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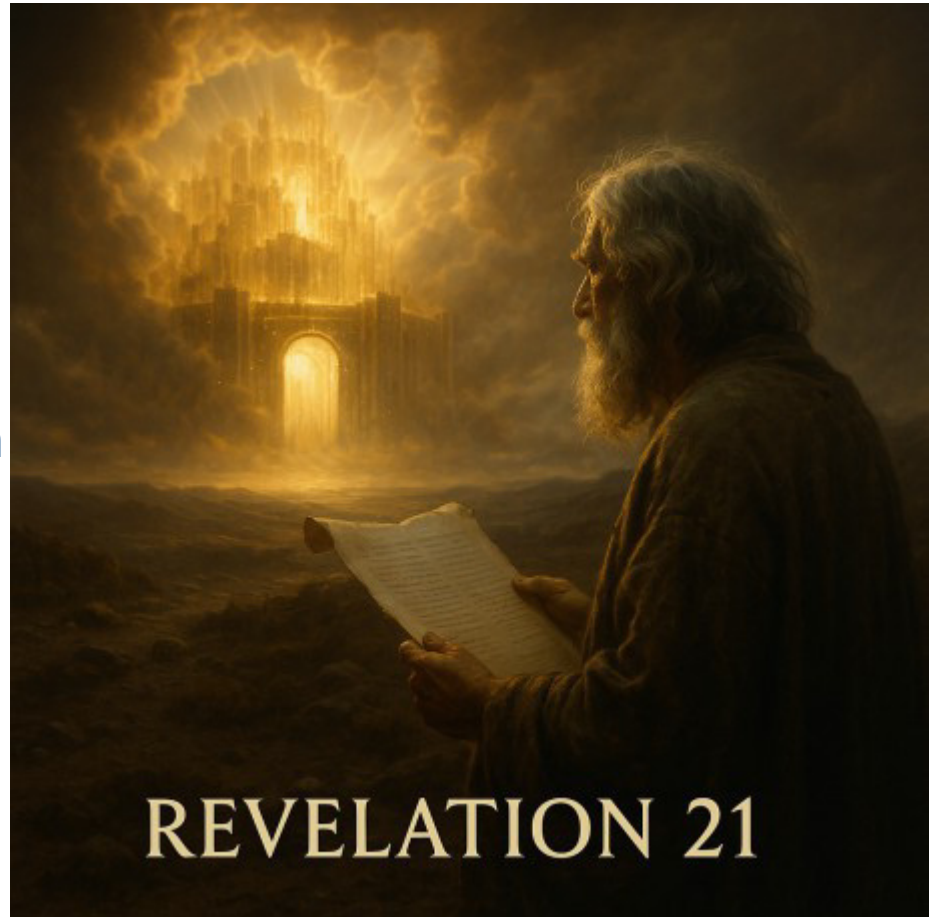
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By Dan Maines

Revelation 21

Revelation 21:1

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.

† The passing of the old heaven and earth is covenantal language. The old covenant order is gone, and the new covenant has fully arrived. "No longer any sea" means no more separation, chaos, or Gentile barrier.

† Proof, Isaiah 65:17 spoke of God creating new heavens and a

new earth, fulfilled here in Christ's covenantal renewal.

Revelation 21:2

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

† The New Jerusalem is the church, the bride of Christ, not a physical city. She comes down from heaven because her origin is divine.

† Proof, Hebrews 12:22 identifies the church as "Mount Zion... the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem."

Revelation 21:3-4

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

† God dwelling among His people fulfills the covenant promise repeated throughout Scripture (Leviticus 26:11-12). The removal of death is covenantal, separation from God is gone, and eternal life is secure.

† Proof, Paul said, "Death is swallowed up in victory" (1 Corinthians 15:54).

Revelation 21:5-6

And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give water to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life, without cost."

† "It is done" recalls Christ's cry on the cross, "It is finished."
The new creation is complete, freely given to all who thirst.
† Proof, Isaiah 55:1 invited the thirsty to come without cost,
fulfilled in Christ.

Revelation 21:7-8

The one who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. But for the cowardly, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and sexually immoral persons, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

† Inheritance belongs to the faithful, while judgment awaits the unfaithful. The "lake of fire" is the covenantal end of God's enemies.

† Proof, Revelation 20:14 identified the lake of fire as the second death.

Revelation 21:9-11

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very valuable stone, like a stone of crystal-clear jasper.

† The bride is equated with the New Jerusalem, proving the city is symbolic for the people of God. Its brilliance shows the church adorned with God's glory.

Revelation 21:12-14

It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on the gates, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. There were three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on

the south, and three gates on the west. And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

† The city unites old and new covenant saints, the tribes and the apostles. Together they form one complete people of God.

† Proof, Ephesians 2:20 says the church is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.

Revelation 21:15-17

The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, twelve thousand stadia; its length, width, and height are equal. And he measured its wall, 144 cubits, by human measurements, which are also angelic measurements.

† The cube shape recalls the Most Holy Place in the temple (1 Kings 6:20). Now the entire city is the holy of holies, showing that God's presence fills His people.

† Proof, this fulfills God's intent that His dwelling would not be limited to a building but encompass His people.

Revelation 21:18-21

The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundation stones of the city wall were decorated with every kind of precious stone... And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

† The precious materials symbolize glory, purity, and permanence. Unlike earthly Jerusalem, which was corrupt, the New Jerusalem is incorruptible.

† Proof, Isaiah 54:11-12 foretold God adorning His people with

precious stones.

Revelation 21:22-23

I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illuminated it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

† The temple is no longer needed, God Himself dwells with His people. Christ is the light, fulfilling John 8:12.

Revelation 21:24-26

The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; and they will bring the glory and honor of the nations into it.

† The open gates symbolize full access for all peoples. The church is not confined to Israel but welcomes all nations.

† Proof, Isaiah 60:11 spoke of gates always open, fulfilled in the new covenant city.

Revelation 21:27

And nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

† The New Jerusalem is holy, undefiled by corruption. Only those redeemed in Christ enter.

How it applies to us today

† We live in the reality of the New Jerusalem now, God's presence with His people.

† The old covenant order is gone; the church is the eternal city.

† God's promises are fulfilled, and His people are secure in His light and glory.

† Our inheritance is not an earthly city, but eternal communion with God in Christ.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Isaiah 54:11-12; 60:11; 65:17 – new heavens, open gates, precious stones

† Ezekiel 40–48 – temple measurements and imagery

† Leviticus 26:11-12 – covenant dwelling of God with His people

† 1 Kings 6:20 – holy of holies as a cube

† John 8:12 – Christ the light of the world

† Hebrews 12:22 – heavenly Jerusalem as the church

† 1 Corinthians 15:54 – death swallowed in victory

† Philippians 4:3 – book of life reference

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History – early testimony of fulfillment

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