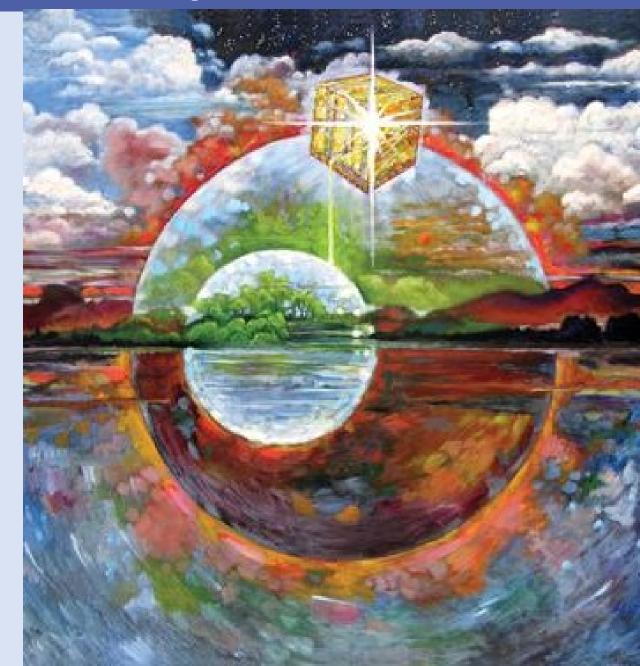
OUR GOD RAMAN

ALWAYS, AND EVER. NO MATTER WHAT. HE ALONE IS SOVERIEGN!

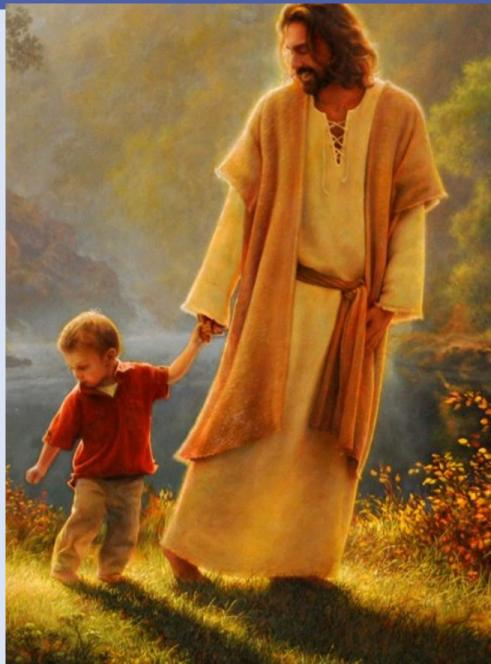
Revelation 24

New Heaven and New Earth **New Jerusalem All Things New** The Lamb's Wife **Amazing City**

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.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.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."

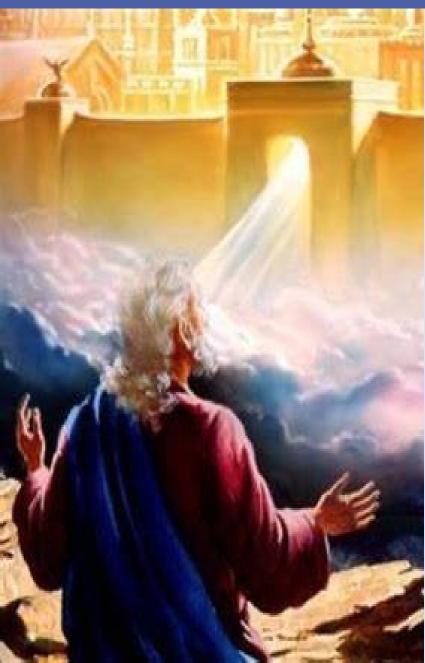




³⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." ⁶ And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

