

The New Earth

*with its New Jerusalem
and new phase of the Kingdom of God*



by Robert Curry

Revelation 21 and 22 give tantalizing details about the New Earth with its New Jerusalem." Even Bible students sometimes wrongly apply details of this phase of the Kingdom of God with the millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

But first we must go back to the previous verse in 20:15.

Talk about a pivotal verse in the Bible!

A time that changes everything in God's plan of salvation for mankind. Like the creation of Adam and Eve. Like Noah's Flood baptizes and cleanses the earth and starts over with one righteous man and his family. Like when the Word divests Himself of His divinity to come down to earth and live as a human and then die for you and me so our sins could be forgiven. Like when Jesus Christ started His Church, gave the Holy Spirit, and charged them with the Great Commission (Matthew 24:14, 28:19-20; Acts 1:8). Like when Jesus Christ returns and rules the earth with the resurrected firstfruit saints during the Millennium and the Great White Throne period. A huge pivotal event on par with all those game-changers!

"And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." At this moment, all humans have their name written in the Lamb's Book of Life and have become Gods in the Family and Kingdom of God for eternity. Or they have burned up in the earth-cleansing Lake of Fire—this second death means they no longer exist for eternity. Talk about eternal consequences!

After 52 years learning God's Way, only recently did I see that this verse completes God's plan of salvation for mankind that we picture by keeping His Holy Days each year.

God always desired all men and women to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4) including all Israel (Romans 11:26). At the time this verse is fulfilled, all humans will have received their salvation!

Two Gods have become billions. You and I must be there!

Note that all the action has been on the Earth

The firstfruit resurrected saints become the Bride of Jesus Christ and rule with Him on the earth for 1,000 years. Then all humans who have ever lived and did not have their opportunity for salvation are resurrected back to physical life for what seems likely to be 100 years (Isaiah 65:20), during the Great White Throne, also on the earth.

Why don't people believe God when His Bible promises over and over that the meek will inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5).

So the joke is: I sure don't want to be meek then! I want to go to heaven when I die.



Why don't people believe the most credible witness possible—Jesus Christ—who said no one had gone to heaven except Himself (John 3:13). How could you say it any plainer than that! Acts 2:34 seconds that doctrinal statement when it says David did not ascend to heaven. If not him, who else would be more likely than the man after God's own heart!

Mankind has suckered for satan's lie to Adam and Eve that they were an immortal soul who would not die, and would go to heaven like he foolishly tried to do long ago (Isaiah 14:12-14) and will try once more (Revelation 12:9) and to hell as vainly imagined by Dante Alighieri.

Yes, we'd better be teachable and responsive—meek--so we will be written in the Book of Life! And not dunked in the Lake of Fire!

“Burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be *stubble* [emphasis mine throughout]. And the day is coming shall *burn them up* ... You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be *ashes* under the soles of your feet” (Malachi 4:1-3).

The Schofield Study Bible III is deceived when it thinks the Lake of Fire is "the eternal state of the wicked." The Lake of Fire will burn up all all physical, material and sinful from the earth and the first heaven—apparently the clouds and atmosphere above where planes fly, where humans have gone and corrupted. Perhaps this will have to include all the way to Mars and where Hubble has gone. The Lake of Fire will go out when there is nothing more to burn.

Now it's time for God the Father and Jesus Christ to launch what the God Family and Kingdom will be doing next for eternity. The base of operations will be from the New Earth with its New Jerusalem.

The New Earth with Its New Jerusalem

The first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea." (Revelation 21:1).

This reminds us of Hebrews 1:10-12: "... the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed."

There's no Goodwill left to donate a charred earth to. It's time for a most radical change only a Great All-Powerful God could pull off!

The Greek word for "new" heaven and earth is *kainos*

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words says it means "not 'new' in time, recent, but 'new' as to form or quality, of different nature from what is contrasted as old." This is different from the Greek word *neos* for new in time. *Kainos* is sometimes translated "fresh."

Yes, talk about a fresh change! Only spirit will exist. Try to wrap your mind around that! Talk about "of a different nature." Human nature is gone! God has surely had enough of it! Those alive now are "partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:4). To escape the Lake of Fire we must not be "cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters ... [or] liars" (Revelation 21:8).

