

REVELATION

The Temple and Light
of the City

(Revelation 21:22~27)

Isaiah 60:19-21: 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. 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. Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I might be glorified.

Revelation 21:22-24: And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 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. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

We must walk in the light that God has given us.

1. The New Jerusalem does not contain a temple.

❖ Revelation 21:22: And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

A. Throughout much of history, the temple in Jerusalem has had great importance.

❖ Wilderness tabernacle

❖ Solomon's temple (destroyed in 586 B.C.)

❖ Rebuilt/expanded by Herod the Great

❖ Temple during Tribulation (Revelation 11)

❖ Temple in Millennium (Ezekiel 40-44)

1. The New Jerusalem does not contain a temple.

B. Instead of a temple, we as believers will experience God's presence directly.

- ❖ Most of the people were not allowed near Mount Sinai, and only the high priest could go into the most holy place in the temple.
- ❖ In the New Jerusalem, God is the temple as He dwells with His people.

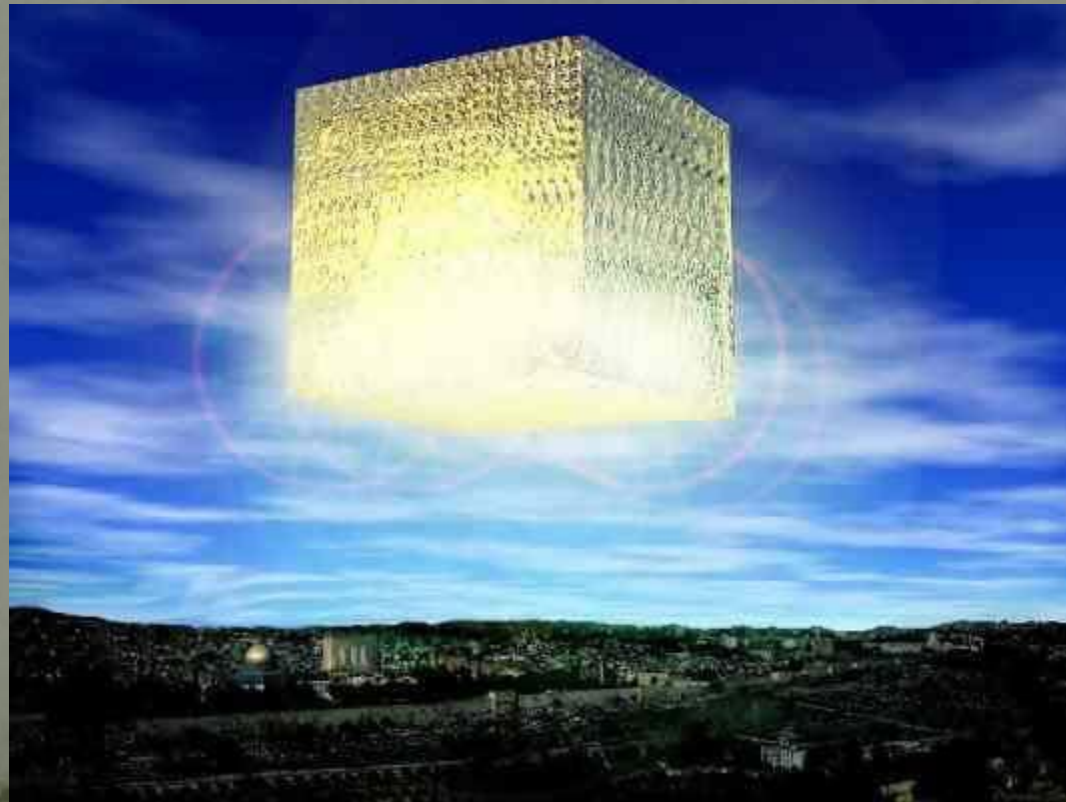
1. The New Jerusalem does not contain a temple.

B. Instead of a temple, we as believers will experience God's presence directly.

- ❖ Adam and Eve enjoyed unbroken fellowship with God in the Garden of Eden before sin.
- ❖ Genesis 3:8: And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

2. God provides light for the New Jerusalem.

- ❖ Revelation 21:23: 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.



2. God provides light for the New Jerusalem.

A. In the New Jerusalem, God's glory provides light for the city.

❖ Exodus 34:29-30: When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.

2. God provides light for the New Jerusalem.

A. In the New Jerusalem, God's glory provides light for the city.

- ❖ Moses' face literally reflected the glory of the Lord, so he wore a veil over his face when he was talking to Israel.
- ❖ Considering the precious metals and jewels in the city, this is a beautiful picture of the glory of God shining throughout the city.

