



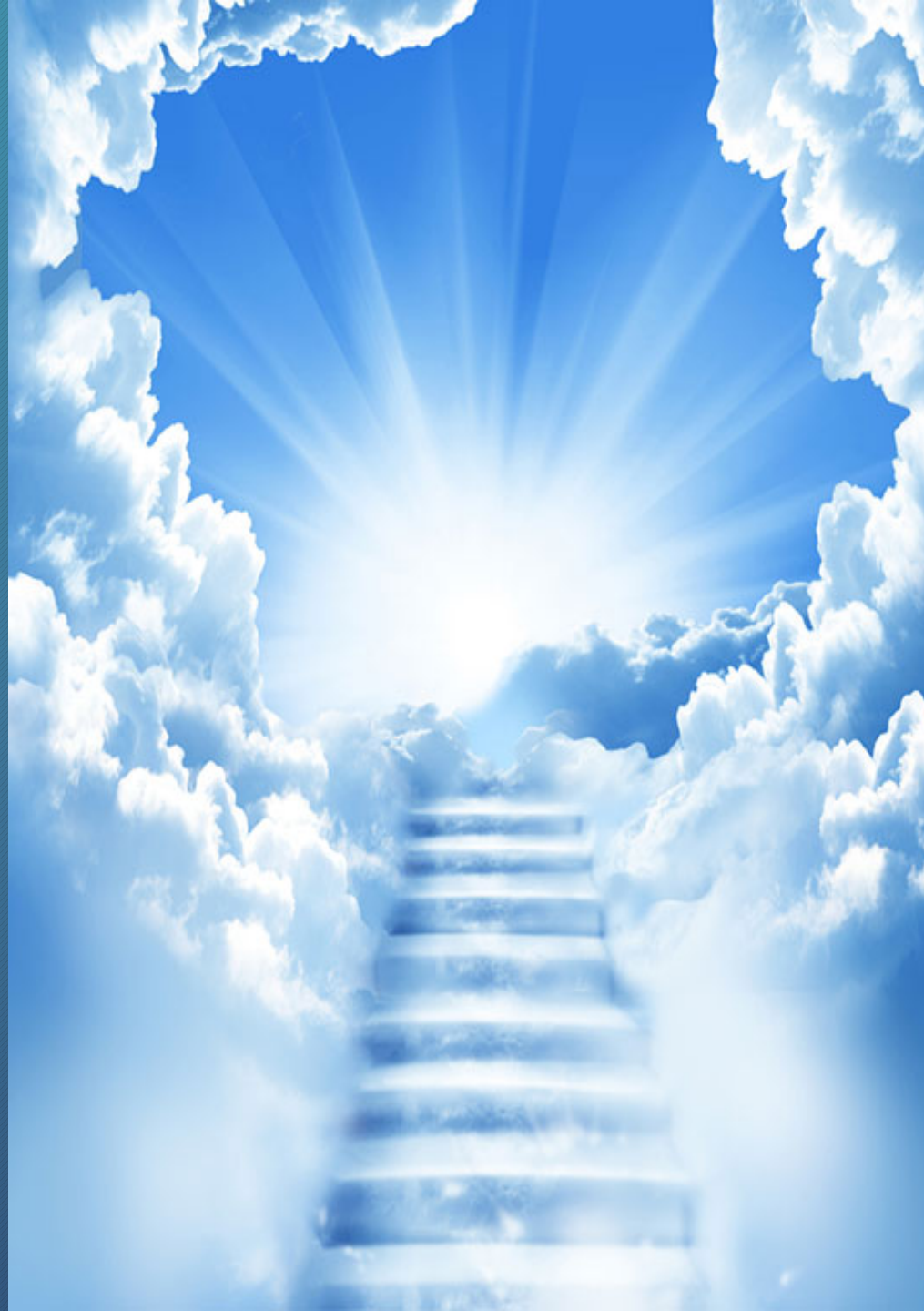
Revelation 21

All things new ... It is done!



