

Revelation 21

21:1

The old earth experiences the pains and frustrations like we do. It shared in our curse **Romans 8:18-25**.

21:2

Think about the incredible detail that goes towards preparing a bride for beauty

21:3

The Tabernacle and the Temple were the dwelling places of God throughout human history. Now they are replaced by God Himself dwelling with His people.

Foretaste of this Tabernacling seen in **John 1:14**

A beautiful picture of this reality is seen in the tomb seen of **John 20**

21:4

Our loved ones are never said to have passed away. They passed onward. The only things that literally 'pass away' are tears, death, sorrow, crying, and pain.

21:5

Jesus makes all things new, making Him a greater King than Solomon **Ecclesiastes 1:1-9**

The reliability of this wonderful testimony comes from the assurance of God Himself

21:6

The same invitation given to the Samaritan woman. We are called to walk by faith because like the Samaritan woman who did not actually drink of water that would cease her thirsting until she drinks in the new heavens and new earth, so we are given promises in the Bible that await this great day for their fulfillment. It is why we have **Hebrews 11** in our Bibles.

'Freely', see **Isaiah 55:1,2**

21:7

The privilege of adoption; we become heirs of our Adopter. See **Romans 8:12-17**

21:8

If we all sin and fall short of the glory of God, then why do those on this list not inherit God's Kingdom?

It always comes down to repentance. Just ask John the Baptist

Matthew 3:1-12

21:9-11

Revelation has presented to us an earthly Jerusalem, and now a heavenly Jerusalem. The earthly Jerusalem has been described as the most wicked of all cities, surpassing that of ancient Babylon, who had the shameful audacity to destroy the Temple of God. But the earthly Jerusalem exceeded Babylon in its wickedness by destroying the true temple of God on a Friday afternoon upon a cross.

Revelation 11:8 identifies the true Babylon for us in the form of earthly Jerusalem while Revelation 21 presents the New Jerusalem.

Two other New Testament authors present this same truth to us.

Galatians 4:21-31 and **Hebrews 12:18-24**

21:12,13

A beautiful picture of the restoration of the 12 sons of Jacob. See

Genesis 45:1-15

Genesis 45:1,3 cf. **Genesis 37:4**

21:14

The gates represent the 12 tribes of the Old Testament; the foundations represent the 12 Apostles (no other foundation can be laid than the one foundation of Jesus Christ) **I Corinthians 3:11**

21:15-20

A greater fulfillment of **Ezekiel 48:30-35**. Perhaps the gates are named in the same manner?

12,000 furlongs = 1,342 miles

Colors of various blues, purples, greens, golds, reds and whites.
Meant to describe indescribable beauty

(Stained-glass windows)

21:21

It is fascinating that the gates are made of pearl. A pearl is formed by an oyster when an irritant gets into the inner lining of its shell.

The oyster will then take a substance from its shell, nacre (nay'-kur), and surround the irritant with it. This hardens and forms a pearl. The precious pearl is formed out of discomfort. The New Jerusalem, occupied by those who have overcome their discomforts, is surrounded by the sign of the preciousness of their victory, the Pearl.

21:22

Colossians 2:17 tells us that these things were a shadow of the reality that was coming; namely Christ.

21:23,24

Kings pay honor and homage to Jesus; the King of kings

21:25

In conjunction with there being no sea (**v. 1**) the fact that there is no night there indicates God's overcoming the darkness and the deep that had to be overcome in **Genesis 1:2** so that now nothing threatens our existence forevermore.

21:26,27

In addition to the immense and spectacular beauty of the new heavens and new earth, glory and honor are what constitutes the atmosphere of this place of utter and complete perfection.

All that could cause a threat to this wonderful, eternal experience shall by no means enter it. This is a place arrived at by grace only, there is no other means by which it can be reached.

Ephesians 2:8-10