

I. New Heaven and New Earth (21:1)

Verse 1

Then I saw (horao)

- 1) a new heaven (kainos = fresh/better not new in time)
- 2) and a new earth, (kainos ge)

Which heaven? The Bible speaks of three heavens: 1) earths atmosphere, 2) universe, 3) heaven where God reigns

for the first heaven } the earths atmosphere
and the first earth } and the planet itself
had passed away, (aperchromai)

"Passed away" does not necessarily mean destroyed, but rather transformed into something new

- 3) and there was no longer any sea. (thalassa)

The Bible often speaks of the new heaven (Isa. 65:17-19; Ps. 102:25-27; 2 Pet. 3:12-13) No sea = end of chaos/separation

II. The New Jerusalem (21:2-4)

Verse 2

I saw (horao)

the Holy (hagios) City (polis),
the new (kainos) Jerusalem,

Our third "new" – heaven, earth, and Jerusalem

- 1) coming down
- 2) out of heaven
- 3) from God,

} Not man made!

prepared (hetoimazo = fit for the task) as a bride
beautifully dressed
for her husband.

The most beautiful and anticipated moment in a persons life is the moment of marriage. This is how the Spirit describes this scene.

Verse 3

And I heard (akouo)

a loud voice

from the throne saying, [iduo = Behold]

- 1) "Now the dwelling (skene = to tabernacle, Jn 1:14)
of God

is with (meta = aoung) men,

- 2) and he will live (skene) with them.

- 3) They will be his people,

- 4) and God himself
will be with them (meta)
[and be their God].

This states God's desire and man's purpose! The fall is healed!

Verse 4

- 5) He will wipe (exalephio) every tear
from their eyes. (tears from the past)

} Past
tense

- 6) There will be no more death (thanatos)

- 7) or mourning (penthos)

- 8) or crying (krauge)

} Present
tense

- 9) or pain, (ponos)

for the old order of things (protos = first things)
has passed away." (aperchromai)

This "New Jerusalem" is distinguished first by that fact that God is actually present, second by the fact of what is NOT there. We will see more of the things that are NOT present there in future verses.

III. All Things New (21:5-8)

Verse 5

He who was seated on the throne said, [iduo = Behold]

"I am making everything (pas) new (kainos) !"

This was Paul's hope: 2 Cor. 4:16. 5:17 – "all things become new"

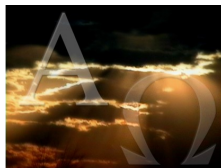
God is speaking directly from the throne

The new reality of heaven begins with the voice of God just like the human reality began with the voice of God in creation!

Then he said,

"Write this down,
for these words are
trustworthy
and true."

This points to the fact that much of what is being written is for the sake of the reader and not John.



Verse 6

He said to me:

"It is done.

What is it? The plan – the scroll – the redemption of man

I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the Beginning and the End.

The Greek alphabet begins with Alpha and ends with Omega

To him who is thirsty
I will give to drink
without cost
from the spring [WellSpring]
of the water
of life.

God's proof is in
the fact that he
provided Christ
by grace to a lost
world!

Verse 7

He who overcomes (nikao)
will inherit (kleronomeo = obtain by name) all this,
and I will be his God
and he will be my son.

More than the fruits of heaven is the joy of intimate relationship with The Father and the privilege of receiving the inheritance of our family.

Verse 8

But the

- 1) cowardly, (delio = timid – "no faith/little faith")
- 2) the unbelieving, (apistos = not faithful)
- 3) the vile, (bdelysso = disgusting, hateful)
- 4) the murderers, (phoneus)
- 5) the sexually immoral, (pornos = a male prostitute)
- 6) those who practice magic arts, (pharmakos)
- 7) the idolaters (eidololatres = idol worshippers)
- 8) and all liars— (pseudes = lead others astray)

their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur.
This is the second death."

This is a warning to those who read this book in the present.

IV. A Picture of the New Jerusalem (21:9-21)

Verse 9

One of the seven angels

who had the seven bowls
full of the seven last plagues

came and said to me,

"Come,
I will show you (deiknyo = proof) the bride,
the wife of the Lamb."

