

In our last podcast, we saw that the old heaven and earth had passed away and God had created a new heaven and earth. The old had to be done away with to make room for the new. In it will be the “New Jerusalem,” a place of happiness and a source of joy where righteousness dwells. Let’s pick back up in verse one with the declaration that in this new earth, there will no longer be a sea.

EP176 Revelation 21:1-3

No More Sea

“... and the sea is **now** no more.” What seems like an insignificant dangler coming after the announcement of a new heaven and a new earth turns out to be an important aspect of our **ETERNITY NOW**. Rendered in the *present* tense, “... and the sea is now no more.”

We started **Revelation 21** with a clear view of the future, the new heaven and the new earth, but then the Spirit pulls the context back into the *present* with a message for His people. If one does not follow the **Code**, they will miss this very powerful message communicated in the *present* tense.

According to the **Code**, the “*sea*” represents the restless churning and constant tumult caused by the chaos of humanity.¹ Therefore this phrase, “... and the sea is now no more” communicates that God has stilled the waters, there is no more churning and tossing and chaos. So, what does this mean?

The overall context of **Revelation 21** is the wife of Christ imaged through the picture of the New Jerusalem, the great city. She is the center of God’s attention in **ETERNITY NOW** and **ETERNITY THEN**. This little phrase “... and the sea is now no more” communicates that Jesus has settled the storm; therefore, for those who have chosen to enter His rest, He has brought His bondservants peace.² He has stopped the churning, and tossing and turning, and crashing of waves in their soul.

When the waves of the sea are tossing and turning, there is division in our souls, a constant churning, a vying against others for position, place, preeminence, importance, acceptance, validation, and so on. There is a similar fight against God as we attempt to manipulate Him to do our will and to have Him bless us as we desire Him to bless. This constant churning produces all manner of muck and mire in our lives. Think of this churning as a vain attempt to conquer or to possess what we believe others have that we are not getting in this life. It is all vanity and an expression of deepest covetousness, yet it is the real-life struggle that has kept the world, and our own hearts, churning in chaos.

However, those who are willing to let **Yahweh** have His war and sever their attachments to this world separating them from those who now abide in this world, and those who let **Yahweh** put to death everything in them that does not want Him to be their personal **I AM**, they experience an alternate reality. Those who let God put to death their love for religion, for the Harlot, and all their attempts to manipulate God through their service of God and all their holiness and personal goodness, again experience a different reality. They come to know His rest and they live in His peace because the one who is peace lives in and through them.³

¹ **Psalm 65:7; Isaiah 17:12-14, 51:15, 57:20; Jeremiah 6:23, 49:23, 51:42; Daniel 7:3; James 1:6; Jude 13; Revelation 13:1, 17:1, 15**

² **See Hebrews 3:12-4:14**

³ **Ephesians 2:14**

When living in surrender to who Jesus is (**Yahweh Adonai**) and who we are to Him (His beloved), there comes a stillness, a settling of the tumult within the soul. Hence, He said, *“Peace I **now** leave with you; My peace I **now** give to you; not as the world **now** gives do I **now** give to you. You are commanded to **now** not let your heart be caused to be troubled, you are commanded to not let it **now** be fearful.”*⁴ And according to the **Codex**, Jesus Himself is our peace, for He is the “Prince of peace.”⁵

Learning to enter His rest is a process (rendered as a *participle*), and it is something we learn as we come to believe, in the depth of our being, who He is and who we are to Him. He settles the waves until the storm ceases and the waves are no more.

This explains the intense exhortation by the Spirit to “believers,” to those in the Household of God, about choosing to now be believing so that they may be entering His rest.

Hebrews 4:1-12

Therefore, let us be caused to fear if, while a promise is **now** remaining of entering His rest, any one of you may **now** seem to have come short of it. For indeed we have had good news caused to being preached to us, as well as unto them; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not caused to being united by faith in those who had been hearing. For we who have been believing choose to **now** enter that rest, just as He has said,

*“As I swore in my wrath, they shall not in the **future** choose to enter my rest,”* although His works were caused to being finished from the foundation of the world.

For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh day: *“And God rested on the seventh day from all His works;”* and again in this passage, *“they shall not in the **future** choose to enter my rest,”*

Therefore, since it is caused to **now** remain for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news caused to being preached to them failed to enter because of **unbelief**, He again **now** fixes a certain day, *“Today,”* **now** saying through David after so long a time just as has been caused to be said,

“Today if you may hear His voice may you not harden your hearts.”