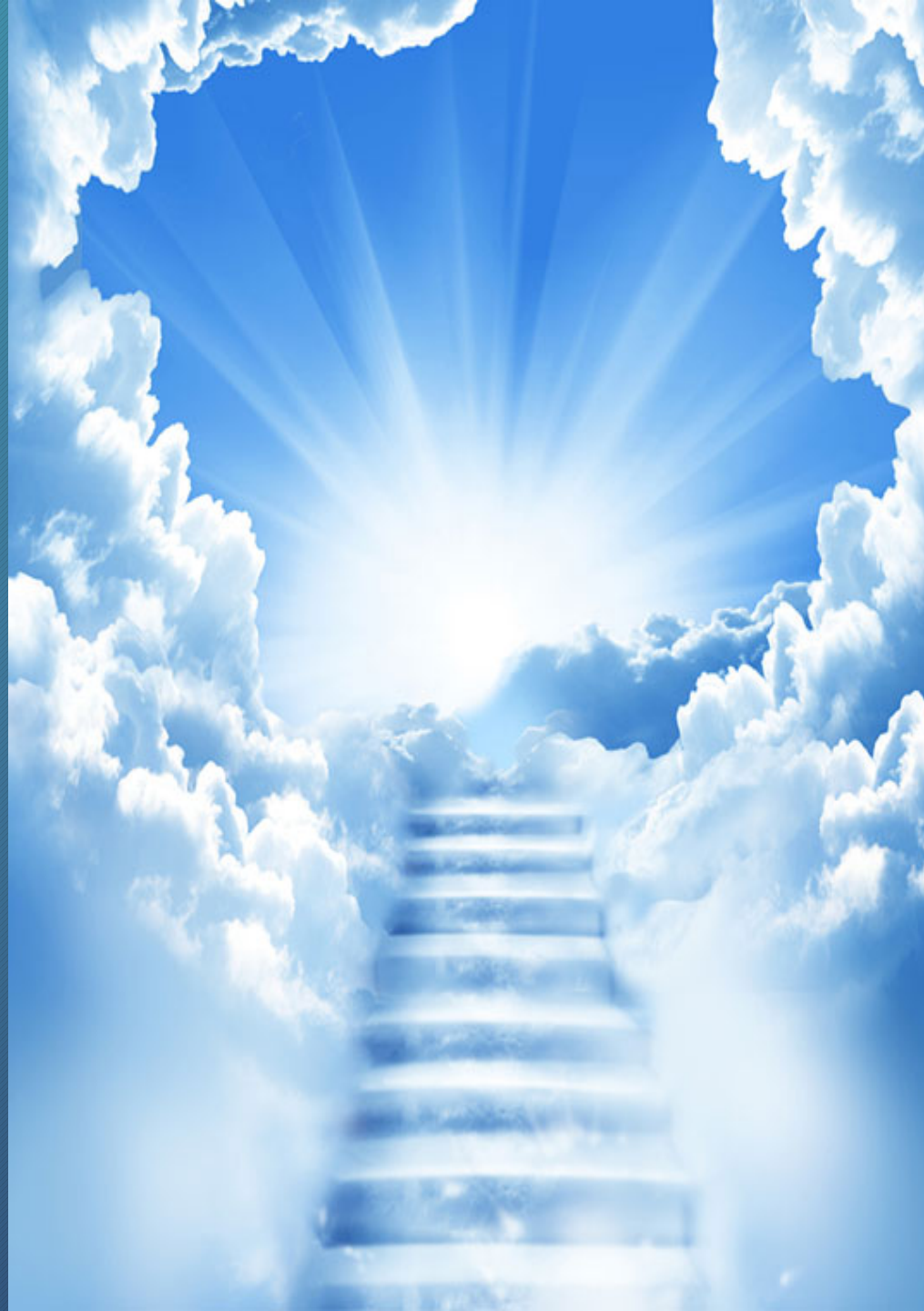
Sing the wondrous love of Jesus;
Sing his mercy and his grace.
In the mansions bright and blessed
He'll prepare for us a place.

*When we all get to heaven,
What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
We'll sing and shout the victory!*



While we walk the pilgrim pathway,
Clouds will overspread the sky;
But when traveling days are over,
Not a shadow, not a sigh.

