

# THE NEW CREATION

## REVELATION 21-22

As we come to the end of the Revelation, John receives three visions of the new creation which focus on different aspects of the restored and reunited heaven and earth. The book will close with Jesus final words and warnings with a prayer for Christ to come soon.

### A NEW COSMIC TEMPLE / REV 21:1-8



John sees a new heavens and a new earth (Isa 65:17).  
And he sees the people of God as a city coming from heaven.  
They are dressed as a Bride and have come to be with God.

The “tabernacle of God” is with man and he will “tabernacle” with them.  
They will be his people and God will be their God (Exodus language).  
And God will put an end to their suffering, their sorrow, and their pain.

God—the beginning and the end—has come to make all things new.  
He gives water the thirsty and sonship to those who conquer.  
But those who have refused Christ will suffer eternal death apart from God.

### CREATION IS A COSMIC TEMPLE?

One purposes of Genesis 1 is to describe all of creation as a temple for God.  
In 6 days, God creates his temple and on the 7th he takes his seat to rule.  
In Isaiah 66:1, God says heaven his is throne and earth his footstool.  
Both the Tabernacle and the Temple were seen as a miniature cosmos.  
They were symbols that one day God would dwell with his people again.

**THE POINT:** *In the new creation, we will live in the presence of God.*

### A NEW COSMIC CITY / REV 21:9-27

John sees a familiar angel who shows him a city.  
This city is the Bride of the Lamb coming from heaven.  
12 Gates and 12 foundations resented all of God’s people.



The angel measures the city and it’s a perfect cube (the Holy of Holies).  
The wall reminds of the full number of the redeemed 144 cubits.  
These numbers are symbolic (an angel’s cubit) of the people of God.  
The 12 jewels are the High Priest’s breastplate & the purity of the holy city.

### WHAT'S MISSING IN THE NEW CITY?

1. There is no temple as the whole city (all of creation) is the temple.
2. There are no “lamps” in the sky as the glory of God lights the city.
3. There are no enemies as the gates of the walls are always open.
4. There is no night there as the darkness of sin and evil is cast away.
5. There is no unclean things as only those in the Lamb's book are there.

**THE POINT:** *In the new creation, we will be forever protected and pure.*

### THE NEW COSMIC GARDEN / REV 22:1-5



John sees one final vision of a new Garden of Eden. There is the river of life (Ezekiel 47:1) flowing from God. On both sides of the river is the Tree of Life with mostly fruit. The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

The curse of the fall that began in the garden is gone (Gen 3:17-24). And God's people will worship him—priestly imagery of temple service. We will see God's face and have his name on our foreheads (priests, again). There is no darkness, but we will live in the light of Lord (priests, again!). The church will reign with God and the Lamb forever and ever—kings, too!

**THE POINT:** *In the new creation, we will live as priest-kings forever.*

### THE BOOK'S CONCLUSION / REV 22:6-21

John finishes the book with some final words from Christ. 3 times Jesus says he is coming soon and we should be ready. John testifies these words came from God & should be trusted.



John missteps again by worshipping the angel but is told to worship God. God alone is the source of these visions and deserves our devotion. The book ends with a call to continue trusting in the Lamb and his blood. And there's a warning for those who don't worship the Lamb. But only through Christ is there eternal blessing and life. So the Spirit and the church say—“Amen. Come Lord, Jesus!”

**THE POINT:** *The Lamb is worthy so turn from sin and trust in him.*