

Week 01: Rev 1:1-8 Revelation of Jesus Christ
Week 02: Rev 1:9-20 I Am Dead Now Alive
Week 03: Rev 2:1-7 Ephesus Loveless Church
Week 04: Rev 2:8-11 Smyrna, Persecuted Church
Week 05: Rev 2:12-17 Pergamum, Compromising Church
Week 06: Rev 2:18-29 Thyatira, Corrupt Church, Tolerating Sin
Week 07: Rev 3:1-6 Sardis: Dead Church
Week 08: Rev 3:7-13 Faithful Church, Philadelphia
Week 09: Rev 3:14-22 Lukewarm Church, Laodiceans
Week 10: Rev 4:1-1 Throne Room of God
Week 11: Rev 5:1-14 Jesus Takes Scroll
Week 12: Rev 6:1-4 Jesus Opens Seals
Week 13: Rev 6:5-17 Six Seals Opened
Week 14: Rev 7 Great Multitude Saved, 144,000 Jews
Week 15: Rev 8 First Four Judgements
Week 16: Rev 9:1-12 Fifth Trumpet: Demonic Locusts
Week 17: Rev 9:13-21 Four Angel's Released-Euphrates
Week 18: Rev 10:1-11 Mighty Angel, Little Book
Week 19: Rev 11:1-19 The Two Witnesses
Week 20: Rev 11:15-17 Rev 12:1-17 Seventh Trumpet, Heavenly War
Week 21: Rev 13:1-10 The Beast from the Sea, Antichrist (change to this title?)
Week 22: Rev 13:11-18 The Second Beast, Earth
Week 23: Rev 14:1-20 The Lamb and 144,000 on Mount Zion
Week 24: Rev 15:1-8 Preparation for the Bowl Judgments
Week 25: Rev 16:1-16 Bowl Judgements
Week 26: Rev 16:17-21 Seventh Bowl of God's Wrath
Week 27: Rev 17:1-6 Woman Rides the Beast
Week 28: Rev 17:7-12 Meaning of Woman and Beast
Week 29: Rev 17:13-18 Victory for the Lamb
Week 30: Rev 18:1-8 Babylon the Great is Destroyed
Week 31: Rev 18:9-20 World Leaders Mourn As Babylon Falls
Week 32: Rev 18:21-24 Babylon, the Mother of Harlots Destroyed
Week 33: Rev 19:1-10 Heaven Rejoices, Marriage Supper
Week 34: Rev 19:11-21 Second Coming of Christ
Week 35: Rev 20:1-10 Saints Reign with Christ 1000 Years
Week 36: Rev 20:10-15 Great White Throne Judgment
Week 37: Rev 21:1-8 New: Heaven, Earth and Jerusalem
Week 38: Rev 21:9-27 New Jerusalem Described

Parallel passage: other passages, which speak to the same subject

Cross-reference: Specific verses, related passages, supports interpretation

Correlation: connecting other passages broader themes, ideas, patterns, aids in theological or symbolic understanding

Messianic reference: a passage not yet fulfilled but expected to happen in the future

Prophecy fulfilled:

Prophetic reference:

Review:

Intro:

Announcements:

Steve Greenberg's Handout: December 3, 2025 (Wed p.m.)

Week 39: Rev 22:1-21 Perfect Life That Never Ends

Extra notes and charts at end

Rev 22:1-5 The River of Life (The Beautiful Perfect Life That Never Ends, No Sin, Sorrows or Death)

Rev 22:1 And he (the angel) showed me (John) a pure river of water of life, clear (bright) as crystal, proceeding (flowing) from the throne of God and of the Lamb (Christ).

Pictures of a river as a powerful peace and heavenly rest

Isa 48:18 Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, And your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

Zec 14:8 And in that day it shall be That living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, Half of them toward the eastern sea And half of them toward the western sea; In both summer and winter it shall occur.

Rev 22:2 In the middle of its street (**cities street**), and on either (**each**) side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve (**kinds of**) fruits, each tree, yielding its fruit (**or crop**) every **“month”** (**note: time**). The leaves of the tree, were for the healing (**or health-giving, ministering**) of the nations.

Eze 47:12 "Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine."

Big question do we eat in heaven with our resurrection body. Jesus enjoyed food (Luke 24:41-43, John 21:12-14). Jesus and His people will celebrate at marriage supper (Revelation 19).

