

## Revelation 21 – The New Heavens and the New Earth

By Holly Effiom

VV1-3

What does John see? What happened to the first heaven and earth?

Does this mean that there was a problem with the first heaven? What was the problem?

What was the problem with Jerusalem?

When and where in Revelation was the holy city closed off in the earth? Rev 11:1-2

Is it the church's responsibility to rebuild Jerusalem, or retake the Temple Mount from the Muslims?  
Why or why not?

What did John hear? What does it mean "...the tabernacle of God is now with men"?

Which of the feasts of the Lord is a celebration of this event?

Do any of the other feasts of the Lord correspond to events in Revelation?

**LESSON:** When we studied the Feasts of the Lord in Lev 23, we discussed how the Gospels were the explanation of how Jesus was the fulfillment of Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, AND the Atonement– so that man can have reconciliation with God. Remember, before any acceptable sacrifice could be made, the sanctuary and all its implements had to be cleansed with the blood of atonement (Lev 16) – the blood of Jesus.

When Jews celebrate these feasts of the Lord, they are commemorating in ritual what Jesus has already done. When they celebrate the feasts of Weeks, Trumpets, Tabernacles, they are looking forward, in ritual, to what Jesus will do for us all.

As to "what Jesus will do", Revelation is an explanation of events that will occur during the feast of Weeks, Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles. Notice, I mention "atonement" again. Jesus' sacrifice was "substitutionary" for all who choose to be reconciled to God and know they cannot do it in their own strength. By the time the marriage supper of the Lamb takes place, as mentioned in Rev 19 and 20, it is the blood of those who have rejected the blood of Christ that will be spilled to atone for their offense against God. Hence the vision of Rev 14:14-20 – these rejected the substitution; therefore, substitution is not applied to them, the Law is, and *without* mercy. Hallelujah!

V4-5

What are some of the former things that will pass away?

What will have happened to death?

What will happen to pain?

Who is it that is sitting upon this throne? Is this the throne in Rev 20:11 or that mentioned in Rev 12:5?

What about the thrones in Rev 20:4? Are these thrones separate or different from the throne in this verse?

What does this tell us about what "thrones"?

In what way does God make everything new?

**LESSON:** Notice that John is interacting directly with God! He is looking upon God and the throne of God, and he's not fainting or feeling weak. This is new! Remember how Isaiah was weakened, seeing his own corruption in the presence of God? Remember how Daniel was weak in the mere presence of an angel who was in the presence of God? Remember how Nadab and Abihu, sons of Aaron the priest, were struck dead when entering incorrectly into the presence of God? John will be able to look upon God.

Could this be what was meant in Rev 20:11, "... from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away..."? The things of the world will no longer obscure God from our view.

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Ultimately, all “thrones” are God’s throne. In other words, there is only one throne that rules. This is why all dominion, in and under the earth, in the heavens, *everywhere*, is in God’s hands. Hallelujah!

What does this teach us about what thrones are; their purpose? When God directed Moses to speak to the rock and he instead struck the rock before the children of Israel, God disciplined Moses and Aaron because they did not *believe* Him, and therefore, did not represent Him appropriately before the children of Israel. Num 20:12

All thrones are representative of God Himself, they, therefore, are to be use to:

1. Show the leader’s believe in God before those he’s leading – the leader must live by his own words; and
2. Rightly serve those being led.

VV6-8 (1 Cor 15:20-28)

Where before did we hear “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end”? Who was speaking it in Rev 1:8? Who is speaking in this verse?

What is God’s promise to those who overcome? Is it the same promise made by Jesus to the churches? Rev 2 and 3

Who are those that will *not* overcome? Will God wait any longer for them to “get it together”? What will happen to them?

Why is being fearful so bad? Is being fearful as bad as being a liar? Is the fate of the fearful one different from that of the liar?

Is being an unbeliever the same as being a liar? Does God direct the church to kill those who do not believe as we do?

Who will be judging those who are unbelieving? Rev 20:11-15

What is it to be an abomination according to God? Lev 18

What is it to be a whoremonger? How is it comparable to murder?

What is sorcery? What is the goal of sorcery? How is it related to idolatry? What is another name for idolatry, from God’s perspective?

What will happen to those who have any of these characteristics?

