

Q: In the OT, God met with His people in the Holy of Holies in the Temple/Tabernacle. It was a cube-shaped area, overlaid with much gold and accessible only by the High Priest, once a year. This new dwelling place of God (the Holy City) is also a cube (1500 miles cubed!) and made of pure (clear) gold. It is where God permanently dwells with His people (believers from all time). We will spend eternity in the holy of holies! How does this reveal God's love for us?

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Q: The 12 gates (made of pearl and containing the names of the 12 OT tribes of Israel) are always open, and angels guard them (Gen 3:24), even though all evil has been destroyed. The foundation stones of the wall contain the names of the 12 NT Apostles (Eph 2:20). All the gemstones and colors, reflect those on the breastplate of the OT high Priest as He entered God's presence (Exo 28:17-20). What does all this symbolize?

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Q: It light of all this, why is it important that there is no more temple in heaven? Who is the temple and Who lights up the place!? (see John 8:12).

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Q: Is your name found written in the Book of Life? How do you know? Praise God if it is! If someone asked you to explain your faith in Christ and how you came to know Him, what would you say?

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HARVEST  
E-FREE CHURCH

# Growing Deeper

*A Disciplemaking Tool of Harvest Evangelical Free Church  
(for personal and/or small group study)*

Week of May 8, 2022

Revelation 21

*History begins in a Garden paradise and ends with a heavenly City that is like a garden paradise. God has purged sin from His creation and has made all things new! In chapter 20, Satan, his followers and all those who rejected Jesus, are judged and separated from God for all eternity in hell. In these final two chapters, we get a glimpse of Heaven, God's final home for all believers of all time. We will finally dwell permanently with God, absent all evil and sin!*

*God's promises fulfilled, our troubles will be over! 2 Cor 4:17*

Q: Describe one of the most beautiful places you have ever been or wanted to see? What makes that place special?

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Q: How does the new heaven and new earth fulfill OT & NT prophecy (Isa 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pet 3:13; Rom 8:18-22)?

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Q: The sea, in Biblical times represented darkness, mystery, separation, a place where evil comes from. In Rev 13, Satan's Antichrist/Beast came up out of the "sea." How might this encourage all believers, that there is no longer a separation from God, no more sin?

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Q: Throughout the Bible, God describes His people as His bride. Here, the Holy City, New Jerusalem is described as a bride. Explain how these two images reflect the same thing. \_\_\_\_\_

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Q: How have you been hurt by some form of impurity and sin? How does this view of a holy heaven encourage you? (no shameful traps of sin. It will be pure, clean, holy, free from all evil).

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Q: What does (v.3) the voice from the throne shout? Why is this so important personally to you that God “moves into the neighborhood” and is always near to you? What does this show us about God? How also does this fulfill prophecy? (see Gen 17:7-8, Exo 29:45; 31:33; Ezek 36:28; John 14:1-3; Heb 1:5; 2 Cor 6:16)\_\_\_\_\_

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\*this describes the “Shekinah” or dwelling of God with His people.

Q: (v.4) When you think of the many painful experiences in life and then think of God Himself wiping away every tear from your eye, and no more death, mourning, crying or pain, what thoughts come to mind? (see Isa 25:8; 35:10; 51:11; 65:19)

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Q: The old order of things has passed away. God will protect you from sin, which leads to guilt, shame and death. How does this give you hope?

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Q: Heaven is a place of new things. (Isa 43:18-19) New Heaven, Earth, City. God is making all things new. This implies we will never be bored! What misconceptions have you heard about heaven? How does this chapter help address those? \_\_\_\_\_

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Q: In Genesis, God finished His creation work (Gen 2:2-3). At the cross, Jesus finished His salvation work (John 19:30). Here (21:6) God finishes history, punishing evil and redeeming His faithful. What is the significance of God’s names mentioned here and what does He offer to the “thirsty” who long for (find satisfaction in) Him? (see Isa 55:1) What is it that you find yourself longing or thirsting for each day?

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Q: (review) In chapters 2-3, what does Jesus promise those (true believers) who overcome? If we cannot overcome sin and enter heaven by our own efforts, how do we enter God’s presence and into His family? (Eph 2:8-9; John 1:12; Rom 6:23; Titus 3:3-7)

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Q: As a pattern of lifestyle choices each day, we demonstrate true faith in Jesus or not (John 14:15). We sometimes slip into sin, but true believers are convicted by the Holy Spirit (John 16:8) to repent, turn and be led by Him moving forward (Jn 16:13). How does John here describe the pattern of life choice of those who will not inherit eternal life with God? How is this both a warning to nonbelievers to repent and turn to Christ, and for believers to stay close to Jesus and allow Him to help us daily conquer sin in our lives?

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Q: How does John describe the new Jerusalem? What initial thoughts come to mind? \_\_\_\_\_

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