*When we all get to heaven,
What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
We'll sing and shout the victory!*



Let us then be true and faithful,
Trusting, serving every day;
Just one glimpse of him in glory
Will the toils of life repay.

*When we all get to heaven,
What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
We'll sing and shout the victory!*



Onward to the prize before us!
Soon his beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open;
We shall tread the streets of gold.

*When we all get to heaven,
What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
We'll sing and shout the victory!*



Some day the silver cord will break,
And I no more as now shall sing;
But oh, the joy when I shall wake
Within the palace of the King!

*And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story—Saved by grace;
And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story—Saved by grace.*

Some day my earthly house will fall,
I cannot tell how soon 'twill be;
But this I know—my All in All
Has now a place in heav'n for me.

*And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story—Saved by grace;
And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story—Saved by grace.*

Some day, when fades the golden sun
Beneath the rosy-tinted west,
My blessed Lord will say, "Well done!"
And I shall enter into rest.

*And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story—Saved by grace;
And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story—Saved by grace.*

Some day: till then I'll watch and wait,
My lamp all trimmed and burning bright,
That when my Savior opes the gate,
My soul to Him may take its flight.

*And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story—Saved by grace;
And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story—Saved by grace.*



Revelation 21

All things new ... It is done!

Take a phrase



There are few passages of Scripture on which there is such a wide divergence of opinion among dispensational pre-millennialists as Revelation 21:9-22:7. Some see this as descriptive of the eternal state while others see it as descriptive of the millennial age. Some interpret the city as referring to the church in relation to Christ and others as referring to Israel in her relation to Christ. Some take this as a literal city and others as a symbolical representation.

Pentecost

*What do others
say?*

Revelation 21





*Most importantly,
enjoy it!*

Revelation 21

In the midst of the discussion and debate, we must not lose the enjoyment and thrill of a passage like this.

If this is not heaven, or is not the eternal state (both of which I think it may well be!) then it is clearly indicative of what it is like and to be enjoyed.

If it is symbolic rather than literal (which it probably is), then it is certainly intended to show us what heaven will be like! So enjoy it as such!

After the severe judgement of chapter 20, we are about to enter something very different - John says: 'I saw' - this is very visible to him.

This is different to anything God has ever done before - at the flood (Genesis 8), in the promised land (Joshua 6) or even in the millennium (Isaiah 65,66).

This is completely 'new' - not in the sense of time but in character and quality ('kainos' rather than 'neos')

Heaven and earth have 'passed away' (lit. passed out of sight) - the sea is gone - that which represents the troubled nations of the earth
We are standing in eternity itself - outside of time and space as we know it.

