

Revelation Chapter 21

1) Introduction

- a) Quotation from Batsell Barrett Baxter
 - i) “When sixty-five of the sixty-six books of the Bible had been completed, when the final book of Revelation had been written almost in its entirety, when only eight additional paragraphs remained before the final period of all the recorded word of God should be placed for all time, God gave man his picture of heaven.”
- b) Some are convinced that the purpose of Revelation 21:1-22:5 is to picture the ideal church on earth, especially the church triumphant over Roman persecution. The same also see Revelation 20:11-15 as another temporal judgment upon Rome.
- c) Some are convinced that the New Jerusalem of Revelation 21 and 22 is the earthly Palestinian city renovated in preparation for a presumed thousand-year reign of Jesus on the earth. This begins with a literal interpretation from Revelation 20:4-6. To continue the literal vein would be to say that the city four-square of Revelation 21:16 would place the new Jerusalem measuring 1380 miles wide, 1380 miles long, and 1380 miles high into a land that measures about 75 miles wide and 150 miles long.
 - i) In a defense of this view, it may be said that it is hard to distinguish between the people (church, bride of Christ) and the place (heaven).
- d) My approach will be:
 - i) Revelation 20:11-15 – The Eternal Destiny of the Unredeemed.
 - ii) Revelation 21:1 – 22:5 – The Eternal Destiny of the Redeemed.
 - (1) John 14:1-3 - **1** “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. **2** In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

2) The New Heaven and the New Earth (21:1-8) – *Fellowship with God.*

- a) **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. **2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I 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. **4** He 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.” **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.” **6** And he 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. **7** The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. **8** But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

- b) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, (21:1)
- i) The first heaven cannot refer to the dwelling place of God – it refers to all the celestial things we can observe.
 - ii) Some hold a belief that the destruction of earth by fire will result in a new earth, along the lines of the universal flood following which Noah and his family left the ark and set foot on a new earth – the former things were destroyed in the flood.
 - iii) Rev. 20:11 - 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.
(1) The earth and sky fled away, perhaps to give way to the new heaven and new earth.
 - iv) 2 Peter 3:8-14 - **8** But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **9** The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. **10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. **11** Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, **12** waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! **13** **But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**
(1) 2 Peter was written 10 or more years before Revelation, so we cannot consider Rev. 21:1 as pertaining to the promise.
 - v) Isaiah 65:17 - **17** “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

- vi) Isaiah 66:22 - [22](#) “For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the Lord, so shall your offspring and your name remain.
 - (1) The two preceding verses from Isaiah are borrowed by John to describe the dramatic change to take place.
- vii) Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
- viii) Matthew 5:18 - For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.
- c) The sea was no more (21:1)
 - i) There will be no more separation (by a sea of glass or crystal sea).
 - (1) Rev. 4:6 - and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.
 - (2) Rev. 15:2 - And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands.
 - d) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (21:2)
 - i) This city is not made with hands – it comes from heaven rather than earth.
 - (1) Rev. 3:12 - The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. (written to Philadelphia)
 - (2) Heb. 11:10 - For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God (he – Abraham).
 - (3) Heb. 12:22 - But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, (contrast of kingdoms).
 - (4) Eph. 5:25-32 - [25](#) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, [26](#) that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, [27](#) so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ... [32](#) This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.
 - (5) Rev. 19:6-9 - ... [7](#) Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself

ready; **8** it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure” — for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. ...

(a)

- ii) Those of the persuasion that Revelation 21 speaks of the triumphant church on earth rather than speaking of the eternal destiny of the redeemed have used this verse to make their point thusly: “If the new Jerusalem is heaven, then you have heaven coming down from heaven.”
- e) And I 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. (21:3)
 - i) Dwelling place of God is literally tabernacle (or tent), which is reminiscent of the tabernacle in the wilderness – a proof to the Israelites that God was with them.
 - ii) Without answering the prior argument from Revelation 21:2, I focus on the change of God’s dwelling place.
 - (1) Heaven has been shown to be the dwelling place of God throughout Revelation.
 - (2) Christians have been pictured as dwelling in heaven in distinction from those who dwell on the earth throughout Revelation.
 - iii) 2 Cor. 6:16-18 - **16** What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **17** Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, **18** and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”
- f) He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore,” (21:4)
 - i) Rev. 20:14 - Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.
 - (1) 1 Cor. 15:26 - The last enemy to be destroyed is death.
 - ii) For some, the prospect of no more mourning, nor crying, no pain is a primary motivation for going to heaven. The present reality of following the lamb and remaining true to His testimony should be no less motivation.
 - iii) For the redeemed, it will be glorious.
 - iv) As of today (2-10-2016), mourning, crying, and pain continue for many Christians, which leads me to believe that the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven is **not** the church on this earth because death, sorrow, crying and pain continue, even for those whose citizenship is in heaven.
- g) For the former things have passed away. (21:4)

