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Revelation 21

(2019)

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Revelation 21.

Topics.

- A new heaven and earth, the first heaven, earth and sea passed away.
 - The holy city, new Jerusalem, prepared as a Bride for her Husband.
 - The dwelling place of God is with man and God Himself will be with them.
 - The lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death.
 - The Bride, the wife of the Lamb and the Holy city Jerusalem.
 - The Holy City Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.
 - Twelve foundations, and the twelve names of the twelve apostles.
 - Gates of a single pearl, and the street of pure gold and transparent glass.
 - The temple in the city, is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.
 - The glory of God gives the city its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.
 - The kings of the earth will bring their glory and honour into the city.
 - Only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life will enter the city.
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A personal note: though I have always loved reading and studying the Scriptures and have now walked with Christ and in God's grace for around fifty years the following studies should not be taken to be dogmatic, inflexible or the final word on the matter since I am fully aware that my mind is limited by mortality and that greater understanding of God's revelation is continually becoming clearer before our eyes as we move closer to the time of Christ's glorious return in glory.

The previous chapter: began with an angel descending from heaven and seizing the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and binding him with a chain in a bottomless pit for a thousand years. John then saw, those resurrected in the first resurrection reigning with Christ for a thousand years. At the end of the thousand years Satan was released, Gog, Magog and their hordes surrounded the beloved city and fire from heaven consumed them. The chapter ended with a great white throne descending from heaven and the sea Death and Hades giving up the dead to be judged according to what they had done, after which Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.

REVELATION 21:1

A New Heaven and Earth, for the First Passed Away.

- **Revelation 21:1:** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

Before going further: it should be mentioned here that the focus of this chapter is not Christ's millennial reign on earth that begins with his return in glory and the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5) and ends a thousand years later with the second death (Rev. 20:6) and the Great White Throne Judgment. (Rev. 20:11-15), rather the focus here is eternity. We know this because:

1. Here in verse one we are told that the sea is no more, yet in the previous chapter we read that at the end of the millennial age the sea gave up the dead who were in it. (Rev. 20:13). This shows that the New Heaven and the New earth spoken of here must take place after millennial age and after the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15).
2. Prior to this chapter the devil, (i.e., the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan), was thrown into the lake of fire with the beast and the false prophet. (Rev. 20:10), which means they are totally-annihilated and utterly-destroyed, before any of the events in this chapter occur.
3. At the Great White Throne Judgment Death and Hades (the grave) was thrown into the lake of fire. fire (Rev. 20:14), which means two things, firstly, no one will die for death no longer exists, secondly, everyone is immortal and eternal for they cannot die if there is no death.
4. At the Great White Throne Judgement, all those whose names were not found written in the book of life, were thrown into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:15), which means only those who God counts worthy of eternal life remain.
5. In this chapter we are told that from this time forward the dwelling place of God will be with man and God Himself will dwell with His people, and be with them as their God, and that there will be no death, mourning, crying or pain for all these things have passed away. (Rev. 21:3-4).

These five great facts show that eternity begins in all its perfect wonder and splendour and perfections of fulness and glory after the millennial age and after the Great White Throne Judgement, which means that this chapter (and Rev. 22:1-5) is focused upon eternity. It could be said that the first resurrection brings about the engagement of the Bride to her Groom, while the millennial age is their courtship, which ends with the Great White Throne Judgment and John seeing a new heaven and new earth, and the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a Bride adorned for her Husband. (Rev. 21:1-2). This means that the end of the millennial age brings about the marriage of the Bride to her Groom and the beginning of eternity in all its perfection of wonder and splendour, and its perfect fullness of beauty, and brings to earth the visible glory of God and all the heavenly host for all the universe to see. Here is the final regeneration of all things new: Revelation chapter twenty-one to chapter twenty-two verse five speaks of New Heavens, a New Earth and a New Jerusalem. The faithful of all ages have always looked forward to the fullest perfections of all things, with the expectation of new heavens and a new earth in which dwells righteousness.

- According to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (2 Peter 3:13).

John's statement, "Then I saw," forms the beginning of each of his twelve visions running in succession one after another with the vision of each chapter travelling through to Christ's millennial age and reaching on into eternity, spoken of in this chapter and the following one.

Beginning at chapter five we read:

1. Then I saw a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. (Rev. 5:1).
2. Then I saw an angel with the seal of God and four angels with power to harm earth and the sea. (Rev. 7:2).
3. Then I saw the seven angels with seven trumpets. (Revelation 8:2).
4. Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with a rainbow over his head, his face like the sun and his legs like pillars of fire. (Rev.10:1).
5. Then I saw an angel flying overhead with the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth. (Rev. 14:6).

6. Then I saw seven angels with the last seven plagues, filled with the wrath of God. (Revelation 15:1).
7. Then I saw one sitting on a white horse judging in righteousness and making war. (Revelation 19:11).
8. Then I saw an angel calling to all the birds to gather for the great supper of God. (Revelation 19:17).
9. Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. (Rev. 20:1).
10. Then I saw those who had authority to judge come to life and reign with Christ for a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4).
11. Then I saw a great white throne and the earth and sky fleeing from the presence of Him who was seated on it. (Rev. 20:11).
12. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth and the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband, and heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (Rev. 21:1-3).

John in these visions saw a representation of the present and future state of the church, the earth and the world through to the final perfect and eternal completion of all things. Amongst commentators there are various ideas of what the expression a New Heaven and New Earth mean, following are the most common:

- The earth will be utterly melted with fervent heat and completely dissolved by fire, with an entirely new earth and new heaven replacing them.
- The material world and the earth will be renovated from decay to its original pristine condition that it had at creation.
- The climate will be changed from its changeable, volatile and unpredictable state to a continual calm state perfectly suited for all lifeforms (i.e., human, animal and plants).
- The old heavens and earth are not annihilated; but transformed with such glorious changes that it appeared in vision form that they had been newly created.

The Scriptures proclaim that, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD. (Num. 14:21) and the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Hab. 2:14). Therefore, the expression, "a new heaven and a new earth," most likely means that the material world and the earth and the heavens as we know them today will not be annihilated; but transformed with such glorious changes that to those who have known the old world and the old heavens they will appear as though they have been newly created.

The sea is no more: (v1) in Scripture the sea often symbolises:

- The populations of nations and of the world.
- An ungodly hostile troubler of God's people.
- A state of perpetual unrest and troubles of this world and political tumults.

Taken in a symbolic sense the expression, "the sea is no more," carries two ideas, firstly that there will be a total absence of any blasphemous power, terror, troubles, commotions and ungodly and violent forces in the world. Secondly, unwavering peace will cover the earth and that there will be a total absence of sorrow and grief and conflicting passions and temptations. The seas and oceans occupy about three-fourths of the surface of the globe,

which means if the expression, "the sea is no more," is taken in a literal sense it would carry the idea that rivers of fresh water and brooks would continue to flow throughout the globe and that the whole of earth will be inhabited by people. Whichever of these two it may refer to, what we can be certain of is that some dramatic cosmic change will come upon the earth that will universally transform the climate and this material world in which we dwell for the better.

Following are some interesting facts: the earth was cursed, because of the first man Adam rebellion, and is redeemed by the second Adam. The New Heaven and New Earth, will exceed the glory of the first Paradise, as much as the second Adam exceeded in glory the first Adam before the fall, and the first children of God to be literally born again into eternity by the resurrected will greatly exceed the glory of the children of Adam and Eve the first children born of all created mankind. During the Old Testament age, the tabernacle stood in the centre of the wilderness encampment, as the outward symbol of the Shekinah glory of God dwelling with His people Israel. They by name, and by outward separation and consecration were God's people, but still many defiled His name and the holiness of the temple. Likewise, during the New Testament age the church stood on earth as a symbol of God's temple and though God dwelt in His people, many defiled His name and the name of Christ's church. In the new future eternal age all that was a symbol in past ages will be perfected, Christ will literally dwell with his people and his people will literally dwell with him and God's name and Christ's Kingdom will never be defiled. At this present time, the church is in the world, during the millennium it will be the kingdom, and after that it will be the central government (or hub) of the new eternal world wherein Christ will be the head and God will be all in all.