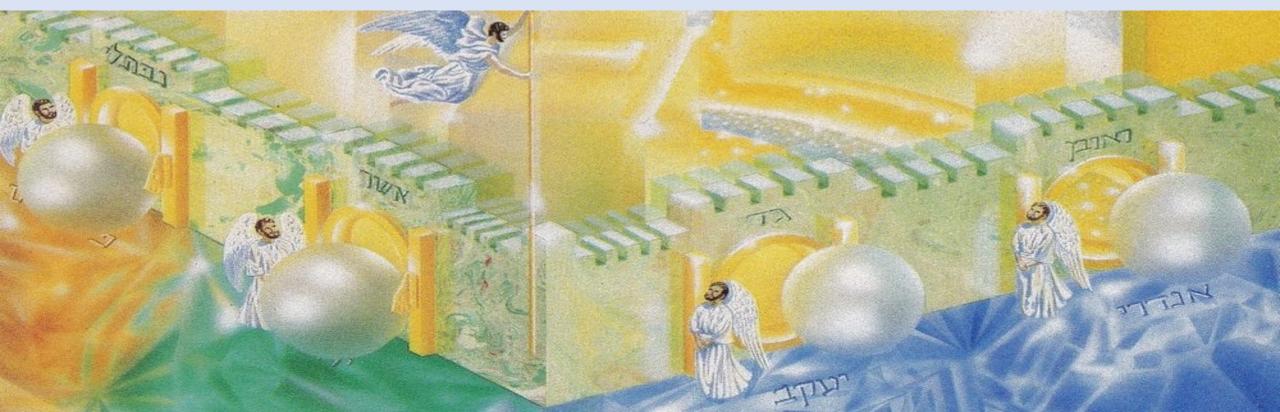
⁸ But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, *murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers,* idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."



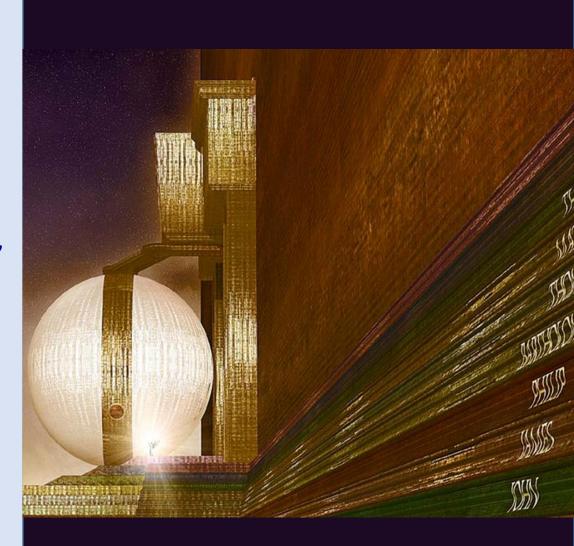


⁹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

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.



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.



¹⁷ Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. 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, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.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.



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.

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. 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. 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.



Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad Baruch Shem k'vod malchutto, I'olam va'ed

Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God The LORD is One. Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever.

- Now move out of "gloom and doom" of chapters 6-19, and some in ch 20, now hear of glorious "eternal state" with Jesus. Could call this "eternity unveiled."
- Watch for many contrasts, what <u>WILL be</u> and what <u>WON'T be</u> in eternity with Him.
- Things we can't comprehend or even imagine. God provides <u>enough information to hope</u> and be assured of our future. Description already beyond imagination.
- Best interpretation = merely speculation, other than what is plainly told.

- One issue of "speculation" = actual timing and chronological order of certain events, including exactly WHEN New Jerusalem is revealed.
- Reasons to believe *could be* revealed at <u>beginning of</u> <u>Millennium</u>, instead of here where we place it AFTER end of 1,000 year reign of Yeshua. *More later on this.*
- Concluding chapters = unveiling of Eternity. Just a peek, but enough at this time. Everything restored here.
- Helpful to <u>compare beginning of entire book with end</u>:

GENESIS		REVELATION	
1:1	Heavens and earth are created	New heavens and new earth (recreated)	21:1
1:16	Sun created	No need of sun, God is all the Light we need	21:23
1:5	Night established	No night, no darkness	22:5
1:10	Seas created	No more seas	21:1
3:14-17	Curse pronounced	No more curse, removed	22:3
3:19	Death is man's destiny	No more death	21:4
3:24	Mankind driven out of garden (Paradise) away from Tree of Life	Mankind restored to garden (Paradise) <i>and</i> Tree of Life	22:14
3:17	Sorrow and pain begin for mankind	No more tears or pain for mankind	21:4

¹Now 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.

- "new heaven and a new earth," old having passed away. <u>Aren't told WHEN or how this happens</u>. Not important.
- Sometime after judgment, or *perhaps even before* as sky and earth flee from One who sat on the throne previous chapter.
- Why some speculate earth recreated and New Jerusalem comes down from heaven at <u>beginning of</u> <u>Millennium</u> instead of after Great White Throne Judgement (*in textual chronology*).