Scofield Bible says "The new Jerusalem is the dwelling place throughout eternity for the saints of all ages and fulfills the hope of Abraham for the heavenly city (Heb. 11:10-16) ..." False Christianity thinks Revelation 21 and 22 are about everybody living up in the new heaven for eternity.

But look what John spells out in verse 2: "Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." The holy city, New Jerusalem, comes down from heaven to the New Earth!

"The book of Psalms ... says that Mount Zion is the eternal dwelling place of God. The prophet Isaiah says the same" (MountZionArcheology.org). "For the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling place: 'This is My resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it" (Psalm 132:13-14).

That's why Earth has been the privileged planet with over 50 conditions for life being met, where if even one condition is off one degree, life would not exist! Earth was perfectly situated in the Milky Way so that men would be able to search for the glory of God in the universe, and it turns out that the Milky Way seemed to be perfectly located in the universe!

Why?

Because the meekest tenant of all will arrive on the new earth: God the Father (verses 3-4)!

"And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

These two verses sound parallel to what is promised for the Great Innumerable Multitude (Revelation 7:15-17). This appears to be the time they are serving before the throne of God!

God the Father will no longer need to stay completely away from the sinful humans polluting everything they touch (Isaiah 59:1-2). Instead of needing to build His immunity or get used to sin, He and Jesus changed them into righteous Gods!

God the Father, the Head of the Family of God (Ephesians 3:15), will make the New Earth the base of operations for carrying out all the new plans He and Jesus Christ the Lamb have in mind for the next phase of eternity. So who would want to live up in heaven that's been vacated!

God always said man was

**Destined to inherit "all things"--the universe!
(Revelation 21:7)**

"And I will be His God and he shall be My son." "For in that He put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him" (Hebrews 2:8).

Hebrews 11:3 states that "by faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible." Physical was created out of spirit. Everything was spirit clear back to the beginning which really wasn't. The universe could easily be transformed into ever-expanding spirit.

"Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.'"

For eternity, the God Family will be exclaiming: What's new? The answers to that question you should do everything you can to be there and find out!

New Jerusalem on the New Earth: the Lamb's Bride

John saw “the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband” (Revelation 21:2).

What does this mean, since Jesus Christ will marry His Bride back in Revelation 19:7-10—the righteous from Abel on down to the firstfruits in the First Resurrection. The Bride will ride with Jesus on white angel horses down to conquer the rebellious earth in what will surely be the craziest honeymoon ever! She will then rule with Jesus for the 1,000 years on the earth from Jerusalem—Zion—and then for the Great White Throne period which sounds like it might be 100 years (Isaiah 65:18-20).

In Jewish weddings, the man betroths the woman he will marry and then goes back to his father's house to build on an addition for the new couple and family (John 14:2). When all is prepared, the bridegroom comes back. His party announces his arrival, often late at night when least expected, and his bride is expected to be ready. Jesus used this motif for His parable in Matthew 25 about the 10 virgins all falling asleep and only five were ready with enough Holy Spirit and character development when Jesus Christ would return.

Jesus Christ will have already brought His Bride her citizenship that was in heaven (Philippians 3:20) down to the earth for the Kingdom on earth lasting apparently 1,100 years. Jesus and His Bride will have already built Jerusalem and the entire earth into the utopia man has always sought. We will be kings, priests, judges, teachers and mayors—as spiritual God Beings who can appear as humans when appropriate (Isaiah 30:20-21).

But the God Family has so much more in mind for the rest of eternity and creates a New Earth. Its New Jerusalem will be even more special--the new city and better heavenly country that Abraham and the saints all looked forward to (Hebrews 11:13-16).

Before in the Father's third heaven, everyone said "glory!" (Psalm 29:9). Now holiness will pervade the whole universe.

The bride, the Lamb's wife ... the holy Jerusalem (verses 9-10)

The Church of God is individually and collectively the dwelling place of God—the temple of God (Ephesians 2:22). John describes the new city where they will live in all its "glory of God" (verse 11).