REVELATION 21:2

The Holy City, New Jerusalem Prepared as a Bride for Her Husband.

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- **Revelation 21:2:** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

The New Heaven, the New Earth, and the New Jerusalem are closely connected. This city is wholly new belonging, not to this world, not to the millennium, but to eternity. The following series of visions show that the New Heaven, the New Earth, and the New Jerusalem come into view not at the beginning of the millennium, but at the end of it. The following verses show that the New Jerusalem comes into view not at the beginning of the millennium age, but at the end of it:

- John sees a great white throne and him who was seated on it from whose presence the earth and sky fled away. (Rev. 20:11).

It is at the end of the millennium that the great white throne descends.

- Then John saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne being judged (Revelation 20:12).
- Then he sees a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more (Rev. 21:1).
- Then John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Rev. 21:2).
- Then he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." (Rev. 21:5) and that all the wicked will be cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 21:8).
- Then one of the seven angels showed John the Bride, the wife of the Lamb. (Rev. 21:9).
- Then John sees the city of Jerusalem needing no sun for the Lord God is the light of it. (Revelation 22:5).

John sees the New Jerusalem made of the most precious metals and jewels that this earth has, this does not mean that it will literally be built with such precious metals and jewels, but is poetic language to symbolise the beauty, wonder and splendour of the city. It is referred to as a Bride/City, because it will be the home of the Bride and her Groom. God will literally descend to earth and set His throne in the centre of the New Holy City Jerusalem on His Holy Mountain on earth to stand as a light to all the universe and the perfect fulfilment of all His promises and the prophecies of the faithful prophets.

This New Jerusalem is the promised city built without human hands that the faithful triumphant church of the Old and New Testament, Jews and Gentiles of all generations who attained to the first resurrection will in their perfect immortal state live forever with the Lord Jesus Christ and his heavenly Father. The Almighty with His Son and all the immortal resurrected, will from this city, together, form the central and eternal government throughout the entire eternal universe.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE HOLY CITY NEW JERUSALEM

The Holy City New Jerusalem is the everlasting reward and inheritance of faithful Jews and Gentiles of the Old and New Testament who attain to the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5-6) and the future eternal home of God, the Groom and his Bride. It will be the central hub of the entire universe, and the citizens of the City with Christ as their head will act as the central government with satellite governments throughout the universe. This is also the city Abraham was to receive as an inheritance when he was called to go by faith out to a place not knowing where he was going to live as a foreigner in a land of promise, looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. (Heb. 11:8-10).

In eternity there will be no more death which means all who exist will be immortal and as immortal beings no planet in the entire universe would be uninhabitable, especially since God will have made all things new. The glory of the Holy City and of God and Christ will be uniquely manifested to all the universe, no matter where one stands, they will see the dazzling light of the City.

In the previous chapter John told us that he saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a Bride adorned for her Husband (Rev. 21:2), but doesn't say that it came to earth nor does he give us any other locality, and the language used to describe the city is very symbolical, therefore we cannot come to any conclusion concerning the locality of this city with absolute certainty, especially since none of us can know what eternity will look like in all its perfection of wonder and splendour. Following are four possible scenarios:

1. There may be one specific and permanent place in the universe where the Holy City will be located.
2. The earthly Jerusalem will be replaced by the New heavenly and Holy City Jerusalem.
3. The whole earth will be the New and Holy City Jerusalem and the central hub of the entire universe, which means the earth would become as heaven or rather it will be heaven on earth with God visibly dwelling among His people as their God. (Rev. 21:3).
4. The Holy City New Jerusalem is heaven itself, which God brings down and into view of earth and Christ and his immortal government govern from this city. This idea may sound somewhat unconventional but consider the following two facts.
 - Like John the apostle Paul when spoke about that those who will be caught up to meet the Lord only tells us that they meet him in the air where they will forever be with the Lord (1 Thess. 4:17).

- If mankind is given enough time it is very likely they would build a massive state-of-the-art high-tech luxurious spaceship with fountains, beautiful gardens and magnificent views to hover over the earth for the elite and the rich to live and rule the earth from.

Wherever the Holy City New Jerusalem is in the universe it will be the central seat and capitol of the new heaven and the new earth and eternal home of God and of Christ and of his Bride (i.e., Old and New Testament believers who attained to the first resurrection) (Rev. 20:5-6) and its glory will be manifested to all the worlds that God has made.

In the book of Hebrews, we are told: Abraham was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. (Heb. 11:10) and that from him were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. (Heb. 11:12). The faithful desired a better country, a heavenly one, therefore God has prepared for them a city. (Heb. 11:16). This city that God has designed and prepared is this most beautiful City the New Jerusalem that John in his vision is now seeing descending to earth as a Bride prepared for her Groom. Many believers of the Old Testament who were commended for their faith, died not having received what God had promised, because, God planned and purposed that they would not be made perfect apart from the faithful of the New Testament, so that all would enjoy together the great promise (Heb. 11:39-40), which is what is in view in this chapter and the first part of the next.

A bride adorned for her husband: (v2) the city-bride is now adorned for her Husband, her adornments are her loving heart and her humble obedience to the Lord, Peter in the following verse shows us that these are her jewels.

- Let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. (1 Peter 3:4).

The Bride here is all who have been raised in the first resurrection so they are no longer adorned by faith with Christ's robes of righteousness, but are now clothed with the bright robes of immortality and eternal life.

REVELATION 21:3-4

The Dwelling Place of God is with Man and God Will Be with Them.

- **Revelation 21:3-4:** And I heard a loud voice from the throne (out of heaven in KJV) saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God (the tabernacle of God in KJV) is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Verse five clearly shows that the voice that John is hearing here is the voice of the one seated on the throne, which is God Himself.

The dwelling place of God (the tabernacle of God in KJV) is with man: (v3) this is an allusion to the Old Testament Tabernacle being with the Israelites, and the Shekinah presence of God's glory and divine Majesty, being manifested amongst His people on earth. The Tabernacle was called the Tent of Meeting, because it was regarded as the unique dwelling-place of God among His people and the meeting-place between God and man where God would meet and speak with His people. The Temple built of stone was at various times also called a Tabernacle as it was built according to the pattern God had given Moses for the Tabernacle in the wilderness. The expression, "the tabernacle of God is with man," carries the idea that the divine Presence of God and His favour will abide with His people, it is also the full accomplishment of the following prophetic promise recorded in Ezekiel:

- My dwelling place (tabernacle in KJV) shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (Ezek. 37:27).

God Himself will be with them as their God: (v3) this is the desire of God from the beginning and the climax and the goal of the faith of all the redeemed, that they would abide together with Christ and with His Heavenly Father in unity and in love. When God's eternal plan that He planned and purposed in His eternal mind from the beginning is fulfilled, God will set Himself in, the midst of those who, out of the sea of humanity accepted His plan of salvation and dwell with the resurrected redeemed, as if in a Tabernacle, or in a House specially prepared for His residence among them. God and the Lord Jesus Christ is at this present time with the redeemed by faith, and will literally dwell with the resurrected faithful in person during the thousand years and after this long space of time Christ the Groom and the church the Bride will come together as Husband and Wife and dwell in eternity with their heavenly Father who will dwell permanently with them throughout all eternity.

REVELATION 21:5

He who is Seated on the Throne said, "I am Making all things New."

- **Revelation 21:5:** And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." (True and faithful in KJV).

He that sat upon the throne: (v5) is the One:

- Who has ruled over all things from the beginning and will rule over all things throughout eternity.
- Who has presided over all the changing scenes of earth's history.
- Who causes all things to work together for good to them that love Him and are called according to His purpose. (Rom. 8:28).
- Who gives the faithful assurance, He is making all things new. (Revelation 21:5).