- i) The former things began in Genesis 3 when sin came into the world and man was separated from God.
- ii) For the redeemed, the former things of separation, death, sorrow, crying, and pain will be accomplished.
- h) 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.” (21:5)
 - i) When the former things have passed away, the new things replace them.
 - ii) John was instructed to write it down, because it was trustworthy and true, and because God through the Holy Spirit wants his people to know!
- i) And he 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. (21:6)
 - i) Further assurance comes from knowing that Jesus is faithful and true to his promise – so much so that we can consider it done.
 - ii) He is the beginning and the end – He existed from the beginning, He exists now, and He will exist at the end – and beyond. This cannot be said of any government or nation or anything at all except the holy trio Father, Son, and Spirit.
 - iii) To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.
 - (1) Matt. 5:6 - “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
 - (2) John 4:10-15 - **10** Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” **11** The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? **12** Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” **13** Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, **14** but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” **15** The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”
 - (3) Jeremiah 2:13 - for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.
- j) The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. (21:7)

- i) Consider the words of the letters to the seven churches:
- (1) Ephesus - To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.' (2:7)
 - (2) Smyrna - The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death. (2:11)
 - (3) Pergamum - To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.' (2:17)
 - (4) Thyra - [26](#) The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, [27](#) and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. [28](#) And I will give him the morning star. (2:26-28)
 - (5) Sardis - The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. (3:5)
 - (6) Philadelphia - The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. (3:12)
 - (7) Laodicea - The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. (3:21)
 - (8) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”
- ii) This heritage – the blessings of heaven.
- iii) I will be his God and he will be my son.
- (1) 2 Cor. 6:16-18 - [16](#) What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. [17](#) Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, [18](#) and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”
 - (2) Gal. 3:26-27 - [26](#) for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. [27](#) For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
 - (3) 1 John 3:1-3 - [1](#) See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. [2](#) 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. **3** And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

k) But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.” (21:8)

i) If, instead of overcoming in every circumstance, one is overcome, then the blessings of heaven are not theirs.

(1) Cowardly – overwhelmed by fear of persecution

(2) Faithless – unbelieving, without sufficient faith to overcome

(3) Detestable (abominable) – probably in the practices associated with idolatry

(4) Murderers – may have been a cause of death for some of the faithful

(5) Sexually immoral – also associated with, but not limited to, the practice associated with idols and pagan worship

(6) Sorcery – always an abomination to God, and also associated with pagan worship and idols

(7) Liars – temptation to deny Christ in the face of persecution to save themselves, but not in any way restricted to that one lie. *All* liars are condemned.

(a) Rev. 14:4-5 - **4** It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, **5** and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

3) The New Jerusalem (21:9-27) – *Protection by God*

a) **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.” **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, **11** having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. **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— **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 on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. **15** And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. **16** The 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. [17](#) He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. [18](#) The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. [19](#) 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. [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, like transparent glass. [22](#) And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. [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. [24](#) By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, [25](#) and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. [26](#) They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. [27](#) But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

- b) 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." (21:9)
 - i) Rev. 16:1 - Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God."
 - ii) Rev. 17:1 - [1](#) Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters,
 - iii) John saw a lot of angels, but he recognized this one as one of the seven who were given bowls of wrath.
 - iv) Note that the angel said he would show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb, but the angel showed John a city.
- c) 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, (21:10)
 - i) So John could have a complete, unobstructed view of the holy city as it came down.
 - ii) Rev. 17:3 - And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.
- d) Description of the holy city (21:11-27)

- i) Having the glory of God (21:11)
- (1) Rev. 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.
 - (2) Luke 2:9 - And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.
 - (3) Acts 9:3 - Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him.
 - (4) The word “Shekina” has become popular in some religious circles. It indicates the divine presence, or residence, of God.
 - (a) The word “Shekina” is not found in the scriptures, coming rather from Jewish Rabbis.
 - (b) The greek word used in Rev. 21:23 for light is *photizo* – similar to *phos* – a self-emitting light.
 - (c) Exodus 13:21-22 – **21** And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. **22** The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.
 - (d) Isaiah 60:1-3 – **1** Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. **2** For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. **3** And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.
 - (e) Matt. 17:5 – He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”
- ii) its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. (21:11)
- (1) Rev. 4:3 - And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian



