

**Revelation 21**  
**The City of God: The New Jerusalem**  
**Bible Study Notes**

*"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name."*

**Revelation 3:12**

The bulk of this chapter deals with the New Jerusalem, the City of God, which shall descend upon this earth and shall be the capital of the universe. The triune Godhead shall dwell in the midst thereof: Father, Son & Spirit, clothed in glorious light, so bright that it exceeds the brightness and glory of the sun, the moon, the stars and all other celestial bodies. For says the Apostle John, "...the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." **Revelation 21:23**

The redeemed saints shall dwell into all eternity with their Creator, He will dwell with them, they shall be His people and He shall be their God.

Let us strive with all that is in us, by God's grace, to be a part of the Israel of God, to be citizens of the new earth and to enter in through the gates of the City of God, that is, the New Jerusalem.

**vs.1**

*'And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.'*

Before the Apostle John goes on to describe the vision of the New Jerusalem, he first gives a brief introduction to the recreated heavens and earth of which the New Jerusalem shall dwell upon.

After the destruction of the wicked along with their master satan and his fallen angels in the lake of fire at the second death, the earth is recreated a new, in more glory and beauty than it was before the fall of man.

The people of God as they were dwelling safely in the Holy City when it descended from Heaven, witnessed the judgement of the wicked and the fire and brimstone as it fell from heaven to the demise of the unrepentant.

The wicked have all been destroyed and will be trampled upon, being like "*ashes under the soles*" of our feet.

**Malachi 4:3**

It is then at this time, that, as it was in the beginning, Jesus Himself, shall recreate the heavens and the earth, in more glory than the former and the old creation shall not be remembered, nor shall it come to mind.

Notice the words of the Prophet Isaiah:

*"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind."*

**Isaiah 65:17**

It is in this new creation that we will see what Adam and Eve first saw before they transgressed the perfect Law of God; a perfect world without any sin, without any defilement; the curse of sin shall be no more.

*"The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox... They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD" **Isaiah 65:25***

*"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young ones shall lie down together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea." **Isaiah 11:6-9***

Friends let us not miss this new creation, let us, by God's grace, strive to be a part of God's kingdom, that we may dwell with Him in Paradise for all eternity.

**vs.2-4**

*"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, **Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for **the former things are passed away.**"*

It was always God's intention to dwell with His created beings from the time that Adam & Eve were made and placed in the garden. He had no intention to be separated from His people, however, our *"iniquities have separated between"* us and our God. **Isaiah 59:2** As a result, our first parents, had to be banished from the Garden of Paradise because of their disobedience to God's Word, and from that time on, there has been a void which separates mankind from Jehovah's presence.

Sin has caused that void between the heavenly things and the earthly things, however, in mercy & love, God has created a way for mankind to remain in constant communion with Him. He first gave the assurance of a promised redeemer to Adam, **Genesis 3:15**, which by faith, He and all the other Patriarchs of old looked to and acted upon by the offering of an unblemished lamb or other specified clean animal. This ceremonial sacrificial system continued well unto the formation of the nation of Israel leading up until the coming of the Messiah, the Promised Redeemer, who would build that bridge which would once again connect the earthly with the divine. **Genesis 28:10-12; John 1:51.**

Jesus is that True Lamb, *"the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."* **John 1:29**, for *"God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten (promised) Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, shall not perish but have everlasting life."* **John 3:16**

It is by faith in that Lamb of God, *Jesus Christ of Nazareth*, that we are again brought into the presence of the Father, for He, the Father, *"was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself"*. **2 Corinthians 5:19**

It is by faith in the atoning power of the shed blood of Christ that we shall thus receive the blessing at the appointed Day, of eternal life and *"so shall we ever be with the Lord."*

He shall thus dwell with us, and we shall be His people and He shall be our God.

Like ancient Israel and so with spiritual Israel, the Lord shall say *"I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you.*

*I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.*

*I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves.*

*I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright."* **Leviticus 26:11-13**

The void of sin shall be no more, satan and all his sympathisers shall be destroyed in the lake of fire, the heavens and earth shall be recreated, with the New Jerusalem as its capital, the meek shall inherit the earth, and God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes; and *"there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."* Encourage one another with these words.

**vs.5-8**

*"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."*

*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. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. 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 words of Christ, spoken to the Apostle John, are faithful and true, His words shall never pass away, but will come to pass, for they endureth forever.

