



Revelation 21

New Heaven and New Earth

New Jerusalem

All Things New

The Lamb's Wife

Amazing City

Revelation 21

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; ...

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...there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

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.”

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.

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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.”

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*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.*

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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.

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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.

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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.

Revelation 21

- We now move out of the "gloom and doom" of chapters 6-19, and some in chapter 20. We are about to hear of the glorious "eternal state" of our forever with Jesus. We could call this **“eternity unveiled.”**
- Watch for **many contrasts**, what WILL be and what WON'T be in eternity with Him.

Revelation 21

- We are reading about things we can't comprehend or even imagine. God gives us enough information to hope and be assured of our future. What we are given in description is already beyond our imagination.
- Best we can do in interpretation here is *merely speculation*, other than what is plainly told.

Revelation 21

- One of these issues of “speculation” is the **actual timing and chronological order of certain events, including exactly WHEN the New Jerusalem is revealed.**
- There are reasons to believe it could be revealed at the beginning of the Millennium, instead of here where we place it **AFTER** the end of the 1,000 year reign of Yeshua. *More to come on this.*

Revelation 21


- In these concluding chapters of Revelation, we have the unveiling of Eternity. It is *just a peek*, but enough for us to handle at this time. **Everything is restored here.**
- It is helpful to compare the beginning of the entire book with the end:

Revelation 21

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> the Tree of Life	22:14
3:17	Sorrow and pain begin for mankind	No more tears or pain for mankind	21:4

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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.



Revelation 21

- We now see a “**new heaven and a new earth,**” old ones having passed away. We aren't told WHEN or how this happens. That is not important.
- It is sometime after the judgment, or *perhaps even before* it as we see the sky and earth fleeing from the One who sat on the throne in the previous chapter. This is where some speculate the earth is recreated and the New Jerusalem comes down from heaven at the beginning of the Millennium instead of after the Great White Throne Judgement (in the textual chronology).

Revelation 21

- The is **not a new concept in scripture** (*new heaven and earth*). It is mentioned throughout the 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)

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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. ...*

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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?

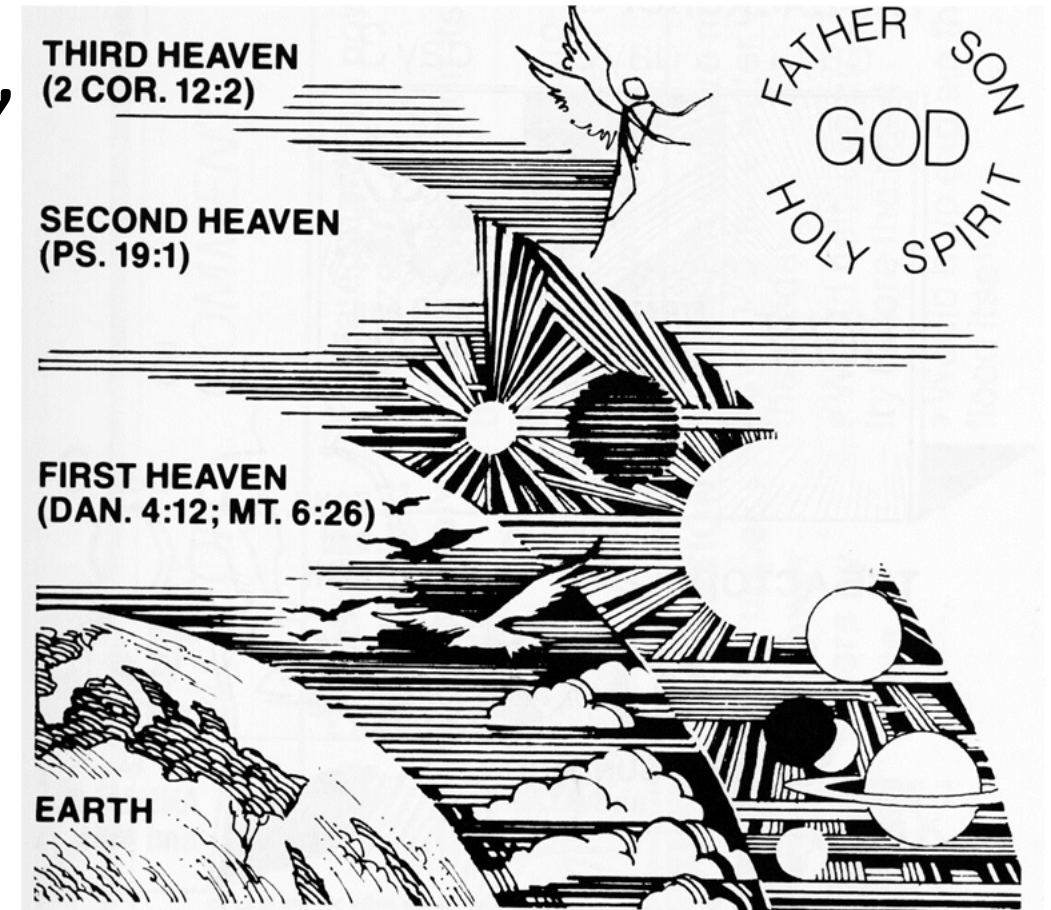
¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

(2 Peter 3:7-13)

- This passage makes the chronology of these end events even more difficult to definitively interpret!
(So we won't do that!)

Revelation 21

- And in the 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 to this, such as sky receding, etc.
- **There are 3 "heavens" in scripture**
 - 1) the atmosphere,
 - 2) the galaxies,
 - 3) the throne of God



Revelation 21

- “***...no more sea...***” - the sea often stands for evil in scripture, danger, unrest, trouble (*beasts also came out of the 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 the sea in Matthew 8:26, and demon swine leaped into the sea (Matthew 8:30).
- It was also a cleansing agent on earth – **it is not needed anymore.**

Revelation 21

- 70% of the earth is covered with seas that contain an antiseptic salinity of 3.5% to clean, purge and preserve the earth.
- The tidal action of the moon on the seas is a cleansing mechanism.
- This cleansing is not needed anymore, and this is the sign that the old world order is at an end. A new world order, perfect and clean, is now in effect.

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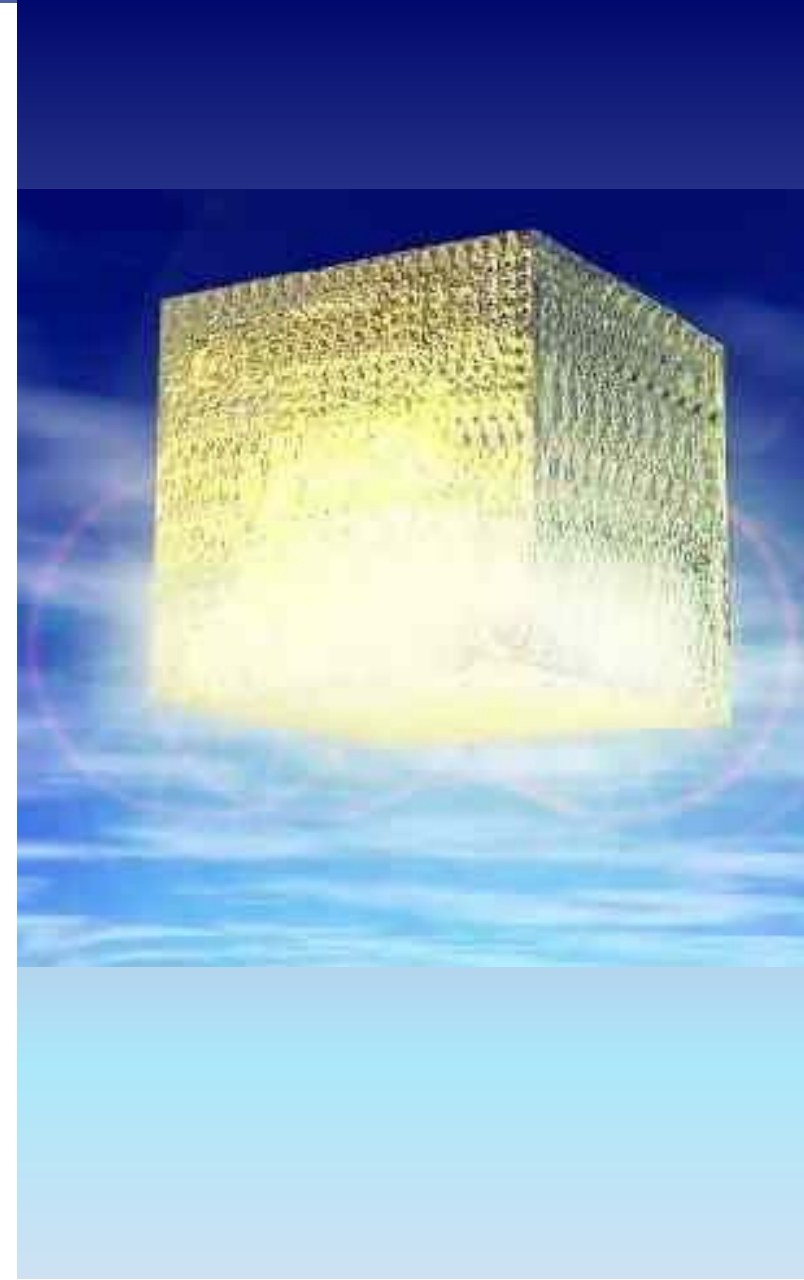
² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