 Not new concept in scripture (new heaven and earth). Mentioned throughout OT also:

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, (Isaiah 65:17-18)

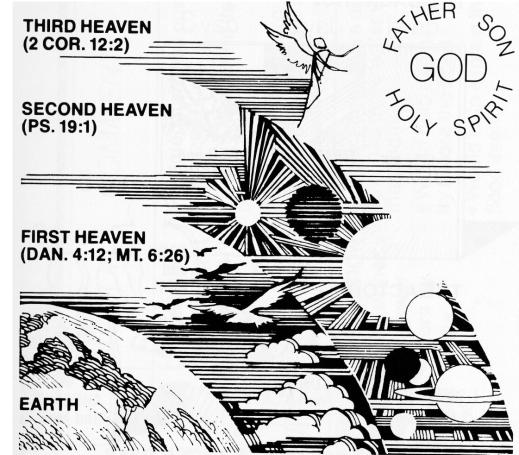
"For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me," says the LORD, "So shall your descendants and your name remain." (Isaiah 66:22)

From 2 Peter 3: ⁷ But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will 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? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which *righteousness dwells.* (2 Peter 3:7-13)

 Makes chronology of end events even more difficult to definitively interpret! (So we won't do that!)

- Parable of the Fig Tree, Yeshua says: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." (Matthew 24:35)
- Other scriptures allude, such as sky receding, etc.
- 3 "heavens" in scripture
 - 1) atmosphere
 - 2) galaxies
 - 3) throne of God



"...no more seq..." - <u>sea often stands for evil</u> in scripture, danger, unrest, trouble (beasts also came out of sea, Daniel 7:1-3, 17; Revelation 13:1, 6-8). (Job 26:5-6; Isaiah 27:1; Jonah 2:1-6; Luke 8:30-33; Psalms 69:14-15).

- Jesus rebuked sea (Matt 8:26), demon swine leaped into sea (Matthew 8:30).
- 70% of earth covered with seas that contain <u>antiseptic</u> <u>salinity</u> of 3.5% to clean, purge and preserve earth.
- Tidal action of moon on seas is cleansing mechanism.
- <u>Cleansing not needed now</u>, sign old world order ended.
- New world order, perfect and clean, now in effect.

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.

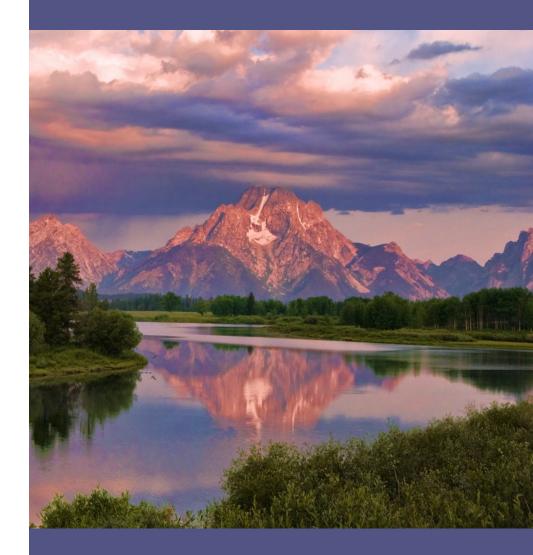
- *"...coming down out of heaven from God..."* real place, its origin is heaven, from God, <u>therefore perfect</u>.
- Now John sees holy city New Jerusalem comes down out of heaven from God, prepared as bride for her husband.
- <u>Place promised to all believers from beginning</u>. Place
 Jesus preparing right now, where God will dwell among
 His people, as He originally intended, forever.
- Remember <u>wedding already occurred</u> (before beginning of ch 19). City may be full of saints.
- This city (New Jerusalem) related to bride, just as Babylon related to harlot. (Tale of Two Cities!)

- Verse 3 important proclamation, announcement God's dwelling place now with man (Immanuel, God with us!), and we will be His people. Not just in spirit, but face to face. <u>No separation ever again</u>.
- Original Tabernacle merely type to signify God's desire for fellowship with His people, and point to person (Jesus) He provided to make it happen.
- Now fulfilled. He is with us, finally! Sin cannot separate us again.

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."

- Told what will NOT be there: tears, death, sorrow, crying, pain, former things.
- Easier to understand what won't be there than to try to imagine what will be there.
- No frame of reference for this perfect state. Waste of time to speculate, will be beyond what we know now.
- Told previous verses what WILL be there <u>God Himself</u>. Don't need to understand more than that, <u>if we know the</u> <u>Father</u>.