For if Jesus {“*Iesous*”; *Joshua*} had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. So, there is caused to **now** remain a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has been entering His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.

Therefore, let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one may fall through following the same example of **unbelief**.

Sadly, due to unbelief, many within the household of God miss this opportunity to enter His rest. In the tossing and churning within their soul, they do not choose to rest in the fact that Jesus is the **Adonai**, the absolute Lord who is God. They struggle to believe that all things are from Him, through Him, and to Him (or for His purposes). Though they may not like “all things” or agree with “all things” or understand

⁴ **John 14:27**

⁵ **Ephesians 2:14, Isaiah 9:6**

“all things,” they do have the opportunity to choose to rest in the fact that since He is good, everything that comes from Him is good, and since He is *agape* love, everything that comes from Him is all an expression of His *agape* love, and it is all necessary.⁶ Again, due to unbelief they do not enter His rest.

King David learned how to enter His rest. He said:

Psalms 131

Yahweh, my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty. I don't concern myself with matters too great or too awesome for me to grasp. Instead, I have calmed and quieted myself, like a weaned child who no longer cries for its mother's milk. Yes, like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, put your hope in **Yahweh**—now and always.

Despite what he endured, David put His hope in **Yahweh** and chose to believe that He (**Yahweh**) is who He said He is, and that David was **Yahweh's** beloved. As a result, his soul was stilled as he calmed and quieted himself, trusting his all to **Yahweh**. It seems like resting in the truth was David's meditative practice and his pathway to rest.

*“... and the sea is **now** no more.”*

Jesus has given those in His household Himself, through the indwelling presence of His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, who has taken up His abode in the **New Creation**, the Sanctuary (or the “*naos*”) of God, that which has been created in the likeness of God, righteous, holy, and true.⁷ And if we are willing to be believing, His Spirit will guard our hearts and calm the sea.

Philippians 4:4-7

You are commanded to **now** rejoice in the Lord always; again in the **future** I will say, “You are commanded to **now** rejoice!” You are commanded to let your gentle spirit be caused to be known to all men. The Lord is near. You commanded to **now** be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests **now** be *caused* to be made known to God. And the peace of God, which is **now** surpassing all comprehension, will in the **future** guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*“... and the sea is **now** no more.”* In Jesus alone is the constant churning and yearning of our soul stilled and put to rest. *“O Israel, put your hope in **Yahweh**—now and always.”* This is a critical aspect, both in opportunity and in practicality, of our **ETERNITY NOW**.

The Bride of Christ—the Holy City (the New Jerusalem)

⁶ See **Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 8:6, 11:12; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 2:10; 1 John 4:8, 16**

⁷ **Ephesians 4:24**

Revelation 21:2

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.

As we studied way back in **Revelation 11:2** this reference to the “*holy city*” is **Code**, a picture of the wife of Christ, the **Called and Chosen and Faithful**, the two witnesses, the bondservants of **Yahweh**, those who are now overcoming and now found to be believing, those who have been set apart for Christ and Christ alone. The reference to “*holy*” means that they are set apart from all others. They are imaged in the form of this city that was being prepared just as a bride being adorned for her husband.

Like a bride adorned in her wedding gown the **Called and Chosen and Faithful** will be radiant and beautiful, a sight to behold. Jesus Himself is the bridegroom, and His bondservants are His wife.⁸ What a beautiful use of imagery to communicate the depth and tenderness of relationship between Jesus and His Chosen ones.

The **Code** renders “*coming down*” in the *present active participle*. Technically, it is happening even now: “*it is now coming down out of heaven from God.*” Being a *participle*, we are to understand this as a continuing action. This communicates a not-so-subtle message: The bondservants of Jesus are members of this new city, much like they are even now the Sanctuary (the “*naos*”) of God.⁹ Their presence on this earth is and continues to be a taste, so-to-speak (for those who are willing to indulge), of the New Jerusalem that will be experienced in **ETERNITY THEN**.