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- Now John sees the holy city New Jerusalem - comes down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride for her husband.
- Remember the wedding has already occurred (*before we return with Yeshua at the beginning of chapter 19*). The city may be full of the saints.
- This city (New Jerusalem) is related to the bride, just as Babylon was related to the harlot. (*Tale of Two Cities!*)

Revelation 21

- *“...coming down out of heaven from God...”* This is a real place, its origin is in heaven and it is from God, therefore perfect.
- This is the place promised to all believers from the beginning. It is the place **Jesus is preparing right now**, and the one where God will dwell among His people, as He originally intended, forever.



Revelation 21

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

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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.”

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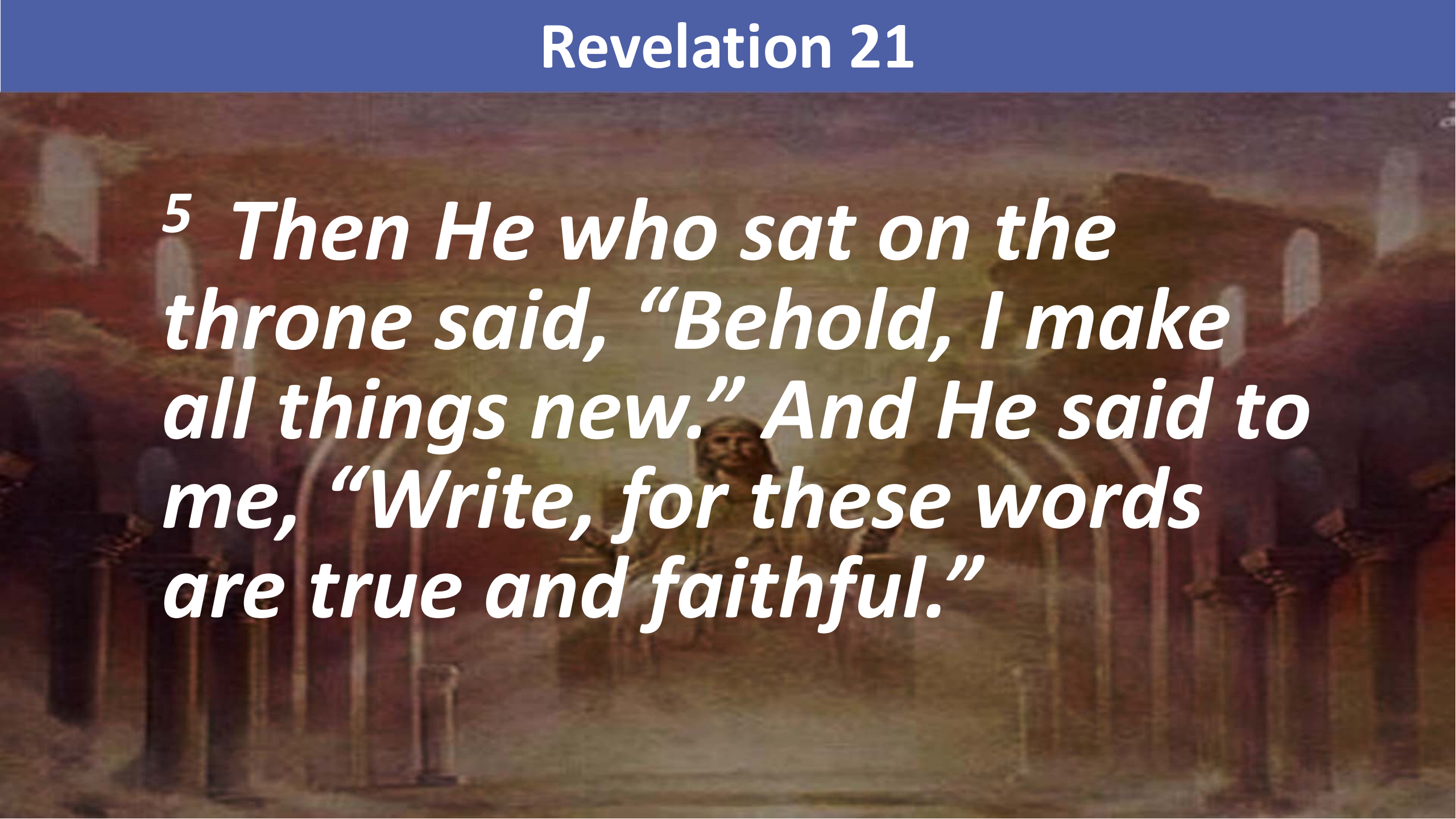
- **We are told what will NOT be there:** tears, death, sorrow, crying, pain, former things. *It's easier to understand what won't be there* than to try to imagine what will be there.
- We have no frame of reference for this perfect state. It is a waste of time to even speculate because it will be beyond what we know now.
- We are told in previous verses what WILL be there - God Himself. We don't need to understand more than that, if we know the Father.

Revelation 21

- We live currently in a world corrupted, under a curse (including us!). How can we possibly understand what it will be like in a perfect place without this corruption?
- The “former things” that have passed away are the **curse** **themselves** **on** **what** **was** **once** **a** **perfect** **creation**. We are completely unable to imagine His perfection.

Revelation 21

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."

