

Don't look at culture to interpret; backward to OT! More allus to OT in Rev than entire NT combined; fewer quotes. Ties all loose ends of Bible together; key themes. **Prop:** We're going to live with God forever in a renewed creation! **Why:** Persecution, immorality, false teaching; occas: **1:9:** persevere!

### **1. The new cosmos will be marked by the renewal of all things! (21:1-8)**

*All* been about this! Trumpets/bowls, locusts/fire, dragon/monsters, earthquakes/falling stars: jealous love of Divine Groom for his betrothed! Marred with sin, image of God disfigured, His love for world initiated greatest rescue plan intertwined with greatest love story ever imagined! Storyline of Bible!

Joseph marries Mary amidst perceived shame; Jesus marries the church amidst her true shame by clothing her in His righteousness. Engaged to Him, leaves to prepare a place for us (**Jn14:2-3**). "Kill dragon, get girl!" Happily ever after we all long to be true: New Heaven/Earth: home for bride! Reqs eradication of old world! Passed away...behold (x2)! Old nature, too; call to conquer: **7-8: Rom8:37!**

Comes by faith! Recognizing need: **6!** Do we trust God as Creator, Sustainer, Consummator over all history? He is the Promise Maker/Keeper! His timing! **3-4:** all the deep-seated longings in our hearts are found here! *Everything* we turn to for temporal satisfaction: mask/poor sub for what's ult offered! Addictions, intimacy, control, distractions of world, beauty/make up industry, pain-free existences!

**Samuel Stone** (1866), "Church's one foundation is Jesus X her Lord. She is his new creation by water/the word. From heaven He came/sought her, to be His holy bride. With His own blood He bought her/for her life He died!" Holiness of ch4 (throne room), now amidst people of God for ever!

### **2. The church will be marked by the radiance of God! (21:9-27)**

**9-10:** Bride, wife of Lamb, holy city Jerusalem, beloved city (20:9), Church, out of heaven from God! 5:9: it's the redeemed from every tribe, language, people, nation! Having been redeemed, they *have* glory (present; ongoing); honor, fame, weight! Notice it's not our own! Applause/spotlight aren't ours!

Glory of God! What makes us glorious: placed upon us! What makes us acceptable to God/beautiful in His sight is also placed upon us! Alien; foreign to us! Always, from start to finish, salvation is an act of grace by God. No sidestepping that fact! The church is pictured here as radiant: **11! Ps34:5!** 12-27 now described the immensity and preciousness of the church itself; the glory that will reside there!

Some believe there'll be another physical temple built in Jerus on **Temple Mount/Dome of Rock**. Based on Rev21/Ezek40-42 (97vv). Symbolic (9-10); representative of complete people of God who have believed; their faith credited to them as righteousness (OT/NT: Tribes/Apos)! 36-37: New heart/dry bones; 38-39: Gog/Magog; 4chs: return from exile: Temple! Church will reign forever (22:5)!

Highly symb, emotive, visual! Hard to read lit: 12K stadia: roughly 1400mis: to Laredo, TX<sup>2</sup>: 2Mmis<sup>2</sup>: landmass Mexico; <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>US! Satellites orbit at 1200mis. Could be lit. **Gundry**, "John's not describing an eternally secure *place*. He's describing eternally secure *people*!" OT imagery: priestly attire: jewels: Ex28; shape of MHP: cube! W/God: our Everything: **22-27!** Perfectly secure; permanently stable!

### **3. The new creation will be marked by eternal refreshment! (read 22:1-5)**

Bookends of Bible: Garden (Creation/Recreation); peace, refreshment, abundance. Adam/Eve created perfectly, by God's grace, in image, for glory; to know, enjoy, glorify Him as image bearers: reflect/represent Him! Sin enters picture! Evicted from garden! Stuff on the curb! Curse enters the story! In order to bridge these 2 gardens, must visit another: between banishment/welcome: Mt26!

Garden where curse is applied to another; shouldered by a sub: **Gal3:13**. What we gain as a result is seen here in vv3-4: *curse*; see His face/bear His name! Intimacy, joy, fellowship, love, communion; all restored/utterly impossible w/o atonement: **Ex33:20!** Water/Tree of Life: healing, restoration. Life-giving abundance/eternal satisfaction w/God! If we're honest: unimaginable!

Centerpiece of New Creation: sg throne: God/Lamb! Most important thing about Heaven is not many of peripheral things that come to mind when we think about Heaven: know(n) by God: **Gal4:9!** When the Stars Come Out: trying to find salvation in that city limit sign! Not just about changing your zip code (externals); reorient your life around Jesus; His life lived perfectly *for you!* Sinless/blameless!