# Revelation 21

## *All Things New:*
## *The New Jerusalem*

**OBSERVATION · INTERPRETATION · APPLICATION**

*"These were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."*

**Acts 17:11**

CHAPTER THEME

God finishes what He started in Eden. He makes everything new, moves in with His people, and wipes away every tear. The city is His gift to His Bride, lit by the Lamb, open to every thirsty person — and closed to everything unclean.

Ed Smith · Started 20 October 2026

# 00 The Text

REVELATION 21 (KJV), MARKED

Gold God — His character & actions | Green Command / instruction | Sky Key repeated word

Rose Sin / warning | Violet Promise / blessing | Amber Time / place / contrast

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

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.

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.

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.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

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.

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 shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

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:

13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

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.

17 And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty 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.

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.

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.

22 And I saw ◷ no temple therein : for ▲ the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

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.

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 honour into it.

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 honour 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.

## Marked in the text

- **v1** ◷ a new heaven and a new earth
- **v1** ◷ no more sea
- **v2** ◷ the holy city
- **v2** ★ a bride adorned for her husband
- **v3** ▲ the tabernacle of God is with men
- **v4** ★ wipe away all tears
- **v4** ★ no more death
- **v5** ▲ I make all things new
- **v6** ▲ It is done
- **v6** ★ the water of life freely
- **v7** ★ He that overcometh shall inherit all things
- **v8** ⚠ the fearful, and unbelieving
- **v8** ⚠ all liars
- **v8** ⚠ the second death
- **v9** ★ the bride, the Lamb's wife
- **v11** ▲ the glory of God *(every occurrence)*
- **v12** ⇄ twelve *(every occurrence)*
- **v16** ◷ foursquare
- **v18** ⇄ pure gold *(every occurrence)*
- **v22** ◷ no temple
- **v22** ▲ the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb
- **v23** ▲ the Lamb is the light thereof
- **v25** ◷ no night there
- **v27** ⚠ any thing that defileth
- **v27** ★ written in the Lamb's book of life

*Marks are drawn on the KJV text. Where the KJV says "twelve thousand furlongs" (v16), the NASB95 says "fifteen hundred miles."*

# 01 Observation

WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

KEY VERSE · REVELATION 21:3–4 (KJV)

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. 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.

## Setting

The last enemy is gone. Death and Hades are in the lake of fire (20:14), and the great white throne has spoken. Now John sees what comes after judgment: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth" (v1).

## Structure

- vv1–2 — **all things new:** a new heaven and a new earth, "for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea" (v1). The holy city, new Jerusalem, comes down out of heaven from God, "made ready as a bride adorned for her husband" (v2).
- vv3–4 — **God with us:** "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them" (v3). "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away" (v4).
- vv5–8 — **the One on the throne speaks:** "Behold, I am making all things new" (v5). "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega" (v6). Water of life "without cost" to the one who thirsts (v6). "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son" (v7). But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, immoral, sorcerers, idolaters and all liars — "their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death" (v8).
- vv9–21 — **the Bride, the city:** one of the seven bowl angels says, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb" (v9). From a great and high mountain John sees the city "having the glory of God" (vv10–11). A great, high wall; twelve gates with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, three on each side (vv12–13); twelve foundation stones with the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb (v14). It is measured with a gold rod: square, length, width and height equal — twelve thousand stadia, which the NASB95 gives as fifteen hundred miles (vv15–16). The wall is jasper; the city is pure gold like clear glass; the foundations are adorned with twelve precious stones; each gate is a single pearl; the street is pure gold, like transparent glass (vv18–21).
- vv22–27 — **what the city doesn't need:** no temple, "for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple" (v22). No sun or moon, "for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb" (v23). The nations walk by its light; the kings bring their glory into it (vv24, 26). Its gates are

never closed, "for there will be no night there" (v25). Nothing unclean will ever enter — "but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life" (v27).

### Repeated words

new (vv1, 2, 5); no longer / no more (vv1, 4); twelve (vv12, 14, 21); gates (vv12, 13, 15, 21, 25); glory (vv11, 23, 24, 26); bride (vv2, 9); the Lamb (vv9, 14, 22, 23, 27); city (vv2, 10, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23); gold (vv15, 18, 21).

### Contrasts

first heaven and earth ⟷ new heaven and earth (v1). Babylon the harlot (17–18) ⟷ Jerusalem the bride (vv2, 9). Tears, death, mourning ⟷ "no longer" (v4). The thirsty who drink freely (v6) ⟷ those whose part is the lake of fire (v8). Babylon's lamp goes out (18:23) ⟷ "its lamp is the Lamb" (v23). Babylon's gold bought souls (18:12–13) ⟷ the city's gold is pavement (v21). Nothing unclean (v27) ⟷ only those written in the Lamb's book of life.