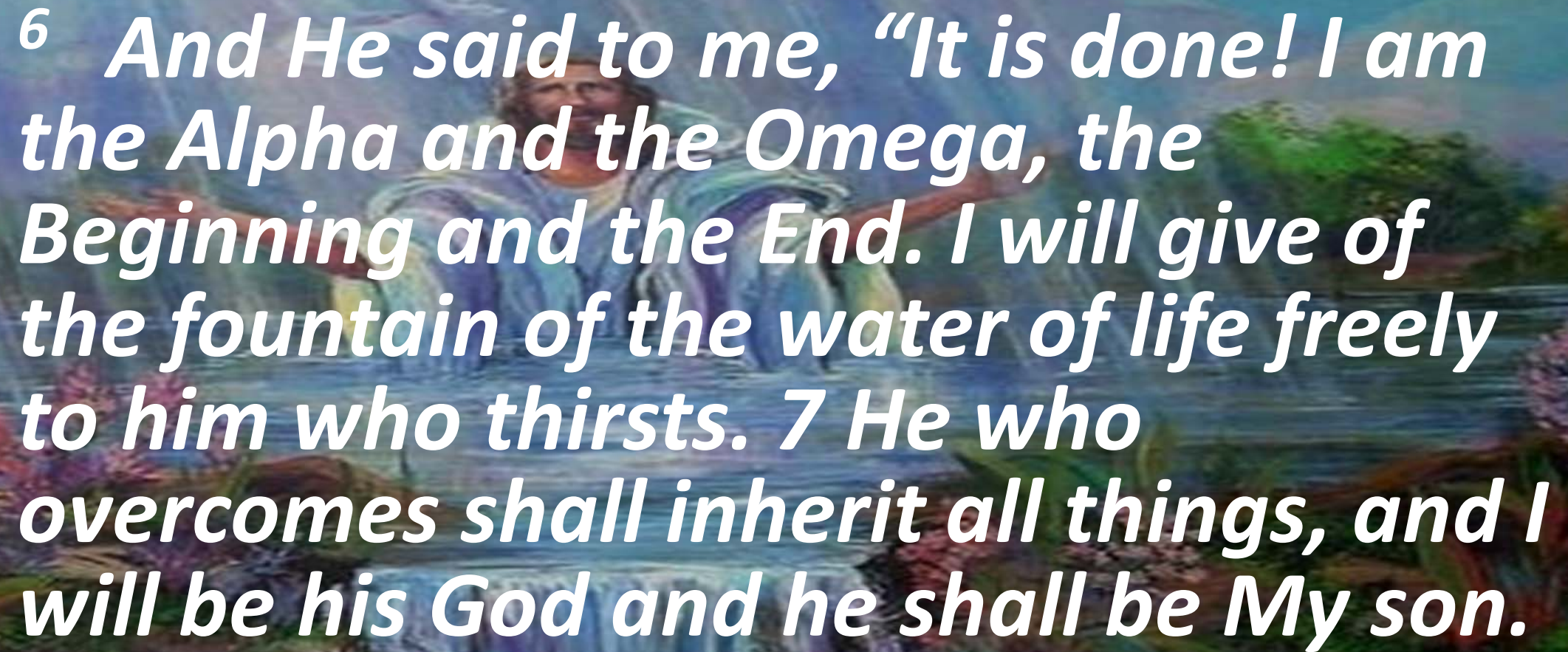


Revelation 21

- Jesus (*the One who sits on the throne*) proclaims "**Behold, I make all things new!**" And he tells John to write these things down and verifies their truth. The OT is full of promises of newness one day. Newness by God means perfection, no sin, no corruption, no curse – just as He intended them from the beginning.
- "**true**" (*alethinos*) and "**faithful**" (*pistos*) means truthful with nothing concealed, and trustworthy. These underscore the fact that these words are in fact TRUE and worthy of belief.

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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."



Revelation 21

- ***"It is done!"*** is the finishing touch to this new creation. The plan is complete.
- Reminds us of His words from the cross ***"It is finished"*** (literally, "paid in full"). When God has a plan, he sees it through to its perfect completion, including every last detail. He is constantly and ever faithful and powerful to accomplish it.
- Here we have finally returned to the perfection of the original creation, God's original place and plan for our fellowship with Him forever.

Revelation 21

את

- An important note about ***“Alpha and Omega.”*** English NT originally translated from common Greek language. Alpha is first letter of Greek alphabet, and Omega is the last letter. Essentially, first and last, or **beginning and end** as stated in this verse.
- However, many believe this book and much of NT originally written in Hebrew. Even if this is not true, the concept of the **“first and last”** is common throughout the OT, and is represented by the Hebrew **Alef** (*first letter of alef-bet*) and **Tav** (*or Tau, last letter*).

Revelation 21

- Just so we understand the true meaning of this statement “Alpha and Omega” which should be read “Alef and Tav,” let’s take a look at Genesis 1:1...

Genesis Chapter 1

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

1. Be•re•sheet ba•ra Elohim et ha•sha•ma•yim ve•et ha•a•retz.

1. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Revelation 21

- **7 words**, “perfectly complete.” (“heptadic” structure)
- Middle word is “et.” **ET** has long mystified scholars, including Hebrew rabbis.

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ
earth the and heavens the God created beginning the In
ha'aretz v'et ha'shamayim ET Elohiym bara B're'shiyt

Note 7 Hebrew words,
the center word being
the Aleph Tav

אֵת



- The “word” **ET** is only two Hebrew letters. ***Is it a word?*** If so, why is it NOT translated from the Hebrew into any other language, and when it is encountered in Hebrew it is *not even pronounced* – even though it is in plain view in the Hebrew (*but no other translation*)?
- The ET is pronounced “ayth” or “ate,” but mostly “et.” The rabbis have come up with some weird language rule to explain the “et.” It is considered silent in Hebrew and is not read or spoken.

Revelation 21

- Here's an interesting point about ET: It appears over 7,000 times in the Tanakh (Hebrew Old Testament scriptures). To rabbis, it is considered "untranslatable" and serves as a sign of a direct object in the sentence (*making it merely a literary or grammatical tool*).

But, is there more to this ET than it would seem?

Consider this: *"It is the glory of God to conceal a matter,
But the glory of kings is to search out a matter."*

(Proverbs 25:2)

את

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Let's take a look at these two letters...

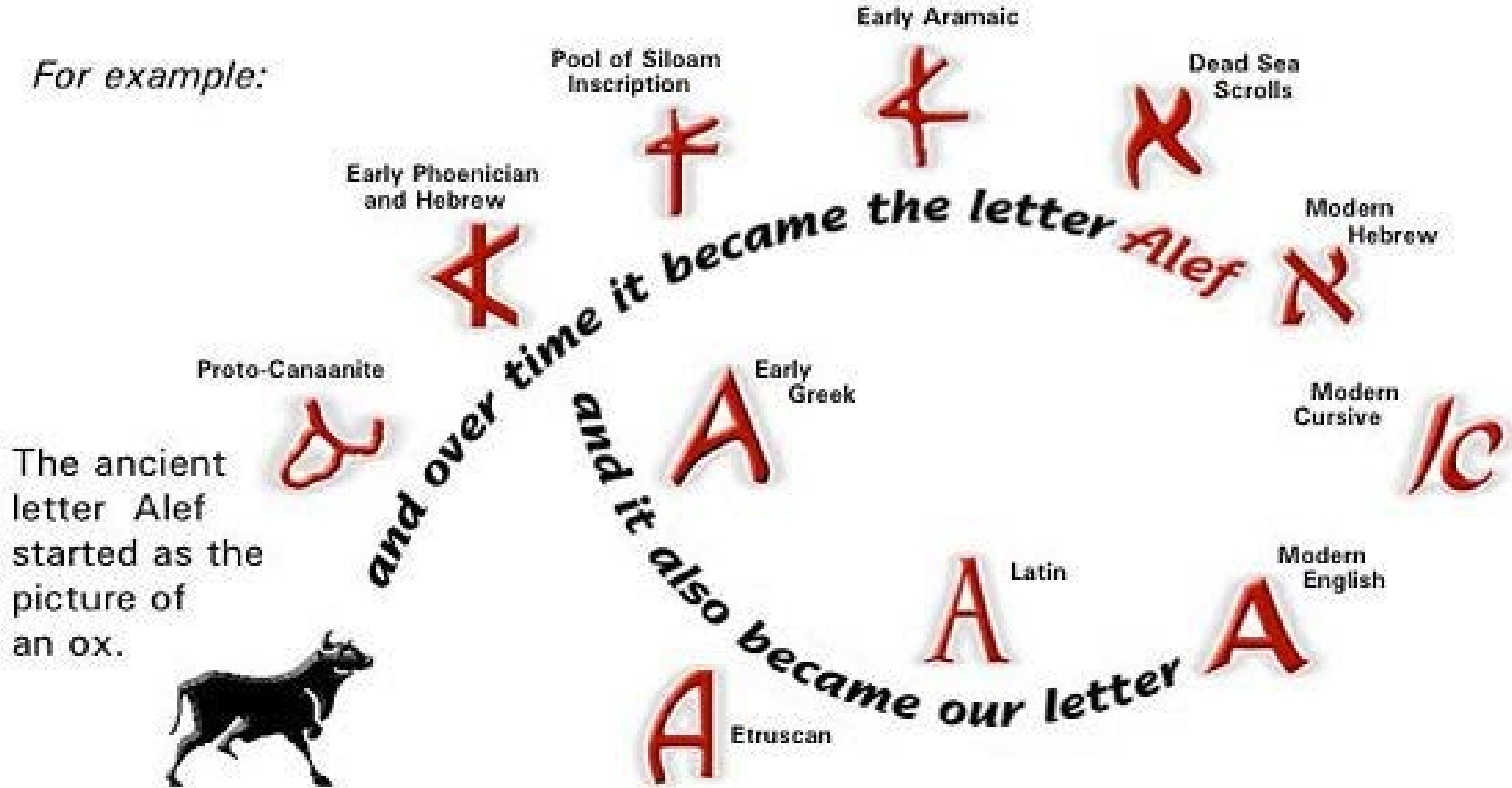
Aleph: The first letter of the Hebrew alphabet (*alefbet*). Root form literally means “ox” and implies strength, and pre-eminence. In the ancient Hebrew pictographic script, was written as:

Strength
Leader
First



Revelation 21

For example:



The ancient letter Alef started as the picture of an ox.



Revelation 21

Tav: The last letter of the Hebrew alphabet (#22). Root form implies “a covenant sign” (sacrifice). Original form a cross. Also means *perfection, mark*. Ancient Hebrew pictograph:



Covenant Sign

Cross

Mark

Perfection



Revelation 21

Every letter has a picture meaning and a number assignment

Name	Pictograph	Meaning	Name	Pictograph	Meaning
Aleph		Ox / strength / leader	Lamed		Staff / goad / control / "toward"
Bet		House / "In"	Mem		Water / chaos
Gimmel		Foot / camel / pride	Nun		Seed / fish / activity / life
Dalet		Tent door / pathway	Samekh		Hand on staff / support / prop
Hey		Lo! Behold! "The"	Ayin		Eye / to see / experience
Vav		Nail / peg / add / "And"	Pey		Mouth / word / speak
Zayin		Plow / weapon / cut off	Tsade		Man on side / desire / need
Chet		Tent wall / fence / separation	Qof		Sun on horizon / behind
Tet		Basket / snake / surround	Resh		Head / person / first
Yod		Arm and hand / work / deed	Shin		Eat / consume / destroy
Kaf		Palm of hand / to open	Tav		Mark / sign / covenant

6 Vav Nail Secure Add/and	5 Hey Behold Reveal Breath	4 Dalet Door Move Entrance	3 Gimel Foot Camel Pride	2 Beyt House Family in	1 Alef Ox Strength Leader
30 Lamed Shepherd Staff/Teach To/from	20 Kaf Palm To open Allow/tame	10 Yod Arm/hand Work/deed Worship	9 Tet Basket Snake Surround	8 Chet Wall Fence Separation	7 Zayin Plow Weapon Cut off
90 Tsade Man on side Journey Desire/need	80 Pev Mouth Speak Scatter	70 Ayin Eye Watch Experience	60 Samekh Thorn Support Protect	50 Nun Seed Fish/life Continue	40 Mem Water Chaos Blood
400 Tav Cross Mark/sign Covenant	300 Shin Teeth Press/destroy Separate	200 Resh Head Authority First	100 Qof Sun Behind Time		

Revelation 21

So, what exactly do these two letters mean, when put together? (Based on their original pictograph meanings)? If it is interpreted as a word, it would mean **STRENGTH OF THE COVENANT**. Rabbinic tradition has expanded the meaning of the “et” to signify that a word prefixed by the Aleph Tav (“et”) **captures the very essence of a thing**, everything about it. They are getting closer, but still so far away in understanding.

Revelation 21

- One particular verse should have gotten the attention of all Rabbis and scribes...

“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.” (Zechariah 12:10)

- Nothing special seen in English (*other than obvious surface meaning*) or any other language, *but...*

Revelation 21

- Here is what it looks like by adding in **the missing Hebrew word**, not translated into English or any other language...

*...then they will look
on Me אֶת
whom they
pierced.*

Revelation 21

The **aleph tav** (“et”) is found right from the very beginning of the Tanakh....

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ
earth the and heavens the God created beginning the In
ha'aretz v'et ha'shamayim ET Elohiym bara B're'shiyt

Note 7 Hebrew words,
the center word being
the Aleph Tav

And the **את** is found over 7,000 times in the Tanakh. But to fully understand the meaning, we must go to the ***B'rit Chadasha***, the New Covenant, the last book...



Revelation 21

- *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, 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 **Greek letters** –first and last letters.
- In reality, Yeshua is providing the key to understanding the entire OT, the Hebrew scriptures which were written of Him.
- **He is the Aleph Tav, the strength of the covenant, and is written on every single page of scripture.**

Revelation 21

Going back to the pictograph images of the alef and the tav: *“The ‘Ox Head’ is the pictograph for the ancient letter aleph, the first letter of the Hebrew language. The ‘Crossing of the two sticks’ is the pictograph for the ancient Hebrew letter tav that is the last letter in the Hebrew language. However, it is not the end, signifying the initiation of a covenant ‘without end.’ These two letters placed together, called the alef-tav constitute a sacred Paleo Hebrew word which cannot be translated into any earthly language other than the ancient Hebrew text.”* (Source: Strong’s Hebrew Paleo Hebrew Dictionary No. 853)

Revelation 21

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



Revelation 21

- Here Yeshua proclaims His real identity - the Alef and the Tav (beginning and end) seen over 7,000 times in the Hebrew scriptures.
- He says He will give the free waters of the fountain of the water of life. He has spoken of Himself in 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**.”...*

Revelation 21

*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 fountain of water 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)

Revelation 21



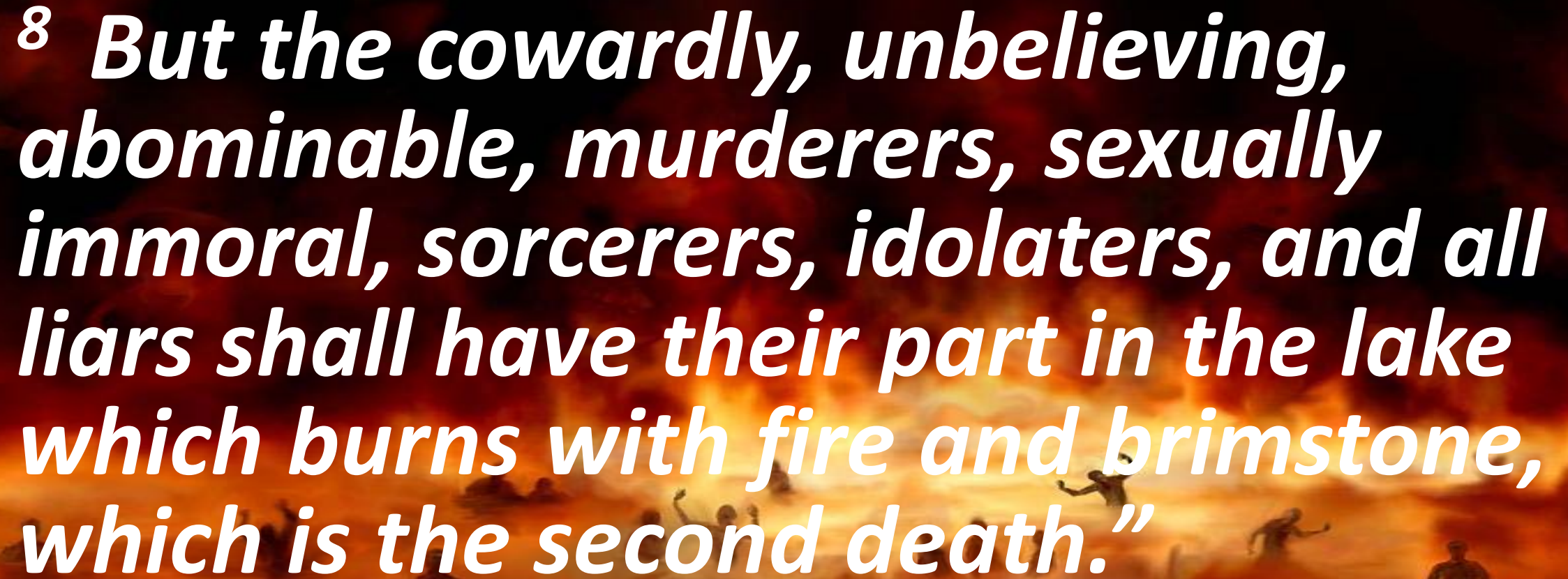
- Also beautifully described in **Ezekiel 47** where the prophet sees a river running under the throne in Jerusalem, deep and wide, with healing properties.
- Water necessary for life - symbolizes ALL our needs being met.