In the beginning the earth was without form and void, with natural darkness covering its face and from this darkness and chaos, the first creation of life, beauty and wonder arose. (Gen. 1:1), which God pronounced very good. Likewise, out of the present world, full of the darkness of sin, distress, sorrow, grief will arise a new eternal world full of light and that abounds with the perfections of beauty. The fact that the final words of this verse, record the One who sits on the throne saying, "These words are trustworthy and true" (true and faithful in KJV), adds further assurance that what is written here will come to pass.

He that sat upon the throne: (v5) refers to God the Father, who is often represented in this book as sitting on the throne, and is in the following verses distinguished from Christ the Lamb:

- He (the Lamb) went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. (Rev. 5:7).
- I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" (Rev. 5:13).
- Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. (Rev. 20:11).

I am making all things new: (v5) this is the final climax of God's plan that He with His eternal wisdom and His eternal foreknowledge purposed in His eternal mind before time began. Here in this chapter is the final-

completion of the transforming process of the earth and the heavens and the climax of the salvation of the redeemed lying far into the future, but as certain to come to pass as the sunrise is to appear in the morning.

REVELATION 21:6

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

- **Revelation 21:6:** And he (who was seated on the throne) (v5) said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment (the fountains of the water of life freely in KJV).

The words, "it is done" means that the things God had promised and all that the prophets had spoken have now come to pass. This is the consummation of all things when all the promises of God, and the desires of His faithful servants are fully accomplished. When these things come to pass all those dwelling in the New Heaven and the New Earth will with great joy, say with God and the Lord Jesus Christ, "It is done," and God will rejoice over the work of His own hands, as He did at the completion of the first creation when He saw that everything that He had made was very good (Genesis 1:31). Though this is set in motion, no one knows how far, ahead of us its final fulfilment will be, but we do know that even from the time Christ returns in glory and the first resurrection takes place it is at least a thousand years away. But, as surely as the sun rises we can be confident that the whole of creation is hastening towards a major crisis which will not only bring about a renovated earth, but also a transformed universe in which all evil, suffering, sorrow, sin and tears will be removed.

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end: (v6) this expression carries the idea of the everlasting eternal One. The title is also found in Revelation chapter twenty-one in which John heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. (21:3) Then the one seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new" (21:5), and that, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end." (21:6). Then he said, "The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son." (21:7). The words, "I will be his God and he will be my son," are the words of a Father, which means that the one seated on the throne in this chapter is the immortal, invisible Lord God Almighty the Creator of all things and source of all life and the heavenly Father of us all.

The Alpha and Omega in Revelation chapter twenty-two: in chapter twenty-two the voices of the angel, Jesus and God seem to be interchangeable throughout the chapter, which makes it is somewhat difficult to discover who the title, "the Alpha and the Omega," applies to. The safest way to find the answer, is for us to follow the conversation of the angel through the chapter, which is what we will do. The chapter begins with:

- An angel showing John the river of the water of life, the throne of God and the tree of life and then the angel says to John, "the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place." (22:1-6).
- Then the angel says, "I am coming soon, blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." he then told John that he must not worship him for he is his fellow servant. (22:7-8).
- Then the angel told John to worship God and to seal up the words of the prophecy of this book (22:9-10).
- Then the angel says, "I am coming soon, I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (22:12-13).
- The very next voice we hear is Jesus, saying that he has sent his angel to testify to John about these things. (22:16).

- Finally, we are told that the one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (22:20).

Summing it up: it is the angel who says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (22:12-13), but the angel also says three times, "I am coming soon," which clearly applies to Jesus, and then Jesus says, "he sent his angel to testify to these things." Putting all these facts together it seems unwise to limit the title, "The Alpha and the Omega," to God the Almighty or to the Lord Jesus Christ only as it can also apply to the angel God sent to show John what must come to pass. This is logical since the angel is Jesus angel (22:16) and God, Jesus and the angel are all one in Spirit, unity, mind and love and therefore all have the same goals, plans and purposes. This means that the words the angel speaks are the same words God and Jesus would speak, which means each can be viewed as speaking on behalf of the other.

Words of comfort and encouragement: since the words, I am the Alpha and the Omega, have been used to support the idea that Jesus is God and the teaching that Jesus is God has such a strong hold on much of traditional Christianity the following will encourage and comfort faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who maybe in some doubt and unsure of what to believe concerning the Father and the Son. The Bible very clearly shows that even if Jesus was God no one has, to know this to be saved to eternal life since there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states:

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim: -

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life. Jesus himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). For further information click or tap, [Various Topics](#) and select the title, "Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity).

I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment: (v6) these words may be added to encourage any who in their present state are in despair of attaining to this most glorious heavenly state. The meaning is not that he would do this in the future, but that he had shown that this was his character, as he had claimed, in the same way as he had shown that he was the fulness of salvation which will be one of the most striking things made manifest when the vast hosts of the redeemed are welcomed to their eternal abode the Heavenly New Jerusalem. In the book of Isaiah is written:

- With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. (Isaiah 12:3).
- Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. (Isaiah 55:1).

Jesus said:

- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. (Matthew 5:6).

- Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life. (John 4:14).
- If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' " (John 7:37-38).

The Spirit and the Bride say:

- Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. (Rev. 22:17).

The blessing, "the Lord will give from the spring of the water of life," is promised freely, as an unbought gift, without money and without price. This is the wonder of the Good News of the Gospel the gift is free to all. Those who understand this truth will say, "Nothing in my hand I bring" and, "What things were gain to me, I counted loss for Christ."

The spring of the water of life: (v6) (the fountains of the water of life freely in KJV), this is an image that is often used in the Scriptures to represent salvation. It is compared with a fountain that flows in abundance, where all may freely quench their thirst. It speaks of refreshing comfort, which will abundantly satisfy the hearts highest expectations and greatest desires and; happiness which will forever flow upon those who are granted to enter the New Jerusalem and all this is freely given as a free, unmerited gift.

REVELATION 21:7

To the One Who Conquers, I will be His God and He will be My Son.

- **Revelation 21:7:** The one who conquers (overcomes in KJV) will have this heritage (inherit all things in KJV) and I will be his God and he will be my son.

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The one who conquers (overcomes in KJV) will inherit all things: (v7) meaning, the whole of creation will be laid open to the enjoyment of those who overcome. The following verses show that the overcomers weapons of victory are the blood of the Lamb, the word of their testimony, their faith and they loved Christ more than their own lives.

- They have conquered (overcame in KJV) him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. (Rev. 12:11).
- For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. (1 John 5:4).

God revealed this to John over two thousand years ago and only He knows how long it will be before this glorious time comes. Until then much of our time in this world will be a time of overcoming:

- Overcoming persecution, temptations, the devil, Satan, the flesh and all other spiritual enemies of Christ and resisting the temptations of the world.
- Overcoming trials, difficulties; troubles, sorrows and hardships and all that opposes God, the Lord Jesus Christ and his people.
- And for those at the end of the age, overcoming the antichristian beast power and his image, mark, and the number of his name.

Whoever fights this good fight and comes out of it as an overcomer/conqueror, meaning their faith is still in tack will inherit the full joys of the New Jerusalem and all the wonders and splendours of eternal glory with the Lord Jesus Christ, everlasting happiness and God Himself who will be all in all. These are the great reward of those who overcome.

I will be his God and he will be my son: (v7) meaning those who overcome will rise to live with God for ever and ever. He will honour and support them throughout all eternity as His own sons and daughters and forever nourish and nurture this intimate relationship between them and Himself throughout eternity. The beautiful picture here is of a loving Father who is deeply proud of his children and will do all that is in his power to do, to protect them and supply them with joys that will continually enhance their happiness. This is the great privilege of all Christians who endure in faith to the end. For further information concerning the statement, "I will be his God and he will be my son," see the title "He will dwell with them," following verse (v3) (above).