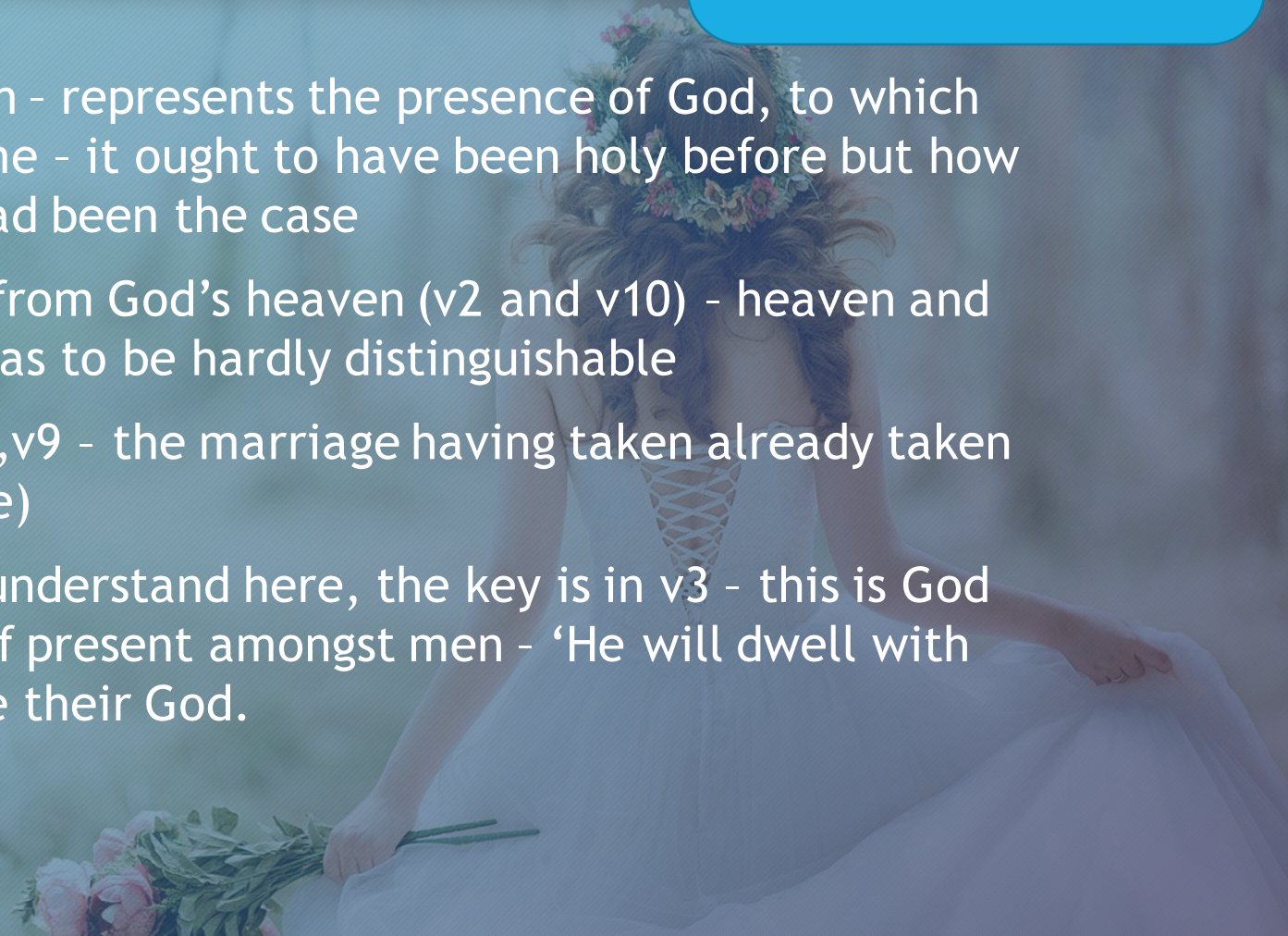
A new heaven and a new earth v1

Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. *2 Peter 3:11-13*

The holy city - what is it?

*Build your study
around some basic
questions*

- New Jerusalem - represents the presence of God, to which his people come - it ought to have been holy before but how seldom that had been the case
- Coming down from God's heaven (v2 and v10) - heaven and earth so close as to be hardly distinguishable
- As a bride - v2,v9 - the marriage having taken already taken place (the wife)
- Whatever we understand here, the key is in v3 - this is God making himself present amongst men - 'He will dwell with them ... and be their God.



The holy city - what is it like?

John can hardly describe what it is like - so instead he tells us what it is not like! v4

No more sea -
nations, separation,
judgement (flood)

No more death -
there has been
enough!

No sorrow - not even
as those who have
hope! *1 Thess 4*

No tears - every last
tear gone

No more curse 22:3

No crying - no more
yearning hearts

No more pain -
everything that
might have caused
pain is gone

No night - darkness has
gone forever 22:5

The holy city - who is there?



Christ is there

The Alpha and Omega - the Beginning and End of it all - everything God has to say is in him v6

The giver of life

The Lamb - he is its temple - no need for a building as in Jerusalem of old v22

The Lamb - he is its light - no need for sun or moon v23

The Lord God Almighty and all his glory v22,23

The holy city - who else is there?



*Ask the same question
again but dig deeper!*

He who overcomes - called 'my son' v7 - all who in genuine faith have trusted Christ and overcome all that is against him - Hebrews 12:22,13:14

Abraham and those of like faith - who waited for a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God - Hebrews 11:10,13-15

The nations of those who are saved and the kings of the earth v24 - those who have come through the millennium and into the new earth

Those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life v27 - 'the complete register of the redeemed from creation to eternity' (Allen)

The holy city - who is not there?