Revelation 21

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

Revelation 21

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.”

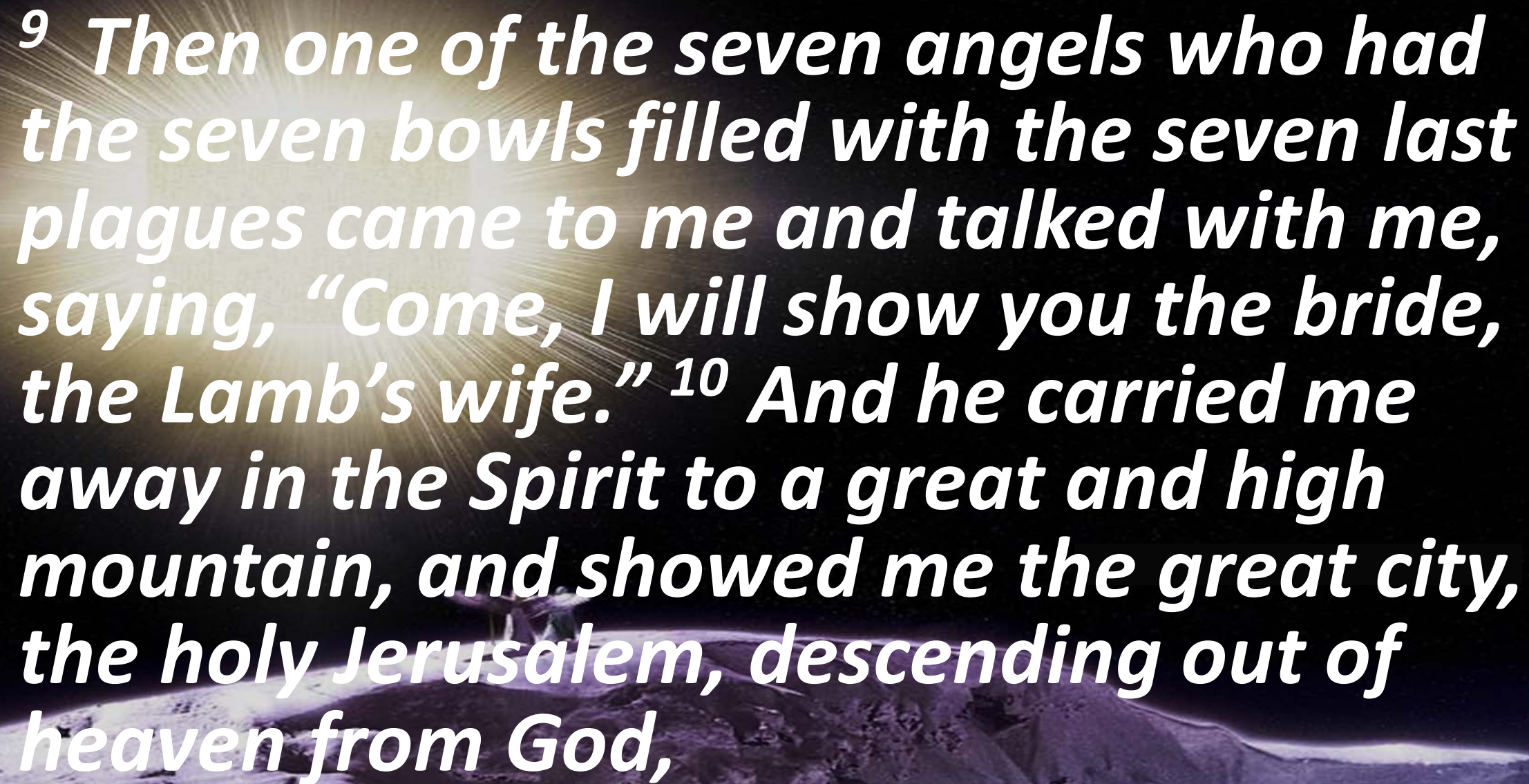
The background of the slide is a dramatic, fiery scene. It features a large, bright orange and yellow fire that fills the upper portion of the frame. Below the fire, several silhouettes of people are visible, appearing to be in a body of water or a lake. The overall atmosphere is one of intense heat and destruction, consistent with the biblical text overlaid on the image.

Revelation 21

- This contrasts the believer who will overcome with the unbeliever who will be in torment in the lake of fire - the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, all liars.
- This existence in the lake of fire is identified as the "**second death.**" Separation from God for eternity. Good news for us. Evil is GONE!
- Note lake of fire is still there, and remains unchanged. This place is eternal hell, *separation from God* (second death). It is beyond our comprehension in its horror.

Revelation 21

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,

A dramatic landscape with a bright light source on the left, casting rays across a dark, rocky terrain. The scene is set against a dark, starry sky, suggesting a celestial or otherworldly environment. The foreground shows rugged, dark rock formations, possibly a mountain range or a valley. The overall mood is mysterious and awe-inspiring.