- iii) **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— **13** on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. (21:12-13)
- (1) The great, high wall makes it secure.
- (a) 12,000 stadia high (1,380 miles, 144 cubits thick (216 feet) - from Rev. 21:15-17. Stadia is 1/8 of a Roman mile. Some calculate using English miles to arrive at 1,500 miles.
- (i) The measurements are symbolic – the idea is that there is room for all of the redeemed.
- (b) Secure from what?
- (2) The twelve gates make it accessible – 3 gates on each side.
- (a) Ezekiel 48:30-35 - **30** “These shall be the exits of the city: On the north side, which is to be 4,500 cubits by measure, **31** three gates, the gate of Reuben, the gate of Judah, and the gate of Levi, the gates of the city being named after the tribes of Israel. **32** On the east side, which is to be 4,500 cubits, three gates, the gate of Joseph, the gate of Benjamin, and the gate of Dan. **33** On the south side, which is to be 4,500 cubits by measure, three gates, the gate of Simeon, the gate of Issachar, and the gate of Zebulun. **34** On the west side, which is to be 4,500 cubits, three gates, the gate of Gad, the gate of Asher, and the gate of Naphtali. **35** The circumference of the city shall be 18,000 cubits. And the name of the city from that time on shall be, **The Lord Is There.**”
- (b) The names of God’s people are on the gates.
- (3) Exekiel was given the name of the city – **The Lord Is There.**
- (a) Rev. 21:3 - **3** And I 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.
- (4) Twelve angels – one for each gate.
- (a) Perhaps to prevent any improper entrance into the city.
- (b) Rev 21:27 - But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.
- iv) And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. (21:14)
- (1) Eph. 2:19-22 - **19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ

Jesus himself being the cornerstone, [21](#) in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. [22](#) In him **you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God** by the Spirit.

- (2) Rev. 21:19-20 - [19](#) 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.



(c)

(d) Eight of the twelve are the same as those found in the breastplate of the high priest (Exodus 28:15-21).

(e) Regardless of what significance some may attempt to make of these gems, the foundation of the apostles is magnificent.

- v) [15](#) And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. [16](#) The 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. [17](#) He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement.

(21:15-17)

(1) See iii – (1) – (a) above.

(2) It is indeed a mighty city – with room for all the redeemed for whom it is built.

- vi) The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. (21:18)

- (1) Jasper – clear as crystal – no impurities
 - (2) Pure gold – like clear glass – again no impurities which would reduce the glory of the city.
- vii) 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, like transparent glass. (21:21)
- (1) A single pearl the size of a gate would be large indeed.
 - (2) It has been suggested that the pearl is the one precious stone that is formed by suffering.
 - (a) In order to protect itself from irritation, the oyster will quickly begin covering the uninvited visitor with layers of nacre — the mineral substance that fashions the mollusk's shells. Layer upon layer of nacre, also known as mother-of-**pearl**, coat the grain of sand until the iridescent gem is formed.
 - (b) See vi) – (2).
- viii) And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. (21:22)
- (1) The Lord God was considered as dwelling in the tabernacle and its successor, the Temple, until the veil was split.
 - (a) Matt. 27:50-51 - [50](#) And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. [51](#) And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.
 - (b) Heb. 6:19-20 – [19](#) We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, [20](#) where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek
 - (c) Heb. 10:19-22 - [19](#) Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, [20](#) by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, [21](#) and since we have a great priest over the house of God, [22](#) let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
 - (2) The temple on earth was the place where Israelites came into the presence of God, sacrifice for sin was made, and intercession was made.
 - (a) None of these are needed in the holy city because sin has been atoned for and no more sin remains, and the residents are in the presence of God.

- (b) Unlike earthly Jerusalem, which had one building dedicated for worship of God, this holy city is ALL temple.
- (c) Rev. 7:14-15 - **14** I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. **15** “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.
- (d)
- ix) 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. (21:23)
- (1) See notes on 21:11.
- x) **24** By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, **25** and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. (21:24-25)
- (1) The redeemed of all nations enjoy the light of the city.
- (2) The kings of the earth will devote their treasure to God, to acknowledge a ruler greater than themselves – the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- (3) Gates were closed at night for protection, but the gates of the holy city will never close because there is no night there.
- xi) They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. (21:26)
- (1) Rev. 5:9-10 - **9** And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, **10** and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”
- (2) Rev. 7:9-10 - **9** After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, **10** and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”
- (3) The redeemed come from all nations.
- (a) Acts 10:34-35 - **34** So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, **35** but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

xii) But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. (21:27)

(1) See comments on 21:8.