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### Revelation 21:1-27

Ever since Adam and Eve sinned in the book of Genesis, all creation has been groaning for a day when everything would become new. The Apostle Paul said that when we reach that final glory that will be revealed, creation itself will be set free the slavery of corruption (Romans 8:19-22).

When the Tribulation Judgments are completed and when the Kingdom Millennium prophecies have been fulfilled, **God will create a new heaven, new earth and new Jerusalem**. He will share that Kingdom with His people forever and ever.

### Revelation 21:1-8

In the first eight verses of this book God gives us data pertaining to the new heaven and new earth. There are nine observations we may glean from these verses:

**OBSERVATION #1** – The new heaven and new earth is after the Great White Throne Judgment. **21:1a**

Notice John saw this. This is the last of the “and I saw” scenes. The fact that John saw the Great White Throne Judgment and then the new heaven and new earth, indicates there are two very real eternal destinies at stake. One destiny puts people into the eternal lake of fire, and the other puts people into the new heaven, new earth and new Jerusalem.

**OBSERVATION #2** – The new heaven and new earth will be new. **21:1a**

The reality of a new heaven and new earth is clearly predicted in the O.T. - Isaiah 65:17; 66:22. In Greek there are two different Greek adjectives translated “new” (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, pp. 225-226).

One of them is neos (νεος) which refers to being new as it relates to time. New in the sense of being recent. If you purchased a used vehicle, you could say, I got a new vehicle and this is the word you would use. You would not mean that you purchased a new vehicle that had just rolled out of a factory, but you purchased a vehicle that was new to you.

The second word kainos (καινος) means to be new in the sense of a new form or quality. This word refers to something brand new in the sense that it has never been used. In our car analogy, this would mean you purchased a new vehicle that just rolled out of production.

**This is the word that is used here in Revelation.**

**The new heaven and new earth will not be a restoration of the old one; it will be a brand new one.** It will have a new form and quality to it. It apparently will be a round earth because it has the dimensions of north, south, east and west (Rev. 21:13). We do not know if it will be larger or smaller than our present earth. We could guess in view of the size of the large city (Rev. 21:16), that it will be larger.

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Satan and his demons will not be able to see this nor will any unbeliever. It will be new for God's people. The Apostle Paul in thinking about these kinds of things said, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not entered into the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him" (I Cor. 2:9).

**OBSERVATION #3** – The old heaven and old earth will be gone. **21:1b**

According to II Peter 3:10-13, the old heaven and the old earth will be burned up. The earth and the atmosphere in which we live and breathe and the area of heavens where the birds fly and planets exist will be burned up.

**OBSERVATION #4** – The new heaven and new earth will not have any oceans. **21:1c**

Approximately three fourths of the world today is covered by the sea. In the new heaven and new earth there will be no more oceans. Notice it does not say there will be no more water, but oceans.

The first creative act of God in regard to water is Genesis 1:6-10. It appears according to the chronology of creation that God created this water to be a life support for vegetation (Gen. 1:11-13).

One reason why there will be no more sea is because there will be an eternal, constant sustenance of life which comes directly from God (Rev. 22:1). Also the oceans divide nations and in this eternity no divisions of people will be necessary. All people will live in a complete geographical harmony.

**OBSERVATION #5** – The new heaven and new earth will have a new Jerusalem. **21:2**

This new Jerusalem will be graphically described in upcoming verses. But there are three facts to see here:

- 1) The new Jerusalem will be new (καινος) which means it will be a brand new Jerusalem, not a makeover of the old one.
- 2) The new Jerusalem will not be a city built by men, but comes out of heaven "from" God.
- 3) The new Jerusalem will be absolutely beautiful, like a bride adorned for her husband.

**OBSERVATION #6** – The new heaven and new earth will have the abiding presence of God.  
**21:3**

We may observe that one point that is stressed in this verse is that God will "dwell" and be "among" His people. The tabernacle imagery comes out of the O.T. The tabernacle was:

- 1) The place of worship to God.
- 2) The place of communication with God.
- 3) The place of reflection of the glory of God.

God will be intimately and visibly present in the new heaven, new earth and new Jerusalem.