REVELATION 21:8

The Lake that Burns with Fire and Sulphur, the Second Death.

- **Revelation 21:8:** But as for the cowardly (fearful in KJV), the faithless (unbelieving in KJV), the detestable (abominable in KJV), as for murderers, the sexually immoral (whoremongers in KJV), sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

This does not mean that there will be these types of people existing in eternity. This is an interlude statement, declaring that no one mentioned in this verse will be raised to eternity. These are those spoken of in the previous chapter who the sea, Death and Hades gave up to stand before the Great White Throne Judgment and after the heavenly court could not find their names written in the book of life they were counted unworthy and thrown into the lake of fire with Death and Hades, (Rev. 20:11-15), meaning they were eternally destroyed, (i.e., utterly-annihilated and totally-extinguished).

The abominable: (v8) having previously stated that those who conquer and overcome in faith will inherit eternal life (v7), John is now shown explicitly that the following groups of people will not be admitted into eternity.

- The cowardly (fearful in KJV), the faithless (unbelieving in KJV), the detestable (abominable in KJV), murderers, the sexually immoral (whoremongers in KJV), sorcerers, idolaters and liars.

The Scriptures also show that the following will not be admitted into eternity:

- Those filled with all manner of evil, covetousness, malice, envy, strife, deceit and who spread harmful gossip and the faithless the heartless, the ruthless, adulterers, thieves, swindlers drunkards, revilers and the greedy.
- Those who are of a cruel, malicious, spiteful, evil nature and deliberately and wilfully commit acts of violence and vandalism and such like characters. (Rom. 1:29) (Rom. 1:31) (1 Cor. 6:9-10)
- Those who drink of the cup of the great prostitute woman's abominations and align themselves with the man of sin and lawlessness and the ten-horned beast empire and worship its image and those who have a hostile spirit toward God, the Lord Jesus Christ and his people.

Jesus himself warned that the unrighteous and those that do such things will not inherit the kingdom of Christ or the Kingdom of God. (Gal. 5:21) (Ephes. 5:5). All who are of a wicked character will be shut out from the heavenly city and stand in contrast to those who are admitted; yet there will be among those who are permitted to enter, those who have sinned through fear, temptations, faithlessness, worldliness and fleshliness. This is because it is not sin alone that excludes entry into the Holy City, but sin that is loved and un-repentant of. The gate of the eternal Holy City New

Jerusalem, will close on those who have no regret or sorrow over their sin, but continue in it. Every faithful believer, however weak, should be encouraged, by the words, "I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment," and the truth, that we are saved by grace and not by works, in contrast to this the obstinate sinner that heard the Gospel and denied it should know that on the day of the final judgment they will have no grounds to complain that they have not been warned.

The unbelieving: (v8) refers to:

- Atheists who do not believe that there is a God, and those who after hearing God's plan of salvation choose to deny the Lord Jesus Christ, rather than accept him and the Gospel.
- Those who after hearing God's plan of salvation make a confession of the Lord Jesus Christ and afterward proclaim the Gospel, but do it for their own gain (i.e., for money, fame, importance, pride etc.) and not from a true heart of love that is devoted toward the Lord Jesus Christ, but for their own selfish advantage.
- Those who confess to believe in Christ and yet still trust in their own self-righteousness and good deeds to be saved and who acclaim to be Christ's but are hypocrites who only have an outward pretence of faith.

The cowardly (fearful in KJV): (v8) this does not refer to the timid sheep and lambs of Christ who sometimes have a fearful heart, because of persecution etc., but to those who are cowardly in spirit in that they are afraid to believe the Gospel and make a confession for Christ for fear of mockery or losing their family, a loved one or loss of their reputation, estates, honours, lives or loss of some other kind, or fear of men, the beast or the man of sin and lawlessness or of fear of accepting Christ for some other reason.

Murderers: (v8) this does not refer to those who suicide as many believe, since suicide is a symptom of a person suffering extreme emotional and mental darkness. Murder is about taking an innocent life that does not want to be taken, it refers to those who deliberately plan and plot to kill an innocent person and then do it.

The sexually immoral (whoremongers in KJV): (v8) refers to:

- A male prostitute as unprincipled and degenerate in character and to adulterers, rapist and pedophiles and the clergy of the Church of Rome, who being forbidden to marry, and under a vow of celibacy make pretensions to chastity and singular holiness, while giving themselves up to secret lasciviousness.
- To seductive women who are sexually promiscuous, immoral, indecent, shameless and salacious. Note the word fornicator means the same thing as whoremongers which refers to those who indulge themselves in orgies and using others for their own sexual gratification.
- To female prostitutes who sell themselves for financial gain, and material reward. It should be mentioned here, this does not mean that we should harshly judge all women who give their body to others for financial gain since for many that are living in great poverty (i.e., third world countries) it is the only way they can earn money to feed their children.

I suspect these women would die a thousand deaths everytime they take on a client, but the well-being of their children is given a higher priority over their own self-respect. Unless we are prepared to support such women, I feel that it is grossly wrong for us to harshly judge them.

Sorcerers: (v8) refers to those who claim to have super-natural power or knowledge; to those who use so called magic potions that distort the mind and to those who are believed to be in league with supernatural evil forces and able to contact the dead.

Idolaters: (v8) refers to those who worship images and pagan gods or pay homage and do service to an idol of that god. To conjurers (those who call upon or summon a spirit, demon, god or other supernatural agent for knowledge of the unknown), and to dealers with familiar spirits. In ancient times familiar spirits were sometimes referred to as animal guides that were believed to be supernatural entities that would assist witches and cunning folk in their practice of magic. According to the records of the time, they could appear disguised as an animal, or as a human or as humanoid (i.e. a being or creature resembling a human in its shape), that could appear with vivid colour or as smoky ghosts with undefined forms. When they served witches, they were often thought to be malevolent (i.e., evil and malicious) and when working for cunning or wise folk they were thought of as being benevolent (although this was not always the case). Amongst religious folk witches were often categorized as demons, while the cunning or wise were more commonly thought of as sorcerers and false prophets. Idolaters also include necromancers, and those who worship the virgin Mary, and the exalted departed who the Roman Catholic Church has exalted to sainthood.

Liars: (v8) refers to all who are false in their statements, their promises, their contracts and to all who are false toward God and deceitful toward human beings. All who are mentioned above will have no part in eternity but be cast into the lake of fire at the universal Great White Throne Judgement. (Rev. 20:11-15).

The second death: (v8) refers to everlasting death (i.e., utter annihilation and eternal extinction). The Scriptures teach that

- Everyone dies a mortal death.
- Those whose names are in the Lambs book of life are raised in the first resurrection and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.
- The rest of the dead do not come to life until the thousand years are ended.
- The second death has no power over those who shares in the first resurrection. (Rev. 20:5-6).
- When the thousand years are ended God descends on a Great White Throne, the sea, Death and Hades give up the dead who were in them, and they are judged.
- Those whose name and not found written in the book of life are counted unworthy and thrown into the lake of fire. This judgment into the lake of fire is the second death. (Rev. 20:11-15).

Paul speaks of this eternal punishment in the book of Thessalonians.

- They (those who deny God, reject the Gospel and afflict His people) will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction (everlasting destruction in KJV) away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might (his power in KJV). (2 Thess. 1:9).

REVELATION 21:9

The Bride, the Wife of the Lamb and the Holy City Jerusalem.

- **Revelation 21:9:** Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb."

If we follow the angels' conversation with John through to the end, we discover that this angel is the same angel mentioned in chapter one that Jesus sent. The following verse is the next time we read of him:

- The one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. (Rev. 21:15).

Then John begins the following chapter with the words:

- Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. (Rev. 22:1).

Then the angel said to John:

- These words are trustworthy and true and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place. (Rev. 22:6).

