

Revelation 21:

1. V1-2

- a) John saw “a new heaven and a new earth”.(v1) What happened to the “old” heaven and the “old” earth? (Rev 20:11, Heb 1:10-12, Is 65:17, 2 Pet 3:7-13)
- b) “The heavens and the earth, which are now reserved unto fire” (2 Pet 3:7)
 - i. Why do you think is the current earth reserved for fire? (Gen 3:16-19)
 - ii. How many “heavens” are there? (Gen 1:1, 2 Cor 12:2-4, Gen 1:14-18, Gen 1:20, Gen 2:4)
 - iii. What “heavens” do you think are reserved for fire as per 2 Pet 3:7,10,12?
- c) Examine the differences between the “current earth” and the “new earth”

<u>CURRENT EARTH:</u>	<u>NEW EARTH:</u>
Sea	No more sea (Rev 21:1)
Death	No more death (Rev 21:4)
Sorrow, crying, pain	No more sorrow, crying, pain (Rev 21:4)
Night	No more night – The Lamb is the light thereof (Rev 21:23)
Sun and moon	No sun (no heat Rev 7:16), no moon (Rev 21:3)
God and Jesus are in heaven	God and Jesus dwells with us (Rev 21:3)
Hell in the centre of earth	Lake of fire moved to outer darkness
A decaying earth	All things will be new (Rev 21:5)
Hunger & thirst	No more hunger & thirst (Rev 7:16-17)
±7,000 years (incl the Millennium)	Eternal

- i) Can you think of any other differences between the “current earth” and the “new” earth?
- d) John saw “the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven”. (v2)
 - i) Examine the differences between the “Current Jerusalem”, the “Millennial Jerusalem” and the “New Jerusalem”:

CURRENT Jerusalem	MILLENNIAL Jerusalem	NEW JERUSALEM
On the Earth	On the Earth	City out of Heaven (Rev 21:2)
±3,000 years	1,000 years (After the wrath of God, After Armageddon)	Eternity
In bondage, Man born in sin. (Rom 5:12, Rom 3:10, Rom 3:23, 1 Cor 15:20-22)		Free, the holy city. (Rev 21:2)
Death of man - ±80 years	A child – Die at 100 years Old man – “Filled his days” (Is 65:20)	No more death (Rev 20:14, Rev 21:4)

CURRENT Jerusalem	MILLENNIAL Jerusalem	NEW JERUSALEM
Ruled by man, Governments	World ruled by Jesus from Jerusalem. Jesus is reigning with a rod of iron. 'David' will be king over Israel? (Ez 37:24-25) Saints ruling (Rev 1:6, Rev 20:4,6)	God & Jesus with men. (Rev 21:3, Rev 22:3)
"Man-made" legal systems	The Word of God. Jesus Himself will teach & enforce His laws and rules. (Is 2:1-3, Micah 4:1-2)	The Word of God
Rebellion, Man rejecting God, No knowledge of God	Worldwide knowledge of God. (Is 11:9-10, Hab 2:14)	
Wars, Walled city (security) No peace Walled city	No more war. Peace and safety. No walls and no weapons (Is 2:4, Micah 4:3)	Eternal peace
Man-made rituals & feasts (Col 2:13-17)	Feast of Tabernacles (Zech 14:16-19)	
Animals dangerous. Animals eating each other.	Animals peaceful. (Is 11:6-8, Is 65:25) No more carnivores.	
Cursed land (Gen 3:16-19)	Land restored. (Joel 2:21, 23-25, Joel 3:17-20, Zech 14:8-11)	
Man-made Temple.	Jesus builds the Millennial Temple (Zech 6:12)	No temple. God and Jesus are the temple/tabernacle of it. (Rev 21:3, 22)

- ii) Does this holy city, the heavenly Jerusalem, currently exist? (Heb 12:22-23, Heb 11:10, 16, Rev 3:12)
What are the characteristics of the heavenly Jerusalem according to Heb 12:22-23?
- iii) Who will live in the new Jerusalem? (Rev 21:24,27)

