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## Revelation 21

The thousand year reign of Christ with His bride is over and the White Throne Judgment of every person who ever rejected Christ has been sentenced and cast into the Lake of Fire.

Now John reveals to us the eternal state of all things after the 1,000 year reign, the new heaven and earth, the new Jerusalem and its glory. Rev. 21

Some believe that what is being described from Rev. 21:9-22:7 is a recapitulation of the Millennium by going back and describing it more fully, but if you mark the important differences, they can not be mistaken, you would have to ignore them to hold this view that the passage is describing the Millennium.

### 21:1-8 The New and Eternal Order

21:1 The new heaven and earth.

- 1) The prophet Isaiah speaks clear about the eternal order as well at the end of the Millennial order. Is. 65:17, 20-25; 66:22; 2Pet. 3:10, 13
- 2) John has already made reference to it. Rev. 20:11

- 3) The word new “kainos”, means new in quality not renovation as in the 1,000 year reign but a disappearance of the old
- 4) This is the eternal order, there is no death. vs. 4  
\* Isaiah tells us a child will die at 100 in the millennium. Is 65:20
- 5) There is no more sea.  
\* The present sea covers 2/3 of the earth, 1/3 is land, and much is desert and mountain.

21:2 The Holy City, New Jerusalem.

- 1) The city comes out of heaven from God  
\* There are three heavens. Rev. 3:12; 21:10
- 2) The city is prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
  - a) As Babylon represented a system, people and city, so the New City the abode of the church.  
\* It is a literal city.
  - b) The origin of the city of God, coming down from heaven, the heavenly country, Jerusalem from above. Heb. 11:10-16
  - c) The pictures is symbolic of a bride waiting and prepared for a specific day. Jn 14:1-3
    - 1) Some believe this city will be suspended over the Millennial

earth and be the dwelling of Christ and the church but this is due to not distinguishing the Millennium from the Eternal state and interpret the Eternal state as further details of the Millennium.

- 2) Without doubt the city will be suspended over the New earth in the Eternal state.
- b. It is the city spoken about in the New Testament.
  - 1) Abraham by faith dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country...for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Heb. 12:8-10
  - 2) Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. Heb. 13:13-14

**21:3-4** The new relationship of God with man.

- 1) God will literally live among His people as before the fall in unbroken fellowship, there being no sin. vs. 3
  - a) This is in contrast to the Millennium, which still had sinful people.
  - b) The word tabernacle “skene”, is used for the Incarnation of Jesus. Jn. 1:14

- c) The reference to His people “laos” is plural, indicating Jews and Gentiles
2. God will remove the former things. vs. 4
  - \* There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”
  - a) And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Vs. 4a; Is. 25:8
  - b) There shall be no more death. vs. 4b; Rev. 20:14; 1Cor. 15:26; Is. 25:8
  - c) There shall be no more sorrow. vs. 4c; Is. 65:19
  - d) There will be no more crying or pain. vs. 4d-e
    - 1) As we have noted, Isaiah tells us a child will die at 100 in the millennium, the eternal state has no more death. Is. 65:20
    - 2) Some ask, will we remember our lost loved ones? I don’t think so.
    - 3) Some have asked me, will I know my wife or husband? You will know them better here, perfectly.

**21:5-6** The absolute authority of the Creator of the New eternal order.

- 1) God the Father is the One sitting on the throne of total authority and power. vs. 5a-c
- 2) God commanded the words to be recorded, without doubt for those who would read. vs. 5d-e

- a) He declared the Scriptures to be reliable, “true and faithful”, the title for Jesus. . Vs. 5d-f; Rev. 1:5; 3:14; 19:11
- 3) God declares three things. vs. 6
  - a) The completion of the new work, “It is done!” vs. 6a-b
  - b) The identity of the One who did it, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.” vs. 6c-d  
\* This is the title of the person is Jesus also. Rev. 1:8
  - c) The invitation to drink of the water of life freely is to all who are thirst. vs. 6e
    - 1) Jesus said the same thing on that Great Day of the Feast. Jn. 4:10; 7:38-39
    - 2) Isaiah says, “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. Is. 55:1

