

**The Consummation, Revelation 21**  
Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis • Season After Pentecost, Proper 25  
Blessed Hope Missionary Fellowship • October 26, 2008

*Teachings are proactive for the next Sunday in advance. Unless otherwise noted,  
all Scriptures are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV).*



**Burn Your Current Hut, and Leave a Good Smoke Signal For Your Rescue**

The only survivor of a shipwreck washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions. But then one day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up to the sky. The worst had happened; everything was lost. He was stung with grief and anger. "God, how could you do this to me!" he cried. Early the next day, however, he was awakened by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island. It had come to rescue him. "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied. —Anonymous.



**THE CONSUMMATION**

*There'll Never Be A Housing Crisis There, In That Place!*

**I. The New Heaven and the New Earth, Rev. 21.1**

Rev. 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

**A. A new heaven and a new earth, 21.1a**

1. God's refreshing of his universe, Isaiah 65:17-25 For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. [18] But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness.
2. God's resolve, after the judgment and the end of evil, is to make his creation anew, Isaiah 66:22 For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the Lord, so shall your offspring and your name remain.
3. According to the promise of God, we who hope in Christ await a new heavens and earth, 2 Peter 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. [11] Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, [12] waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! [13] But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

**B. The First Earth's Passing, and the Sea which is no more, 21.1b**

1. A literal interpretation?: three quarters of the earth is water; unfathomable increase in land mass
2. A symbolic interpretation?: the sea is associated with evil and chaos in the Scripture, i.e., this could mean the absolute end of evil in God's creation
  - a. The dragon that is *in the sea*, Isaiah 27:1 In that day the Lord with his hard and great and strong sword will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and he will slay the dragon that is in the sea.
  - b. The wicked are *like the tossing sea*, Isaiah 57:20 But the wicked are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up mire and dirt.
  - c. The beasts arise *out of the sea*, Daniel 7:3 And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. (Cf. Rev. 13:1 And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.)
3. Upping the ante from the Millennium: notice the mention of the sea during the 1,000 year period
  - a. Psalm 72:8 May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!
  - b. Isaiah 11:9 They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

- c. Zech. 9:10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

The creation of a new heaven and new earth is taught in Is. 65:17 and 66:22 (cf. Mt. 5:18; Mk. 13:31; 2 Pet. 3:12). Jewish teachers interpreted Is. 65–66 variously; some held that God would renew creation for his kingdom, others that he would replace it by an entirely new one. John's vision is capable of either interpretation; the fact that 20:11 describes a theophany, i.e. a pictorial representation of creation's response to God's coming for judgment, may be held to favor the former view. In any case, there was no longer any sea is less concerned with water than wickedness: the devil, the antichrist and antichristian empire are all depicted as sea monsters; **nothing of that order survives into the new.** [emphasis mine]– D. A. Carson, *The New Bible Commentary : 21st century edition*. Rev. ed. of: *The New Bible Commentary*. 3rd ed. / edited by D. Guthrie, J.A. Motyer. 1970. (4th ed.) (Re 21:1). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill., USA: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994, [Rev. 21]

## II. There's No Place Like Home: the holy city, the New Jerusalem, Rev. 21.2-8

Rev. 21:2-8 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. [3] And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. [4] He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." [5] And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." [6] And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. [7] The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. [8] But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

- A. Heaven as heaven on earth: the descent of the holy city, the new Jerusalem, 21.2
  1. The hope of the saints of the ages is residence in a new home, the holy city of God with the Lord and his people, 2 Cor. 11:2 I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. (Cf. Eph. 5.22-33)
  2. With the descent of the holy city, the prophetic vision is finally fulfilled!
    - a. Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for there shall no more come into you the uncircumcised and the unclean.
    - b. Psalm 48:1-3 Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His holy mountain, [2] beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King. [3] Within her citadels God has made himself known as a fortress.
    - c. Psalm 87:3 Glorious things of you are spoken, O city of God. Selah
  3. God is the builder of the city, Hebrews 11:10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.
  4. We have entered into this city in a spiritual sense, by faith, Hebrews 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering
  5. No place in this present world system right now is really home for us, Hebrews 13:14 For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.
  6. For the victors, Rev. 3:12 The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.
- B. The pronouncement of the loud voice from the throne<sup>1</sup>: the relationship of the blessed to God, 21.3
  1. The loud voice from the throne, 21.3-4
  2. The dwelling place of God is with humankind; God will dwell with them, and they will be his people
  3. God himself will be with them as their God: God will not be ashamed to call us his very own, Hebrews 11:16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.
  4. God will be our home!
    - a. It goes beyond normal physical reality and possibility, 2 Chron. 6:18 "But will God indeed dwell

with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built!