### Chapter theme (my words)

God finishes what He started in Eden. He makes everything new, moves in with His people, and wipes away every tear. The city is His gift to His Bride, lit by the Lamb, open to every thirsty person — and closed to everything unclean.

## 02 Interpretation

WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

KEY VERSE · REVELATION 21:22–23 (KJV)

22 And I saw no temple therein : for ▲ the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. 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.

### What "new" means (v1)

Guzik: the word is *kainos* — new in kind and quality, fresh — not *neos*, new in time. God isn't simply starting over with a copy; He is making a better creation. Isaiah promised it: "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth" (Isa 65:17; 66:22). Peter saw the old one dissolve (2 Pet 3:10–13). Guzik places this after the millennium of chapter 20; the millennial passages still have seas (Ps 72:8; Ezek 47), but here "there is no longer any sea."

### No more sea

To the Jewish mind the sea was the place of chaos and separation. The beast rose from it (13:1), it held the dead (20:13), and "the wicked are like the tossing sea" (Isa 57:20). John himself wrote from Patmos,

cut off by the sea from the churches he loved (1:9). In the new creation nothing separates God's people from Him or from each other.

### God with us (vv2–4)

The heart of the chapter is v3: God dwells with His people. Guzik traces the line — God walking with Adam in the garden (Gen 3:8), the tabernacle in the wilderness (Exod 25:8; 29:45), the Word who "became flesh, and dwelt among us" (John 1:14 — literally *tabernacled*), and now God's home among men forever. The city is a gift that comes down from God; man didn't build it (Heb 11:10, 16). Guzik notes Seiss's list of the tears God will wipe away — tears of grief, of pain, of regret, of disappointment. Walvoord, in Guzik: the point is God's comfort, not shame over tears; this verse is not a rebuke to the believer who grieves now.

### "I am making all things new" (v5)

The verb is present tense. Guzik: God's renewing work has already begun in the believer (2 Cor 4:16; 5:17). Redeemed humanity will be better than innocent Adam ever was. H. Morris, in Guzik: in the new creation nothing will decay; the law of decay will be "repealed" (Rom 8:21).

### "It is done" (v6)

The same idea Jesus spoke on the cross, "It is finished" (John 19:30), is now said over all creation. Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters — He began it and He completes it (Isa 44:6). Then the invitation: water of life *without cost* to the thirsty (Isa 55:1; John 4:14; 7:37–38). Spurgeon, in Guzik, on how simple drinking is — nothing to earn, only to receive. Guzik: overcoming is by faith in Jesus (1 John 5:4–5).

### The list in v8

It begins with "the cowardly." L. Morris, in Guzik: this is not natural timidity but the person who chooses self and safety over Christ. The list describes lives that never turned to Christ — not believers who have stumbled in these sins and been washed (1 Cor 6:9–11). Paul's list ends, "Such were some of you."

### The Bride is the city (vv9–14)

The same kind of angel who showed John the harlot (17:1) now shows him the Bride. Guzik takes the city as a real place, called the Bride because it is where God's people dwell. The names on it unite God's people across history: the twelve tribes on the gates, the twelve apostles on the foundations (Eph 2:19–20). The wall isn't for defense — there are no enemies left — but it marks the city as set apart. The three gates on each side may echo Israel's camp arranged around the tabernacle (Num 2).

### The measurements (vv15–17)

Twelve thousand stadia is about 1,500 miles in each direction — length, width and height equal. The only other perfect cube in the Bible is the Holy of Holies (1 Kgs 6:20). Guzik: the whole city is the Most Holy Place. In the tabernacle only the high priest entered, once a year, with blood. In the new Jerusalem all of God's people live there. L. Morris, in Guzik: there is splendor here, and room for all.

### The materials (vv18–21)

Guzik takes them as real, but pointing beyond anything we know. The twelve stones echo the high priest's breastplate, which carried the names of the tribes over his heart (Exod 28:15–21, 29). Johnson, in Guzik: the imagery speaks of God's glory and holiness, not luxury. Walvoord: gold "like clear glass" shows a city that lets the glory of God pass through it without obstruction. The gates of pearl are worth remembering: a pearl forms around a wound in the oyster. What men pave roads with on earth, God paves streets with there.