Then we read:

- Behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." (Rev. 22:7).

After hearing these words John was about to fall-down and worship the one who spoke them and he said to John:

- You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God. (Rev. 22:8-9).

Then we read:

- Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done. (Rev. 22:12).

After this Jesus, said to John:

- I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star. (Rev. 22:16).

Finally, we read that the one who has spoken all these things says:

- He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Rev. 22:20).

There seems to be some confusion here since the conversation begins with and angel speaking and yet, the words, "I am coming soon," (22:12) and, "I am the root and the descendant of David." (22:16), clearly apply to Jesus. This can be easily harmonized if we go back to chapter one which begins with the words:

- The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, (Revelation 1:1).

Jesus sent his angel to make all things known to John who was chosen to write down what he saw, so that all in Christ who came after him could share in the same visions and live by faith in the hope of the glory of their final-end in the New Holy City Jerusalem. It is Jesus angel speaking here in chapter twenty-two, this, is why he can say, "Behold I am coming soon and that he is the root of David."

Added to this the Scriptures clearly teach that Jesus will come with his angels.

- The Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. (Matt. 16:27).

There is absolutely no-doubt that this angel called Jesus angel, will return with Jesus to share in the glory and the joy when Jesus returns to gather the faithful to himself. We should not be surprised that Jesus angel speaks as Jesus himself, since it is in harmony with the Angel of the LORD and the LORD Himself.

In the Old Testament the Angel of the LORD often spoke as though he is the LORD, in many contexts the title the Angel of the LORD and God are interchangeable, this is because the Angel of the LORD only ever speaks the words of the LORD. Likewise, the angel here in Revelation is not speaking in his own person, but in the person and character of Christ, whose ambassador and representative he is.

The Bride, the Wife of the Lamb, the Heavenly Jerusalem: (v9) the characteristics of the Heavenly City, its grand and exalted description and surpassing wonder and splendour is described from this verse on through to (Rev. 22:5). In verse two John saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a Bride adorned for her husband, but that was only a glimmering view. Now the angel gives John a clear and distinct view of the Bride adorned in beauty and glory, being brought to their Saviour and King who they have loved for so long. The Bride is not limited to any particular-believer, or church or Christian denomination, organisation or institution, but embraces all faithful Jews and Gentiles of the Old and New Testament and all the faithful of the global church including all who have died in faith from Genesis to the resurrection. Together they form one body and one general assembly, here seen as the Bride, prepared and adorned for her husband.

These were first espoused to Christ, one by one, at their conversion, and are now all seen gathered in by the calling of the dead and the living being raised and changed, and all being glorified together. The marriage is completed and they in great immortal and eternal splendour and wonder are openly and publicly declared to be the Bride, the Lamb's wife.

NOTE: the fact the angel says that he will show John the Bride, the wife of the Lamb, and then shows him the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, shows that we are not to take the descriptions presented in this vision literally, but as emblems and symbols that highlight the wonder and beauty of the Bride and her eternal dwelling place. (Rev. 21:9-10).

REVELATION 21:10

The Holy City Jerusalem Coming Down Out of Heaven from God.

- **Revelation 21:10:** And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

The statement, "he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain," (v10) does not mean he was literally carried away in body, as if he was removed from the isle of Patmos to some other place; but in a visionary way, just as Ezekiel was carried between earth and heaven, in the visions of God, to Jerusalem (Ezek. 8:3). The vision was represented to the mind of John as if he had been taken up by the angel and carried through the air and placed on the top of a very high mountain, signifying that he had the clearest view of the descending New Holy City Jerusalem.

It could be said that John was in an ecstasy, in the sense that the thoughts of his mind and spirit were totally void of the things of this world, so it seemed to him as if he was being carried away from one place to another, but this was not a physical carrying away (nor were any of the other visions he had), but what was represented to his mind or spirit; it being with him as it was with the apostle Paul when he was caught up to the third heaven, not knowing whether he was in the body or out of the body. The expression, "he carried me away in the spirit," carries the idea that by complete self-surrender to God one is totally separated from the world. In the Garden of Gethsemane, the tempter showed Jesus the fallen corrupt and mortal kingdoms of this world and the worldly glory of them, and here in total contrast the comforting angel shows John the eternal holy City that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. (Heb. 11:10).

REVELATION 21:11

The Holy City Jerusalem Having the Glory of God, Clear as Crystal.

- **Revelation 21:11:** having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

Having, the glory of God refers to the Shekinah glory, which biblically denotes the divine majesty of God and resting place of His divine presence. This term does not occur in the Bible, but is from rabbinic literature used by the Jews to designate the visible symbol of God's presence when the LORD led Israel out of Egypt, and went before them in a pillar of cloud, and the LORD'S presence in the Tabernacle, and afterwards in Solomon's Temple, these were all confirmations that God's presence was with His people.

Moses face: the apostle Paul tells us that Moses face shone so bright and glorious, with the presence of God that the Israelites could not gaze at his face because of its glory. (2 Cor. 3:7), because of this each time Moses had finished speaking with the LORD on Mount Sinai and went before the people he would put a veil over his face to cover the brilliantly shining skin of his face, and then remove it when he went to speak before the LORD. (Exod. 34:32-35). Ponder how much more gloriously the resurrected redeemed will shine when they enjoy the full presence of God in a far more illustrious manner?

REVELATION 21:12

Twelve Gates, Twelve Angels and the Names of Twelve Tribes.

- **Revelation 21:12:** It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed

A wall great and high: (v12) signifies the strength and security of the city under the protection of the Almighty God its founder and builder. This is the city Abraham was to receive as an inheritance when he went out by faith not knowing where he was going to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise, for he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. (Heb. 11:8-12). The great and high wall signifies the promise of God, the power of God and the redeeming power of Christ, being indestructible secure and everlasting.

Twelve gates with twelve angels: (v12) ready to receive with great joy the heirs of salvation. In eternity the angels will be follow citizens with the heavenly resurrected citizens. The idea of having twelve angels at the only gates of the city can be taken as an emblem of perfect security, freedom, safety and peace since the gates will never be shut (Re 21:25)

On the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel: (v12) during the Old Testament only the twelve tribes were God's chosen people, but not literal Israel, but the true spiritual Israel who Pauls speaks of in the following verses saying:

- Not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel,⁷ and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall Abrahams offspring be named."⁸This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. (Rom. 9:6-8)

Paul later amplifies this truth in the following verses:

- For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (Gal. 3:26-29).

This means that the expression, "On the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel, is not limited to literal Israel, but embrace the true spiritual Israel made up of Jews and Gentiles in Christ. All the faithful of all generations whether Jew or Gentile have the privilege and honour of entering-into the New Jerusalem, and will be welcomed there, as the following verses will show.

Three Gates on the East, the North, the South and the West.

- **Revelation 21:13:** on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.

The east, the north, the south and the west speaks of the four corners of the earth, they embrace the idea of the entire world and signify that the city will be made up of people from all nations. In verse sixteen we are told that the city was square and has same number of gates assigned to each side which may denote that those who dwell there will have come from the north, south, east and west of the earth and that all dwelling in eternity will have access to the City from all corners of the world and the entire universe. The twelve gates of the City can also be taken as an allusion to the twelve tribes of Israel from who the Messiah came and after him the twelve apostles and from them the Gospel church made up of Jews and Gentiles. In Ephesians it is written:

- Jesus came and preached peace to you who were far off (the Gentiles) and peace to those who were near (the Jews). ¹⁸For through him we (Jews and Gentiles) both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you (Gentiles) are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints (the Jews) and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you (Jews and Gentiles) are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Ephes. 2:17-22).

The east, west, north, and south, denotes that the citizens of the heavenly Eternal Jerusalem that will descend on the renovated new earth will come from all parts of the world.

Twelve Foundations and Twelve Names of Apostles of the Lamb.