My wife and I have always cherished homes that have much natural light through windows or a skylight. The most discussed quality about this New Jerusalem is its light, characterized as like a "most precious ... jasper stone, clear as crystal. The crystal sea of glass was one of the chief characteristics of the third heaven (Revelation 4:6) and Christ's portable throne (Ezekiel 1:22).



A great and high wall has 12 gates, three on each side, each with an angel and a name of one of the 12 Tribes of Israel. Israel was chosen by God for special honor and responsibility that will last for eternity (Revelation 21:12-13).

Who hasn't heard of the pearly gates? Each gate is made out of one pearl. Remember the pearl of great price that was worth selling everything to have a shot at it (Matthew 13:45-46)!

The wall has 12 foundations, each with the name of one of the 12 Apostles of the Lamb. They had already ruled over the 12 Tribes of Israel during the 1,100 years of Christ's Kingdom on earth (Matthew 19:28). The foundations were adorned with precious stones. God's favorite seems to be jasper since it's on the first foundation, followed by the other 11 foundations with sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, sardius, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprase, jacinth and amethyst.

The city is a cube, about 1,500 miles long, wide and high (Revelation 21:16)

That may not sound like so much space until you realize that it's 1,500 miles from Denver to Pittsburgh! And from Bangor (Maine) to Orlando!



The real surprise is the height. The highest place on earth is Mt. Everest in the Himalayas. The China-Nepal border crosses its summit. Its 29,035 feet stretches only 5.5 miles high (only 4/10% of the

New Jerusalem's height). What's the God Family going to do with all that height!

Being a cube is significant. The Holy of Holies in the wilderness tabernacle was 10 cubits long, wide and tall. Solomon's was double the size: 20 cubits long, wide and tall (1 Kings 6:20). Moses and Solomon had been very diligent to follow the

instructions that were patterned after the heavenly dimensions (Hebrews 8:5). Now God the Father has come down to rule from the New Earth with a much bigger cubical!

The God Family shares in it! The ultimate fulfillment of the bridegroom having built on an addition for his bride to live in--"in my Father's house are many mansions." The city and heavenly country Abraham and all the saints had longed for.

That the angel of God measures the dimensions of the New Jerusalem with a gold reed is a tip-off to its priceless composition. The city was "pure gold, like clear glass" (verse 18). The Great God we serve will pave His streets with pure gold, like transparent glass! (verse 21). I doubt if we'll be worrying about potholes!

God calls us now His jewels

—His special treasure (Malachi 3:16-17, Zechariah 9:16). He has an eternal home waiting for us that is precious out of this world! We who are called and have the vision of the New Earth must "be even more diligent to make our calling and election sure" (2 Peter 1:10).

The New Earth Paradise: Temples, Light, River, Tree of Life

Revelation 21:22 says there will be “no temple” in the New Jerusalem on the New Earth besides “the Lord God Almighty [the Father] and the Lamb.” There will be no need for sun or moon because the glory of God will light it up. Remember how humans would die if they should look at God’s glorious face (Exodus 32:20). The preincarnate Jesus allowed Moses to see His backside. The Lamb (Revelation 21:23) and the Father (22:5) will provide all the guiding light needed.

All of the other Gods added to the Family will add their spiritual lumens to the mix. “The nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light” (21:24). God’s children were influenced by the nations and ethnicities they lived among as humans, and it seems they may still be organized in some fashion by nations.

Isaiah 60:11 talks about how in Christ’s millennial reign, the gates of Jerusalem will be open continually, not shut day or night, and through them will come processions of kings bringing the wealth of the Gentiles. The New Jerusalem will outdo this: The gates of pearl will not shut all day, and there will be no night (Revelation 21:25). The children of God will be the “kings of the earth” (Revelation 5:10) now serving God’s way in glory and honor.

Verse 27 reminds us again that if we want to be there, permitted to enter because our names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, we must not defile, cause an abomination or a lie.

My dream

has always been to own a property with a real mountain river,

stream or creek flowing through it. This New Jerusalem will feature a “pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and the Lamb. In the middle of its street [paved in gold, verse 21], and on either side of the river, was the tree of life” (22:1-2).