Rev 22:3 And there shall be no more curse (**nothing evil, nothing abominable, nothing harmful, nothing corrupted, no sin, sorrow, illness and death, all are gone**), but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants (**believers, bond servants by choice**) shall serve Him (**serve and worship God with great joy and loving devotion**).

Adam's sin and the curse (read Gen 3)

Gen 3:17 Then to Adam He(God) said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.

Gen 3:19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground (**death, sorrow & pain**), For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

Rev 21:2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

Rev 21:4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Rev 21:22 But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Rev 22:4 They (**we, believers**) shall see His face (**being an honor & privilage**), and His name shall be on their foreheads.

We (**believers**) shall see His face

Mat 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

Exo 33:20 But He (**Lord**) said (**Moses**), "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live."

Exo 33:21 And the **LORD** said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock.

Exo 33:22 "So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by.

Exo 33:23 "Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."

Rev 22:5 There shall be no night there (**no longer be night, darkness**): They need no lamp (**or lamps**), nor light of the sun, for the **Lord God** gives them light (**illuminate & shine for them**). And they(**believing servants**) shall reign (**with Christ**) forever and ever.

2Cor 4:6 For it is the **God** who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of **God** in the face of **Jesus Christ**.

1Cor 13:12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face (**Jesus**). Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

Rev 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to **God** by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

Rev 5:10 And have made us kings and priests to our **God**; And we shall reign on the earth."

Dan 7:18 'But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.'

Dan 7:22 "until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.

Dan 7:26 'But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his (**Satan's**) dominion, To consume and destroy it forever.

Dan 7:27 Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'

Rev 22:6-11 Jesus Testifies to the Churches

Rev 22:6 Then he(**the angel**) said to me(**John**), "These words are faithful and true (**Rev 3:14, 19:11, 21:5**)." **And the Lord God of the holy (spirits of the) prophets, sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place (suddenly, when it happens it will be quick) (also Rev 22:7, 12, 20).**

Heb 10:37 "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

Heb 10:39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

Rev 22:7 "Behold, I (Jesus) am coming quickly (suddenly, unexpectedly, without delay when the moment comes)! Blessed (owe how happy, owe how prosperous, joyful, favored, and supernatural grace provided) is he who keeps the words (obeys, treasures, observes and lives by these words) of the prophecy of this book (or scroll). (Prophecies expressed in this book, predictions, warnings, encouragements, and instructions)

Rev 3:11 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

Rev 22:8 Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down (threw myself down) to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

Rev 22:9 Then he (the angel) said to me (John), "See that you do not do that. For I (the angel) am your fellow servant (with you), and of your brethren (and of) the prophets, and of those who keep the words (truths) of this book. Worship God." (John fell down to worship an angel at another time, Rev 19:10), Angels are fellow servants, only God, Jesus, and Lamb of God deserves to be worshipped).

Jesus is God, only God receives worship of angels (Heb 1:6) and of men (Mat 8:2, 14:33, John 9:38). No created being should ever be worshipped.

Rev 22:10 And he (the angel) said, to me (John), "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time (or fulfillment) is at hand (or near) (Daniel was instructed to seal his prophecy until the time of the end. - Dan 12:4, 9, 8:27). John was now told to reveal, open make known.

Rev 1:3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Christ has come, the Church has begun, the last days have started (Heb 1:1-3), and the next major event in God's prophetic timeline is the rapture of the church (1Thes 4:14-17).

Rev 22:11 "He who (the evildoer that rejects God) is unjust (he will continue to do wrong, do evil), let him be unjust (do wrong, do evil) still (continuously); he who is filthy (vile, impure wicked), let him be filthy (continue in his wickedness) still (continuously); he who is righteous (just, upright believes & belongs to God), let him be righteous still (continue to act righteously); he who is holy, let him be holy still."

Only Christ and His death, burial and resurrection can make a man new, have a new identity, new creation and change man's behavior.

2Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2Cor 5:21 For He(God) made Him(Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Gal 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

Phl 3:9 and be found in Him (Christ), not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

Rev 22:12-17 The Time Is Near (Christ will reward each faithful servant and punish each unbeliever.)

Rev 22:12 "And behold, I am coming quickly (suddenly, unexpectedly, without delay when the moment comes), and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work (I.e. the final judgment for the believers will occur when they stand before The Judgement Seat of Christ to have their service judged, and the appropriate reward determined).