- **Revelation 21:14:** And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The book of Corinthians states, "no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 3:11), which means that strictly speaking there is only one foundation stone which is the Lord Jesus Christ. However, Paul speaks of Jesus as being the chief cornerstone of the foundation of the whole structure, which implies that there are other foundation stones, which of course are the twelve apostles that he called to establish the Gospel to the world.

- Christ Jesus himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. (Ephes. 2:20-21).
- Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a chief cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame. (1 Peter 2:6).

The allusion of the twelve names of the twelve apostles, being inscribed upon the twelve foundation stones, seems to be to master builders and architects inscribing their names on their structures, so that there would be an everlasting memory of them. Likewise, the names of the apostles will be held in everlasting remembrance as the foundational builders of the church and by extension the New Holy City Jerusalem. The whole Old and New Testament church is represented in the appearance of this Holy City; but the work of the apostles receives special recognition, because it is on their teaching and witness for Christ that the great spiritual Jerusalem is

built. There is complete harmony of thought here between the apostle Paul and the apostle John. Paul the great apostle described the church (made up of Jews and Gentiles) as being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner-stone. (Ephes. 2:19-20). Concerning the household of God Jesus said:

- I tell you, you are Peter, on this rock (the truth that Christ is the Son of the living God) I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matt. 16:15-18).

And Peter wrote:

- As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." (1 Peter 2:4-6).

The twelve foundation stones can also be taken to denote the firm and immovable state of the faithful church which is the Household of God that God is at this present time building into a most glorious eternal Holy City. This final New Eternal Jerusalem is the city that Abraham was looking forward to:

- For he (Abraham) was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. (Heb. 11:10).

REVELATION 21:15-16

A Measuring Rod of Gold to Measure the City, its Gates and Walls.

- **Revelation 21:15-16:** And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold (a golden reed in KJV) to measure the city and its gates and walls. ¹⁶The city lies foursquare; its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal.

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The one who spoke with me: refers to one of the seven angels who had the seven-last bowls full of the final plagues and who showed John the Bride, the wife of the Lamb."(v9), for further information concerning this angel, see the notes under the title: "The Bride, the Wife of the Lamb and the Holy City Jerusalem," following (v9) (above). The measuring rod of gold signifies the absolute purity of God's laws, statutes, His word and the Gospel, for it is by these that the church is measured, being of pure gold signifies that everything measured in the city was pure and that nothing unclean and tainted could enter it. In chapter eleven John was given a common and ordinary measuring rod (i.e., not golden) and told not to measure the court outside the temple, because it was given up to secular and pagan desecration. In total contrast to the outer court not being measured, the New and Holy City is being measured with a golden rod, implying that even the most minute parts of the City, are pure, clean and holy.

The city lies foursquare: (v16) the length of a stadia is usually stated as 185 meters (607 feet), and the city is an exact cube, 12,000 stadia long by 12,000 stadia wide and 12,000 stadia high, which means the city it is about 2220 kilometres (or 1380 miles) long, wide and high. The image presented to the mind is of vastness of space, the intended idea to be conveyed by this immense size would seem to be that the numbers of the redeemed dwelling in the New Eternal City Jerusalem will be so immense that they will be unable to be counted and that its vastness, beauty and splendour will by far surpass all the cities of the world. If the church in this present age was to be measured by the reed (signifying the word of God), it would be found to be in some parts unequal in that some parts of it would be found to be purer than others; but in the New Jerusalem all parts of the City will be equal in perfection and purity, as all the measurements of the Holy City are pictured in the vision as being perfectly equal.

Following are estimated measurements of the city of Jerusalem, Alexandria, Nineveh, Babylon and Rome:

- Jerusalem was estimated to be about 7 kilometres (about 4½ miles) in circumference.
- Alexandria was estimated to be about 6 kilometres (about 4 miles) in length, 2 kilometres in breadth.
- Nineveh was estimated to be about 80 kilometres (about 50 miles) round.
- Babylon was estimated to be about 95 kilometres (about 40 miles) in length and breadth.
- Rome was estimated to be about 1290 kilometres (about 800 miles) in length and breadth.

The New City Jerusalem is about 2220 kilometres (or 1380 miles) long, wide and high. Even if these measurements are not exactly accurate it clearly shows that the New and Holy City of Jerusalem by far exceeds the size of these great and famous capital cities, especially when the height of the New Jerusalem is taken, into account. Another reason for the city being stated as being perfectly square and a perfect cube or for making it so high, is perhaps, to act as an emblem to symbolise the City is perfect in every way. The numbers themselves are also typical since, twelve is the number of the apostles and of the twelve tribes of Israel and one hundred and forty-four thousand, (twelve thousand by twelve thousand) is the number that the members of the Christian church are represented by. So, the manner of numbering signifies the Holy City, of which true Christians are to be its eternal and happy citizens; a city which will have far greater strength and beauty, than ancient Jerusalem, Alexandria, Babylon Rome, or any other great city ever known in this world. Throughout the ages many interpreters and artists have been confused about the enormous size, shape and appearance of the city, but there is no need to be confused, since this is a symbolic vision and as such is not designed to be represented by a painting that makes sense to the eye any more than John's vision of the twenty-four heavenly thrones, the sea of glass, like crystal and four living creatures, full of eyes in Revelation chapter four or Ezekiel's vision of God and living creatures that had a wheel on earth beside them, (Ezekiel chapter one) are meant to make sense to the brush of an artist.

Any attempt to paint these visions only ends in grossly distorted and confusing pictures. The main thought, is that the four corners of the world (north, south, east and west), signify its citizens come from all parts of the world and that the city is perfect in every way, even in the most minute detail, in the same way that its measurements are a perfect cube which symbolises the New and Holy Jerusalem and its resurrected and glorified inhabitants are in every way made perfect. The wall is built of jasper; the city and its streets of pure gold like clear glass and each of the twelve gates of one pearl (Rev. 21:18, 21), which together signify the excellence, beauty and perfections of this majestic and Holy City, whose true beauty will not be the worldly wealth and riches that make cities famous in this world, but of abundant love flowing throughout every street of the city.

REVELATION 21:17

144 Cubits by Human Measurement and an Angel's Measurement.

- **Revelation 21:17:** He (one of the seven angels) (v9) also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement.

We are not told whether this measurement is the length, width or height of the wall. In ancient times walls were built around cities for protection and defence and for this reason many suppose that the wall spoken of here

symbolises protection from external enemies, the problem with this idea is that in eternity there will be no enemies. The wall is 144 cubits which is about 0.07 kilometres (about 0.04 miles) while the city is 2220 kilometres (or 1380 miles), which means that the city will by far tower above the wall. Twelve times twelve is a hundred and forty-four; which is the perfect symbolical number suited to the state of the New and Holy City Jerusalem, having twelve gates with twelve angels standing at them, and the names of the twelve tribes and the wall having twelve foundations and the city measuring twelve thousand furlongs.

By human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement: (v17) it is difficult to know exactly what this expression means, it was, an angel who measured the city, but the measure which he employed was a human and angels' measurement. It may mean that the angel literally used the ordinary human measure or that the resurrected redeemed and the angels will be involved in every part of building this city and that though the picture is symbolical, what it symbolises is true and real for the redeemed and the angels and for all on earth and for all in heaven.

REVELATION 21:18

The Wall was Built of Jasper, the City of Pure Gold clear as Glass.

- **Revelation 21:18:** The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, clear as glass.