Who else is in the lake of fire? What is another name for the lake of fire?

In what way are those in the lake of fire “dead”? Rev 19:20, 20:10

How does 1 Cor 15:20-28 correlate to this vision?

**LESSON:** In 1 Cor 15:20-28, Paul explains the completion of Jesus’s work in God Almighty, and the day when He will return the kingdom to God Almighty, after bringing everything into subjection to Himself, Jesus will once again subject Himself to God Almighty. Rev 20:11-15 shows us that God Almighty reserves the judgments of life and death to Himself. If you accept this premise, what kind of judgment is taking place in the first resurrection (Rev 20:4-6), among the saints and angels of God?

VV 9-10 The New Jerusalem

Which angel is speaking to John?

What do mountains represent, according to Rev 17:9-11?

How many mountains does John see in these verses? So, does John’s vision apply to the tribulation?

What are the characteristics of this mountain?

What did this mountain represent?

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How is the Lamb's wife described here? Who else was described as a "city"?

What does it mean to be a "city" from God's perspective, since He describes both the New Jerusalem AND Babylon the great as great cities?

### A Tale of Two Cities

New Jerusalem, Rev 21:9-21	Babylon the great, Rev 18:11-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The wife – Rev 21:9 – New Jerusalem is referred to as the bride, the Lamb's wife. What is a wife?</li> <li>• If the Lamb's wife is the New Jerusalem, what is the <i>church</i>? Rev 19:8</li> <li>• The wife has the glory of God (Rev 21:11).</li> <li>• Does the wife lack any of the precious and beautiful things found in Babylon?</li> <li>• How are "things" different in the New Jerusalem?</li> <li>• What do the 12 gates in the New Jerusalem represent? Who is at the gates? Where are the 12 gates located?</li> <li>• Whose names are written on the gates? What is the purpose of a gate? What were the gates made of?</li> <li>• What is significant about pearls?</li> <li>• What does this tell us about the work of the 12 tribes of Israel and their original purpose in the earth?</li> <li>• According to V14, what is holding up the walls of the city?</li> <li>• What does this tell us about the work of the apostles and their purpose?</li> <li>• What did the 12 foundations look like?</li> <li>• Of what are the streets of the city made? What does pure gold look like?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The harlot – Rev 17:1 – Babylon is referred to as "the whore that sits upon many waters." Why is she a whore?</li> <li>• Whose glory does the harlot have? Rev 18:7</li> <li>• What precious things does Babylon have? Rev 18:12</li> <li>• What are the precious things "called" in Babylon?</li> <li>• According to Rev 18:13, who else falls into the category of "merchandise"?</li> <li>• Who were the great men of the earth in Babylon? Rev 18:23</li> <li>• What happens to their work? Will it exist forever, like the works of the children of Israel and the apostles? Why or why not?</li> </ul>

VV 22-27

Will there be a temple in the New Jerusalem?

Will there be any need for a temple? Why or why not?

What does this tell us regarding our condition now? Is there a need for a church and for regular fellowship now? Why or why not?

Will there be a need for the sun or the moon? Does this mean that there will be no darkness?

God and the Lamb are mentioned as the Lights of the city, but what about the Holy Spirit? Where is He?

What else will be affected by the lack of the sun and moon?

Will only Americans come to the New Jerusalem? Will "kings of the earth" visit the city? Will they be *merchants*?

Will the goal of the kings or nations be to conquer the city?

Will the gates ever close? What about at night?

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Who will be the only people allowed in the New Jerusalem?

LESSON: Rev 12:17 taught us *who* the “saints of the Most High God” are – not just Jews, but rather the *faithful* ones who keep the commandments of God and those who have the testimony of Jesus Christ, even in the midst of great tribulation – *this* is the church of Jesus Christ. We’ve known the church as the “bride of Christ”; and now, we know the church IS the New Jerusalem – it is the very seat of God’s government here in the earth.

This is interesting to consider. When you think of who the church consists – especially from Jesus’s messages to the churches in Rev 2 and 3 – you see that they are the poor and lowly; the humble, the suffering; the persistent in the faith; those who are punished or ridiculed for doing right. To God those are *leadership* qualities which will be rewarded in His kingdom with leadership in the earth. Hallelujah and Amen!!

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