*"The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. You shall keep them, O LORD, You shall preserve them from this generation forever."* **Psalms 12:6-7**

He who speaks these words is the Beginning and the End, He is the Alpha and the Omega, He has been since eternity's past and shall be into eternity's future.

By the grace of God, may we be found on the side of the overcomers, clothed in the robe of Christ's righteousness, for the reward that goes forth from the lips of Christ is *"He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son"* **Revelation 21:7**, he, *"shall not be hurt by the second death"* **Revelation 2:11**, he, *"shall be clothed in white raiment"* and I, says Christ, *"will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels."* **Revelation 3:5**

*"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."* **Revelation 21:8**

**v.9-11**

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

John again sees the New Jerusalem descending from Heaven clothed in the glory of God and shining in holy brilliance. *The bride of Christ* comprises all of the redeemed saints of God, from the days of Adam until the last repentant sinner.

Modern Christians today believe that this New Jerusalem here referred to comprises the literal state of Israel, but this is false, for God has had a people upon the earth even before the state of Israel was formed. The Scriptures are clear that God's Church is His Bride **Ephesians 5:25-32**. This Church, throughout the ages, represents all those who have been faithful in their covenant with God, whether it be during the age of the Patriarchs (Adam to Jacob), during the age of the nation of Israel, or during the days of the New Testament Church, **Revelation 12** confirms this. God always has a people upon the earth, who are faithful to Him, and they are those who shall receive *"the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those that love Him."* **James 1:12**

The literal city of Jerusalem was a type of the True Jerusalem, *the city of God*, of which the saints shall be citizens throughout all eternity.

**vs.12-14**

*"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: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."*

In describing the New Jerusalem, we are immediately taken back to the arrangement of the earthly sanctuary during the days of Ancient Israel, seen in the book of Numbers.

The Apostle John tells us that surrounding the New Jerusalem, was *"a great and high wall."*

We see the comparison in the Book of Numbers where, surrounding the earthly sanctuary was the tribe of Levi, *the tribe of the priests*, whose responsibility it was to teach the people of Israel the Law of God among other tasks.

This Law of God can be seen as *"a great and high wall"*, which, if they were obedient to, would cause God to manifest Himself in a great & mighty way for His people and protect them from their enemies.

*"But the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the Testimony, that there may be no wrath on the congregation of the children of Israel; and the Levites shall keep charge of the tabernacle of the Testimony."*  
**Numbers 1:53**

Not only was there a wall around the city of the New Jerusalem, but there are also 12 gates, 3 on the north, 3 on the south, 3 on the east and 3 on the west, all with names written on them, which are the names of the 12 tribes of Israel.

We learn two things from this:

Firstly, God's people throughout all of time, are divided amongst the twelve tribes of Spiritual Israel.

As Paul tells us in his Epistles, the true Israel of God, are all those who are in Christ and therefore become children of the promise through faith, they are they which are a new creature, made after the image and recreated in the likeness of the "Last Adam", Jesus Christ.

See **Romans 2:28-29; Romans 9:6-8; Galatians 3:26-29; Galatians 6:14-17, 1 Corinthians 15:45,47,49, Ephesians 2:12-13**

Secondly, and more importantly for this particular study, is that as it was in the days of ancient Israel, so we see the fulfilment with Spiritual Israel in the New Jerusalem.

In the Book of Numbers, we see that surrounding the earthly tabernacle, not only was there "a great and high wall" in the form of **the Levites**, but, the 12 tribes of Israel also encompassed the sanctuary, 3 on each side, north, south, east and west.

*"Everyone, of the children of Israel shall camp by his own standard, beside the emblems of his father's house; they shall camp some distance from the tabernacle of meeting. on **the EAST SIDE**, toward the rising of the sun, those of the standard of the forces with **Judah** shall camp according to their armies... Those who camp next to him shall be the tribe of **Issachar**... Then comes the tribe of **Zebulun**. On **the SOUTH SIDE** shall be the standard of the forces with **Reuben**... Those who camp next to him shall be the tribe of **Simeon**... Then comes the tribe of **Gad**. On **the WEST SIDE** shall be the standard of the forces with **Ephraim**... Next to him comes the tribe of **Manasseh**... Then comes the tribe of **Benjamin**. The standard of the forces with **Dan** shall be on **the NORTH SIDE**... Those who camp next to him shall be the tribe of **Asher**... Then comes the tribe of **Naphtali**.*

**Numbers 2:1-29**

Compare this with the layout in **Ezekiel 48:30-35** and **Revelation 7:5-8**.