**OBSERVATION #7** – The new heaven and new earth will have eternal comfort. **21:4**

This place will be a happy place. It will be a wonderful place of joy and bliss. Two stated reasons make it this way:

**Reason #1** - God shall wipe away every tear .

This singular reference to “every tear” indicates the amazing individual work of God to the smallest detail. These would be tears caused by grief and pain remembered from the old creation.

**Reason #2** - God will remove everything that could cause tears.

Now notice that there is a list of items stated which are eliminated that removes the possibility of tears:

***Item #1*** - There will be no death . Death is a penalty for sin; sin is gone and so is death.

***Item #2*** - There will be no mourning . There will be no sad things that could lead to depression.

***Item #3*** - There will be no crying . All emotional trauma that causes people to cry.

***Item #4*** - There will be no pain . All physical ailments that can cause people to cry will be gone.

We also know from Isaiah 65:17 that God will remove things from our memory . So those things we could even think about that could make us sad, we will not remember.

**OBSERVATION #8** – The new heaven and new earth will feature a fulfillment of the written promises and blessings of God. **21:5-7**

There are five promises brought out in this section:

**Promise #1** - The new heaven and new earth will feature God sitting on His throne . **21:5a**

Who actually is the Alpha and Omega (**21:6**) on this throne? This is Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:7-8) Jesus Christ is God and He will sit on His throne.

**Promise #2** - The new heaven and new earth will feature all things new . **21:5b**

The adjective “new” (καινος) means everything will be brand new. What an amazing prospect. Most of us are not satisfied with ourselves and certainly not with this world. Most wish we could turn back the clock and start over. Truth is, we can turn the clock ahead and we will start over.

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**Promise #3** - The new heaven and new earth will feature the written Word of God. **21:5c-6a**

Seeing, studying and understanding God's written Word is something very eternal and very lasting. Notice the emphasis on "writing words" and "Alpha and Omega" which are the first and last letters of the Greek Alphabet. Clearly we see from this that the written Word is extremely important.

**Promise #4** - The new heaven and new earth will feature complete fulfillment. **21:6b**

God, Himself, will fulfill every thirst and need without any cost to the people. The thirst imagery is often used not only in regard to physical thirst but spiritual thirst. The point here is that every need will be fulfilled physically and spiritually and it will not cost a person anything.

**Promise #5** - The new heaven and new earth will feature a sonship inheritance. **21:7**

We already know that the one who overcomes is one who believes on Jesus Christ (I John 5:4-5). So this inheritance of the new heaven, new earth and new Jerusalem has nothing to do with previous Christian performance in the matter of reward and loss of reward. Every believer gets this wonderful inheritance. Every believer will have a sonship relationship with God.

**OBSERVATION #9** – The new heaven and new earth will never have any unbelievers. **21:8**

The purpose of this verse is to emphasize that this is a wonderful place for God's people and no unbeliever will ever be permitted entrance because they are burning forever in the eternal lake of fire.

We get some glimpses in this verse as to why some did not believe on Jesus Christ:

- 1) Some were too cowardly to believe.
- 2) Some just refused to believe (unbelieving) and were not trustworthy.
- 3) Some were involved in abominable sins and wouldn't believe.
- 4) Some were murderers who would not believe.
- 5) Some were immoral and would not believe.
- 6) Some were involved in sorcery and witchcraft and would not believe.
- 7) Some were idolatrous and would not believe.
- 8) Some were liars and would not believe.

All are existing in the eternal lake of fire but not in the new heaven and new earth.

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### Revelation 21:9-22:5

As we come to **verse 9**, we are introduced to an amazing city that is called both “the bride” and “the wife” of the Lamb. John was taken by an angel to see this city. The reason why it is called the “bride” and the “wife” is because this will be a city that will feature God’s people from the New Testament and the Old Testament. The New Jerusalem will be a city for Israel and for the Church.

There are five major city features to the city:

**CITY FEATURE #1** – The city will be located near some impressive mountain. **21:10a**

Since there has been a new earth and new heaven created, we have no idea as to what mountain this is, but it will be a mountain that is “great” and “high.” Probably this will be a mountain that is greater and higher than any other mountain.