2. V3-5

- a) What does it mean that "the tabernacle of God is with men"? (v3-4)
- b) What is the implication of "for the former things are passed away"? (v3-4, Is 65:17, Is 42:9)
- c) How does the expectation of what's to come eternally, encourage you to persevere in this life?
- d) What assurance do the following words give you: "for these words are true and faithful"? (v5, 1 John 5:20)

3. V6-7

- a) What do you think does it mean when Jesus says “It is done”? (v6)
- b) What is “the fountain of the water of life”? (v6, John 4:10-14, Is 12:2-3, Rev 7:17, Rev 22:17)
- c) What are the rewards of the “overcomers” in this context? (v7)
How do you think can we be overcomers? (1 John 5:4-5)
- d) Review and discuss the promises for the overcomers in the letters to the 7 churches:

Rev 2:7b (Ephesus)	“To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.”
Rev 2:11b (Smyrna)	“He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.”
Rev 2:17b (Pergamos)	“To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.”
Rev 2:26-28 (Thyatira)	“And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star.”
Rev 3:5 (Sardis)	“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”
Rev 3:12 (Philadelphia)	“Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.”
Rev 3:21 (Laodiceans)	“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”

- i) Can you find similar verses elsewhere in Revelation where these concepts (i.e tree of life, second death, white raiment etc.) are mentioned again?

4. V8

- a) Rev 21:8b says the following will be thrown into the lake burning with fire and brimstone:
 - The fearful (1 John 4:18)
 - The unbelieving (John 3:18, 36)
 - The abominable (Ps 14:1, Rev 21:27)
 - The murderers (1 John 3:15)
 - The whoremongers (Heb 13:4)
 - The sorcerers (Deut 18:9-12)
 - The idolaters (Ex 20:3-6, Deut 17:2-5)
 - All liars (Rev 21:27)

What is the definition of each of the above and why do you think will they be thrown in the lake of fire and brimstone?

5. V9-10

- a) What do you think does it mean when the new Jerusalem is “prepared as a bride adorned for her husband”? (Rev 21:2)
- b) What is the bride, the Lamb’s wife, according to Rev 21:2,9-10?
- c) What teachings have you heard about “the bride of Christ”?
- d) Do you think “the bride of Christ” is the same as “the bride, the Lamb’s wife”?

6. V11-21

Examine and discuss the physical features of the new Jerusalem:

V12	The wall - great and high. 12 gates with 12 angels, 1 at each gate. Names of 12 gates – Names of the 12 tribes of the children of Israel.
V13	East 3 gates, North 3 gates, South 3 gates, West 3 gates.
V14	Wall of the city has 12 foundations. In foundations the names of the 12 apostles of the Lamb.
V16	City foursquare. Length = Breadth = Height. City measurement is 12,000 furlongs (1 furlong = 201.168cm).
V17	Wall measurement is 144 cubits (1 cubit = 45.72cm).
V18	Building of the wall was of jasper. City of pure gold, like clear glass.
V19-v20	Foundations of the wall – precious stones. 1 st Jasper, 2 nd Sapphire, 3 rd Chalcedony, 4 th Emerald, 5 th Sardonyx, 6 th Sardius, 7 th Chrysolite, 8 th Beryl, 9 th Topaz, 10 th Chrysoprasus, 11 th Jacinth, 12 th Amethyst.
V21	12 gates were 12 pearls. Every gate was 1 pearl. The street of the city was pure gold, transparent glass.

7. V22-27

- a) Why is there no physical temple in the new Jerusalem? (v22)
- b) Why is there no need for the sun and the moon? (v23)
- c) Who will be living in the new Jerusalem i.e who will be able to enter the city? (v24, v27)
- d) Who do you think are the “kings of the earth” that bring “their glory and honour” into the city? (v24)
- e) Why do you think will the gates of the city never be shut? (v25)
- f) Who will not be allowed to enter the city? (v27)