

With all the craziness of Satan being bound, Satan being loosened, and his final attempt to overthrow Jesus being completely thwarted, Satan was judged and doomed to eternity in the Lake of Fire. So were all the dead whose names were not caused to be written in the Lambs book of life. Then suddenly, the entire narrative changes and the Spirit focuses us on all that is new, our **ETERNITY THEN**.

EP175 Revelation 21:1

Before we focus exclusively on verse one, let's read the entire text of *Revelation 21* so we can get a full picture of our "**ETERNITY THEN**," a picture that will continue into *Revelation 22*.

Revelation 21:1-27

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea now is **now** more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, **now** coming down out of heaven from God, caused to having been prepared as a bride caused to having been adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne **now** saying,

"Behold, the dwelling place {tabernacle} of the God with these men. He will in the **future** dwell {tabernacle} with them, and they will in the **future** choose to be his people, and the God himself with them will in the **future** choose to be their God.

And He will, in the **future**, wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death will in the **future** choose to be no more, neither will there in the **future** choose to be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

And He who chooses to **now** be sitting on the throne said, "Behold, I **now** make all things new."

And He **now** says, "You are commanded to write, for these words **now** are faithful and true."

Then He said to me,

"They have been done. I **now** am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will, in the **future**, give to the one who is **now** thirsting from the spring of the water of life without cost. He who is **now** overcoming will in the **future** inherit these things, and in the **future**, I will choose to be his God, and he will in the **future** choose to be My son.

But for the cowardly and unbelieving and those caused to being abominable and murderers and immoral and sorcerers and idolaters and all the liars, the part theirs in the lake that is **now** caused to be burning with fire and brimstone, which **now** is the second death."

Then one of the seven angels who is **now** having the seven vials {bowls} **now** being full of the seven last plagues {wounds} came and spoke with me, **now** saying, "Come here, in the **future** I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

And he carried me away in spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem **now** coming down out of heaven from God, **now** having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, **now** being clear as crystal.

It is **now** having a great, high wall, **now** having twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel caused to being inscribed. On the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city **now** having twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

And the one who is **now** speaking with me had a measuring rod of gold that he may measure the city and its gates and walls.

The city **now** chooses to lie foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia {miles}. Its length and width and height are **now** equal.

He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also **now** an angel's measurement.

And the structure of the wall of jasper, while the city pure gold, clear as glass. The foundations of the wall of the city caused to being adorned with every kind of jewel. The first jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

And the twelve gates twelve pearls, each of the gates was of a single pearl, and the street of the city pure gold, transparent as glass.

And I saw no Sanctuary in the city, for its Sanctuary **now** is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

And the city **now** has no need of sun or moon that it may **now** shine on it, for the glory of God did lighten it, and the lamp thereof, the Lamb.

By its light the nations will in the **future** walk, and the kings of the earth **now** bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be caused to be shut by day—and there in the **future** there will choose to be no night there. And in the **future**, they will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

But nothing unclean may ever enter it, nor anyone who is **now** doing what is detestable or false, but only those who are caused to being written in the Lamb's book of life.

Overview: The New Heaven and New Earth; The New Jerusalem

Fiction Alert

FICTION ALERT

We started this journey clarifying that what we are shown in **Revelation** is a top-down picture—a view of how God sees things through the reality of the spiritual into the natural realm, and **NOT** the other way around. This becomes super-abundantly clear in these final two chapters. It seems that forever, these

chapters have been addressed as if they depict our future reality, our experience on the other side of this life extending throughout eternity. And while that is partially correct, some parts are dealing with **ETERNITY THEN**, most of this passage is addressing life now – our **ETERNITY NOW**.

The **Code** renders much of these final two chapters in the *present* tense. In other words, we are given a picture of our **NOW** that extends into our eternity, our **NOW & THEN**. These amazing descriptions of this grand city, the new Jerusalem, the wife of Christ including the walls, the bedazzlement of it all, the streets of gold, the temple (or lack thereof), is:

- 1) all about how Jesus sees His bondservants in the now, a now that extends to eternity; and
- 2) all about how He is the one who has illuminated His city and is its sole source for all the city needs.

