

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:6-21

I. Introduction:

A. Context

1. Chapters 21 & 22 described heaven & eternity, when human history is complete.
2. Future events leading up to this eternal state are:
 - a. The rapture of the church b. The 7- year tribulation
 - c. The battle of Armageddon
 - i. The antichrist and false prophet thrown in the lake of fire
 - ii. Satan will be bound in the abyss for a thousand years.
 - d. The millennial kingdom of Christ
 - i. Satan released & will lead one last rebellion.
 - ii. Satan thrown into the lake of fire.
 - e. The Great White Throne judgment
 - i. All the lost of human history will be judged for their deeds.
 - ii. All the lost of human history thrown in the lake of fire.
 - f. Then the eternal state will begin.

B. New heaven & New earth

1. God will create a new heaven & new earth. This earth & universe will burn up.
2. God doesn't give many details about this new earth except there will no seas.

C. New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2)

1. This New Jerusalem will be the capital city of God's new universe.
2. This is the city where the redeemed of Christ will live.
3. This is where God's throne will be & every creature will come to worship our Lord.

II. Citizens of this capital city of God (Revelation 21:6-8)

A. Citizens of the New Jerusalem (two groups)

1. – The overcomers

- a. The redeemed, the saved, are referred to here as overcomers.
- b. Overcomers are ones who will live in the New Jerusalem with Jesus forever.
- c. This group includes all saved people throughout human history. **(1 Jn. 5:4-5)**
- d. Saved people will be the eternal citizens of the New Jerusalem.
- e. Promise: The saved by faith in Jesus will inherit all things. **(Rev. 21:7)**
- f. The saved by faith in Jesus will enjoy a familial relationship with God forever.

2. – The lost

- a. The second group listed here includes all lost people. **(Revelation 21:8)**
- b. This list of sins represents the normative lifestyle of lost people throughout history.
 - (1) Cowardly: This sin identifies those who are afraid to accept Jesus because of ridicule. They want to fit into the world.
 - (2) Unbelieving: These people simply refuse to believe God & His word. There are people who claim to be atheist and openly deny God.
 - (3) Abominable: This means vile or polluted with regard to sin. An abominable person is one who is given over to wickedness.
 - (4) Murderers: Those who take human life for vengeance, hatred, or personal gain. This sin is often connected to severe persecution of the church.

(5) Sexually Immoral: refers to all human sexuality outside God's boundaries. Sexuality outside of marriage between one man & one woman is sin.

(6) Sorcerers and idolaters: "sorcerers" is the word from which we get pharmacy. It means those who abuse drugs.

(7) Liars: Liars means those who live a false life. Primarily those who claim to be Christians but they live lives that give no evidence of the truth.

3. Application: Those excluded from the New Jerusalem will spend eternity in the lake of fire. Only the redeemed in Christ will live in the New Jerusalem.

B. Good news!

1. Jesus can & will forgive all the sins listed here & any sins not specifically listed.

2. Jesus can & will forgive the sins of anyone who asks Him. (**Romans 10:13**)

III. Description of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:9-11)

A. John gets tour.

An angel took John to a high mountain for a good view of the New Jerusalem. He describes:

1. – The bride, the Lamb's wife

a. This term was and is applied to the redeemed of the church age.

b. But here it is expanded to include all the redeemed of all of human history.

c. It describes the relationship we will have with God as we live forever in this city.

2. – Having the glory of God

a. The new heaven & earth, the new universe will not have a sun or moon to give light.

b. The unimpeded glory of God will light the new universe from this city.

c. The full glory of God will radiate from the New Jerusalem.

3. – Description of the light

a. Brilliance of God's glory was like light shining through purest of diamonds.

b. The Greek word here describes a translucent stone.

c. God's perfect glory will radiate from the New Jerusalem like light through the purest diamond. His glory will light the entire universe.

IV. Exterior of the city (Revelation 21:12-21)

A. A magnificent city

1. – It has 12 gates.

a. The gates are arranged symmetrically around the city with 3 on each side.

b. The names of the gates are the names of the 12 tribes of Israel.

c. This clearly commemorates God's covenant with Israel.

2. – It has 12 foundations.

a. The walls of this great city rests on 12 foundations.

b. Each of these foundations has a name of one of the 12 apostles.

c. This clearly commemorates God's covenant with the church.

3. – Size of the city

a. Then an angel with a measuring rod measured the city. The city is massive!

b. It is a perfect cube, it is as long as it is wide and the height is the same.

c. The city is 1,500 miles long, 1,500 miles wide, and 1,500 miles high.

4. - Walls

a. The walls of the New Jerusalem are around 72 yards thick.

5. – List of precious stones

a. There's list of precious stones make up the walls & foundations of the city.

b. The New Jerusalem is a place of indescribable beauty & brilliance.