

Revelation Vision 7

[Summary by Ruth Smart 2020]

Revelation 21:1-7 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 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 water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

- We have come to the end and in so doing John saw a new heaven and a new earth. "New" means rejuvenated.

2 Peter 3:13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

- What it physically looks like we don't know.
- The new Jerusalem is not a city - it is the bride, the wife of the Lamb. It is stated very clearly.
- The harlot was a city - Babylon. The bride is also a city - the new Jerusalem.
- No more sea - no more restless nations.
- The church is now in embryo

Hebrews 12:22-24 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

- Galatians 4:25-26 talks about the two cities of Jerusalem, one on earth, the other heavenly.
- Jerusalem below - legalistic system of dead religion. Jerusalem above - free, living in the grace of God.
- John needed to be "shown" this - he was carried away in the Spirit.
- New Jerusalem not only in embryo (now) but as a future reality. Verse 4 "He will wipe away..." There is a finality about these verses, but it has already happened. Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me shall never die. We have entered eternal life even now while on earth. We don't need to fear death.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 "We sorrow, but not as others who have no hope"

- All through the NT we hear that old things have passed away.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

- Like an architect, who makes the plans, they are perfect/complete in the architect's eyes. The building starts, a hole here, a bulldozer there, concrete, girders - it looks like a mess, yet the architect sees it completed.
- "So, in the mind of God, the Church existed before time began, perfect and complete in His mind. He then drew up the plans, which we call the Eternal Purposes of God. He then brought in the bulldozers, which we call the Nation of Israel, and then He laid the foundation in Jesus Christ." (Malcolm Smith Revelation II p84)

- God's first people lived in tents - temporary dwellings, but now his people live in a city, a place of permanence, of all people living in community.
- A holy city - Holy means "set apart", "for one another", "belonging to another". All creation was created to be holy to God - set apart for his pleasure, for Him, in union with Him.
- Holiness movements emphasise that we are separated from sin, but the bible emphasises we are separated to God. We are not our own. We belong to God.
- This city came down from heaven - it originated with God. In Daniel's vision he saw a stone, cut without human hands, come down and smash the statue to pieces. It became a great mountain that filled the whole earth. Babylon (head of gold), Medes and Persians (breast of silver), Greeks (body of bronze), Romans (iron legs) are all just pictures of the beast showing up in different ways.
- Jesus said "His Kingdom is not of this world" and "I will build my church..."
- Jesus went to prepare a place for us - not "a mansion just over the hilltop" - by going to the cross. A place of many dwellings - a city!
- The dwelling place is in his heart; it is being in union with him; walking with him.
- The church came from heaven. It started before time began with the plans God laid, it was brought about by the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, and is now being actively built by the Holy Spirit.

Revelation 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

- The glorious bride - like jasper - now shining with the same light. Jesus said "I am the light of the world" as well as "You are the light of the world". A city on a hill cannot be hidden. We have this treasure in earthen vessels.
- The church is the revelation of God on earth. That is pretty deep!

Revelation 21:15-16 The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long.

- The city measured 12 000 stadia (furlongs). 3 x 4 x 10 x 10 x 10. 3/trinity, 4/whole world, 10/completion. 10 x 10 x 10/ absolute completion, finale.
- Cube - only other place a cube is mentioned in the bible is in *1Kings 6:20* - the inner sanctuary (holy of holies). It was 20 cubits by 20 cubits by 20 cubits overlaid with gold. The bride now represents the holy of holies. Go back to Revelation 21:3.
- In Genesis in the garden of Eden was the glory of God; man lived and walked there in that glory. When man sinned, he was thrown out of that garden and two cherubim and a flame were placed outside the garden to guard the way to the tree of life. This was guaranteeing God's purposes would come to pass, not to keep man out.
- Then came the tabernacle and right in the centre was the glory of God. On the veil in front of the tabernacle were, again, cherubim. One day man will be able to come back into the glory.
- On the ark of the covenant - again cherubim.
- Solomon built his temple - a perfect cube.
- When Jesus died, the veil of the temple was torn in two. The cherubim weren't needed any more. The way to the holy of holies was now open, but even more, the church becomes part of the holy of holies. We are the temple of God. We have returned to Eden.

1 Corinthians 6:19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

Ephesians 2:21-22 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

- The glory of God that was in the Holy of Holies will now be over all the peoples of Jerusalem. We have "returned to Eden".

Revelation 22:3-4 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

- No more curse - sin has been put away
- face to face - know him personally and intimately
- sealed on their foreheads - belonging to God
- OT - sins just covered over once a year. Only knew God through the High Priest, his mediator. A shadow of the real. No need for a Day of Atonement any more.

