of Babylon in its two manifestations.

From chs. 19, 22, we are given, chronologically:

1. Celebration in heaven over the destruction of Babylon -19:1-5;
2. the marriage of the Lamb 19:6-10;
3. the Rider and His armies coming out of heaven 19:11-16;
4. the defeat of the beast and his allies 19:17-21;
5. the binding of Satan for 1,000 years 20:1-3;
6. the Millennium established; 20:4-6;
7. the crushing of the final end-Millennium rebellion- 20:7-10;
8. the great white throne judgment—20:11-15;
9. the new creation.21:1-8

A description of the new Jerusalem is given-21:9-22:5;
followed by the conclusion of the book- 22:6-21.

The last 2 chapters may be thusly divided:

1. 21:1-8: the eternal state.
2. 21:9-22:5: a description of the new Jerusalem
3. 22:6-21: Concluding warnings, invitations, and prophecies.

A Short Comparison of Garden of Eden and the City.

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| 1. The River with 4 heads | The River of Life |
| 2. Gold of Havilah | Gold of street |
| 3. Precious Stones (9) Ez.28:13 | Precious Stones of Fdn. (12) |
| 4. Innocent man | Perfect Man |
| 5. First Adam | Last Adam |
| 6. Wife (Eve) | Bride (church) |
| 7. Progeny Ge. 1:28 | Children God has given Me |
| 8. Tree of Life | Tree of Life |
| 9. Tree of Knowledge of Good&Evil | Absent |

I. Revelation 21:1-8 The Eternal State. The holy city, new Jerusalem.

Cp: Is. 65:17; 66:22. 2 Pt. 3:10-13. Hb 1:10-12; 11:10; 11:16; 12:22; 13:14. 1Co. 15:25-28

v.2 The new Jerusalem descends: from God- origin; out of heaven- character; prepared as a bride adorned- beauty; for her husband- relationship.

v.1,4 **Things absent.** (10) I assume the new Jerusalem will be here.

1. No more sea. Separation. The wicked like the troubled sea. Is. 57:20
2. No more tears.
3. No more death.
4. No sorrow
5. No crying (clamour)- the word implies outcry, controversy.
6. No more pain
7. No temple; implies the immediacy of God
8. No more curse
9. No night
10. No artificial light nor sun.

The above give the history of the human race, when viewed positively, as things that existed in past times.

v.3 The tent of God is with men. God dwelling in the heavenly saints and with the earthly saints, (CAC) God will dwell with them. They shall be his peoples. God Himself shall be with them and be their God. "God would have us understand the blessedness of the eternal state by knowing Him. It could not be conveyed in any verbal description." CAC, see 2 Co.12:4

The Occupants Of The New Jerusalem: Heb. 12:22-24.

1. God the Judge of all
2. An innumerable company of angels, the universal (festive) gathering.
3. The spirits of just men made perfect . (Heb 11, the OT saints, including Israel.)
4. The assembly of the firstborn ones ("The Church which is His body".)
5. Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant.

v.5 All things made new—the universe renewed.

v.6 Alpha and Omega- omniscient, sum of all knowledge.

Beginning and end- omnipotence, seen in creation.

The fountain of the water of life: the love and grace of God, source of all blessing.

V:7 The overcomer inherits, and is to God what "son" means to Him. (CAC)

v.8: The class of the cowardly, unbelieving etc, have no part in this city but rather , in the lake which burns with fire and sulphur; sulphur burns at about 800° C.

II. The holy city, Jerusalem. Rev 21:9–22:5 (JND)

The Bride , the Lamb's wife.

I take this to describe a literal city, where dwells the bride and whose characteristics she shares with it; some take it to describe a bride only.

Note "**Twelve**" associated with the city- the no. of administration.

This implies its role in the Millennium and possibly in the eternal state.

1. 12 gates—security and access
2. 12 pearls—church; see Matthew 13.
3. 12 angels- sitting on the gates.
4. 12 tribes of Israel- names on gates
5. 12 foundations--? One under every portion of the wall.
6. 12 apostles—names on the foundations
7. 12 thousand furlongs -(About 1375 miles, or 2000 km) dimensions of the city—a cube.
8. 12 by 12 cubits—wall thickness- about 210 feet thick or about 65 metres.
9. 12 fruits of the tree of life—one per month
10. 12 precious stones on the foundations. Cf 1 Cor. 3:12.

Jasper. A green gemstone. It may be a diamond as it seems transparent. Modern jasper is opaque.

