

FOT 2022 DAY 2 —THE NEW JERUSALEM —WHEN?

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We believe that the Feast of Tabernacles pictures the Millennium — the Kingdom of God on earth.

We tend to focus — at least somewhat — on what the world might be like at that time.

In the New Testament ... key chapters that describe the 1,000 year reign appear in Revelation Chapters 20 ... 21 ... and 22.

My understanding of these chapters has developed since this time last year. I spoke in some detail earlier this year in our lengthy study of the Book of Revelation.

But — since that is still “newish” — and topical — it is worth a review.

In Revelation Chapter 20:

- **We see the devil cast into the abyss for 1,000 years.**
- **The saints from the First Resurrection are said to reign with Christ for 1,000 years.**
- **At the end of the 1,000 year period ... Satan is released for a short time.**

Some later resurrections follow.

We look at details in the Last Great Day.

Revelation 21:1-2, 10-11

1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

2 Then I, John, **saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me **the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,**

11 **having the glory of God.** Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

The New Jerusalem descends.

But when? I previously took Revelation Chapter 20 to be the Millennium ... so Chapter 21 would begin the Eternal State. New Jerusalem would be at the end of the Millennium ... and coincide with the “New Heaven and New Earth”.

However ... following the in-depth Revelation series we did some months ago — it now seems that **Revelation Chapters 21 and 22 are actually inset chapters.**

If correct ... it means that the Heavenly City may descend at Jesus’ return — at the beginning of the 1,000 years. It will be there all through the Millennium.

See it soon?

Revelation 21:8

8 **But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”**

The second death for sinners.

If this is the “Eternal State” — why mention it? Surely this is history? Hasn’t that taken place already? So ... what’s this? Not very coherent if this is happening at the end of the Millennium! If it is at the beginning of the Millennium — then that makes sense!

Revelation 21:24-27

24 **And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.**

25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).

26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.

27 **But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.**

Why mention the exclusion of carnal sinners? That would be irrelevant in Eternity!!

The language suggests there are “nations” and “sinners” outside the City!!

However ... it makes perfect sense if the City comes down at the start of the Millennium?

Revelation 22:1-2

1 **And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.** (*God and Jesus Christ are on the throne*)

2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, **was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**

Healing of the Nations? It seems more relevant to the Millennial period — when there are still “nations” learning God's ways — still making mistakes!

It would be odd ... if we are now in the Eternal State?

Revelation 22:14-15

14 **Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.**

15 **But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.**

OUTSIDE the city are immoral ... idolaters ... and liars!

That can't be in the Eternal State!! **But it can be the Millennium** — and the period when Satan is being released?

But what about Revelation 21:1? The New Heavens and the New Earth — the former heaven and earth have passed away. (“New Earth” — some translations say: “New Sky”)

Much of Revelation is quotations from the Old Testament — so compare:

Isaiah 65:17-25

17 “**For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.**

18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create;

For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing,

And her people a joy.

19 **I will rejoice in Jerusalem,**

And joy in My people;

The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her,

Nor the voice of crying.

20 “No more shall an infant from there live but a few days,

Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days;

For **the child shall die one hundred years old,**

But **the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.**

21 **They shall build houses and inhabit them;**

They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

22 They shall not build and another inhabit;

They shall not plant and another eat;

For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people,

And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

23 They shall not labor in vain,

Nor bring forth children for trouble;

For they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the LORD,

And their offspring with them.

24 “It shall come to pass

That before they call, I will answer;

And while they are still speaking, I will hear.

25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,

The lion shall eat straw like the ox,
And dust shall be the serpent's food.
They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,"
Says the LORD.

**This "New Heavens and New Earth" has death ... agriculture ...
sinners ... children being born.**

Clearly the Millennium!

Isaiah 66:22-23

22 "For as **the new heavens and the new earth
Which I will make shall remain before Me,**" says the LORD,
"So shall your descendants and your name remain.
23 And it shall come to pass
That **from one New Moon to another,
And from one Sabbath to another,**
All flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the LORD.

**The "New Heavens and New Earth" still have weekly and monthly
calendar.**

Isaiah 66:24

24 "And they shall go forth and look
**Upon the corpses of the men
Who have transgressed against Me.**
For their worm does not die,
And their fire is not quenched.
They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."

Death too!

**Note: The phrase "passed away" doesn't necessarily mean
completely disappeared.**

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old
things have passed away; behold, all things have become
new.**

The “former” person doesn’t physically disappear — but should be renewed — a very different way of life.

Likewise ... the New Heavens (Amplified Bible: “New Sky”) and New Earth will be very different — climate ... soil ... air ... topography — but STILL THIS PLANET!!

Revelation 21:9

9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “**Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.**”

IF the New Jerusalem is at the end of the 1,000 years — it seems odd to refer to an Angel who had poured out a Bowl Plague? But if only recent — a few weeks before — much more understandable.

Revelation 21:10-21

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, **the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,**

11 **having the glory of God.** Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

12 Also she had a **great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates**, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

13 **three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.**

14 Now **the wall of the city had twelve foundations**, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15 And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.

16 **The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth.** And he measured the city with the reed: **twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal.**

17 Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.

18 The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald,

20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.

21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

OUR NEW HOME. We're likely to go there once "caught up" at Jesus' return.

This City contains "The Mansions" Jesus promised in John 14:1–3.

It is the same size in length ... breadth and height. Most likely a pyramid shape? Many scriptures talk of Mount Zion ... God's Holy Mountain.

The exact dimensions are debatable!! A height of 1,380 miles into outer space seems unlikely?

One option has 11 miles in each direction. So ... 60,000 feet in height. About twice the height of Mount Everest.

Revelation 21:22-27

22 **But I saw no temple in it,** for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

23 **The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it,** for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

24 **And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.**

25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).

26 **And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations up to it.**

27 **But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie,** but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

No Temple in the City! (Ezekiel Chapters 40–48 suggests the Millennial Temple will be 11–12 miles north of the City).

No need of the sun or moon in the City — but —still necessary for the world outside!

(In the Old Testament reference in Isaiah Chapter 66 ... we saw reference to New Moons and the Calendar).

Verse 27 — Note the reference to “nations” and some that “defile” or are “abominations”. This is not the Eternal State!

Revelation 22:1-5

1 And he showed me **a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.**

2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, **was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month.** The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

3 And there shall be no more curse, but **the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it**, and His servants shall serve Him.

4 **They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.**

5 **There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light.** And they shall reign forever and ever.

This is our final view of the Heavenly City.

The Water of Life is likely to flow outside of the City too? Bringing life and rejuvenation to the earth.

The Tree of Life probably a type of tree — rather than a single specimen.

Those dwelling within the City suffer no more death ... or tears ... or pain ... or sorrow. (Revelation 21:4)

Our Eternal Home. And it appears to start at the **BEGINNING OF THE MILLENNIUM** ... and continue into the Eternal State.

So. If Jesus returns soon — it may not be much longer to wait to visit our mansion?