Revelation 21:22-23 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

- No temple needed any more - no building required.
- On earth the item that was lit by the sun, the moon, lamp and the glory of God was the tabernacle. The outer court lit by the sun and moon, the holy place was lit by the seven-branched candlestick, the Holy of Holies was lit by the glory of God.

Revelation 21:12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.

- High walls - separation and safety. *1 Peter 1:5* says we are "kept by the power of God ..." God has made himself responsible for keeping us - idea of the shepherd is throughout the bible. A shepherd is personally responsible to protect and look after his sheep. Jesus is called the great shepherd. That doesn't mean the sheep cannot come under attack.

Revelation 21:14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

- The foundation of the church stated in the NT is always the 12 apostles and their teachings

Ephesians 2:20 ..built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

- The foundation is that Christ died, was buried and rose again on the third day.

1 Corinthians 15:1-5 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved ... For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

- Very straightforward teaching - not necessarily a mystical experience. Other religions may be founded on a mystical experience, but Christianity is founded on solid historical fact. It can be talked about. It can be discussed. It is logical. You may have a mystical experience but it needs to be about Jesus, the Lamb that was slain. Peter had a revelation - "You are the Christ, the son of the Living God"

Revelation 21:18-21 The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were

twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

- The 12 gates made with a single pearl - obviously symbolic! - with the names of the 12 tribes inscribed on them, We can only enter through the gates of pearl. A pearl is made through blood and suffering. A piece of grit gets into the shell and the oyster secretes a substance that makes the pearl. In the process the oyster dies, A pearl of great price - a beautiful thing.
- Jesus says he is the door. No-one comes to the Father but through him.
- The gates have the names of the 12 tribes of Israel on them. In the OT when the glory of God was in the tabernacle in the wilderness, all of Israel camped around it. We are a part of the true Israel. Echoes from Ezekiel 48.
- The city is full of gold - speaks of the divine nature of God, his life. 1 John 3 speaks of God giving us his very life - his sperma.

2 Peter 1:4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

- The walls were adorned with every kind of precious stone - 12 in number - maybe 12 colours - looking like a rainbow? The rainbow is a symbol of the mercy of God.
- High priests in OT had a breastplate adorned with 12 precious stones. We are part of the breastplate of the Melchizedek High Priest

Exodus 28:17:21 "Fashion a breastpiece for making decisions—the work of skilled hands. Make it like the ephod: of gold, and of blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and of finely twisted linen. It is to be square—a span long and a span wide - and folded double. Then mount four rows of precious stones on it. The first row shall be carnelian, chrysolite and beryl; the second row shall be turquoise, lapis lazuli and emerald; the third row shall be jacinth, agate and amethyst; the fourth row shall be topaz, onyx and jasper. Mount them in gold filigree settings. There are to be twelve stones, one for each of the names of the sons of Israel, each engraved like a seal with the name of one of the twelve tribes.

- We are peculiarly precious to God - you are my treasure and I bear you on my heart.

Revelation 21:24-27 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendour into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honour of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

- Any country that gives place to the Church of Jesus Christ and listens to its message, that country will be blessed. They walk in the LIGHT of it. Any country that persecutes the Church of Jesus Christ will fall sooner or later. God will make sure of that! (Malcolm Smith Revelation II p110)

Romans 4:11 It is written: "‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.’"

Isaiah 2 In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

Ephesians 3:4-6 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

- Revelation 22 begins with a beautiful garden with the river of the water of life in it and trees of life for the healing of nations. The bible began with a garden and ends with a garden. Total peace and satisfaction is often in terms of a garden.

Revelation 22:1-5 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city,

and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Psalm 23 :2-3 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. John 7:38-39 ...Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. ...

- Echoes from Ezekiel 47 - it talks about water flowing from under the temple, the water brings life, trees line the river.
- Tree of life = none other than Jesus. Eat the leaves of the tree and you will be healed.
- "I am the bread of life" - he is our continuous sustenance. In Him is our continual wholeness and healing.
- At the centre of the city is the throne of God and of the Lamb. The church is the centre of God's rule upon earth.

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven". This Book is founded upon one fact: Jesus Christ is Victor! He has conquered. It is done! Everything is sealed and signed. It's over! It's done.
- "Remember this was written to **persecuted** Christians. When you are being persecuted, and when the Church is being split and torn in pieces, and when the world seems to have trampled all over the outer court, and you are shaking your head and saying, "*Where do we go from here?*" The Architect comes and says, "Come and see the original plan!" Blessed is he who reads this book and who hears it. Whether you are being attacked by political power, by apostate religion, by the sweet, sweet smell of the world and her scent, or whether you are being disrupted within by a false prophet, take a look at the original plan! God says, *Things are not what they seem to be!*" (Malcolm Smith Revelation II p113)