Isa 40:10 Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him.

Isa 62:11 Indeed the LORD has proclaimed To the end of the world: "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Surely your salvation is coming; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him.' "

Rev 22:13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last (the Eternal All Knowing One)."

Isa 41:4 Who has performed and done it, Calling the generations from the beginning? 'I, the LORD, am the first; And with the last I am He.' "

Rev 22:14 Blessed (owe how happy, owe how prosperous, joyful, favored, and supernatural grace provided) are those who do His commandments (having Christ righteousness which fulfills the law and those who have wash their robes), that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

Heb 9:14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Rev 7:14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Rev 22:15 But outside are dogs (**the godless, immoral**) and sorcerers (**users of mind altering drugs, intoxicating drugs and magic arts**) and sexually immoral (**perverted**) and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie (**wickedness, deception, cheating**).

Outside the gates in eternal torment will be everyone who loves evil

Rev 21:8 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Rev 21:27 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.

1Cor 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

1Cor 6:10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

1Cor 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Phl 3:2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil worker (**Jewish legalist**), beware of the mutilation (**false circumcisions**)! (Because circumcision was not necessary for salvation, the circumcision demanded by the Judaizers was nothing more than mutilation).

Rev 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root (the Source, the Life & and the heir to his throne) and the Offspring (descendant) of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

As Jesus promised His revelation would go through his angel and through John to his churches for their comfort and warning and ultimately to us today

Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him(**Jesus**) to show His servants--things which must shortly take place. And He(**Jesus**) sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John ...

Jesus is both David's son (ancestor) and his Lord

Mar 12:35 Then Jesus answered and said, while He taught in the temple, "How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David?

Mar 12:36 "For David himself said by the Holy Spirit: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." '

Mar 12:37 "Therefore David himself calls Him 'Lord'; how is He then his Son?" And the common people heard Him gladly.

Rev 5:5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

Isa 11:1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

Isa 11:2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

Isa 11:10 "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious."

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit (Holy Spirit) and the bride (the church, believers) say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely (without cost).

God invites the spiritually thirsty to take the water of life freely provided by God's grace.

Rev 21:6 And He (sat on His Throne) said to me (John), "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts (gospel of grace, saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God).

Rev 21:7 "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

Isa 55:1 "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.

Isa 55:2 Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance.

Isa 55:3 Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you--The sure mercies of David.

Rev 22:18-19 The Time Is Near

Rev 22:18 For I (Jesus) testify to (and warn) everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds (distorts, or alters) to these things, God will add to him the plagues (afflictions, calamities) that are written in this book (Deut. 4:2; 12:32; 18:20-22)

Rev 22:19 and if anyone takes away from (disregards or distorts in an evil way) the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part (share) from the Book of Life

(tree of life), from the holy city (Lit: out of New Jerusalem), and from the things which are written in this book.

Jesus gives strong warnings against changing His words (see Matt 5:18; John 12:48; Rev 1:1–3).

Jesus is safeguarding the integrity of Scripture, the purity of Revelation and making known the finality of God's completed Word

Chuck Smith Quote

Any man who adds to or subtracts from this book will be plagued and will lose his place in heaven.

Exo 32:33 And the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.

Exo 32:34 "Now therefore, go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, I will visit punishment upon them for their sin."

Exo 32:35 So the LORD plagued the people because of what they did with the calf which Aaron made.

Rev 22:20-21 I Am Coming Quickly (Suddenly)

Rev 22:20 He who (affirms &) testifies to these things says, "Surely I (Jesus) am coming quickly (suddenly, unexpectedly, without delay when the moment comes)." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Rev 22:21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the anointed One) be with you all (all believers, who are set apart for God). Amen.

1Cor 16:22 If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!

Jhn 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

Rom 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Rom 10:10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Rom 10:11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

End

Seal Judgements

Seven Trumpet Judgments Seven Bowl/Vial Judgments

1. Jesus returns with His saints, Judgement (Rev 19)
2. Kingdom (20:1-10)
3. Great White Throne Judgment (20:11-15)
4. Destruction of the Earth (21:1)
5. New Heaven and New Earth (21-22)

Gal 4:26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

Church is distinct from Israel;

Literal, grammatical-historical method of interpretation;

When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context dictate otherwise.