2. God provides light for the New Jerusalem.

B. Because of the glory of the Lord, there is no need for the sun or moon.

- ❖ The glory of the Lord provides a constant light source that will be sufficient for the entire city at all times.
- ❖ The new creation will be different (no more sea, no need for sun or moon, no more night).
- ❖ Some skeptics argue that the other side of the earth would be dark.

- ❖ God designed laws of physics and astronomy, and can design them differently in a new creation (hydrological cycle would work differently before the Flood).
- ❖ The focus of the passage is on the New Jerusalem, but perhaps God's glory lights the whole earth.
- ❖ Perhaps there are still a sun and moon (verse 23 says they're not *necessary* in the New Jerusalem). Perhaps God's glory simply outshines them in the New Jerusalem, just as the sun outshines the stars today.

2. God provides light for the New Jerusalem.

C. Because of the brightness of God's glory, there is no more night.

- ❖ Revelation 21:25: And its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.
- ❖ Since God is dwelling permanently with His people, His glory will never depart from the city, meaning it will always be light.
- ❖ We assume our eternal bodies will not have a need for sleep.

2. God provides light for the New Jerusalem.

D. The nations will walk in the light that God provides.

- ❖ Revelation 21:24: By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.
- ❖ The Bible often references light guiding people in both a physical and a spiritual sense.

2. God provides light for the New Jerusalem.

D. The nations will walk in the light that God provides.

❖ 1 John 1:5-7: This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

The “nations” in the new creation

- ❖ The word for “nations” is also translated “Gentiles,” so it can point out that both Jews and Gentiles have a place in the New Creation.
- ❖ Only believers are in the New Creation, but apparently there is still some distinction between people groups.
- ❖ Scripture does not specify what determines whether a person lives in the city or outside of it.



The “nations” in the new creation

- ❖ Why doesn't everyone spend all of their time in the New Jerusalem?
- ❖ When Adam and Eve sinned, they were removed from the Garden of Eden. But *before* they sinned, had God designed for everyone to live in Eden?



ANSWER

The “nations” in the new creation

- ❖ Even before sin, God designed for people to fill the earth, so some would need to live outside of Eden.
- ❖ Genesis 1:28: And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and **fill the earth** and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”



The “nations” in the new creation

- ❖ God gave the same command to “fill the earth” to Noah and his family after the Flood.
- ❖ When people tried to unite at Babel instead of filling the earth, the Lord confused their languages and scattered them throughout the earth.
- ❖ God had already given the command in Genesis 1, so even in a perfect world, He designed that some would live outside of Eden.



3. The New Jerusalem will dwell in security.

A. The gates will always remain open.

- ❖ Revelation 21:25: And its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.
- ❖ Gates were closed in times of danger to protect those inside (nighttime and when the city was under attack).
- ❖ There are no enemies left to attack the city: Satan and his followers have already been eternally judged.

3. The New Jerusalem will dwell in security.

B. The nations will bring honor and glory into the city.

- ❖ Revelation 21:26: They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.
- ❖ In ancient times, conquered nations brought tribute to the ruling nation.
- ❖ The nations bring honor and glory to God because He deserves it.

3. The New Jerusalem will dwell in security.

B. The nations will bring honor and glory into the city.

❖ Revelation 11:1-2: Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, “Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the **nations**, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.”

3. The New Jerusalem will dwell in security.

C. Those who are still corrupted by sin are excluded from the New Jerusalem.

- ❖ Revelation 21:27: 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.
- ❖ Even after the judgment of Revelation 20, we see a few warnings of those excluded from the new creation.

3. The New Jerusalem will dwell in security.

C. Those who are still corrupted by sin are excluded from the New Jerusalem.

- ❖ This exclusion serves as a warning today that we *do* need salvation through Christ to be in the New Jerusalem.
- ❖ It also reminds us of the purity of the New Jerusalem. Satan was permitted to enter Eden, but neither Satan nor unbelievers will be permitted to enter the New Jerusalem and seek to corrupt the inhabitants.

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- The city has no temple because God dwells with His people, and God provides light for the city.
- The city will dwell in security for all of eternity, and no one can corrupt it.

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- 1 John 1:7: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
- Psalm 119:105: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- We will still sin, but as 1 John 1 tells us, we should confess that sin to God.
- We must walk in the light that God has given to us.

NEXT TIME:

Revelation 22:1-5

- The Removal
of the Curse