**CITY FEATURE #2** – The city will be a holy city. **21:10b**

We cannot even begin to imagine what a holy city designed by God to be holy would be like. It will be a sacred city that reflects the glory of God. There will be no lying, no stealing, no immorality, no corrupt business, no greed, no gambling, no drunkenness, no drugs, no pride, no jealousy, no ego, no injustice, no deception, and no crime. This will be a city that will be unlike any city that has ever existed.

**CITY FEATURE #3** – The city will have a specific name. **21:10c**

The specific name of the city is Jerusalem. In fact, in Revelation 21:2 it is called the “New Jerusalem.” The one city that has a name that will stand for all eternity is Jerusalem.

**CITY FEATURE #4** – The city will continually descend out of heaven. **21:10d**

The present active participle “coming down” means this is a continual thing. In other words, this New Jerusalem will continually come down “out of the heaven of the God.” This city will be directly linked to the heaven where God’s throne is located.

Perhaps we get a glimpse of this kind of thing in the episode pertaining to Jacob’s ladder. (Genesis 28:12). Only instead of a ladder, this is a complete visible city.

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**CITY FEATURE #5** – The city will have and reflect the glory of God. **21:11a-22:5**

The King James Version, after the phrase “having the glory of God,” has a conjunction “and.” But the older Greek manuscripts do not contain this conjunction “and.” This may not seem to be a significant point; however, I do not think the conjunction “and” should be here.

What this means grammatically is that instead of having a new independent idea, what we are given is a list of qualities of a city that truly reflects God’s glory. In other words, the New Jerusalem will have the glory of God and then John gives us a list of qualities that reflect that glory. There are **eighteen specific qualities** of a city that reflects the glory of God:

**Quality #1** - It is a city of brilliant light. **21:11b**

The New Jerusalem will be a city that will reflect and radiate brilliant light as a very costly stone. The light apparently will shine through this and will glisten. The entire city will have this brilliant and beautiful light. The Greek word “brilliance” (φωσθηρ) speaks of a source of brilliant shining light. The “crystal clear jasper” is well understood by our term diamond, which is sparkling. Apparently the city is so bright that there is no need of the sun or moon (**21:23**).

**Quality #2** - It is a city surrounded by an impressive wall. **21:12a**

The word “great” has to do with a bodily size that is very large, and the word “high” has to do with a height that is very large, tall, and lofty.

**Quality #3** - It is a city that has twelve gates. **21:12b-13**

These gates are not typical gates. There are three facts brought out about them:

- 1) Each gate has its own stationed angel. **21:12c**
- 2) Each gate will be named after one of the twelve tribes of Israel. **21:12d**
- 3) Each gate will be in a specific location. **21:13**

It is clear that this New heaven, New earth, and New Jerusalem still has north, south, east, and west directions.

**Quality #4** - It is a city that has twelve foundation stones. **21:14**

Normally you cannot see foundation stones, but these are very visible and spectacular. These stones will contain the names of the twelve apostles. Just as there will be a continual reminder of God’s program in the Old Testament, so also there will be a constant reminder of God’s program in the New Testament.

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**Quality #5** - It is a city that has precise measurements . **21:15-17**

There are five observations we may make concerning these measurements:

**(Observation #1)** - The city was measured by an angel , not John. **21:15, 17a**

No human engineering firm could measure this city.

**(Observation #2)** - The city was measured with a gold rod. **21:15**

This is a pure measurement with no flaws.

**(Observation #3)** - The city is a perfect square . **21:16a**

**(Observation #4)** - The city has majestic dimensions. **21:16b**

The city is as tall as it is wide. The length, width and height are the same dimensions, approximately 1500 miles. Literally the text reads 12,000 stadia. A stadion was approximately 600 feet, which would make the city 1400-1500 miles from our computation.

**(Observation #5)** - The wall has majestic dimensions. **21:17**

The wall is stated to be one hundred and forty-four cubits. A cubit is approximately 18 inches which means the wall is 216 feet high or 72 yards high. The purpose of this wall is not protection but beauty. This is God's city and He is designing things that reflect His glory.

Carefully observe from **verse 17**, that even though the measurements were taken by an angel, they are human measurements which are the same. This truly does demand a literal interpretation.

