

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.  
Rev. 1:3

# Verse by Verse Through the Book of Revelation

Seminar by Ellie Green

Created in  
Microsoft Publisher

---

## REVELATION CHAPTER 21

---

This chapter gives a full description of the heavenly New Jerusalem.

1. **And I saw a new heaven and a new earth:**

Greek kainos “new” in quality refers to newness in point of time—new in quality, different.

**for the first heaven and the first earth are passed away;** Heaven, as well as earth has been marred by the sin of Satan.

**and there was no more sea.** The seas as we know them now will not exist in the new creation.

2. **And I, John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.** Greek word for adorned kosmeo means ‘to arrange’ The English word “cosmetics” is derived from this Greek word. The form of the Greek verb suggests that the adorning had begun in the past and had be now been brought to completion.

Interesting quote from Ellen White: “Dark, heavy clouds came up and clashed against each other. The atmosphere parted and rolled back: then we could look up through the open space in Orion, whence came the voice of God. The Holy City will come down through that open space.” Early Writings. P. 41. This seems to indicate that it will be a real city coming from heaven to rest on this earth.



3. **And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.** This Greek word for tabernacle “skene” is used in John 1:14 “The word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.” The visible presence of God was made plain by the Shekinah in the days of the theocracy, and later by the personal appearance of Jesus Christ as a member of the human family, dwelling among men. The great voice from heaven now stresses the wonderful fact of a new creation and of God dwelling personally with His people.

4. **And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.** John says that “this death, the one we know so well and fear so much, shall be destroyed.” (1 Cor. 15:54 Death is swallowed up in victory!)

5. **And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.** Some point to Matt. 25:31 as evidence that the reference may be to Jesus.

**And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.**

6. **And he said unto me, It is done.** Rather, it has come to pass.

**I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. The beginning and the end.** We discussed this in ch. 1:8.

**I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.** This passage in the original reads “out of the spring of that water which is life itself. This is the promise of immortality (1 Cor. 15:53)

7. **He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.** Meaning continually, habitually conquers. We may make mistakes but the normal life presents a picture of spiritual growth.

8. **But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.** The fearful meaning cowardly—those who are afraid to stand up for God and His truth; Abominable meaning disgusting; Murderers meaning those that persecuted God’s faithful children; whore mongers meaning harlots and fornicators;

Sorcerers meaning practitioners of magical arts including drug-induced conditions; Idolaters meaning the heathen as well as Christians who practice heathenish rites; Liars including those that preach false doctrine.

9. **And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.** One of the plague-bearing angels had already shown John the judgment of the great harlot (see ch. 17:1). Now, one of them (possibly the same angel) directs John's attention to the New Jerusalem, the center and seat of the eternal kingdom.
  10. **And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.** In the spirit means a trance, in vision. John was put up on a high mountain where he could get a great view.
  11. **Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;**
  12. **And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:** Ezekiel also saw the city (Eze. 48:35).  
Twelve gates: compare the city that Ezekiel saw.
  13. **On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.** Four sides, three gates per side.
  14. **And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.** (Judas was among the 12—but we don't know whose name is substituted for Judas).
  15. **And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.**
  16. **And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.** A furlong is about 606 feet 6 inches. So, 12,000 furlongs would be about 1,378.4 miles.
-

17. **And he measured the wall thereof, and hundred and forth and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.**
  18. **And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.** It would seem that the city is transparent.
  19. **And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;**
  20. **The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.** Chalcedony is a stone of uncertain identification. Sardonyx is probably onyx. Sardius is believed to be a reddish-colored gem. Chrysolite is a yellow-colored stone of uncertain identification. Beryl believed to be a gem of sea-green color. Topaz believed to be transparent yellow. Chrysoprasus is an apple-green, transparent gem. Jacinth probably a purple-colored gem.
  21. **And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.** The size of the gems listed are beyond human comprehension.
  22. **And I saw no temple therein; for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.** The earthly sanctuary was symbolic of the dwelling place of God. When sin is removed the church will again be able to dwell in His presence, and no structure will be required to symbolize the dwelling of God.
  23. **And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.** Light-giving bodies will not be imperative for the illumination of the city. The glorious light of the presence of God will give more than sufficient light. God created light. He is therefore, greater than the created light.
  24. **And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it.** Isa. 60: 3,5 This is a description of all the nations, kindred, people and tongues redeemed from the earth.
  25. **And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.**
-

26. **And they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it.**
  
  27. **And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie; but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.** Doubtless an illusion to Isa. 52:1
-