Eph 3:21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Mat 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Four Temples

1. Solomon's pre exilic temple (Kings and Chronicles)
2. Zerubbabel's post exilic temple (Ezra 1-6; John 2:20)
3. Antichrist's temple (Dan 9:27; Mat 24:15; 2 Thes 2:4; Rev 11:1-2)
4. Millennial temple (Eze 40-48)

Deu 4:19 "And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.

Comparison Chart

Millennium Rev 20
Sin restrained

Eternal State Rev 21-22
Sin removed

Curse restrained	Curse removed
Death	No death
Destinies undecided	All Destinies sealed
Renovation	Recreation, made new
Temporary	Eternal
Transitional	Final

Seven Beatitudes of Revelation: “Blessed” (*makarios*)

1. Blessing upon the reader & heeder of Revelation (1:3)
2. Blessing upon the Tribulation martyrs (14:13)
3. Blessing upon the spiritually prepared (16:15)
4. Blessing upon the Marriage Supper invitees (19:9)
5. **Blessing upon the First Resurrection’s participants (20:6)**
6. Blessing upon the heeder of Revelation (22:7)
7. Blessing upon the eternal city’s citizens (22:14)

Quote: John F. Walvoord, "Revelation," in Bible Knowledge Commentary, ed. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 1983), 929.

Most biblical scholars believe these three names point to the same final figure, viewed through different lenses:

<u>Term</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Emphasis</u>	<u>Theme</u>
Antichrist: 1 & 2 Jn		Spiritual deception, denying Christ	End-times false messiah and false teacher & teachers
Beast: Rev 13–20		Political/military power, by Satan	Final world ruler + empire/system
Man of Sin: 2 Thes 2		Religious deception, self-exaltation	Final blasphemous leader under Satan’s power

Reasons for Understanding 1000 years, being literal years

Numbers taken literally

Two witnesses (11:3), 7000 people (11:13), 4 Angels (7:1) 7 Angels (8:6), 144,000 Jews (7:4), 42 months (11:2), 1260 days (11:3)

Look for the scripture to interpret scripture. Look for OT passages which show a literal comparison and explanation

In Revelation's we have Symbols and Figures of Speech

“Spiritually” (11:8) symbolic interpretation

“Sign” (12:1)

“Like” or “as” (8:8)

OT correspondence, consistency (Rev 13:2; Dan 7)

Contextual interpretations (Rev 17:18)

Seen as an Absurdity (Rev 12:1)

Robert Thomas observes that, "no number in Revelation is verifiably a symbolic number."

Robert Thomas

Revelation chs 8 to 22: An Exegetical Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1992), 408.

OT Scriptures which describe the Millennium

Established by God (Dan. 2:44)
Eternal (Dan. 7:27)
Christ's direct rule (Zech. 9:9-10)
Earthly (Zech. 14:9)
Land promises realized (Gen. 15:18-21)
Israel's preeminence (Isa. 49:22-23)
Millennial Temple (Ezek. 40-46)
Millennial David (Jer. 30:9)
Righteousness (Isa. 9:6-7)
Curse curtailed (Isa. 65:20, 22)
Peace (Isa. 2:4)
Prosperity (Amos 9:13-14; Isa 65:22)
Topographical changes (Ezek. 47:1-12)
Immediate answers to prayer (Isa. 65:24)

Isa 61:1 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

Isa 61:2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD (**Truth during His first coming**), And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, (**future, Jesus second coming to the earth**)

David Hocking Quote

The Book of Revelation: Understanding the Future
(Tustin, CA: Hope For Today Publications, 2014), 530

God demonstrates by this one final event that even under the best conditions, mankind's problem is the heart. God demonstrates that Satan's depravity cannot be cured. God demonstrates that He is fully justified in exacting eternal punishment."

Millennial Comparison: from Pentecost, Things To Come, 349-50

EZEK. 38-39

Northern invasion

Invasion leads to Millennium (Eze 40-)

Invasion leads to Millennium (Eze 40-)

7 months dispose of the dead (39:12)

Satan not bound prior to invasion

REV. 20:7-9

All nation invade

Invasion at end Millennium

Invasion leads to Eternal State (Rev 21-22)

Dead disposed, instantly (20:9)

Satan bound prior to invasion(Rev 20:2)

Zec 14:16 And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Zec 14:17 And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain.