Verse 10

And he carried me (apophero) away
in the Spirit

to a mountain (oros = a physical place on earth)
great
and high,
and showed me (deiknyo) the Holy City,
Jerusalem,
coming down
out of heaven
from God.

The mystical union between place and people. The bride is the church and the place is the New Jerusalem they are separate yet one.

Verse 11

It shone (echo = having)

with the glory (doxa) of God,
and its [her] brilliance (phoster = reflected light like the moon)
was like that (hos) of a very precious jewel,
like a jasper,
clear as crystal.

Verse 12

It had

- 1) a great, high wall (teichos = an enclosure around a city)
Not needed for defense – a sign of power and authority
 - 2) with twelve gates, (pylon = doorway)
- The 12 fest begins!
- 3) and with twelve angels
at the gates.

Not guarded for protection, but honored with welcome

On the gates

were written the names
of the twelve tribes of Israel.

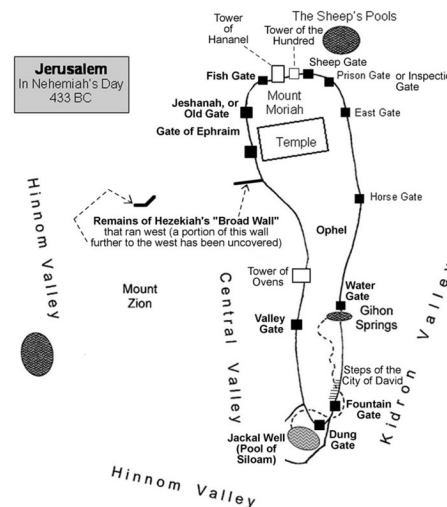
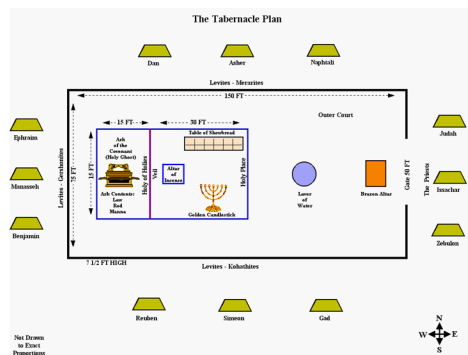
God remembers his covenant with the tribes.

Verse 13

There were

three gates
on the east,
three
on the north,
three
on the south
and three
on the west.

This reminds us of the tabernacle and the tribes (Num. 2)



Sheep Gate
Fish Gate
Old Gate
Valley Gate
Dung Gate
Fountain Gate
Water Gate
Horse Gate
East Gate
Inspection Gate
Ephraim Gate
Prison Gate

JERUSALEM OLD CITY

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Modern Jerusalem has 8 gates, but the New Jerusalem with have 12.



AKA "Eastern Gate" where the messiah will enter Jerusalem at his second coming (Ezek.43:4)

Verse 14

The wall of the city
had twelve foundations,
and on them were the names
of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The twelve
«12»s of
the New
Jerusalem,
the sign
of the
perfect
covenant!

1	The twelve gates	«She had twelve gates [...]» (Revelation 21:12)
2	The twelve angels	«[...] and at the gates twelve angels.» (Rev. 21:12)
3	The twelve tribes	«[...] the names of the twelve tribes.» (Rev. 21:12)
4	The 12 foundations	«The city had twelve foundations.» (Rev. 21:14)
5	The twelve names	«On them were the 12 names.» (Rev. 21:14 NASV)
6	The twelve apostles	«[...] the 12 apostles of the Lamb.» (Rev. 21:14)
7	The 12 000 furlongs	«[...] twelve thousand furlongs [...]» (Rev. 21:16)
8	↪ The two «12»s of the 144 cubits	«He measured the wall thereof, a hundred and forty and four cubits.» (Rev. 21:17) [12 x 12 = 144]
9		
10	The twelve stones	The stones are listed in Revelation 21:19,20.
11	The twelve pearls	«The 12 gates were twelve pearls.» (Rev. 21:21)
12	The twelve fruits	«The tree of life [...] bore 12 fruits.» (Rev. 22:2)

Verse 15

The angel

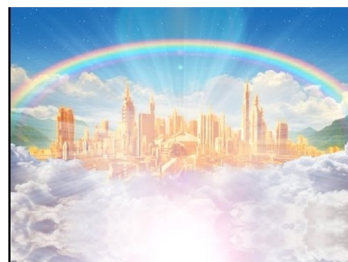
who talked with me
had a measuring rod (metron kalamos)
of gold
to measure
the city,
its gates
and its walls.