*"The names of the twelve apostles in the foundations of the city, show it to be a Christian and not a Jewish city; while **the names of the twelve tribes on the gates, show that all the saved, from this dispensation as well as from the former, are reckoned as belonging to some one of the twelve tribes; for all must enter the city through some one of these twelve gates. It is this fact which explains those instances in which Christians are called Israel, and are addressed as the twelve tribes, as in Romans 2:28, 29; 9:6-8; Galatians 3:29; Ephesians 2:12, 13; James 1:1; Revelation 7:4**" Daniel & the Revelation pg. 709.1 by Uriah Smith.*

*"The inscription of the names on the gates implies that none but the spiritual Israel, **God's elect**, shall enter the heavenly city."* Jamison, Fausset & Brown Commentary.

**vs.15-17**

*"And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. **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**. Then he measured its wall: **one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.**"*

The testimony given by John is that the City of God is a perfect square, symmetrical in length, width and height. The word here translated as 'equal' referring to the length, breadth and height, is the Greek word **ISOS**.

It means of 'equal proportion' or 'similar' and not necessarily, equal in measurement as we understand it in today's term.

It would appear, therefore, that the height of the city was proportionate or similar to its length and breadth, and not that it was as high as it was long. Showing perfect harmony and faultless symmetry in the build of the City.

It is **twelve thousand** furlongs, with the wall being **one hundred and forty-four** cubit, both numbers being multiples of twelve, 12, the number of God's Church.

**vs.18-20**

*"The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 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, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoptase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst."*

*"The building of the wall was of jasper. **Jasper is a precious stone usually described as of "a beautiful bright green colour, sometimes clouded with white or spotted with yellow."** This we understand to be the material of the main body of the wall built upon the twelve foundations hereafter described. And let it be remembered that this jasper wall was "clear as crystal" (verse 11), revealing all the glories within."*

**Daniel & the Revelation, pg. 711.2, Uriah Smith**

It should also be noted here that the construction of the New Jerusalem is of gold, purer than any human eye has thus seen, so pure & polished that it appears as clear as a clean glass. Upon this earth we are used to seeing concrete, wood and steel as the main materials of construction, how marvellous will it be to look upon the glorious city of God, which flows with pure gold in abundance.

Each of the 12 foundations of the great and high wall which surrounds the city are *"garnished with all manner of precious stones."*

See the following piece by Uriah Smith in his book titled **'Daniel & the Revelation' pg. 712-713** on the description of the foundations of the wall of the city.

*"**Jasper**, as we have seen above, is usually a stone of **green**, transparent colour, with red veins; but there are many varieties.*

*"**Sapphire** is a beautiful azure, or **sky-blue**, colour, almost as transparent and glittering as a diamond.*

*"**Chalcedony** seems to be a species of agate, or more properly the onyx. The onyx of the ancients was probably of a **bluish white**, and semi pellucid.*

*"The **emerald** was of a **vivid green**, and next to the ruby in hardness.*

*"**Sardonyx** is a mixture of chalcedony and carnelian, which last is of a **flesh-colour**.*

*"**Sardius** is probably the carnelian. Sometimes, however, the **red** is quite vivid.*

*"**Chrysolite**, as its name imports, is of a **yellow or gold colour**, and is pellucid. From this was probably taken the conception of the pellucid gold which constitutes the material of the city.*

*"**Beryl** is of a **sea-green colour**.*

*"The **topaz** of the present day seems to be reckoned as yellow; but that of the ancients appears to have been **pale green**.*

*"Chrysoprasus, of a pale yellow and greenish colour, like a scallion; sometimes it is classed at the present day under topaz.*

*"Hyacinth [jacinth], of a deep red or violet colour.*

*"Amethyst, a gem of great hardness and brilliancy, of a violet colour, and usually found in India.*

*"In looking over these various classes, we find the first four to be of a green or bluish cast, the fifth and sixth of a red or scarlet; the seventh, yellow; the eighth, ninth, and tenth of different shades of the lighter green; the eleventh and twelfth of a scarlet or splendid red. **There is classification, therefore, in this arrangement; a mixture not dissimilar to the arrangement in the rainbow, with the exception that it is more complex.**"*

#### **vs.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."*

John describes unto us that the twelve gates of which the tribes of Spiritual Israel shall enter on their way into the New Jerusalem, were of a single pearl. Imagine the size that one of these pearls will be!