Revelation 21

Can't
understand
it,

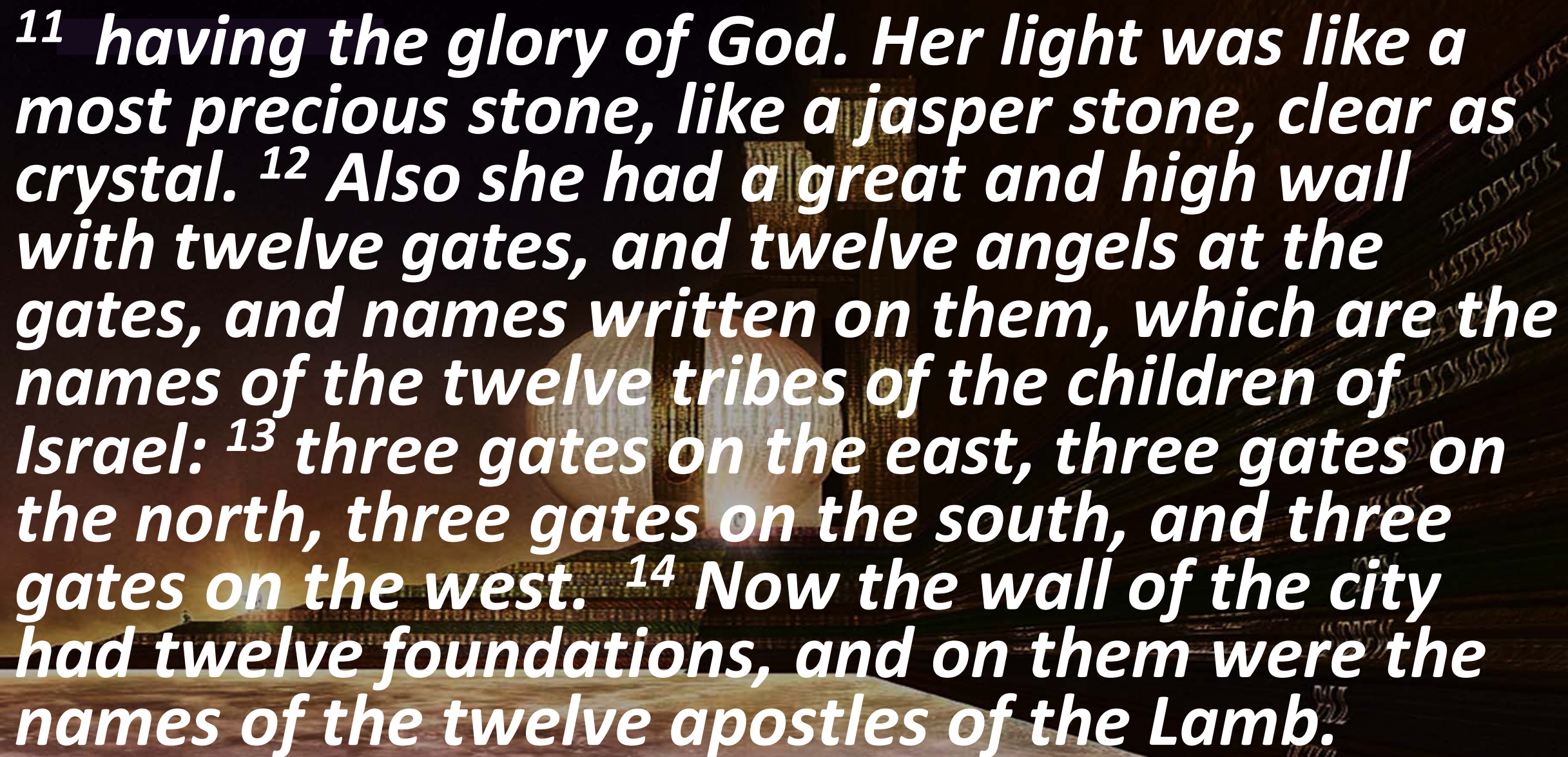


but it will be
spectacular!

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

Revelation 21

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.

The background image shows a city with a prominent wall and several gates. The scene is illuminated by a warm, golden light, possibly from a setting or rising sun. The architecture appears ancient and grand, with intricate details on the walls and gates. The overall atmosphere is one of a divine or heavenly city.

Revelation 21

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

Revelation 21

- See Numbers 1-2 where God gave very specific instructions for how these tribes were to camp, with the Tabernacle (*the visible Presence of God*) in the very middle of the camp.
- Much bigger lesson here than placement of tribes!



Revelation 21

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

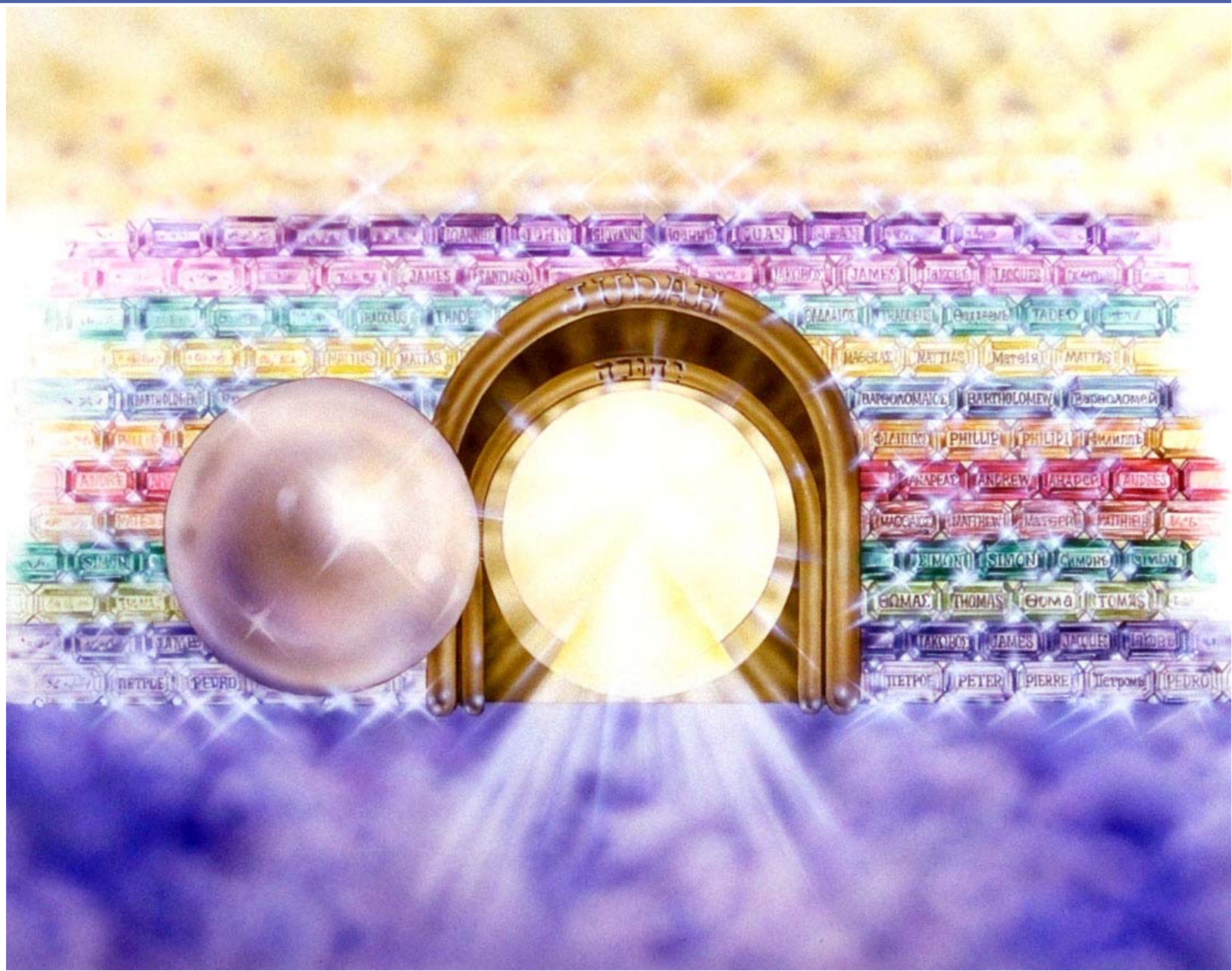


Revelation 21

- Gates also symbolic of the fact that ***“salvation is of the Jews.”*** Access to God is through the Jewish Messiah (names of tribes of Israel on the gates).
- Names of apostles (*also Jewish!*) on foundations suggest they were *the very foundation of the Church*, with Yeshua as the Chief Cornerstone.
- Together, the gates, the foundations and the wall unite both Jews and Gentiles together as one redeemed people – **One Israel.**
- (*Remember studies on Judah and Ephraim!*)