John measured the earthly temple as a preparation for judgement, here he measures the Holy City as a sign of glory and honor for all mankind.

Verse 16

The city

was laid out like a square,
as long as it was wide.

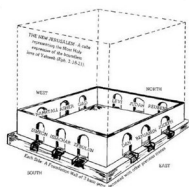


“Square” = tetragonos = four corners

He measured the city
with the rod
and found it to be

12,000 stadia (1 stadia = 600 ft) in length,

Therefor (600 X 12,000)/5,280 = 1363.63 miles
and as wide
and high
as it is long.



Verse 17

He measured its wall
and it was

144 (12 x 12) cubits (pechys = 18 in.) thick,

Therefore 144 cubits x 18 inches = 2592 in/12 = 216 ft.

by man's measurement,
which the angel was using.

The wall is 216 ft. thick. It does not necessarily mean that the wall is 1,400 miles tall, but the tallest structure in the city would be that tall.

Verse 18

The wall

was made of jasper,
and the city
of pure gold,
as pure as glass.

This is not a sign of wealth – because there is no wealth without need for commerce. However, the beauty of these stones and metals is the honor to God.

Verse 19

The foundations (representing the 12 apostles)
of the city walls
were decorated

with every kind of precious stone.

- 1) The first foundation was jasper,
- 2) the second sapphire,
- 3) the third chalcedony,
- 4) the fourth emerald,

Verse 20

- 5) the fifth sardonyx,
- 6) the sixth carnelian,
- 7) the seventh chrysolite,
- 8) the eighth beryl,
- 9) the ninth topaz,
- 10) the tenth chrysoprase,
- 11) the eleventh jacinth,
- 12) and the twelfth amethyst.



Verse 21

The twelve gates
were twelve pearls,
each gate made of a single pearl.

The great street
of the city
was of pure gold,
like transparent glass.

This description of the city seems impossible to our minds, but don't forget this is NOT human construction it is from the heart of God and should be way beyond our comprehension!

V. God is the center (21:22-27)

Verse 22

I did not see (ou horao)
a temple (naos = holy place) in the city,
because the Lord God Almighty (pankrator)
and the Lamb
are its temple.

The temple is not destroyed or removed, but NOW everything is holy and God's and Christ's presence is everywhere the same – so the temple concept has faded into unity with the entirety of heaven.

From prophecy (OT) to building to people (Church age) to memorial (millennial kingdom) to heaven itself, the temple concept has been leading up to this climax throughout history.

Verse 23

The city
does not need the sun
or the moon
to shine on it,
for the glory of God
gives it light, (photizo = reflected light)
and the Lamb
is its lamp. (lychnos = candle)

Verse 24

The nations (ethnos = people groups)
will walk by its light,
and the kings
of the earth
will bring their splendor into it.

One of the mysteries of Revelation! Who are these kings of the earth? People could be divided by location throughout this huge city and each location could be ruled by a "king" appointed by God.

Verse 25

On no day
will its gates
ever be shut,
for there will be no night there.

Like “sea” the “night” represents not just a lack of light, but evil and chaos.

What is outside the Holy City? This man simply be the truth that there is no need for closed gates anymore because there is no fear in eternity.

Verse 26

The glory
and honor
of the nations
will be brought
into it.

Verse 27

Nothing impure (koinos = common – treating the holy as plain)
will ever enter it,
nor will anyone
who does what is shameful (bdelygma = idols)
or deceitful, (psuedos = lying to decieve)
but only those
whose names are written
in the Lamb's book of life.

This is a summation is a warning for the present reader to avoid those impure things that could limit access to heaven and the Holy City.