- b. We will sing for joy when God becomes our dwelling place!, Isaiah 12:6 Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."
  - c. God's promise for the saints is certain, Ezekiel 37:27 My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
- C. The pronouncement of the loud voice from the throne<sup>2</sup>: the state of the blessed, 21.4
1. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, Isaiah 25:8 He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.
  2. Recall the earlier promise, Rev. 7:17 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."
  3. Death shall be no more: the fulfillment of the apostolic testimony, 1 Cor. 15:54-57 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." [55] "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" [56] The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. [57] But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
  4. The cessation of misery and grief: "no mourning nor crying nor pain anymore"
  5. The countdown of this world system's demise gets closer everyday: "the former things have passed away," cf. 1 John 2:17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.
- D. Behold, I am He who was seated on the throne's words, 21.5
1. "Behold, I am making all things new."
  2. "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."
  3. The proclamation and the invitation: "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment."
    - a. Resonation with the words on the Cross: John 19:30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
    - b. Affirmation of the words of the prophet: Isaiah 55:1 "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
  4. For victors: The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.
  5. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

### III. The Bride, the Wife of the Lamb, (the New Jerusalem), Rev. 21.9-14

Rev. 21:9-14 Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." [10] And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, [11] having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. [12] It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— [13] on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. [14] And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

- A. An angelic tour of the Bride, 21.9-11
1. The identity of the angel: "one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me," 21.9a
  2. What he said: "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb," 21.9b
  3. John's journey: "And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God," 21.10
  4. The glory of the city: "having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal," 21.11
- B. High wall, twelve gates, and twelve foundations, 21.12-14

“The great, high wall serves the dual purpose of keeping out those who have no part in the city (21:27; 22:14–15) and of providing eternal security for those inside. Its twelve gates are inscribed with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, just as the wall’s twelve foundations have on them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. Therein the unity of the people of the old and new covenants is seen; together they form ‘the Israel of God’, expanded to embrace all nations in Christ.” – *ibid.*

1. The city’s walls and angelic garrisons: it had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed, 21.12
2. The position of the gates: “on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates,” v. 13
3. Foundations and the apostles: “and the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb,” v. 14
4. “A single continuous chain round the city:” a wonderful picture of the unity of revelation and singular cosmic drama of God’s saving acts in Christ Jesus!

#### IV. The Measuring of The City, Its Gates and Wall, Rev. 21.15-21

Rev. 21:15-21 And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. [16] The city lies foursquare; its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. [17] He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. [18] The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, clear as glass. [19] The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, [20] the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. [21] And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.

- A. An angel with a measuring rod of gold, 21.15
  1. The same angel of the plagues is the angel of the measuring: God uses angels to do his bidding of judgment and of grace!
  2. The prominence of angels in the Apocalypse: “All night, all day, God’s got his angels watching over me!”, Matthew 16:27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.
- B. The dimensions of the city, 21.16-17
  1. Amazing structure: the city lies foursquare; its length the same as its width, 21.16
  2. The angel’s measurements: 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal, v. 16.b
  3. He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement.
  4. Unbelievable size and glory! (1500 miles square); expositors argue whether it is a pyramid or a cube. However it is shaped, it is massive, like a moon!
  5. The power of the number 12: 12 gates, 12 angels (v. 12), 12 tribes of Israel (v. 12), 12 foundations (v. 14), 12 apostles (v. 14), 12 pearls (v. 21), 12 kinds of fruit (22:2), the wall 144 cubits—12 times 12 (21:17), and the height, width, and length, 12,000 stadia, about 1,400 miles (v. 16).
  6. “There’s plenty good room, plenty good room, plenty good room in My Father’s Kingdom, choose your seat, and sit down!”
- C. The wall and the twelve gates, 21.18-21
  1. The wall: it was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, clear as glass, 21.18
  2. The foundation of the wall: adorned with every kind of jewel, 21.19a
  3. The stones making up the foundation of the wall (i.e., the first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst)
  4. The nature of the gates: “And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass,” v. 21
  5. Startling and breath-taking in its beauty and splendor: worthy of God, the Lamb, and his saints!, Psalm 29:1-2 Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. [2] Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.