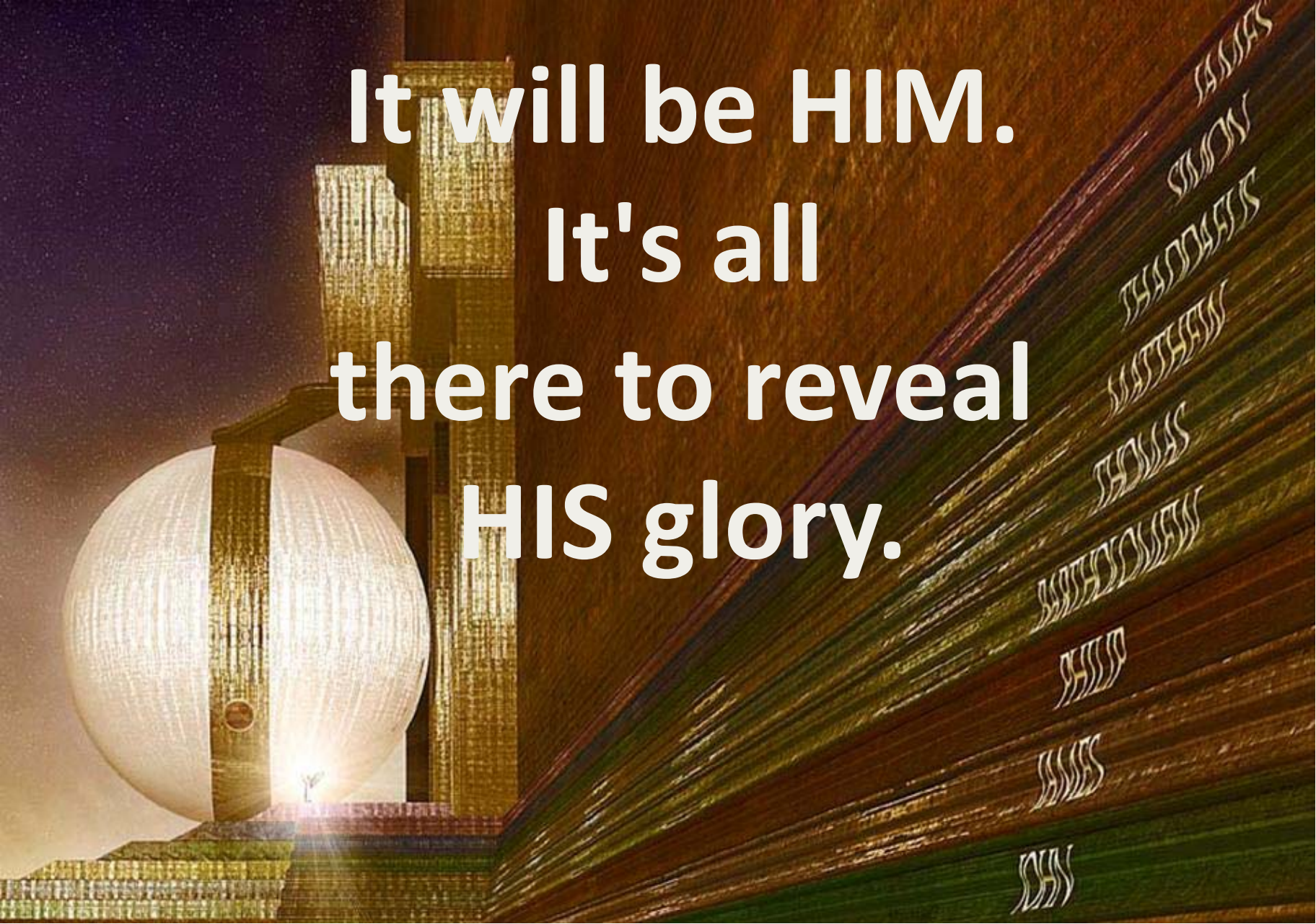
Revelation 21

- Gates are pearl, one huge pearl each (v.21).
- Pearls were most valued of all stones in ancient world - symbolic of *beauty born of pain*



Revelation 21

- Can't possibly imagine this, let alone comprehend it. Beauty will be staggering, ***but won't be city we marvel at.***



It will be HIM.
It's all
there to reveal
HIS glory.

Revelation 21

- We have to keep this in perspective: ***"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)
- We don't understand complete significance of all of this, so speculation and guessing is pretty weak. It's best just to leave it alone and know it will be spectacular, and that all His people are united as one with Him.

Revelation 21

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.

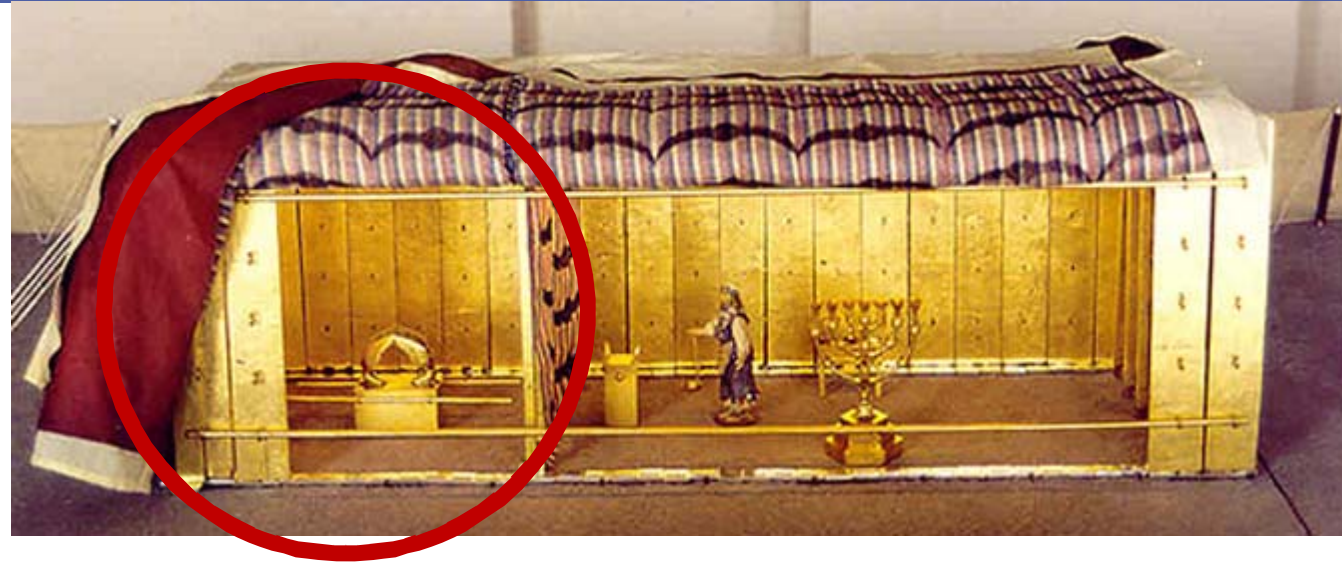
Revelation 21

- Length of a furlong (*Gr. stadia*) varies greatly, most likely somewhere between 600 and 710 feet. If true, this city would be approximately **1400 to 1650 miles long and wide and high!** That is one huge city!
- Some people have attempted to do calculations on this incredible city to determine how many people it could “hold.”
- We don’t have to worry about space, that’s for sure! *(We should make a note here that these are fairly precise descriptions, which may indicate this is NOT a symbolic city, but real.)*