### No temple, no sun (vv22–27)

Every ancient city had temples; this one has none, because God Himself is present everywhere in it. Alford, in Guzik: no place of worship or sacrifice is needed. The glory that filled the tabernacle (Exod 40:34) now fills the city, and its lamp is the Lamb (Isa 60:19–20). "No night" means no darkness, danger or closing of the gates. The nations and kings bring their glory into it (Isa 60:3, 11). And the door is defined by one thing: names written in the Lamb's book of life. Johnson, in Guzik: one must turn one's loyalties to the Lamb now to share in the city then.

### Word study (Greek)

- **new — *kainos* (G2537):** new in kind and quality, fresh — not *neos* (G3501), new in time.
- **passed away — *aperchomai* (G565):** to go away, depart.
- **tabernacle — *skēnē* (G4633):** a tent, God's dwelling; *skēnoō* (G4637), "dwell," is the verb of John 1:14.
- **wipe away — *exaleiphō* (G1813):** to wipe out, erase — the same word as "erase" in 3:5 and "wiped away" in Acts 3:19.
- **mourning — *penthos* (G3997):** grief, sorrow — the very thing Babylon said she would never see (18:7).
- **It is done — *gegonan* (from *ginomai*, G1096):** perfect tense — it has come to pass and stands done.
- **without cost — *dōrean* (G1432):** as a gift, freely.
- **overcomes — *nikaō* (G3528):** to conquer, win the victory.
- **cowardly — *deilos* (G1169):** fearful, timid in a shameful way.
- **bride — *nymphē* (G3565):** a bride, a young wife.
- **measure — *metreō* (G3354):** to measure out.
- **stadia — *stadion* (G4712):** a unit of about 600 feet; twelve thousand is roughly 1,400–1,500 miles (NASB95: "fifteen hundred miles").
- **temple — *naos* (G3485):** the inner sanctuary, the dwelling of God.
- **lamp — *lychnos* (G3088):** a lamp — the same word for Babylon's lamp that goes out (18:23).
- **unclean — *koinos* (G2839):** common, defiled, profane.

### Cross-references

Gen 2:8–10; Gen 3:8; Exod 25:8; Exod 28:15–21; Lev 26:11–12; Num 2; 1 Kgs 6:20; Isa 25:8; Isa 35:10; Isa 55:1; Isa 60:1–3, 11, 19–20; Isa 65:17–19; Ezek 37:27; Ezek 48:30–35; John 1:14; John 14:2–3; 1 Cor 2:9; 1 Cor 6:9–11; 2 Cor 5:17; Gal 4:26; Eph 2:19–22; Heb 11:10, 16; Heb 12:22–24; 2 Pet 3:10–13; Rev 3:12.

# 03 Application

HOW DOES IT CHANGE ME?

KEY VERSE · REVELATION 21:6–7 (KJV)

6 And he said unto me, ▲ It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of ★ the water of life freely. 7 ★ He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

### Command to obey — "come and drink."

The water of life is "without cost" to "the one who thirsts" (v6). The only requirement is thirst. I'll stop trying to earn what He gives freely, and today I'll go to Him thirsty instead of trying to look full. For the men I serve who have tried every other well — drugs, drink, porn, approval — this is the invitation: come and drink.

### Sin to confess — cowardice

"The cowardly" heads the list in v8. Not the nervous man, but the man who picks his own safety over Christ. Where have I kept quiet to protect my comfort or my reputation? I'll name it and ask for courage. The cure isn't trying harder to be brave; it's trusting more the One who already overcame.

### Warning to heed — nothing unclean will enter

God's city is holy; v27 shuts the gate on anything unclean. But the same God says, "Such were some of you; but you were washed" (1 Cor 6:11). The warning drives me to the only One who can make me clean, and it gives me urgency for men who haven't come yet.

### Promise to trust — "He will wipe away every tear."

Not just a tissue for today, but an end to the cause of every tear. Death, mourning, crying and pain — all "no longer" (v4). For the man grieving a son, a marriage or lost years, this is not a pat answer. It is God's personal promise: He will do the wiping Himself.

### Example to follow — God dwelling with His people

The goal of the whole Bible is v3: God with us. If that is where history ends, I want my days to look like it now — time with Him, not just work for Him. I'll practice His presence: start the day in the Word, walk with Him through it, end it with thanks.

### Worship

No temple, because He is there. No sun, because the Lamb is the light. No night, no locked gates, no tears. Even the gates of pearl began with a wound. I'm going home to a city built by a God who was wounded to bring me in.

## Prayer

Alpha and Omega, You make all things new. Thank You that the end of the story is You living with us and wiping away every tear. I come thirsty — let me drink freely. Wash what is unclean in me, give me courage where I've been a coward, and make me an inviter for every man who still needs the water of life. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

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