

The Bride

While exiled on the island of Patmos, the disciple John was given a vision of what it will be like when we are reunited with God for eternity.

Revelation 21:9-11 (NKJV) “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.” (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.”

What analogy was given, and why do you think it was used?

The bride is beautiful, and on her wedding day, everyone wants to see her. A wedding day is a turning point of a new life together for the bride and groom, and this will also be true of our relationship with God upon His return.

Jesus has been preparing a place for us (*John 14:1–3*), a beautiful place that is too amazing to describe.

John 14:1-4 (NKJV) “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. (2) In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. (4) And where I go you know, and the way you know.””

**In fact, “Human language is inadequate to describe the reward of the righteous. It will be known only to those who behold it. No finite mind can comprehend the glory of the Paradise of God.”
—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 675.**

Although we cannot really comprehend what the new heaven and new earth will be like, God shows John a vision of this place so that we look forward to the “wedding” that will soon happen. Indeed, we’re invited to “set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth” (*Col. 3:2, NKJV*).

Colossians 3:1-2 (NKJV) “(1) If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. (2) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

- The Focus of the mind, shapes the purpose of the Life
- The Concentration of the mind, becomes the stronghold of the soul.
- Our feet cannot take us where our mind is not leading us.

Jesus ministered on earth, but His affections were focused on eternity. His mission was temporal with eternal implications. He did not minister to leave us where sin had defiled us. Salvation is the Magna Carter of our freedom, Heaven is the Podium of Christ’s final Victory.

One day we will sit with Jesus in heavenly places, thus this is the time to calibrate our thoughts:

Philippians 2:5 (NKJV) “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”

1. Heaven Is a Prepared Place for a Redeemed People (vv. 9–11)

Glory revealed, not earned - Revelation 21:9–11

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John is shown “*the bride, the Lamb’s wife*”—the New Jerusalem—descending from God, radiant with divine glory.

Key insights:

- **Heaven is not man’s achievement but God’s gift**
- **The city reflects God’s character and presence**
- **Glory is not decorative—it is the visible result of God dwelling with His people**
- ***Heaven begins where God’s presence is fully revealed.***

2. Heaven Is Perfectly Secure and Orderly (vv. 12–14)

Nothing missing, nothing out of place - Revelation 21:12–14

Revelation 21:12-14 (NKJV) “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.”

The city has:

- **Twelve gates named after the tribes of Israel** — An affirmation that the message God gave to Israel will triumph, despite their rejection of the Messiah
 - **Genesis 12:1–3** — Through Abraham, all nations would be blessed
 - **Isaiah 49:6** — Israel called to be a light to the Gentiles
 - **Romans 9:4–5** — Covenants, law, and promises entrusted to Israel
 - **The Messiah came through Israel**
 - **Scripture came through Israel**
 - **The plan of redemption was revealed through Israel**
- **Twelve foundations named after the apostles. The apostles were:**
 - **Personally chosen by Jesus**
 - **Eyewitnesses of His life, death, and resurrection**
 - **Commissioned to establish the church**
 - **Matthew 10:1–4** — Jesus appoints the Twelve
 - **Acts 1:21–22** — Apostolic qualification as eyewitnesses
 - **John 15:27** — “You also will bear witness”

Key insights:

- God's plan includes both Old and New Testament redemption
- Heaven is structured, intentional, and complete
- God values order, history, and covenant continuity
- *Heaven reflects God's faithfulness across generations.*

3. Heaven Reflects God's Beauty, Value, and Permanence (vv. 15–21)

Eternal worth replaces earthly wealth Revelation 21:15–21

Revelation 21:15-21 (NKJV) “(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”

The measurements, precious stones, and streets of gold communicate:

- Perfection (equal dimensions)
- Purity (transparent gold)
- Permanence (indestructible materials)

Key insights:

- What we treasure on earth becomes commonplace in heaven
- Heaven redefines value—glory replaces greed
- *Heaven reveals what truly matters by what it makes ordinary.*

4. Heaven Is Defined by God's Presence and Moral Purity (vv. 22–27)

God is the center, light, and standard - Revelation 21:22–27

Revelation 21:22-27 (NKJV) “(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 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.”

John sees:

- No temple—God and the Lamb are the temple
- No sun or moon—God's glory is the light
- Open gates—yet nothing unclean enters

Key insights:

- Heaven is relational before it is architectural
- God Himself is the environment of heaven
- Citizenship requires transformation, not mere profession
- *Heaven is open to all—but entered only by the redeemed.*