Ask the opposite question

Cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, liars - those who by their lives have lived contrary to God until the end
v8

All those who have experienced the 'second death' and therefore have been separated from God forever 20:14

Nothing and no-one who could or would defile or profane it, nor cause an abomination or a lie v27

Any who are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life v27

The great city - what is it really like?

It is great - four times v10,12,16

It is high - three times v10,12,16

It is holy - nothing defiles it - three times v2,10,27

It is glorious - three times v11,23,26



*Ask the same question
again but dig deeper!*

Light

- Precious - darkness so often infiltrates the light but not here
- Jasper - the jasper in these times was often green and transparent - nothing to cloud that glory, so much so that it is 'clear as crystal'
- No need of the sun or moon - the glory of God and the Lamb are all that is needed to lighten the city v23

Wall

- Great and high - protection, safety - 250 feet high v12
- Constructed of jasper - 6,000 miles of it v18
- Twelve foundations - utterly grounded with the names of the Apostles - their doctrine was the foundation of the Church v14
- Foundations were adorned with all kinds of precious stone - great significance in each one v19,20

Twelve gates

- Angels ministering v12
- Names - 12 tribes of the children on Israel - how wonderful and gracious of God - Old and New covenants represented there
- Gates in equal measure on every side welcoming from every direction v13
- Each gate of one pearl - the product of a wounded side - entry only ever by the sufferings of Christ v21
- The gates are constantly open v25

The street

- One street - no division, no diversion v21 and 22:2
- Pure gold - the finest of materials, proved in the fire and representing Deity
- Like transparent glass - gold is not transparent but this gold has such an appearance - nothing is hidden, everything is seen - what could there be to hide?

The number 12 is all over this city - 12 is an expanded 7 in being 4x3 rather than 4+3 - perfection in its deepest analysis; 3 is divine manifestation and 4 is universality FW Grant

The great city - what is it really like?

The heavenly city measures approximately 1500 miles by 1500 miles by 1500 miles. Though some interpret these big numbers symbolically, allegedly carrying the idea that 'saved people are never crowded.' I think the dimensions are intended to be interpreted literally. The eternal city is so huge that it would measure approximately the distance from Canada to Mexico, and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Rockies. That is a surface area of 2.25 million square miles. (By comparison London is only 621 square miles). Put another way, the ground level area of the city will be 3623 times that of London. If the city has storeys, each being 13 feet high, the city would have 660,000 storeys. That is huge!

Someone calculated that if this structure is cube-shaped, it would allow for 20 billion residents, each having his or her own private 75-acre cube. If each residence were smaller, the city would have room to accommodate one hundred thousand billion people with plenty of room left over for parks, streets, and other things you would see in any normal city.

Rhodes, The End Times in Chronological Order

*Thank God for the
thoughts of others!*

Revelation 21 and beyond...

Go further!

Chapter 22 takes us further...

- There is 'a pure river' - the focal point of the city, the throne.
- The sea, the unsettled and troubled nations, is gone. The river that flows from the throne of God brings blessing and refreshment, is never stopped and is untainted in every way.
- This river accords with this eternal state and is more pure than anything that has ever gone before. It provides fertile land for the 'tree of life'.
- The tree from which man was barred in Eden is now abundantly available.
- The beginning of v2 speaks of 'in the midst of the street of it' - it flows through the street of this great city, on either side, the tree of life.
- It bears 'twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month' - a constant fresh and unending supply.

*Most importantly,
enjoy it!*

And what further blessing flows - note all the 'ands'! No more curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb in it. Serving him. Seeing his face. His name in their foreheads. No night. No candle. No light of the sun even! The Lord God gives light. What blessing. What eternal glory.

THEY SHALL SEE HIS FACE ... THEY SHALL REIGN FOREVER AND EVER

Believe certainly that these things will be so - IT IS DONE!

Revelation 21 and beyond...



Surely, I am coming quickly. *Amen.*

Even so, come, Lord Jesus! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.