

## The new Jerusalem

The new Jerusalem, which is also called the Tabernacle Of God, the Holy City, the City Of God, the Celestial City, the City Foursquare, and Heavenly Jerusalem, is literally Heaven on Earth. It is referred to in the Bible in several places (Galatians 4:26; Hebrews 11:10; 12:22-24; and 13:14), but is most fully described in Revelation 21.

In Revelation 21, the recorded history of Man is at its end. All of the ages have come and gone. Christ has gathered His church in the Rapture. (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17) The Tribulation and Great Tribulation have passed. (Revelation 6-18) The battle of Armageddon has been fought and won by our Lord Jesus Christ. (Revelation 19:17-21) Satan has been chained for the 1 000 year reign (Millenium Reign) of Christ on Earth. (Revelation 20:1-3) A new, glorious temple has been established in Jerusalem. (Ezekiel 40-48) The final rebellion against God has been crushed, and Satan (and his fallen angels and demons) has received his just punishment, an eternity in the Lake Of Fire. (Revelation 20:7-10) The Great White Throne Judgment has taken place, and Mankind has been judged. (Revelation 20:11-15)

In Revelation 21:1 God does a complete make-over of Heaven and Earth. (Isaiah 65:17; 2 Peter 3:12-13) The new Heaven and new Earth constitute the “eternal state”, and will be “where righteousness dwells.” (2 Peter 3:13) After the re-Creation, God reveals the new Jerusalem. John sees a glimpse of it in his vision: “The Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.” (Revelation 21:2) An angel of God takes John to the top of a great and high mountain, and he looks down upon this Holy City and tries to describe the indescribable. The city is like a massive, crystal-clear diamond with the glory of God shining from its centre over all the new Heaven and the new Earth. This is the city that Abraham looked for in faith. (Hebrews 11:10) It is the place where God will dwell with His people forever. (Revelation 21:3)

The new Jerusalem will be fantastically huge. John records that the city is 2 200 kilometres long, and it is as wide and as high as it is long - a perfect cube. (Revelation 21:15-17) The city will be dazzling in every way. It is lit by the glory of God (verse 23), and there will be no night, only eternal day. (verse 25) Its twelve foundations, bearing the names of the twelve apostles, are “decorated with every kind of precious stone.” (verse 19) It has twelve gates, each a single pearl, bearing the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. (verses 12 and 21) The streets will be made of pure gold. (verse 21)

The new Jerusalem will be a place of unimagined blessing. The curse of the old Earth will be gone. (Revelation 22:3) In the city are the Tree Of Life “for the healing of the nations”, and the River Of Life. (verses 1-2) It is the place that Paul spoke of: “In the coming ages [God] might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:7) The new Jerusalem is the ultimate fulfillment of all God’s promises. The new Jerusalem is God’s goodness and love made fully manifest.

Who are the residents of the new Jerusalem? The Father and the Lamb are there. (Revelation 21:22) Angels are at the gates. (verse 12) The city will be filled with God's redeemed - His saved son's and daughters. By contrast, the unsaved are a long way outside the city's walls, in the "outer darkness" (Matthew 8:12), consigned to the Lake Of Fire (Revelation 20:14-15) for all eternity, and can never come near the Holy City.

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