**21:7-8** The new society of the New eternal order.

- 1) The saints are in a family relationship, the family of God. vs. 7
  - a) They are identified as overcomers “nikao”, one who is victorious, the

same words used for the seven churches. vs. 7a

\* Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21

- b) They are heirs of the things of God. vs. 7a  
\* By their faith. 1Jn 5:4
- c) They are one with God as sons. vs. 7b  
\* By grace through faith. Eph. 2:8-9
- 2) The aints are separated from God for all eternity. vs. 8
  - a) The sharp contrast is marked by the word “But”, the family of Satan. vs. 8a
  - b) The sinful life-styles are listed. vs. 8a-i
- 3) The abode of unsaved is with their Father Satan. vs. 8i-j
  - a) The final declaration and confirmation of the abode of the unsaved is stated, “Shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone.”
  - b) The final affirmation of the separation, “Which is the second death.” vs. 8j

### **21:9-21 The New Jerusalem Described.**

**21:9-11** The bride the Lambs wife.

- 1) The identity of the city is said to be the bride, the Lamb’s wife. vs. 9
  - a) This is a literal city, not symbolic, the figure of speech is called metonymy,

using one phrase to substitute for another, the city for the bride, the Lamb's wife.

- a) One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues revealed it to John. vs. 9
- 2) The nature of the city is purity. vs. 10-11a
  - a) John was carried away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed him the great city, the holy Jerusalem. vs. 10a-c
  - b) The city descended out of heaven from God. Vs. 10d
    - 1) Her origin is confirmed, descending out of heaven from God. vs. 2
    - 2) It is believe the city may be suspended over the New Earth. vs. 2e, 10d
  - c) The city has the glory of God. vs. 11a
- 3) The beauty is one of a kind. vs. 11b
  - a. Her light was like a most precious stone. vs. 11b
  - b. Her semblance was like a jasper stone. vs. 11c
  - c. Her appearance was clear as crystal. vs. 11d
  - d. This is the city Abraham look for, "By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and

Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Heb. 11:9-10

- 21:12-14** The number of walls and gates of the city. vs. 12-14
- 1) There is a great and high wall having twelve gates. vs. 12a
  - 2) There are twelve angels guarding each of the gates. vs. 12b
  - 3) The gates have the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. vs. 12c-d
  - 4) There are three gates on the east, north, south and west side, no one being at any disadvantage to have access. vs. 13
  - 5) The wall of the city had twelve foundations, each having a name of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. vs. 14
    - \* The prophets and apostles are the foundation of the church. Eph. 2:20

- 21:15-17** The measurements of the city and wall. vs. 15-17
- 1) The one having the measuring rod is the angel, it is of gold. vs. 15
  - 2) The city measured out came to twelve-thousand furlongs, approximately 1500 miles square. vs. 16
    - a) The city is a cube not a sphere.

- b) The city is not only flat surface area but the volume will be occupied (about the size of the moon)
  - c) The Holy of Holies was a perfect cube foreshadowing the city in heaven.
  - d. The city is larger than the city of Ezekiel during the Millennium. Ezk. 48
- 3) The wall measured out one-hundred-forty-four cubits. Vs. 17
- a) A cubit is eighteen inches, though there are shorter and longer cubits.
  - b) That would make the walls to be 216 feet.
  - c) That should not pose any problem since the walls of Babylon, at the time of Nebuchadnezzar were 300 feet high, 80 feet thick and extended 35 feet below the ground.

**21:18-21** The constructing material is listed.

- 1) The walls are of jasper. vs. 18a
  - 2) The city of pure gold, like clear glass. vs. 18b-c
  - 3) The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones, twelve to be specific. vs. 19-20
- \* The breastplate of the High Priest had twelve stones made up of four rows, three in each, bearing the names of

the twelve tribes of Israel over his heart. Ex. 28:15-21

- 4) The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. vs. 21a-b
  - a) Pearls were Gentile gem not Jewish.
  - b) The Parable of the Pearl of great price, who sold all to purchase the field to obtain the pearl. Matt. 13:46
- 5) The street of the city, literally the broad way, was pure gold, like transparent glass. vs. 21c-d
  - \* That which is so coveted here on earth, is used as common building material.