- Currently world corrupted, under curse (including us!).
 Cannot possibly understand what it will be like in a perfect place, without corruption.
- "Former things" passed away are curses themselves on what was once a perfect creation.
 Completely unable to imagine His perfection.



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."

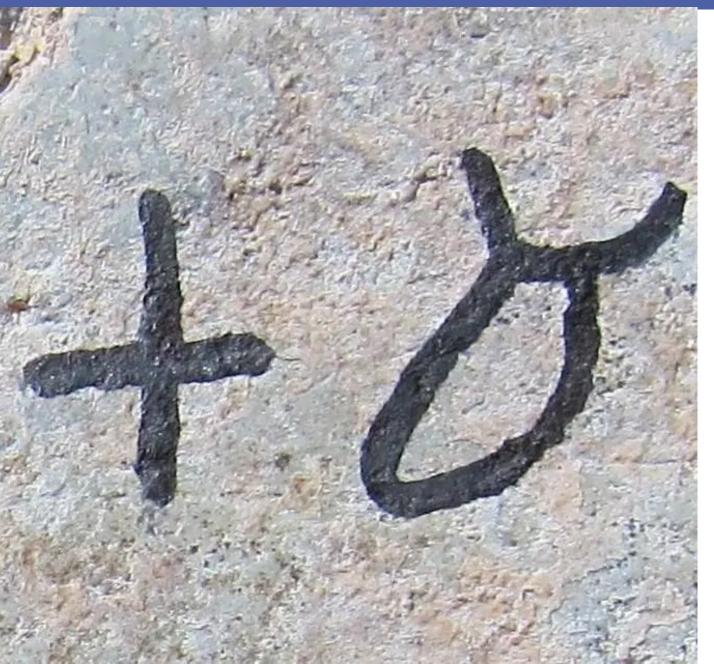
- Jesus (One who sits on throne) proclaims "Behold, I make all things new!" Tells John to write these things, verifies their truth. OT full of promises of newness.
- Newness by God means <u>perfection</u>, no sin, no corruption, no curse just as He intended from beginning.
- "true" (alethinos) and "faithful" (pistos) means truthful with nothing concealed, and trustworthy. Underscores these words are TRUE and worthy of belief.

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.⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

- *"It is done!"* ...finishing touch to new creation. Plan is complete.
- Reminds of His words from cross "*It is finished*" (*literally, "paid in full"*). When God has a plan, He sees it through to perfect completion, including every last detail.
- Here we have <u>finally returned to perfection of</u> <u>original creation</u>, God's original place and plan for our fellowship with Him forever.

- "I am the <u>Alpha</u> and the <u>Omega</u>, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." Revelation 1:8
- English speakers know Him as "Alpha and Omega," but these are <u>Greek</u> letters –<u>first and last letters</u>.
- In reality, He provides key to understanding entire OT, Hebrew scriptures written of Him.
- He is the <u>Aleph Tav</u>, strength of the covenant, written on every single page of scripture. (7000+ times)





- Some have called the Alef-Tav the signature of Yeshua throughout Word of God. He = key to understanding redemptive plan of God.
- Here in Revelation He completes that plan not as the Alpha and Omega, but as the Alef and Tav!

- Yeshua proclaims His real identity the Alef and the Tav (beginning and end) seen over 7,000 times <u>only</u> in Hebrew scriptures.
- *"I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts."* He will give free waters of fountain of water of life.
- Has **spoken of Himself this way before**... "Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you **living water**."...

Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a <u>fountain of water</u> springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:10-14)

"On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." (John 7:37-38)



- Also beautifully described in Ezekiel 47. Prophet sees river running under throne in Jerusalem, deep and wide, with healing properties.
- Water necessary for life symbolizes <u>ALL our needs</u> <u>being met</u>.

- "He who overcomes shall inherit all things." WE don't overcome, <u>He does</u> (ONLY way we overcome).
- <u>Dual meaning</u>. Refers to both Yeshua, only One who truly overcomes, and to us, as sons and daughters "hidden in the Messiah," who overcome through Him.
- "...I will be his God and he shall be My son." Takes relationship with Him to <u>new more intimate and</u> <u>personal level</u>. Not just a group, but individuals with very personal relationships with Him. Almost beyond comprehension.

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."