But all these descriptions are metaphors, pictures, truths spoken in **Code**. The Spirit is giving us a glimpse of something which our minds cannot even fathom; therefore, He attempts to emotionally connect us to the glory and marvel of His bondservants (His wife) through familiar images.¹

By way of example, the text states that New Jerusalem will have “*streets of gold*.” According to the **Code**, Gold depicts that which is divine. It is a picture that communicates a powerful message. Everything about this new city, even its streets, is composed of that which is divine. In other words, the wife of Jesus, His bondservants, share His very nature (**NOW**) via the **New Creation that is created in His image (righteous, holy, and true)**, and one day they will be transformed to be completely like Him, just as He has promised (**THEN**).²

This is an emotional message to convince us about how God sees us now, a beautiful view that is not based on what we do for Him, but a view that is based upon what He has done and continues to do for His **Called and Chosen and Faithful** ones. It is a view of us through His eyes of grace.

In that light, the earthly images that are used throughout are intended to give us something to which we can relate and thereby encourage, build up, motivate, and excite us to now be walking faithfully with Jesus. They are intended to convince our weak minds that it is all worth it—that He is worth it. They are intended to help us understand more of who we are to Him and how special we are in His eyes. They are intended to motivate us to take our eyes off our current problems, tribulations, persecution, and suffering, and realize that it all pales in comparison to our glory that will one day be revealed—the glory that is found in Him.

Too many of us have an overinflated affinity for this world and its importance; we have placed far too much worth on what it has to offer. We look to this world to provide us with validation, love, acceptance, connection, purpose, and even our very identity (especially our identity in the marketplace of religion). But we must never forget that this world, and all that is in it, including all the pleasures found in the house of the Harlot, are passing away for none of it is worth keeping.

On the flip side, our idea or image of our eternity, which oddly begins in our now, is far too underplayed in terms of its importance in our minds, our hearts, and our lives. We simply have a terrible time connecting emotionally to an eternal experience, especially one that is happening now.

Therefore, these last two chapters of **Revelation** are intended to elevate the importance of our **ETERNITY NOW** to proportions we have not yet imagined and thereby significantly reduce the value we

¹ *Ephesians 4:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:10; 1 John 3:2*

² *1 John 3:2, Psalm 17:15*

place in and on the things of this life. It is all intended to help us live with a heavenly mindset as the Spirit has instructed us.

Colossians 3:1-4

If then you have been caused to be raised with Christ, you are commanded to **now** seek the things that are above, where Christ now sits, choosing to now be sitting at the right hand of God. You are commanded to **now** set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life has been caused to be hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life may appear, then you also will in the **future** be caused to appear with him in glory.

It is so important to note that each time that Jesus promised that those who are now and continually believing have eternal life, He utilized the *present* tense: they now have eternal life.³ Eternity is a present reality that begins in our **NOW** and extends to our **THEN**. It is an **ETERNITY NOW** that is possessed by those who are now found to now be believing. It is a state of existence that begins with the invasion of His presence into our lives when we become born again, and it is an existence that is perpetuated as we dig down deep in our souls and choose to live like a little child dependent upon **Yahweh**, the **I AM**, to be our **I AM**.

Finally, there is an amazing purpose to all these descriptions of this grand and glorious city, and it has to do with those whom **Yahweh** deems to be the “Righteous” or the “Elect” as He explains that His wonderful and glorious city (His wife) is a place where they can find refuge and experience His light in their lives.

May we be *willing* to let our minds be transformed to value that which **Yahweh** values and to hold to what He has said is important for our lives. May the glories of our **ETERNITY NOW** begin to define us and forever alter how we see everything in this life, keeping our minds set on **ETERNITY THEN**. May we be *willing* to let Him clothe us with all that is Jesus. May we let His mind be our mind, let His desires be our desires, and let us begin to live for **ETERNITY NOW** thereby letting loose of the death grip that we have on this life and upon on all that is dead and dying.

