

## REVELATION Chapter 21

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**INTRODUCTION:** *As we have stressed throughout this book, we must keep the context! We have seen the saints persecuted, and we have seen God's wrath poured out upon the persecutors. In chapters 17 and 18, we saw the Great Whore destroyed. In chapters 19 and 20, we saw the old dragon, Satan, destroyed! Now in chapters 21 and 22 we see the people of God standing victorious, having come through this severe persecution. With God's help, they have won the battle, and now, rest and victory are sweet!*

### I. NEW HEAVEN & NEW EARTH FOR THE CHURCH, 21:1-8

A. *"New heaven and a new earth...the first heaven and the first earth were passed away."*

1. **"NEW"** = Gk, **KAINOS** = new, fresh; a thing of late date or origin; something novel, strange; another possession, relation, or state – new as different, in contrast to the old (for other uses of the word, compare such passages as **2 Corinthians 5:17; John 13:34; 1 Corinthians 11:25; Ephesians 4:24; Hebrews 8:8; 9:15**; see also **Revelation 2:17; 3:12; 5:9; 14:3; 21:1, 2, 5**). .
2. Note the use of apocalyptic language (*compare Isaiah 13:6-22; 34:1-17; 65:17ff; Ezekiel 11:19; 36:26-36; Micah 1:3-6; Zephaniah 1:2 ff; 2 Peter 3:13*).
3. The saints had lived among the kingdoms of God and had been severely persecuted, but God's vindication and vengeance had come and the situation had changed.
4. Without the restraint of the heathen Roman government, changed conditions in society would favor Christianity, and cause it to become universal (*Isaiah 11:9*), which is exactly what happened! (*see also Jeremiah 1:10; Habakkuk 2:14; Romans 10:18; 16:26; Colossians 1:23*)
5. **"No more sea"** – the sea out of which the Beast arose was no more.

B. *"The holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven...bride"*

1. The **HOLY CITY** is the "tabernacle of God among men" – it is the **CHURCH!** (*compare 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20; Ephesians 2:20ff; 1 Peter 2:5-10*).
2. The **NEW JERUSALEM** is the **CHURCH!** (*compare Galatians 4:26; Hebrews 12:22-23*).
3. The **BRIDE** is the **CHURCH!** (*compare Romans 7:4; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:22-33*).

**THE PICTURE HERE IS OF THE LORD'S CHURCH!**

C. Thus, a *new state of affairs*!

1. The persecutor and the persecution is gone – Jesus and His people reign!
  - a. No more tears: *persecution is over*
  - b. Death has ceased: *martyrdom is finished*
  - c. No more sorrow, crying, or pain: *no more tribulation*
  - d. First things passed away: *the surroundings of the church under persecution.*
2. The One on the throne makes new surroundings – these things are faithful and true!
  - a. John sees these changes – “*new*” – as having already taken place.
  - b. Blessing is promised to the overcomers: *fulfillment, inheritance, fellowship!*
3. Those not among the overcomers:
  - a. To them, second death!
  - b. *Fearful, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, whoremongers, sorcerers, idolaters, all liars ... like which burneth with fire and brimstone.*

## II. OVERCOMERS RECEIVE GOD’S PROTECTION & PROVISION, 21:9-27

A. John is shown **THE BRIDE**, the **LAMB’S WIFE**!, vv. 9-22

1. The glory of God is seen in her – light, precious stones.
2. Wall = protection!
3. Twelve gates with twelve angels – names of the twelve tribes; twelve foundations – names of the twelve apostles: a picture of God’s people as a whole in both the Old and New Testaments.
4. “Foursquare” = a term denoting perfection.
5. The city is measured: 12,000 furlongs (approximately 1500 miles square).
6. The wall is measured: 144 cubits (about 216 feet) – high, tall, strong!
7. The wall = jasper / the city = pure gold like clear glass.
8. The foundation of the wall is garnished with all manner of precious stone: an exquisite vision of greatness and beauty beyond all human comprehension!  
*We have a picture of the glorious majesty of the Lamb’s wife!*

B. Provision for the city, vv. 23-26

1. No temple in the city– because **the church IS the temple of God!** (Ephesians 2:21).
2. God and the Lamb are the temple (Matthew 27:51; Ephesians 2:21).
3. God’s glory and the Lamb’s light illuminate with city (1 John 1:5; John 8:12; cf. Isaiah 60:19-21).
4. The nations of the saved walk in the city; kings bring their glory and honor into it (compare Ephesians 3:21; cf. Isaiah 60:1-3; 62:2).
5. There is no night in the city.

C. Protection for the city, v. 27

1. Nothing that defiles enters into it (see John 3:1-5; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:25-27).
2. Only those written in the Lamb’s book of life are here!  
*The city is a safe haven for the saints of God!*