Not only is the city constructed of pure gold, but the street of the city is also made of gold, pure and transparent like glass. The gold of heaven is so polished that one's reflection can be seen when looking upon it.

The mansions of pure gold, **John 14:2**, which the saints shall dwell in, will be reflecting upon the street of gold and vice versa. What a sight did John behold!

#### **vs.22-24**

*"But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 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. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honour into it."*

Throughout Church history, the **TEMPLE**, or in the original Greek, the **NAOS**, was the place where God met with His people and spoke to them through a mediator. In the Old Testament times, God met with the Church of Israel in the earthly sanctuary/temple communicating through the earthly high priest.

In the days of Jesus's ministry, God met with his people directly, as God manifested in the flesh, though most of the Church rejected Him in those days. Jesus Himself, preached and taught in the temple in his day.

In the days following the earthly ministry of Jesus, in what one might call the New Testament Church (temple), **Ephesians 2:19-22**, God meets with His people again through His Son Jesus, in connection with the Spirit of God.

Mankind for most of the history of the world, was fallen and as a result, had been separated from God by their sins, and therefore could not meet with the presence of God directly. The TEMPLE or NAOS was always needed in the plan of salvation for mankind.

However, in the New Jerusalem, there is no more a temple as it is not needed. The righteous have been redeemed, sin and its promulgator, satan, is no more, and mankind can now commune directly with the Father and the Son, for they themselves are its temple (NAOS). Christ abides in the bosom of His Father, and His elect in Him, they enter into the true Temple.

The city derives not its light from the sun or moon or stars but directly from the triune Godhead, for the glory of God, which surpasses in brilliance that of the celestial bodies, shall be the light of the city. It is in this divine light that all the saved shall walk, for *"the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."* **Proverbs 4:18**

That perfect day has finally come, although it seemed as if there was a delay, the people of God have been redeemed and they shall walk in the light of Christ forever more. Then shall be fulfilled the words of the Apostle Paul in the Epistle to the Hebrews:

*"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbour, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' **for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.**"* **Hebrews 8:10-11**

#### **vs.25-27**

*"It's gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honour of the nations into it. 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."*

*"It is in the city alone, probably, that there is no night. There will of course be days and nights in the new earth, but they will be days and nights of surpassing glory. The prophet, speaking of this time, says, "Moreover, the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound." **Isaiah 30:26.** But if the light of the moon in that state is as the light of the sun, how can there be said to be night there? Answer: The light of the sun shall be sevenfold, so that although the night is as our day, the day will be sevenfold brighter,*



*making the contrast between day and night there as marked, perhaps, as at the present time; but both will be surpassingly glorious.*” **Daniel & The Revelation, pg.715.1, Uriah Smith**

Isaiah also tells us that from New Moon to New Moon (*month to month*) and from Sabbath to Sabbath, we who shall be called the sons & daughters of God, shall go up to worship the Lord in the New Jerusalem. Hear the Word of the Lord!

*“For as **the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make**, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that **from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another**, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.* **Isaiah 66:22-23**

As we shall now dwell upon the face of the recreated earth, free from sin and defilement, all the saints of God shall go up to the capital of the universe, **the New Jerusalem**, each Sabbath, to worship and give glory unto the Lord of hosts because *“on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.”* **Genesis 2:2-3**

The Sabbath has been eternally sanctified and shall be kept by all God’s people. The Sabbath was kept in Heaven before sin entered into the universe, it was kept by our first parents in the Garden of Eden [**Genesis 2:2-3**] and by all their God-fearing descendants all the way up until the days of the Apostles of the early Christian Church, [**seen consistently in the Book of Acts**], and it will be kept again in the earth made new. How then can modern Christianity teach so falsely today that the Sabbath of the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment of God’s Holy Law, has been *“nailed to the cross”* and is no longer binding?

Woe unto them that call good evil and evil good! Oh, how we as a Church need to get back to true Bible based Christianity and not these false teachings which so prominently prevail in the Christian Church.

Friends, do you want a part in the unspeakable and eternal glories of this heavenly city? See to it, then, that your name is written in the Lamb’s book of life; for those only whose names are on that heavenly “roll of honour” can enter there.

*“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.”*

**1 Corinthian 2:9-10**