Prepared & Adorned

The two key verbs in this phrase “*caused to having been prepared as a bride caused to having been adorned for her husband*” are both rendered in the *perfect passive participle*. It was done in the past (the *perfect* tense), it was a move or an act of God on their lives (the *passive* voice), and it was an ongoing process and not something that was instantaneous (the “*participle*”). This speaks of what is often, within Christianity, called the “*sanctification*” process – the process by which God practically sets apart those who are now believing as holy, or exclusively for His purposes. It speaks of the removal of that which is dirty and tainted by sin, by our *flesh*, and by this world (all the “*wood, hay, and straw*”), and replaced with that which is perfect and beautiful (“*gold, silver, and precious stones*”), that which is tested by fire.¹⁰

The one thing that is most often missed is that these verbs are rendered in the *passive* voice. It is something which God must do to those who are set apart for Him. They themselves cannot prepare themselves as a bride and they cannot adorn themselves. In less symbolic language, they cannot be good for God, they can only be **willing** to be His wife and let the Spirit of God prepare them for their “*husband*,” so to speak. Again, this is not something they do, but which God does. He is responsible to prepare them as a bride and to adorn them.

⁸ **Matthew 9:15; John 3:29; Revelation 19:7-8**

⁹ **1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16-18**

¹⁰ **1 Corinthians 3:12; Revelation 15:2**

Why a City?

We are going to get a lot of detail about this city, but let's keep in mind that the bondservants of Jesus have a very distinct role in God's kingdom. It might seem odd that they are imaged as a city, but let's consider what that means.

- They are a gathering place, a community, a place of refuge for those whose names have been written in the Lamb's Book of Life, i.e., for all those who are deemed to be the "Righteous" and the "Elect."
- Because they are the Sanctuary (the "naos") of God, Jesus now and for all eternity dwells amongst this city, those desiring to experience and worship **Yahweh** must enter this city.¹¹ They are the access point. True believers comprise a mini (but dispersed) version of this city even today, as people come to meet Jesus in-and-through their lives.¹²

This image of a holy city, of the New Jerusalem, may not connect to us emotionally, but to those living in the first century it would have meant everything. Cities, especially walled cities, meant **community, safety, security,** and **provision.** In addition, Jerusalem was always the hub of God's activities, the center of worship. And that is why it is called the "New Jerusalem."

The **Codex** explains that "Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God."¹³ This is the city of which Abraham longed, for the bondservants of Jesus Christ are the holy city, the New Jerusalem.

Isaiah 62:1-12

Because I love Zion, I will not keep still. Because my heart yearns for Jerusalem, I cannot remain silent. I will not stop praying for her until her righteousness shines like the dawn, and her salvation blazes like a burning torch. The nations will see your righteousness. World leaders will be blinded by your glory. And you will be given a new name by **Yahweh's** own mouth. **Yahweh** will hold you in his hand for all to see—a splendid crown in the hand of God. Never again will you be called "The Forsaken City" or "The Desolate Land." Your new name will be "**The City of God's Delight**" and "**The Bride of God,**" for **Yahweh** delights in you and will claim you as his bride. Your children will commit themselves to you, O Jerusalem, just as a young man commits himself to his bride. Then God will rejoice over you as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride.

O Jerusalem, I have posted watchmen on your walls; they will pray day and night, continually. Take no rest, all you who pray to **Yahweh.** Give **Yahweh** no rest until he completes his work, until he makes Jerusalem the pride of the earth. **Yahweh** has sworn to Jerusalem by his own strength: "I will never again hand you over to your enemies. Never again will foreign warriors come and take away your grain and new wine. You raised the grain, and you will eat it, praising **Yahweh.** Within the courtyards of the Temple, you yourselves will drink the wine you have pressed."

Go out through the gates! Prepare the highway for my people to return! Smooth out the road; pull out

¹¹ See **2 Corinthians 6:16.** Note: the translation of "Temple" in the Greek is Sanctuary ("naos").

¹² See **1 Corinthians 3:16.** Note: the translation of "Temple" in the Greek is Sanctuary ("naos").

¹³ **Hebrews 11:10**

the boulders; raise a flag for all the nations to see. **Yahweh** has sent this message to every land: "Tell the people of Israel, 'Look, your Savior is coming. *See, he brings his reward with him as he comes.*'" They will be called "**The Holy People**" and "**The People Redeemed by Yahweh.**" And Jerusalem will be known as "The Desirable Place" and "The City No Longer Forsaken."

Once again, we see God's heart for His people imaged through this idea of a city—a beautiful bride, a community where the nations can gather in safety and security and in community receive their provision from **Yahweh**.

The poetry through which **Yahweh** expresses His passion and desire for His wife is powerful and captivating. "**Yahweh** will hold you in his hand for all to see—a splendid crown in the hand of God"; "**Yahweh** delights in you and will claim you as his bride; the people redeemed by **Yahweh**".