1. 21:11--- light of the city (no doubt emanating from the One on the throne. (4:3).
2. 21:18—the building (coping) of the wall
3. 21:19—the first foundation of the wall.

The Lamb. 7 mentions. (R McClurkin)

1. 21:9— the Bride, the Lamb's wife—the consummation of love.
2. 21:14— the Apostles of the Lamb----the consummation of His work.
3. 21:22— the Lamb is the temple---the consummation of His worship
4. 21:23— the light of the Lamb—the consummation of His wisdom.
5. 21:27— the scroll of life of the Lamb—the consummation of the words of His promise.
6. 22:1— the throne of the Lamb—the consummation of His victory/power.
7. 22:3,4— the bondservants of the Lamb—the consummation of His satisfaction (Isaiah 53:11).

River of life—speaks of Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father and the Son. John 15:26

Tree of life: speaks of Christ- Psalm 1; Rev 2:7- the portion of the overcomer.

“Christ known as filling the year with His precious **fruits.** ““I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” John 14:21; each manifestation gives some apprehension of the Lord peculiar to itself; it yields a distinct manner of fruit.

Leaves—healing of the nations; the influences and virtues (powers) of Christ. Cf Ezek.47:12..

The street and the river and the tree of life are associated closely; it implies that the activities and movements of the divine nature are sustained by the refreshing of the Spirit and the appropriation of the varied fruits of Christ. (CAC)

Note the seven “shalls” of 22:3-5.

1. There shall be no more curse: perfect restoration.
2. The throne shall be in it: Perfect Administration and justice.
3. His slaves shall serve Him: Perfect activities.
4. They shall see His face: Perfect transformation.
5. His Name shall be in their foreheads: Perfect identification.
6. There shall be no night there: Perfect illumination.
7. They shall reign to the ages of the ages: Perfect Occupation.

III. The Revelation concluded. 22:6-21.

The words are “faithful and true”. This is the story of the whole word of God.

His coming, associated with:

1. 22:7 --blessing for obedience.
2. 22:12—reward for labour
3. 22:20—final promise.

The words of the prophecy of this book:

1. 22:7— blessing for obedience
2. 22:9 -- kept by the angels, the prophets, and the rest of the believers.
3. 22:10— left unsealed; cf. Dan.12:4 -for the time (of fulfillment) is near.
4. 22:18 -- responsibility not to add to it, cf. Eve, Pharisees- emphasis on its contents.
5. 22:19— “the words of the book of this prophecy”—responsibility not to take away from it; eg. Serpent, Sadducees. Emphasis on its completeness.

v.13.--Alpha and Omega—His omniscience.

Beginning and ending—as in creation—His omnipotence.

First and Last—His Omnipresence.

Last things in Revelation chapter 22:

1. 16— Testimony—of Jesus, who sent His angel
2. 17— Invitation--come: the Spirit and the bride; He who hears; He who thirsts.
3. 18,19— Warning—to leave the word of God unaltered.
4. 20-- Promise—Surely I come quickly.
5. 20— Prayer—Even so come Lord Jesus
6. 21-- Blessing—the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

v.16. I am the Root and the Offspring of David: cf. Mt.22: 41-45, Psalm 110:1; Nu 24:17; Rev 2:28; Psalm 78:65-72; Is. 11:1; 2 Sam 23:1-5. The Lord's question to the Pharisees answered at last, by Himself.

The bright morning star: the hope of His return, to the church (the "rapture").
Cf. the Sun of righteousness, Mal 4:2—to Israel. (the Manifestation).

Reasons to Understand the New Jerusalem of 21:9—22:5 to be Millennial and not the Eternal state.

1 There may not be nations in the eternal state.

2. Are there months in the eternal state?

3. Is healing required in the eternal state?

Whilst the church is in her eternal state in the Millennial city, ie, she will never be moved out if it, the city itself is in a position over the earth, giving its light to the earth, and Christ ruling the earth from that sphere.

Unger: "It would thus be concluded that during the Millennium the heavenly city will be brought into a relation to the earth, although not settled on the earth. The resurrected saints of all ages in that city will be in their eternal state and possessed of their eternal blessings, even though such is not true of things down on the earth."

Remember: the last non-proper noun in the Bible is **grace**: the source of all God's blessings to us. And it all comes through the Man whose Names and titles are the last proper nouns in the word of God: **The Lord Jesus Christ**.

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