

Revelation Paradise

Revelation 21-22

David Feddes

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

⁸ But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

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 the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

¹¹ It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.¹² It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates.

On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.¹³ There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west.¹⁴ The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

¹⁵ The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls.¹⁶ The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long.

¹⁷ He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, by man's measurement, which the angel was using.¹⁸ The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass.

¹⁹ The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, 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 gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.

²² I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.²⁵ On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.

²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.²⁷ Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.

⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

All things new

... the rebirth, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne... (Matt 19:28-29)

He must remain in heaven until the time of the restoration of all things. (Acts 3:21)

The creation itself will be freed from its bondage to decay into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. (Rom 8:21)

Earthly paradise

You have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign **on the earth.** (Revelation 5:9-10)

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit **the earth.** (Matthew 5:5)

Your kingdom come, your will be done, **on earth** as it is in heaven. (Matt 6:10)

Physical paradise

- Our final home is on a physical earth. Heaven comes down to earth.
- God's original creation will not just be destroyed. This world (like our bodies) will perish but then rise in glory.
- Eternal pleasures on the new earth come from the Creator of this earth.

Not in paradise

- Satan
- Evil
- Death
- Crying
- Pain
- Curse
- Sea
- Night
- Lights
- Temple
- Marriage
- Zoo

Paradise

- Garden
- Temple
- City
- Family

Garden

- Tree of life: healing, life, pleasure
- River of life: pure, ever-deepening
- High mountain: grandeur, awe
- Working, relaxing, playing
- Animal harmony under human rule
- All creation singing and dancing
- Walking and talking with God

Temple

- God's permanent dwelling on earth
- Enormous, cubic Holy of Holies
- Shekinah shining, see his face
- All priests, Name on foreheads
- We are God's temple, adoring Him
- God and Christ are our temple

City

- Throne: God and Lamb reign
- Gates: pearl, open, angels, 12 tribes
- Foundations: 12 apostles' names
- Unity: 12,000 stadia cubed; all nations
- Safety: wall of 144 (12x12) cubits
- Beauty: gold, jewels, radiance
- Authority: ruling earth and angels

| New Jerusalem | Old Babylon |
|---|---|
| pure bride, wife of the Lamb (21:2,9) | whore fornicating with earthly kings (17:1-2) |
| enlightens (21:24) | corrupts (17:2, 19:2) |
| attracts kings (21:24) | bullies kings (17:18) |
| preserves cultural treasures (21:26) | markets bodies and souls (18:11-13) |
| no sorcery, no filth, no falsehood (21:8, 27) | sorcery, filth, falsehood (17:4,5; 18:23) |
| water of life (21:6; 22:1) | drunk with blood (17:6) |
| unconquerable (21:17) | "Fallen, fallen" (18:2) |

Family

- Jesus' bride, love and delight
- Father's children and heirs
- Reunion, fellowship, knowing
- Feasting and eternal pleasures
- Delighting in our Lord
- Our Lord delighting in us

Paradise

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