Your new name will be "**The City of God's Delight**" and "**The Bride of God**;" They will be called "**The Holy People**" and "**The People Redeemed by Yahweh.**"

How beautiful and tender is that? The imagery is intended to capture our hearts and turn them to Him, to the only one who truly loves us. **Isaiah** provides a couple of other images that promote a similar message.

Isaiah 52:1

Wake up, wake up, O Zion! Clothe yourself with strength. Put on your beautiful clothes, O holy city of Jerusalem, *for unclean and godless people will enter your gates no longer.*

Isaiah 61:10

I am overwhelmed with joy in **Yahweh** my God! For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness. I am like a bridegroom in his wedding suit or a bride with her jewels.

What is significant about these passages is not so much the picture of the bride, but what the picture communicates about her relationship with Jesus. The bondservants of Jesus Christ, those who are now (and continually) believing, are His special one and only bride. His heart is always toward them such that they are His desire. He loves to be with them; therefore, He promised that they will always be with Him ("*where I **now** am there my servants will in the future choose to be also*")¹⁴ and that He will never leave them nor forsake them.¹⁵

The bondservants of Jesus are chosen, preferred, wanted, and are in His eyes the loveliest and most enchanting people there are or ever have been. "*As for the holy ones who are in the earth, they are the*

¹⁴ **John 12:26.** See also **John 14:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:17**

¹⁵ **Hebrews 13:5**

majestic ones in whom is all my delight.”¹⁶

This image of a wife communicates a whole lot about the completeness that will be consummated as His bride is enveloped in His love and passion. There is nothing in this life here on earth that has completed us or filled that hole in our soul. Even our most intimate of relationships—that of a husband and a wife—falls short. As wonderful as it can be, that relationship simply does not complete us. It merely provides us a cloudy picture of what is to be experienced in our relationship with Jesus and what will be experienced in our relationship with Jesus.

In short, all this imagery is to convey to our souls the depth of **Yahweh’s** love for His bondservants such that they can choose to now be believing in His love, and even now choose to live in peace, rest, security, connectedness, with purpose and direction, finding all their provision in Him.

He Tabernacles with His People

Revelation 21:3

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.

This is oddly a prophetic statement, made in the now (rendered in the *present active participle*), about our complete experience in our **ETERNITY THEN**. The fullness of the godhead will in the future literally tabernacle, or dwell, amongst His people. They will be His home. The bondservants of God will experience the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as the triune God makes His abode within their midst.

More than just a fulfilment of His promises to His people, this passage speaks of possession and intimacy in relationship: “*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.*” Their full identity and personhood will be found in who they are to God: “*His people.*” In the same manner, He identifies Himself by who He is to them: “*their God.*” As His people, they will look to their God (to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) for all things, all the time. He will be their source; He will be their **I AM**; and they will receive only from Him. This prophetic picture looks forward to the time when God’s people will no longer have any divided loyalties. They will choose to be His people, and He will choose to be their God.

The **Codex** reveals that our **ETERNITY THEN** is imaged for us in our **ETERNITY NOW**. We get a taste of what it is like to have God tabernacle with His people through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The Spirit of God takes up His abode in the **New Creation** that has been made in His image, in righteousness and holiness of truth. The **New Creation** is the container, an ark, in which He chooses to dwell that He might tabernacle with those who *choose* to put on the **New Creation**.¹⁷ Not everyone who calls on His name experiences this level of connected intimacy, but only those who choose.

¹⁶ **Psalm 16:3**

¹⁷ **Ephesians 4:24**. The verb “put on” is rendered in the *aorist middle infinitive* – it is just a simple choice.

Ephesians 4:20-24

But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been caused to be taught in Him, just as truth is **now** in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you *choose* to lay aside the old self, which is caused to **now** being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you **now** be caused to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and *choose* to put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been caused to being created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

This dynamic of *choice* looks forward to that day when the *flesh* will be conquered, the mortal will be shed, and His people will be draped with immortality, birthed new in His image. They will *choose* to be His people, and He will *choose* to be their God. It may seem odd, but in our **ETERNITY THEN** as it is in our **ETERNITY NOW**, personal *choice* is still at play. God never takes it from us; choice is forever a critical element of our relationship. We choose Him and He chooses us as we are bonded together in His love.

Let's stop here and in our next podcast we will pick up in **Revelation 21** with the understanding of the renewal and healing that will come from the hand of **Yahweh**.

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