The Gemstone jasper is an aggregate of microgranular quartz it is an opaque variety of Chalcedony, and is usually associated with brown, yellow, or reddish colours, but may be used to describe other opaque colours of Chalcedony such as dark or mottled green, orange, and black. Jasper is almost always multicoloured, with unique colour patterns and habits. John sees the City suspended in the air, shinning with an elegant and amazing lustre of colours, signifying the perfect blending of a multitude of individual different characters and personalities dwelling happily together in perfect harmony and unity

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The city was pure gold, clear as glass: (v18) signifies the following two things:

- The heavenly church being without spot and wrinkle.
- All the citizens of the eternal city being completely free from all traces of sin in the eternal heavenly city.
- When sun beams reflect upon thousands of panes of glass it gives the appearance of burnished shinning gold, this maybe the idea represented here. If we were to imagine a city made entirely of glass, and the setting sunbeams falling on it, the picture created in our minds would be of a city brilliantly shinning of golden glass. The symbolism would be that the City is of such magnificence, wonder and splendour that it shines far brighter than all other things in the entire universe.
- However, the true wealth of the Eternal City will be love; love is the bonding cement of all holy activity and of all holy work: all who dwell within the Heavenly City will be embodied with it and surrounded by it; all who walk the streets of the city will follow the ways of love; there will be no dimness or obscuring motives of self-interest to mar its lustre, the forever flowing love that will fill the city will be as transparent as gold that is clear as pure glass.

REVELATION 21:19-20

The Foundations of the Wall were Adorned with Jewels.

- **Revelation 21:19-20:** The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald,²⁰ the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

Those who are not given over to the dazzling attractions of the world, and the worldly riches of Babylon, will win the true spiritual heavenly riches. There is no one who has turned away from the sinful pleasures, attractions and riches of the world or that has forsaken houses and lands for Christ's sake and the Gospel, who will not receive manifoldly much more. Jesus said:

- Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel,³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. (Mark 10:29-30).

The jewels and true celestial riches belong to those who put the love of Christ far above the deceitful riches and sinful pleasures of the world. The foundation of the wall is made up of every kind of jewel. Likewise, the foundation of the church is made up of many kinds of gifts and administrations, but they all flow from the same Lord and the same spirit. In the Heavenly City, we also have variety, its citizens will not be clones of each other, but individual personalities signified by the various precious jewels and the multitude of their many colours.

1. **Jasper:** usually red, yellow, brown or green rarely blue.
2. **Sapphire:** purple, but are most commonly found in a range of blue shades although they can be many different colours.
3. **Agate:** an emerald of a greenish hue.
4. **Emerald:** bright transparent green.
5. **Onyx:** ranges from white to almost every colour, except shades, such as purple or blue.
6. **Carnelian:** rich shade of reddish-brown.
7. **Chrysolite:** yellowish-green to olive-green.
8. **Beryl:** deep bluish green.
9. **Topaz:** primarily golden orange-yellow, but can be dark pinkish-red and orange-red.
10. **Chrysoprase:** between yellowish green and green.
11. **Jacinth:** can be various colours, including red, blue, white, orange, pink, violet and yellow. Today it is commonly considered to be golden to red-brown.
12. **Amethyst:** transparent purple to a deep shade of lavender.

These most beautiful and precious foundational stones may signify the following two things:

1. The glory and honour of the founders of the church, being the prophets and apostles and especially the Lord Jesus Christ the most precious corner stone.
2. With this vast variety of mixed colour, these twelve foundations in John's view would appear around the heavenly city as a rainbow belt and as such signify that the many citizens of the New and Holy City will come from a vast variety of nations and countries, but though individual and different in many aspects will all be in unity with the One Spirit, which of course will be love.

Gates of a Single Pearl, and the Street of Pure Gold.

- **Revelation 21:21:** And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.

Each gate was of one pearl, naturally this is not to be understood literally. The idea is that of an ornament of the most magnificent beauty, since there is no other jewel that could give a more striking view of the entry into the magnificence of the future abode of the redeemed. Pearls were esteemed as the most valuable ornaments, and were sought by merchants on distant shores, they are valuable because their beauty and because they are rare. They are a perfect symbol of Christ who in Scripture is referred to as the pearl of great price for the following two reasons:

1. Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends (John 15:13). Truly no greater love can be shown to a person than someone giving up their life for them, this is exactly what the King of the Kingdom has done and Scripture symbolically refers to him as the pearl of great price. Jesus is symbolically the gate we must all pass through to enter-into the Kingdom of God and therefore gates of pearls in the wall of the New Jerusalem are a perfect symbol of the Lord Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world.

The gates of pearl can also be taken to signify the Gospel for it show the way to Christ who symbolically is the gate that all must go through to enter-into the City of the New Jerusalem. Though there are twelve gates, there is only one entrance into the new and living way.

- Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:11-12).
- No one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:11).

The pearl was esteemed of the greatest value among the ancients, making it a most appropriate emblem to symbolise the highest truth, which is Jesus is the way the truth and the life and that no one comes to the Father except through him. (John 14:6). It is only through him that the redeemed are permitted to enter the city as pure as transparent glass and walk its streets of pure gold. The overall idea of each symbol signifies to us that the mansion of heaven will be far more glorious than any city we have seen in this world or can imagine and will abundantly and richly fulfil the hearts and minds of all who enter it.

The Temple in the City, is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

- **Revelation 21:22:** And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

There will no longer be any need for the edifying and the gifts of the body of Christ or for speaking in tongues, prophecies, knowledge and any other gift of the Spirit, since the whole city will be filled with the love of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. (1 Cor. 13:8-10).

All faithful churches worldwide will be absorbed in the one glorious church where God will be All in All. There will be no structure built solely for the

worship of God, since the glory and love of Lord God and the Lamb will surround and fill every part of it, and fill every individual, inhabitant with the fulness of their Spirit. The entire city could be said to be one great temple since worship will ascend from every part of it.

In the book of Corinthians Paul wrote:

- Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. (1 Cor. 13:12).

At this present time, we see dimly, and know God only in part, but when we enter the New and Holy City we will see God face to face, and know him as we are known, by Him and therefore there will be no need for a temple and no need for anyone to teach as all who dwell in the City will forever see Christ, and therefore there will be no need for sacraments or any other form of ceremonial rite to remember him by. It may be said that the splendour of the Fathers and the Son's presence and glory is the temple since the entire city will be a holy world. There will not be any part of it set aside for public worship, because in all places God will be adored, and every citizen will be devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ and his and the Fathers light will permeate every street of the City. Paul prayed that the Father of glory, would enlighten the hearts of those in Christ by the spirit of wisdom and revelation that they would know, "the hope to which they are called, the riches of his glorious inheritance and the immeasurable greatness of his power." (Ephes. 1:15-19). This most magnificent eternal New and Holy City is the riches of the hope to which we are called and the glorious inheritance that Paul prayed we would all comprehend and the perfect immeasurable manifestation of the greatness of God's awesome power.

REVELATION 21:23

The Glory of God gives the City its Light, and its Lamp is the Lamb.

- **Revelation 21:23:** And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

This may be understood literally of these two great lights, which all earthly cities need to prosper and survive being made to totally vanish from the entire universe or it may only apply to the Holy City New Jerusalem. It is possible that the sun and the moon will be renewed when the heavens and the earth are made new, and that the Holy City New Jerusalem having no need of the sun or the moon, will be the centre of the entire universe throughout all eternity.

In the following verse the glory of the LORD filled the temple, yet nothing outside of the temple was affected:

- The glory of the LORD filled the temple. ²And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD'S House. (2 Chron. 7:1-2).
- The house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, ¹⁴so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God. (2 Chron. 5:13-14).
- When the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, ¹¹so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD. (1 Kings 8:10).

During all generations no one has been able to stand in the full glory of the LORD for we are all blighted with the darkness of sin, in contrast to this all in the Holy City New Jerusalem will be immortal and sinless and will dwell in the very presence of God. Concerning this glorious truth John wrote:

- Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. (1 John 3:2).

This is the great privilege, honour and eternal inheritance of all who are redeemed and resurrected in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5-6), their mortal bodies will be changed to be like Christ's resurrected body and they will see him as he is. The imagery of the City having no need of the sun or the moon is taken from the following prophetic words of Isaiah:

- The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. (Isaiah 60:19).