Destroy the Old

Looking back at **Revelation 20:11**, the Spirit said: “*From his presence {literally, His face or countenance}, earth and heaven fled away, and no place was caused to be found for them.*” This is a poetic way of explaining that with one glance, just one look from Jesus, the earth and the heavens were obliterated.

Jesus warned us about this when He said that “*heaven and earth will choose in the **future** to pass away.*”⁴ The old must always be removed so He can usher in the new. It’s a bit like our life. Our *Old Sinful Nature* is being killed day-in-and-day-out so that our **New Creation** can live and abound.⁵ It is the same

³ **John 3:15,16, 6:40; 1 John 5:13**

⁴ **Matthew 24:35**

⁵ **1 Peter 3:18; Romans 8:36**

pattern. He now makes all things new, and in so doing He destroys or puts away all that is old and worn out. In the same way that God uses the fires of mercy to free us from our *Old Sinful Nature*, He uses fire as His means of destroying the heaven and the earth.

2 Peter 3:7, 10-12

But by the same word the heavens and earth that **now** exist have been caused to being stored up for fire, **now** caused to being kept until the Day of Judgment and destruction of the ungodly human beings.”⁶

But the day of the Lord will in the **future** come like a thief, in which the heavens will in the **future** choose to pass away with a roar and the elements will in the **future** be caused to be destroyed with intense heat that is **now** caused to be burning, and the earth and its works will be in the **future** be caused to be burned up.

Since all these things are **now** caused to being destroyed in this way, **now** what sort of people ought you to **now** be in holy conduct and godliness, **now** looking for and **now** hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will in the **future** be caused to be destroyed by fire that is **now** caused to be burning, and the elements will **now** be caused to melt **now** being caused to be set on fire!

There is also a passage in *Isaiah* that might be alluding to this same event.

Isaiah 34:1-4

Draw near, O nations, to hear; and listen, O peoples! Let the earth and all it contains hear, and the world and all that springs from it. For **Yahweh's** indignation is against all the nations, and His wrath against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to slaughter. So, their slain will be thrown out, and their corpses will give off their stench, and the mountains will be drenched with their blood. **And all the host of heaven will wear away, and the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; all their hosts will also wither away as a leaf withers from the vine, or as one withers from the fig tree.**

A New Heaven & A New Earth

Revelation 21:1

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea is **now** no more.

⁶ See *Revelation 21:1*

At the end of the 1,000-year period, heaven and the earth will literally be wiped out of existence as Jesus creates all things new. Here are some other verses in the **Codex** which speak directly about the destruction of heaven and earth.

Luke 21:33

Heaven and earth will in the future choose to pass away, but My words will not in the future choose to pass away.

Isaiah 51:6

Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

Isaiah 24:20

The earth reels to and fro like a drunkard and it totters like a shack, for its transgression is heavy upon it, and it will fall, never to rise again.

Psalms 102:25-27

Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end.

In our generation, we have learned of the terrifying and destructive force that results from splitting an atom (which is the basic unit of matter from which all things are comprised). With this knowledge we have created weapons of mass destruction that can destroy the earth with intense fire many times over.

Physics has also taught us that there is a force that binds the nucleus of an atom (sometimes called nuclear glue) and keeps the universe from spontaneous self-destruction. This force holds together the negatively charged neutrons and positively charged protons of an atom, which would otherwise repel each other unleashing the atoms' destructive power.

The **Codex** tells us that Jesus is this force, this nuclear glue so to speak, which holds all matter together throughout the entire universe.⁷ And on this day, Jesus will let loose of His grip and the elements of all creation, all matter, will be instantaneously destroyed with the destructive and intense heat and fire caused by the nuclear explosion of each-and-every element. This explosive undoing will even reach to the

⁷ ***Colossians 1:17***

spiritual dimension that we now know as heaven.

