

The Dwelling Place of God

March 22, 2020



Open: Share about one of the more special or memorable wedding ceremonies you've attended.

Read & Discuss: Revelation 21:9-22:5

1. The bride of Christ is presented as the new Jerusalem (vv. 9-10). How is this similar to Revelation 21:2? How does this symbolical description of the people of God suggest that it is composed of both Old Testament believers and New Testament believers (vv. 12-13)? In what way is God seen to be the center of the new Jerusalem (vv. 10-11)?
2. As you read 21:15-21, what are some adjectives you would use to describe the new Jerusalem to someone else? How do you think the presence of God might be implied by this picture of the new Jerusalem? (*Read 1 Kings 6:20.*)
3. List what is missing or not needed in in the new Jerusalem (21:22-27). What does this tell us about the nature of the new Jerusalem? How might these truths have encouraged the first century churches who were beginning to experience persecution? How do these truths bring encouragement to you?
4. The new Jerusalem is inhabited by those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life (v. 27). What does Revelation tell us about this book? (*Read Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12.*) How can we be confident that our name is written in this book?
5. Revelation 22:1-2 uses several familiar biblical images. What other biblical references do these images bring to mind for you? What significance do they have for Revelation 22?
6. According to 22:4, God's servants will see His face. In view of other Scriptures why might this be especially meaningful? (*Read Exodus 33:20, 23; Psalm 11:7; 27:4; John 1:14, 17-18; 1 John 3:2; 1 Timothy 6:16.*) What does this suggest about how we will be changed? What emotions emerge in you when you think about seeing God face to face?

Apply: How should knowing that this future awaits only those whose name is in the Lamb's Book of Life shape the way that we live today? What specific adjustments do you need to make to your life in order to live in light of these truths?

Pray: Pray we will live in eager expectation of Christ's return. Pray that until that day we will walk in faith and courage, eager to share the love of God and Gospel of Christ with a world in need.

Revelation 21:9-22:5

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.

^{22:1} Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. (ESV)