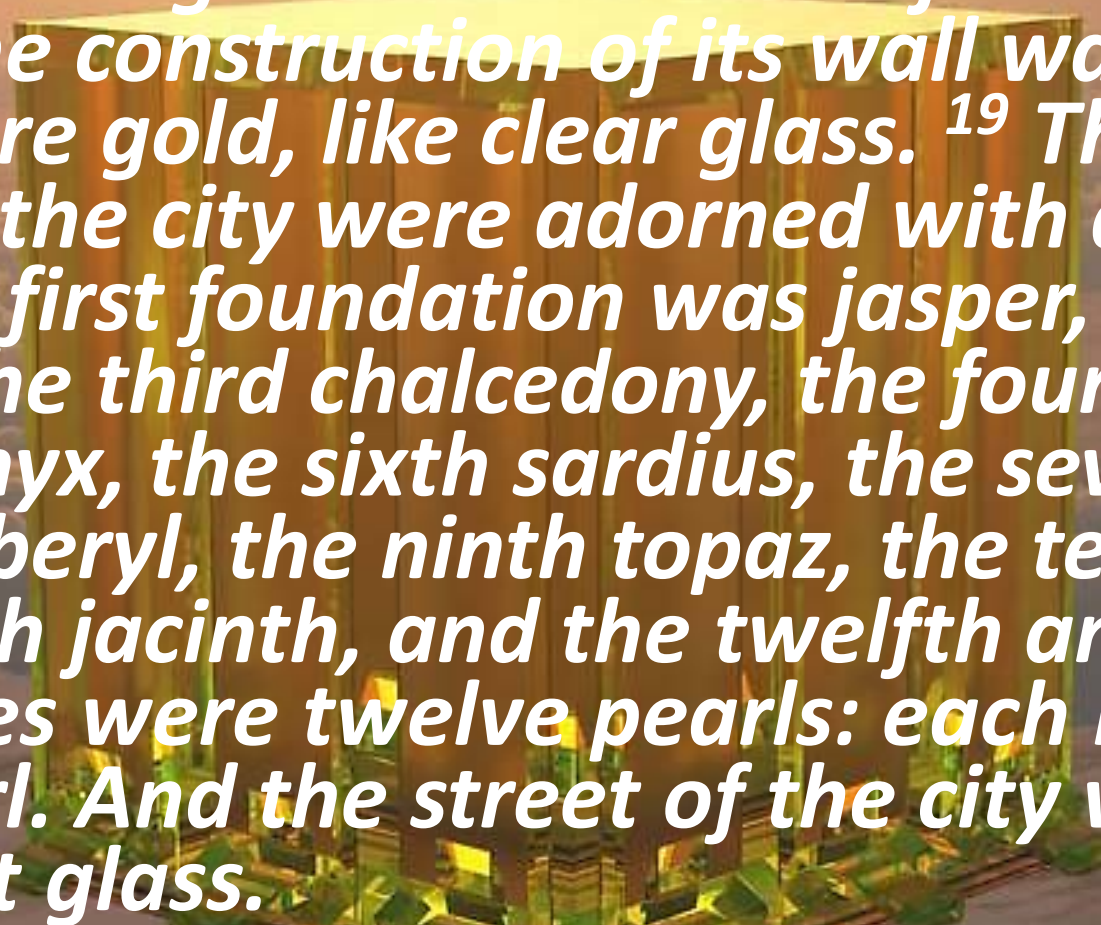
Revelation 21

- This city is a perfect cube. The Holy of Holies was also a perfect cube (1 Kings 6:20).
- Inside the Tabernacle was the Most Holy Place, *the place where God dwelled*, and the High Priest entered only once each year. This was the place God fellowshiped with His people on earth.
- Now, **this city is also a perfect cube**, signifying the dwelling place of God with His people.



Revelation 21

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.



Revelation 21

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

Revelation 21

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

Revelation 21

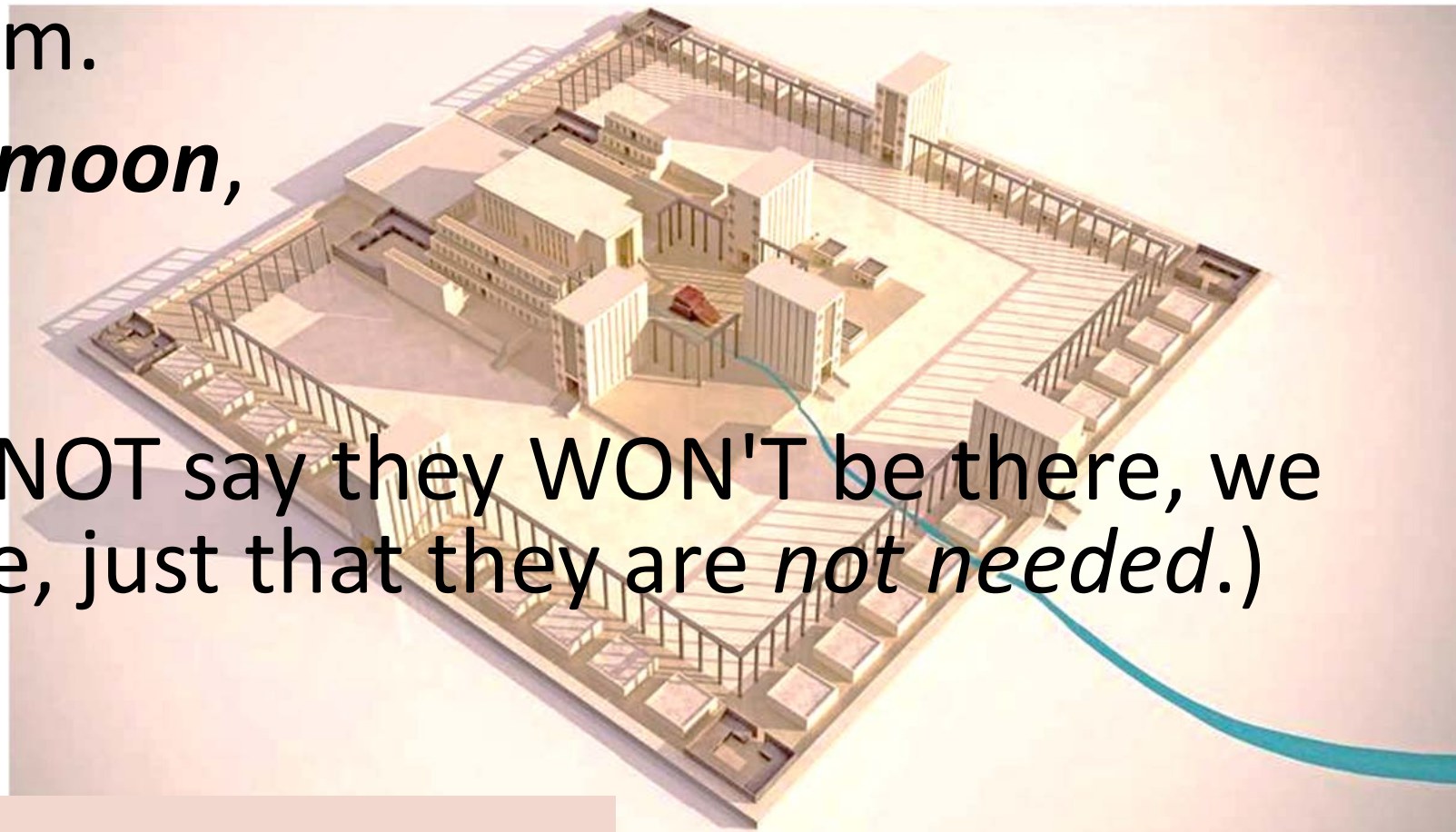
22 But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

Revelation 21

- **No temple** – we don't need one! God now dwells in our midst, and God and Jesus are the temple.
- **God's plan is about reuniting us with Him.** He has always wanted to "dwell with us" or fellowship with us. The earthly Tabernacle/Temple was how He did that. There is no physical temple today, but will likely be rebuilt, to fulfill scripture.
- Today believers are the temple of the Holy Spirit. He still dwells with us. **Easy to see God's heart in His relationship with mankind. Remarkable!!!**

Revelation 21

- There will be a memorial temple during the Millennium (Ezekiel 40-48), but not on the new earth. There is no need for a temple. God is with us forever, and we are with Him.
- ***No need of sun or moon,***
God's glory is light enough.
- (NOTE: That does NOT say they WON'T be there, we don't know for sure, just that they are *not needed*.)



Revelation 21

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.

Revelation 21

- “...the nations of those who are saved...” (critical point) will walk in His light, and kings of the earth will bring Him their glory. All glory belongs to Him now. The earthly inhabitants in this time will give Him the honor and glory due Him.
- **BRINGS UP THE POINT AGAIN:** Is this during the Millennium on earth (*i.e., did the New Jerusalem come down out of heaven at beginning of Millennium?*) or the eternal state? **HARD TO KNOW!**

Revelation 21

- People on earth at this time will bring tribute to the King of Kings. We don't know if there will be individual "nations" as we know them now, or one people who live in the regions of previous nations.
- The book of **Zechariah** gives us 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."*

Revelation 21

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)

Revelation 21

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

Revelation 21

WHAT WILL BE THERE

- New heavens, new earth
- Light
- Glory
- The water of life
- The Redeemed
- The Lamb
- God Almighty in our midst
- Nations
- Incredible beauty and color
- An amazing new Jerusalem
- Streets of transparent gold
- ***And there will be more...***

WHAT WILL NOT BE THERE

- Sea
- Darkness (no shadows!)
- Abominations
- Lies
- Defilement
- Unbelievers
- Tears
- Pain
- Death
- Sorrow
- Crying
- Sin
- Temple