- Contrasts <u>believer who will overcome</u>, with <u>unbeliever</u> <u>who will be tormented</u> in lake of fire - *cowardly*, *unbelieving*, *abominable*, *murderers*, *sexually immoral*, *sorcerers*, *idolaters*, *all liars*.
- Existence in lake of fire identified as "second death." Separation from God for eternity. Good news for us.
 Evil is GONE!
- Note lake of fire still there, remains unchanged. Is eternal hell, *separation from God (second death)*.
 Beyond our comprehension in its horror.

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,

but it will be spectacular!

Can't

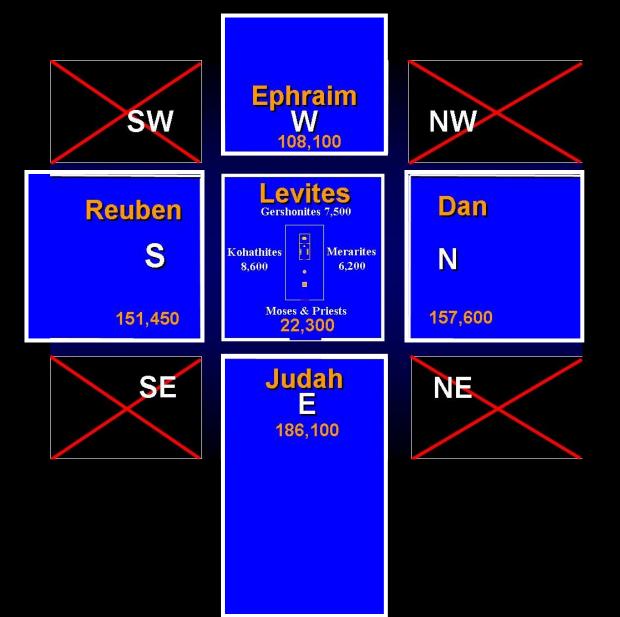
understand

- Now John shown "...the bride, the Lamb's wife." Carried away in the spirit.
- Similar to event in ch 17 where John taken away, shown "the harlot" in wilderness.
- Remember "Tale of Two Cities" Babylon, city of enemy, city of man, and city of entire world in opposition to God vs. Jerusalem, city of God and His people.
- Harlot is Babylon, Bride is New Jerusalem.

¹¹ having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.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. ¹⁴ Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

- Elaborate description of city (Bride). Has glory of God (!), with light like precious stone (jasper, original Hebrew suggests similar to diamond).
- Note: most of these names NOT same precious jewels we know today.
- High wall with **12 gates**, 12 angels at gates, 3 gates on E, 3 gates on N, 3 gates on S, 3 gates on W.
- 12 gates named for **12 tribes of Israel**, layout similar to *encampment of tribes of Israel in wilderness*.

- Numbers 1-2 God gave very specific instructions for how these <u>tribes</u> were to camp, with Tabernacle (visible Presence of God) in very center of camp.
- Much bigger lesson here than placement of tribes!



- 12 foundations, names of <u>12 apostles</u> of the Lamb (Church)
- 12 Foundations adorned with 12 precious stones: jasper, sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, sardius, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprase, jacinth, amethyst. May not be stones we know, ancient names.
- May represent same stones found in high priest's breastplate, representing 12 tribes of Israel (Exodus 28).
- Whatever they are, *dazzling display* of color.



- Gates also symbolic that *"salvation is of the Jews."* Access to God through Jewish Messiah (names of tribes of Israel on gates).
- Names of <u>apostles</u> (also Jewish!) on foundations suggest foundation of Church, Yeshua as Chief Cornerstone.
- Together, gates, foundations and wall unite both Jews and Gentiles together as one redeemed people – One Israel.
- Gates pearl, one huge pearl each (v.21).
- Pearls most valued of all stones in ancient world symbolic of *beauty born of pain*.

Can't possibly imagine this, or comprehend it. Beauty will be staggering, but M be city we marvel at. to reveal HIS glory.

- Must remember: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9)
- Can't understand complete significance of all this, so speculation/guessing pretty weak.
- Best to leave it alone and know it will be spectacular, and that <u>all His people are united as one with Him</u>.

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.

- Furlong (Gr. stadia) varies greatly, most likely somewhere between <u>600 - 710 feet</u>. If true, city would be ~ **1400 to 1650 miles long and wide and high**! One huge city!
- Some have tried to calculate area to determine how many people it could "hold."
- We don't have to worry about space, that's for sure! (Fairly precise descriptions, may indicate NOT a symbolic city, but real.)