Zec 14:18 If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Event

Description

Where Christ Appears

Purpose

The Rapture Second Coming	Christ comes for His Church (air) Christ comes with His Church to earth	In the air (not to the earth) To the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4)	Gather believers before Tribulation Judge Nations, establish Kingdom
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Judgements

Scripture

Place

Audience

When

Purpose

Evaluation

Sheep and Goat

Matt 25:31-46

Earth, Jerusalem

Tribulation survivors

After Tribulation

Saved believers enter .

Treatment of brethren

Bema Seat

1 Cor 3:10-15

Heaven

Church Age believers

After rapture

Reward believers

Works through fire

Great White Throne

Rev 20:11-15

Earth

All unsaved

After Millennium

Degree; punishment in hell

Name not in book; judged

Acts 17:24-27

Romans 1:18-20

Ephesians 5:6.

Matthew 11:20-24

Rev 21:9 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." Rev 21:10 NKJV - 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. How do we know this is a literal city, why do some have to make it symbolic?

Believers ask this question often, and it's an important one. **Revelation 21–22 describes the New Jerusalem in great detail**, and the text itself presents it as **a real, visible, tangible city**. But because Revelation uses symbolic imagery elsewhere, some interpreters treat **everything** in the book as symbolic—even when the text actually gives literal descriptions.

Let's walk through the evidence.

❖ 1. The text explicitly calls it a city

Revelation 21:10 says:

"He showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God."

John doesn't say he saw a symbol of a city.

He says he saw the city itself.

The angel even says:

"I will show you the bride..." (v. 9)

and then shows him a city.

Why?

Because the city is the dwelling place of the redeemed, and like a bride, it is prepared beautifully by God.

The Bible often uses metaphors to describe literal things:

- The Church is a body → but it is a real group of people.**

- Jesus is a Lamb → but He is a real person.**

- The New Jerusalem is called a bride → but it is presented as a real city.**

A metaphor does not erase literal existence.

2. The city has precise physical measurements

Revelation 21 gives exact dimensions:

- Walls measured with a real measuring rod (21:15)
- 12,000 stadia (about 1,380 miles) on each side (21:16)
- Walls 144 cubits thick (21:17)

Symbolic visions do not normally contain detailed architectural measurements. In the Bible, when God gives measurements, it is for real structures:

- Noah's ark
- The tabernacle
- Solomon's temple
- Ezekiel's millennial temple
- The New Jerusalem

Precise dimensions argue strongly for a literal city.

3. The city contains things only a physical place can contain

Revelation 21–22 describes:

- Gates (made of pearls)
- Walls (with foundations of precious stones)
- Streets (of gold)
- A river of life
- Trees bearing fruit
- A throne
- Nations walking in its light
- Kings bringing honor into it

These are characteristics of a real location, not an abstract idea.

4. The whole Bible anticipates a literal God-made city

Hebrews 11:10:

Abraham waited for the city whose builder and maker is God.

Hebrews 12:22:

You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.

Hebrews 13:14:

We seek the city that is to come.

Jesus said in John 14:2:

“I go to prepare a place for you.”

A place is not symbolic. It is locational.

5. Why do some people interpret it symbolically?

Usually for one of these reasons:

(1) They assume Revelation must be allegorical

Many follow the amillennial or idealistic interpretive tradition, which views most of Revelation symbolically.

If the method is symbolic, the city becomes symbolic by default.

(2) They think “Bride of Christ = Church,” so the city must be symbolic

But Scripture often merges people with their dwelling place:

- Israel is called “Zion” but also lived in Zion.
- The Church is called “a building” and “a temple,” yet we are real people.

The city can be both:

- a literal city
- and the prepared home of a literal redeemed people

(3) They misunderstand metaphor

Saying the city is “as a bride” does not mean it is only a symbol.

(4) Some think the dimensions are impossible

But Revelation describes a new creation where physical laws are not identical to our current fallen world.

(5) Some simply want to avoid a future, physical fulfillment

Often linked to theological systems that downplay Israel and future prophecy.

★ So how do we know it's literal?

Because the text describes it exactly the way Scripture describes literal places:

- It is called a city.
- It has real dimensions.
- It has structures, materials, gates, streets, foundations.
- It interacts with nations and kings.
- God and the Lamb dwell there.
- The redeemed will live in it.

Nothing in the text indicates a symbolic interpretation.

► Conclusion

The New Jerusalem is a real, literal city prepared by God, described with symbolic beauty—but not reduced to symbolism.