

NEW HEAVEN & NEW EARTH

Revelation 21 & 22

The end of Revelation is the only place we're given a glimpse into what life will be like in the New Heaven and Earth. This was never revealed to the OT saints, but now the Lord begins to open the curtain of that coming period, even as we still wait for the Kingdom to come. In a sense, we can say what will be true for Israel in the Kingdom will finally be made true for all humanity in the New Heaven and Earth.

“ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:1-2 ”

The arrival of the New Jerusalem will be witnessed from the earth, and its appearance will be like that of a bride made ready for a husband. It will be a special moment, giving us something to look forward to even while we live in the 1000 year Kingdom.

“ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Rev 21:1-2 ”

Gates are an entry point, so naming the gates after the twelve tribes reminds us Israel is literally the gateway to redemption and to a knowledge of God. God worked through Israel to fulfill His promises of redemption. So the gates will forever reminds us that the Lord brought us into this city by working through a family called Israel.

Similarly, John says the foundation will memorialize the role of the Apostles. The foundation of the walls will contain twelve different layers of precious stones representing the twelve men who Jesus called. The Apostles were the men God used to establish the Church and the opportunity for Gentiles to enter into the city as well. These two groups together reinforces that Israel and the Church are distinct, yet work together in God's plan.

“ The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal.

Rev 21:16 ”

This massive cubed shaped city, adorned with precious stones is a testimony to God's beauty in creation. Here the Godhead will dwell with His people, not in a temple, because with all sin gone, there is no barrier between God and us, and God now IS the temple.

THE TREE OF LIFE

“ Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for **the healing of the nations**. There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

Rev 22:1-5 ”

The Tree of Life is sustained by the water of life that comes from God's throne, and it provides healing, suggesting that we may need regular restoration or rejuvenation by the eating of its fruit or using its leaves. Doing this will continually remind us that our life is flowing from God to us; something we should daily recognise even now.

In v17, the Lord makes a final call to come to him, to receive him by faith, so that all may drink from the water of life. Such a glorious future we all have! And to conclude the Bible, Jesus reminds us that He is coming **quickly**.

YES, I AM COMING QUICKLY

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