- City = perfect cube. <u>Holy of Holies</u> also perfect cube (1 Kings 6:20).
- Inside Tabernacle was Holy Place and Most Holy Place, where God dwelled. High Priest entered only once/year. Place God fellowshipped with His people on earth. (Ark of Covenant)
- Now, this city also a perfect cube, signifies <u>dwelling place</u> of God with His people.

¹⁷ Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. 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, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.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.

- Wall's measurement = 144 cubits (thick or tall?). Cubit can vary from ~15" to Egyptian measure of 25", but usually <u>standardized at 18"</u>. If true, <u>this wall = 216 feet</u> tall, or thick. We don't really know. Again, trying to understand things we have never seen, most likely have no capacity to comprehend at this point.
- Apparently man's measurement = same as angel's. Wall's construction is jasper (diamond), city pure gold, like clear glass (transparent - no shadows anywhere, light of God will penetrate everywhere!)

- More precious stones, pearls, streets of pure gold transparent like glass. *Place of incredible beauty, no darkness, no shadows, just amazing light and color.*
- Interesting that places under our feet, paved with <u>most</u> precious metal, greatest possession, on earth? World's values do not exist in heaven. Now God's standards.
- Jewels most likely relate to High Priest's breastplate, but <u>cannot trace them now</u> (names of specific stones changed, use throughout literature changed through ages).

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.

- No temple –<u>don't need one</u>! God now dwells in our midst, God and Jesus *are* the temple.
- God's plan always about reuniting us with Him. Always wanted to "dwell with us." Earthly Tabernacle, Temple how He did that, represented His ultimate plan.
- <u>No physical temple today</u>, but will *likely be rebuilt*, to fulfill scripture (though not sanctioned by God).
- Today <u>believers are temple of Holy Spirit</u>. He still dwells with us. Easy to see God's heart in His relationship with mankind, through the Tabernacle/Temple. Amazing!!!

 Will be memorial temple during Millennium (Ezekiel 40-48), but not on new earth. No need. God with us forever, we with Him.

No need of sun or moon, God's glory is light enough.

 (NOTE: Does NOT say WON'T be there, don't know for sure, just they are not needed.)

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. 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. 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.**

- *"...the nations of those <u>who are saved</u>..."* (critical point) will walk in His light, and kings of earth will bring Him glory. <u>All glory belongs to Him now</u>. Earthly inhabitants in this time will give Him honor and glory *due Him*.
- BRINGS UP POINT AGAIN: Is this during Millennium on earth (*i.e., did New Jerusalem come down at beginning of Millennium?*) or eternal state? HARD TO KNOW!
- Don't know if individual "nations" as we know them now, or one people who live in regions of previous nations.

• **Zechariah** gives a little more information about this (*if this is Millennium*).

"And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain. If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. ...

This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. In that day "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" shall be engraved on the bells of the horses. The pots in the LORD's house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the LORD of hosts. Everyone who sacrifices shall come and take them and cook in them. In that day there shall no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts." (Zechariah 14:16-21)

- *"Its gates shall not be shut at all by day..."* City gates closed at night for protection. No need for protection here, so gates remain open always.
- And finally, told again <u>what will NOT be there</u> anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or lie. Can't fully understand what <u>will</u> be there, but can understand what won't be there!
- Chapter sounds a lot like Millennium, and a lot like eternal state. Placing it on a <u>strict timeline does not work</u>!
 Beyond our understanding now.

WHAT WILL BE THERE	WHAT WILL NOT BE THERE
 New heavens, new earth 	• Sea
• Light	 Darkness (no shadows!)
• Glory	Abominations
• The water of life	• Lies
The Redeemed	Defilement
• The Lamb	Unbelievers
• God Almighty in our midst	Tears
Nations	Pain
 Incredible beauty and colo 	r Death
 An amazing new Jerusalem 	
 Streets of transparent gold 	
	• Sin
 And there will be mor 	• Temple





"Behold, | make all things new...Write, for these words are true and faithful...]t is done! | am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. "] will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and] will be his God and he shall be My son."





adorned for her

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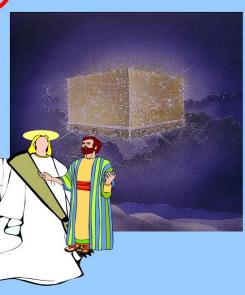
"Behold, the Tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God

Himself will be with them and be their God."

"Come, J will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."







Revelation 21

12 Foundations



Yevarekh-kha Adonai veyishmerekha May the LORD bless you and keep you

Ya'er Adonai panav elekha vihunneka May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

Vissa Adonai panav elekha viyasem Ekha halom. May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.