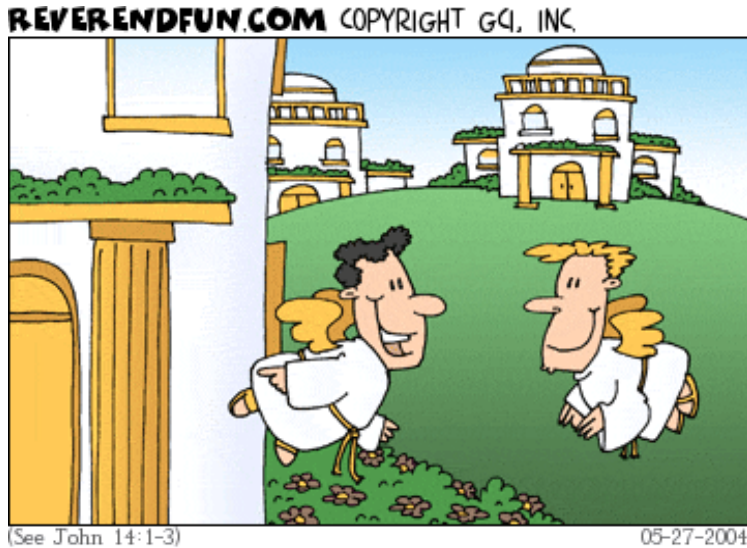
## V. The Glory of the City, Rev. 21.22-27

Rev. 21:22-27 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. [23] And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. [24] By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, [25] and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. [26] They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. [27] But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

- A. Perfected presence: I saw no temple in the city, 21.22
1. The temple of the city is the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb
  2. An entirely new economy: restoration to the full presence of God! (Cf. John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.
  3. In the Lord and the Lamb, God's fullness in abundance, (cf. Col. 1:19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell; Col. 2:9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily)
- B. Unlimited splendor: no need of sun or moon to shine on it, 21.23a
1. The glory of God gives the city its light, and the lamp is the Lamb, 21.23b (cf. John 1:9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.)
  2. The glory of God will be revealed, and everyone will behold it, Isaiah 40:5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
  3. In the city's light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 21.24
  4. The splendor of God will be revealed forever
    - a. We will see his glory, John 17:24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
    - b. The Lord will be our everlasting light, Isaiah 60:19-20 The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. [20] Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw itself; for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.
- C. 24 hour access: its gates will never be shut by day, 21.25-26
1. Not a divine convenience store, but a majestic, glorious light to the nations, Isaiah 2:2 It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it,
  2. Notice the change in both physical and spiritual reality: "there will be no night there," 21.25; cf. Isaiah 60:11 Your gates shall be open continually; day and night they shall not be shut, that people may bring to you the wealth of the nations, with their kings led in procession.
  3. The kings of the earth will bring into the city "the glory and the honor of the nations," 21.26,
- D. The holy city's entire sanctification: nothing unclean, detestable, or false, 21.27
1. The beauty of holiness: "nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life." v. 27
  2. Perfect sanctification: But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.
  3. Nothing fleshly or polluted, Isaiah 52:1 Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for there shall no more come into you the uncircumcised and the unclean.
  4. Set apart with not strangers, Joel 3:17 "So you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who dwell in Zion, my holy mountain. And Jerusalem shall be holy, and strangers shall never again pass through it.
  5. Without holiness, no one will see these things, Hebrews 12:14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.



*There's No Place Like Home!*



We're going to a place where we will dwell in the presence of God and his Christ, and will never know sorrow, fear, or pain again. The blessed hope of Christ's return is the yearning of our hearts, the longing of our souls. The intimacy and connection that was so viciously broken and forfeited in the Garden will wondrously be restored in the holy city, the New Jerusalem. As the hope of the saints throughout all time, our desire has always been to be where he is, to live in his presence, to dwell in our new home. Truly, for those who believe, there's no place, truly no place, like home!

\*\*\*\*\*

OUR FATHER'S HOUSE IS FILLED WITH  
MANSIONS AND THE MANSIONS ARE FILLED  
WITH MANY HOMES

The Season After Pentecost: Proper 25 (Year A, 2008)

The Consummation, Revelation 21.  
October 26, 2008.

Rev. 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

In the light of the horrible financial crisis plaguing so many households, it is comforting to know that we are going to a place where no shady lending, no predatory practices, and no variable mortgage rates will jeopardize our place. Our future hope is that the holy city, the New Jerusalem, where the Lord and the Lamb dwell, will become our forever hometown. The promise is sure and the hope is certain: God will dwell with us, we will be his people, and God himself will be our God. As we enter the final days of this last season for the Christian Year, the Season after Pentecost, let us long and yearn for our true home, the place of our future, the city of our joy.

*Morning Collect:* Eternal God our Father, we thank you for the hope of dwelling with you in the holy city, with all your saints, whose residence has been made sure by the shed blood of Your Son our Savior, Jesus Christ. Set our mind on things above today. Amen

*Evening Collect:* Soon-and-coming King, O, Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for obtaining us a place which you have personally crafted and constructed for those who approach the throne through You. We yearn to see your face, and to dwell with You in that place which will be our home forever. Keep us this night in that hope. Amen.

*Memory Verse:* MTB, New Beginnings in Christ: Series 1. Topic 1, OT Plan of Salvation, Salvation to the World. John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. [17] For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.