**21:22-27** **The Glory of the New Jerusalem**

**21:22** There is no temple. vs. 22

- 1) John saw no temple in the city. vs. 22a
- 2) The reason is given, "For the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple." vs. 22b
  - a) There have been two temples.
    - 1)) The temple of Solomon.
    - 2)) The temple of Ezra and Zerubbabel, after the Babylonian captivity.
  - \* Herod's temple was an enlarging and beautifying of Zerubbabel's temple.

- b) There will be a third temple, which will be built by the Antichrist and he will stop the sacrifices at half way point. Matt. 24:15; Dan. 9:27  
 \* At this time he will enter the temple and declare he is God and demand all to worship him and to receive his mark or be killed. Rev. 13:16, 17; 14:9; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20
- c) There will be a fourth temple, the one in Ezekiel During the Millennium. Ezk. 40-48
- 1)) All will have to come or receive no rain at the Feast of Tabernacle. Zech. 14:16-17
  - 2)) But during the “eternal State”, God Himself will be the temple, the abiding place of His people.

**21:23** There is no sun or moon.

- 1) The city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it. vs. 23a  
 \* They were created to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and **seasons**, and for days and years.” Gen. 1:14
- 2) The reason is given once again, “For the glory of God illuminated it.” vs. 23b
- 3) The source of its glory and light is given, “The Lamb is its light.” vs. 23c

- a) Isaiah spoke of the Eternal state and city of God, “The sun shall no longer be your light by day, Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, And your God your glory. Your sun shall no longer go down, Nor shall your moon withdraw itself; For the LORD will be your everlasting light, And the days of your mourning shall be ended. Is. 60:19-20
- b) The Old Testament Shekinah glory is eternally present, “Having the glory of God”. vs. 11a
- c) He was the true light. Jn. 1:9
- d) Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” Jn. 8:12
- e) John tells us, “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.” 1Jn. 1:5

**21:24** There will be no rebellion or opposition.

- 1) The nations and kings that will exist. are those of the Millennial reign that did not follow Satan’s last rebellion at the end of the thousand years.
- 2) In the Millennium, though Jesus reigns with a rod of iron, those living on the earth repopulate, having sin nature and a free will.

- 3) Those in the Eternal State and the New Jerusalem are in their glorified bodies, no sin or sin nature will exist.  
 \* We are not told what kind of existence of what they will be doing on the new earth!
- 4) Since the New Jerusalem appears to be suspended over the New Earth and these nations and kings come and bring their glory into the Heavenly City, the inference is clear, they do not reside in the city but on the New Earth and come to the New Jerusalem.

**21:25** There will be no night at all- complete access eternally.

- 1) All nations, kings and people will have equal and complete access in the Eternal State and New Jerusalem.
- a) "Its gates shall not be shut at all by day". vs. 25a
- b) The explanation is that there shall be no night there. vs. 25b

**21:26-27** The purpose of their pilgrimages.

- 1) The purpose of their existence and coming to God is stated, "And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it." vs. 26
- a) This has already been stated. vs. 24

- b) Both words are the same, all that man will glory in and honor will be God.
- 2) The only one entering the city of the New Jerusalem are the glorified saints. vs. 27
- a. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie. vs. 27a-b
- b. But only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. vs. 27c
- 1) The church, who reigned with Christ during the Millennium.
- 2) The tribulation saints martyred for their faith and those who survived.
- 3) The nation of Israel, the reconciled wife of Yahweh, fulfilling all the promises of the Old Covenant and the New.
- 4) Those saved during the Millennium and didn't follow Satan's last rebellion.
- c. The author to the Hebrews declares, "For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come." Heb. 13:14