

The Revelation to John

Chapter 21

The New Heaven and the New Earth – verses 1-8

The bookends” of Biblical Theology – God’s ultimate purpose in redemptive history is to create a people to dwell in his presence, glorifying him through numerous varied activities and enjoying him forever. The story begins with God in eternal glory, and it ends with God and his people in eternal glory. At the center stands the cross, where God revealed his glory through his Son.

ESV Study Bible, p. 2495

The removal of the first heaven and earth eliminates the fatal infection of evil in the cosmic order and gives way to God’s creation of a new cosmic order where sin and suffering and death are forever banished. *ESV Study Bible*

Community is at the heart of the universe (*cf.* Holy Trinity) ~ *Dr. Whitacre*

Biblical Parallel: Isaiah 65.17-25

	Alpha and Omega	Beginning and the end
God	1.8; 21.6	21.6
Jesus	22.13; <i>cf.</i> 2.8	22.13; <i>cf.</i> 2.8

The New Jerusalem – verses 9-27

The New Jerusalem is from above – it is God’s work ~ *Dr. Whitacre*

Invulnerable – “great, high wall...and at the gates twelve angels”

Unity of OT and NT communities: “twelve tribes...twelve apostles”

Measurements in multiples of 12 symbolize perfection

City is a cube as was the Most Holy Place in the OT sanctuary—indicating the New Jerusalem as a whole is the new sanctuary of the living God (*verse 22*)

The twelve jewels adorning the foundations of the city correspond to those on the breastplate of the high priest in the OT (Exodus 28.15-21)

OT parallels for vv. 22-27: Isaiah 60.1-5; 19-20

Chapter 22

The River of Life – verses 1-5

Eden restored

Biblical parallels: Gen 2.8-10; Ezek 47.1-12; John 4.10-14)

v.4 – Fallen man could not see the face of God and live (Exod 33.20) but the redeemed in new Jerusalem can.

Epilogue – verses 6-21

A Call to faithfulness and holiness ~ *Dr. Whitacre*

vv. 6-7: “The centrality, authority, sufficiency, and eternity of the word (and words) of God are foundational to all of Scripture, from the first words of Genesis to the last words of Revelation.” ~ *ESV Study Bible*

v. 12: “As the Divine Warrior of Isa 62.10-63.6, Christ will come to repay everyone for what he has done, rewarding faithful servants and punishing every evildoer. “Recompense” (*Gk.* “wagers, reward”) indicates degrees of reward for believers and punishment for unbelievers (cf. Luke 12.47-48; and 1 Cor 3.14-15).”
~ *ESV Study Bible*

“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” *Mark 13.32*