It should be highlighted here that the memory of the Saviour who was led as a lamb to the slaughter will never be obliterated, but forever give depth and fulness to the joy of the inhabitants of the Heavenly City.

REVELATION 21:24

The Kings of the Earth will Bring their Glory into the City.

- **Revelation 21:24:** ²⁴By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

The previous chapter ended with a Great White Throne descending and the sea Death and Hades giving up the dead to stand before the One seated on the throne and being judged according to what they had done (Rev. 20:13). Those whose name was not found written in the book of life and were counted unworthy were thrown into the lake of fire with Death and Hades. (Rev. 20:11-15). Those counted worthy are the nations and kings that are spoken of in this verse. The Eternal City New Jerusalem is the eternal home of the Bride of Christ, which are all who are raised in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5-6). This is the eternal inheritance, reward, privilege and honour of those who have been redeemed and overcome in faith.

It is also the city Abraham was to receive as an inheritance when he was called to go by faith out to a place not knowing where he was going to live as in a foreigner land of promise, looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. (Heb. 11:8-10). It is also the city that all in Christ who like Abraham (the father of faith) have walked by faith as foreigners and strangers through the darkness of this fallen corrupted world and faithfully endure to the end. Those counted worthy at the Great White Throne Judgment will be drawn to the light and beauty of the Holy City New Jerusalem.

The statement: "the nations and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into the Holy City," (v24) is prophetically spoken of in the following Psalm of Solomon:

- May all kings fall-down before him, all nations serve him! (Psalm 72:11).
- May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun! May people be blessed in him, all nations call him blessed! ¹⁸Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. ¹⁹Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen! (Psalm 72:17-19).

Throughout all eternity kings and nations and all who dwell in the everlasting worlds and eternal universe will cast their glory at the Lord's feet, and forever give him honour praise and glory.

There will be no night: (v6) the vision closes with a fulfilment of the following Old Testament prophecy of Isaiah:

- The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. (Isaiah 60:19).

No night, not only means there will no longer be any darkness, but symbolically also means the removal forever of death, evil and sorrow symbolized by darkness, in the following chapter we read:

- Night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. (Rev. 22:5).

Every citizen dwelling in the New Holy City Jerusalem will live in the continual light of God's countenance. Twice it is said that there will be no night, firstly here and again in (Rev. 22:5), repeating it twice enforces and magnifies the truth that all darkness will cease, no artificial light will be needed, since He who is light will be the light. The children of light who will dwell with Christ in the literal light of God's countenance embraces: -

- All who God commends for their faith of the Old and New Testament.
- All who like Abraham of old endured the troubles, sorrows and hardships of life as he by faith went out, not knowing where he was going to live in the land of promise, in a foreign land, seeking a homeland, desiring a better country, a heavenly one (Heb. 11:14-15), looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. (Heb. 11:8-9).
- All who refused to accept release from persecution, suffering and hardships as they by faith made the pilgrimage towards the heavenly and Holy City New Jerusalem so that they might rise to a better life. (Heb. 11:34).

The city God has prepared for Abraham and all who flow after him (Heb. 11:14-16) (Heb. 11:8-9), is the New Holy Jerusalem that is in focus in this chapter and the beginning of the following chapter.

REVELATION 21:27

Only Names Written in the Lamb's Book of Life Will Enter the City.

- **Revelation 21:27:** But nothing unclean (defiles in KJV) will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable (works abomination in KJV) or false (makes a lie in KJV), but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

This does not mean that such people will exist in eternity, it is an interlude statement declaring that there will be nothing corrupt or wicked that will enter eternity. We know this because the previous chapter clearly shows that at the end of the millennial age a Great White Throne and Him who was seated on it descended from heaven and the sea Death and Hades gave up the dead and all the wicked whose names were not found written in the book of life were thrown into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:1-15). It is only after this judgment that the first heaven and the first earth pass away and the new heaven and a new earth appear. (Rev. 21:1), which clearly shows that nothing tainted with any form of wickedness will exist in eternity. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will walk in the golden streets of the Eternal City and enjoy its wonder and splendour and direct communion and fellowship with the Son and the Father. While those counted worthy at the Great White Throne will dwell outside its walls. (Keep in mind here the focus of eternity is the entire universe, not just earth). If we take all the symbolisms together, they show that this City will be filled with the glory of God, and presence of the Lord Jesus and all the inhabitants are perfect in holiness and love. At this present-time the faithful feel a mixture of joyful righteousness tainted with a sad awareness of sin which hinders them from perfectly serving God and their communion with Him; but, upon their resurrection they will be made immortally perfect and presented to the Father without spot, blemish or wrinkle.

The Lamb's book of life: (27) is called the Lamb's book of life, because it is only those who from an honest and true heart repented before the LORD and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and King that are recorded in its pages.

The Holy City New Jerusalem is the everlasting reward and inheritance of faithful Jews and Gentiles of the Old and New Testament who attain to the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5-6) and the future eternal home of God, the Groom and his Bride. It will be the central hub of the entire universe, and the citizens of the City with Christ as their head will act as the central government with satellite governments throughout the universe. This is also the city Abraham was to receive as an inheritance when he was called to go by faith out to a place not knowing where he was going to live as a foreigner in a land of promise, looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. (Heb. 11:8-10). In eternity there will be no more death which means all who exist will be immortal and as immortal beings no planet in the entire universe would be uninhabitable, especially since God will have made all things new.

The glory of the Holy City and of God and Christ will be uniquely manifested to all the universe, no matter where one stands, they will see the dazzling light of the City. In the previous chapter John told us that he saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a Bride adorned for her Husband (Rev. 21:2), but doesn't say that it came to earth nor does he give us any other locality, and the language used to describe the city is very symbolical, therefore we cannot come to any conclusion concerning the locality of this city with absolute certainty, especially since none of us can know what eternity will look like in all its perfection of wonder and splendour.

Following are four possible scenarios:

1. There may be one specific and permanent place in the universe where the Holy City will be located.
2. The earthly Jerusalem will be replaced by the New heavenly and Holy City Jerusalem.
3. The whole earth will be the New and Holy City Jerusalem and the central hub of the entire universe, which means the earth would become as heaven or rather it will be heaven on earth with God visibly dwelling among His people as their God. (Rev. 21:3).
4. The Holy City New Jerusalem is heaven itself, which God brings down and into view of earth and Christ and his immortal government govern from this city. This idea may sound somewhat unconventional but consider the following two facts.
 - Like John the apostle Paul when spoke about that those who will be caught up to meet the Lord only tells us that they meet him in the air where they will forever be with the Lord (1 Thess. 4:17).
 - If mankind is given enough time it is very likely they would build a massive state-of-the-art high-tech luxurious spaceship with fountains, beautiful gardens and magnificent views to hover over the earth for the elite and the rich to live and rule the earth from.

Wherever the Holy City New Jerusalem is in the universe it will be the central seat and capitol of the new heaven and the new earth and eternal home of God and of Christ and of his Bride (i.e., Old and New Testament believers who attained to the first resurrection) (Rev. 20:5-6) and its glory will be manifested to all the worlds that God has made. The desire of God from the beginning and the climax and the goal of the faith of all the redeemed, has always been that they would abide together with Christ and with His Heavenly Father in unity and in love. When God's eternal plan that He planned and purposed in His eternal mind from before time began is fulfilled, God will set Himself in the midst of those who, out of the sea of humanity accepted His plan of salvation and dwell with the resurrected redeemed in a City specially prepared for His residence among them.

- At this present time God and the Lord Jesus Christ dwell with the redeemed by faith and love.
 - During Christ's millennial reign the resurrected Bride will literally dwell with her espoused Groom Christ their Saviour and King.
 - In eternity Christ the Groom and the Bride will come together as Husband and Wife and literally dwell with their heavenly Father throughout all eternity.
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For further information concerning eternity click or tap [Death](#) and select the title: Heaven.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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