It's as if everything that was connected in any way shape or form with the corruption of humanity by sin, including the heavens from which the corrupter (Satan) came and from where the redemption of man was derived, will be erased from existence. Our new life, our **ETERNITY THEN**, will have nothing to do with our old life. The horrors of sin and its destructive powers over all of creation will not be memorialized in any surviving monument; all will be destroyed.

With that said, the **Lake of Fire** is exempted from this destruction.⁸ Specifically, heaven and earth are destroyed, but the **Lake of Fire** is an eternal construct that will eternally house those who have been doomed to that destiny. Once again, the **Codex** provides us with glimpses of this eternal state.

Isaiah 66:22-24

As surely as my new heavens and earth will remain, so will you always be my people, with a name that will never disappear, says **Yahweh**. All humanity will come to worship me from week to week and from month to month. And as they go out, they will see the dead bodies of those who have rebelled against me. For the worms that devour them will never die, and the fire that burns them will never go out. All who pass by will view them with utter horror.

That is a gruesome and horrifying scene. Again, you do not want to be found on the wrong side of **ETERNITY THEN**. With that said, we will find, however, that coming week to week and from month to month to worship **Yahweh** is an experience that will be shared by "*all humanity*" who survive the tribulation and who, at the Great White Throne Judgment, are permitted to enter the Kingdom of God – the "Righteous from amongst the Gentiles and the "Elect" from amongst the Jews. It does not apply to the wife of Christ who has been made immortal, like Him, sharing His very nature of divinity.

The **Called and Chosen and Faithful** are not the ones who come "*week to week and from month to month*" to worship God. In fact, we will discover that "*all humanity*" comes to the "*New Jerusalem*," which we will also discover is a picture of the collective wife of Christ. She is imaged as a city, a safe gathering place, where "*all humanity*" comes to worship God. The point is that she will not have to undergo this constant reminder of judgement, for this new city will be a source of joy and happiness.

Isaiah 65:17-18

Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth, and no one will even think about the old ones anymore. ***Be glad; rejoice forever in my creation!*** And look! I will create Jerusalem as a place of happiness. Her people will be a source of joy.

The bondservants of Jesus Christ do not belong to this present world, they are aliens and strangers in this place, just passing through as ambassadors of Christ, doing the work which has been assigned by the

⁸ See ***Revelation 20:10***

Father.⁹ Their destiny is far more glorious than anything this world has to offer, as they will be a place of happiness and a source of joy for “*all humanity*.” This fallen world is not worth preserving, nor are the heavens. In fact, our **ETERNITY THEN** will be so fantastic that we won’t even think of this world.

We who are bondservants are instructed to “*be glad and rejoice forever in His creation*.” The Spirit is exhorting us to keep our eyes forward looking at our **ETERNITY THEN**. This perspective of our **ETERNITY THEN** is to become to us a source of joy and encouragement as we trudge through this world that has been corrupted by all the failings of humanity. Our destiny is going to be fantastic; we will be a place of happiness and a source of joy. How wonderful will that be? Understanding this should give us **HOPE** and be to us a well of delight from which we can draw refreshment and strength as we endure the pains and struggles of this life.

2 Peter 3:13

But according to His promise we are to **now** look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness **now** dwell.

It is far too easy to become fixated on trying to experience the fullness that this world has to offer, and it has some pretty great things to offer; but it is nothing compared to what Jesus has promised us both **NOW** and **THEN**. We were created to be a source of joy, a home where righteousness even now dwells. By the way, in this passage, “*righteousness*” is not an adjective but a noun. It describes those who by their very construct are righteous. It describes those whom **Yahweh Tsidkenu (Yahweh our Righteousness)** has made righteous.

Let’s stop here and we will pick up with the declaration that there will be no more sea.

I am glad you “tuned in” and have been “ready to listen.”

⁹ See **John 17:18; 2 Corinthians 5:20; 1 Peter 1:11, 2:11; Hebrews 11:8-16**