**Quality #6** - It is a city that has amazing wealth and beauty . **21:18-20**

This will be the most dazzling city ever seen. According to **verse 18**, the city itself will be a pure gold that is like glass so one may see through it.

The foundation not only contains the name of the twelve apostles, but also twelve precious stones that are the most beautiful and costly in existence:

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- 1) The Jasper Stone is clear in color like an expensive and dazzling diamond.  
It refracts colors.
- 2) The Sapphire stone is blue and some say it is clear with gold specks.
- 3) The Chalcedony (χαλκηδων) is greenish in color.
- 4) The Emerald is also a green color. A brilliant green grass color.
- 5) The Sardonyx is red and white; some say reddish brown and white.
- 6) The Sardius is fiery red.
- 7) The Chrysolite (χρυσολιθος) is a golden yellow.
- 8) The Beryl is a sea green.
- 9) The Topaz is a greenish yellow.
- 10) The Chrysoprase (χρυσοπρασ) is a golden green.
- 11) The Jacinth is a violet color, like a violet blue.
- 12) The Amethyst is purple.

This city will be the most dazzling city one has ever seen.

**Quality #7** - The twelve gates to the city will be twelve pearls. **21:21a**

These are the same gates mentioned in **verses 12-13** and each gate contains a name of a tribe of Israel and each tower gate is carved out of a pearl.

**Quality #8** - It is a city that has a street. **21:21b**

Many people refer to this place as the place that has “streets of gold.” But I want you to carefully observe that the noun “street” is singular, not “streets” plural. There will be one major artery or street in this city and it will be made of pure gold that is transparent.

**Quality #9** - It is a city that has God as its resident. **21:22-23**

God will light this city directly by His presence. God, Himself, will reside in this city and there will be no need of any temple for He is there in Person to worship. There will be no need of a sun or moon for He is on earth Personally to give light. Notice carefully the emphasis on the Lamb. The Lamb has all of the attributes of God and He is the glorious God.

**Quality #10** - It is a city of believers of all nationalities. **21:24**

All nationalities of people will be welcome in this city.

**Quality #11** - It is a city that never shuts down. **21:25**

No need to ever close the gates or lock up the city, for this city will be safe forever.

**Quality #12** - It is a city to which God will receive His glory and honor. **21:26**

Nations will willingly travel to Jerusalem to bring their gifts and worship the King.



**Quality #13** - It is a city that will never have an unbeliever . **21:27**

This verse is here to inform us that nothing evil and no one evil will ever enter this city. The construction of the Greek is emphatic indicating there is no possible way that anything bad or evil will ever enter this city. All unbelievers are burning in the eternal lake of fire and the New heaven, New earth, and New Jerusalem will be an existence where nothing unclean or abominable will ever enter its gates. There will be no lying. There will be no more egos, no pride, no striving for fame and fortune. There will be no more craving for power or lust for immortality. There will be no more greed or fraud. Only those whose names are in the book of life will be there and life will be wonderful.

**Quality #14** - It is a city that will offer eternal refreshment . **22:1-2**

There will be fresh water and fruit. In the new eternity, a person may eat freely from the tree of life because all here exist in a perfect eternal state. The tree of life bears twelve kinds of fruit, one for each month. The leaves have healing power to specifically promote a national unity and healthiness among nations.

**Quality #15** - It is a city that will never have a curse . **22:3a**

What this means is that this city will feature no struggle, no pain, no sorrow, no hard labor, no death, no war, no lack of pleasure. This will be the perfect city.

**Quality #16** - It is a city that will feature continual service . **22:3b**

The grammar of this verse indicates that God the Father and God the Lamb are being served as one God. Eternity will not be a place of eternal idleness; it will be a place of ceaseless activity and a place to serve God. Bond-servants will serve.

**Quality #17** - It will be a city that features the visible display of God. **22:4-5a**

God will be displayed in many ways:

- 1) The believer will actually see God's face . **22:4a** They will see God's face and live.
- 2) The believer will have God's name . **22:4b**
- 3) The believer will have God's light . **22:5**

**Quality #18** - It will be a city in which we will reign forever . **22:5b**

We will reign with God forever and ever.