Remember how Jesus promised, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water” (John 7:37). Note that Jesus said this “on the last day, that great day of the feast” [the Feast of Tabernacles followed by the Eighth Day]. If we want to be there at this New Jerusalem, we must keep God’s Holy Days now! We will never understand God’s plan of salvation unless we are keeping His days.

This New Jerusalem river reminds us of Ezekiel’s prophecy of a millennial temple where a river flows “from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar” toward the east (47:1), and the river miraculously grows wider and stronger as it flows out, healing everything in its path.

The Tree of Life available again!

Adam and Eve had been evicted from the Garden of Eden and its Tree of Life because of their sin. Now their resurrected children who have become Gods will happily choose to eat from it forever! It will bear 12 fruits, “yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

We will have to find out why there apparently will be time and why nations of Gods would need to eat of its leaves for healing.

Remember how Jesus told His disciples: “I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom” (Matthew 26:29). Apparently

Gods will be able to enjoy eating and drinking. Remember, everything will be spirit, and I'm sure chefs and baristas will know how to make everybody love to taste and see that God is good! Since Psalms 149:5 says "Let the saints be joyful in glory; let them sing aloud on their beds," it appears that Gods will have use for a bed even though they do not grow weary or slumber.

So talk about coming full circle: The Tree of Life is back available for us Gods to choose to eat of its goodness. No angel will be barring access with a flaming sword. The curse for sin that caused the Lamb of God to have to die is gone! (Revelation 22:3).

It shouldn't be surprising that the Churches of God in Revelation were each promised a great reward that directly ties in with the New Earth

Ephesus: "To him who *overcomes* I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God" (Revelation 2:7).

Smyrna: "He who *overcomes* shall not be hurt by the second death" (verse 11).

Pergamos: "To him who *overcomes* I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it" (verse 17).

Thyatira: "He who *overcomes*" in this one case is promised power over the nations during the Millennium and Great White Throne (26-28).

Sardis: "He who *overcomes* shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life" (3:5).

Philadelphia: "He who *overcomes*, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write

on him the name of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name" (verse 12).

Laodicean: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who *overcomes* I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne" (verses 20-21).

The amazing promise to Philadelphia is confirmed by 22:4 "They shall see His face [1 John 3:2], and His name shall be on their foreheads." I like my name but I'll be happy to change it to what God thinks best suits me. Those whose parents named them foolish names like Ima Nutt will be thrilled!

What should we learn from these promises to the Seven Churches?

We must be a part of the True Church of God and doing the Great Commission Jesus gave to His Church. We must be baptized and then have hands laid on us by a true minister of the Church of God asking God to grant us His Holy Spirit. That puts us into the True Church. It's not good enough to be religious or spiritual. Just you and me, Lord invariably ends up being just me.

Did you notice the *italicized* word in each of those church promises. "Just as I am" doesn't cut it with God. John the Baptist demanded "bear fruits worthy of repentance" (Matthew 3:8). We must *overcome* the three hissing s's: satan, society and self through the help of God the Father and Jesus Christ living in us through their powerful Holy Spirit.

It's all going to be so worth it when we are Gods in the Family and Kingdom of the New Earth and experiencing the amazing eternity planned for us by the Father and Jesus Christ.

“In your presence is fullness of joy. In your right hand there are pleasures forevermore” (Psalm 16:11). “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly above anything we might do or think” (Ephesians 3:20).

We want to be there!

Jesus promises He is coming quickly (Revelation 22:7). We must keep the words of Revelation. And we must “do His commandments, that [we] may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city” (verse 14). Talk about a “kingdom and the power and the glory forever”! (Matthew 6:13). Let’s pray and seek it daily and not neglect so great a salvation (Hebrews 2:3).

As the Lord’s Prayer concludes so beautifully: Yours is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever ... Amen!” (Matthew 6:13). That always makes me exclaim: “Thank you, God, for sharing it with me!”

Every day I thank God for calling me and choosing me and allowing me to have a part in His eternal plan! (Revelation 17:14). Nothing is more important than for us to choose and be faithful!



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