

Let's look back at our Eternal Timeline...

1. God created His Heaven and all the angels; Lucifer and 1/3 of the angels rebelled against God's Rule.
2. God created Earth and Man who also rebelled against God's rule, plunging all Creation into Sin.
3. The Old Testament runs for about 4000 years, from Adam to Jesus Christ.
4. Jesus Christ comes to Earth and is crucified, and risen, for our sin. The Gospels cover about 33 years.
5. The True Church is born and grows, on Earth, for about 2000 years.
6. The Church is removed in the Rapture which then begins the 7-year Tribulation, ruled by the Antichrist.
8. Jesus Christ returns as The All-Glorious, All-Powerful King of kings and Lord of lords.
9. Jesus Christ establishes His 1000-year Kingdom on Earth as we rule and reign with Him.
10. At the end of the 1000 years will be the Final Judgment; Lucifer, all fallen angels, all unsaved humans are all cast into the Lake of Fire to be punished, for rejecting God's free Love and Salvation, forever!
11. God destroys the present Heavens and Earth.

And then, John writes:

Rev. 21:1: *'And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.'*

And there it is! No one, unless mentally deficient or consciously choosing to disbelieve the clear reading of God's Word, can teach or preach that God loves His sinful and corrupted Creation and will keep the old while simply 'refurbishing' it.

What did He do with us... did He just take the old and refurbish it, polish it up? ... or was our old self crucified with the Lord Jesus Christ?

'Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new...' 2 Cor 5:17

'I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.' Gal 2:20

The word Paul used here, for *new*, is *Kainos/ka-hee-nos'*; it means: new, recent, unused, unworn; unprecedented! Unheard of!

In Christ... a new creature, a new creation; something never before seen; all things are become new... same word both times.

For 'passed away,' he used: *parechomai/par-er'-khom-ahee*; it means: to pass away, to perish.

The exact same words which the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to use in regard to our old self dying with Christ and becoming brand new, are those He inspired John to use regarding the whole present Creation passing away and being made into something *brand new*... never before seen.

If false teachers are allowed to get away, unchallenged, with saying that the old Creation will simply be polished up and refurbished... then they can say the same about us, in Christ... that we've simply been polished up and made to merely look new and that can be accomplished by our own good efforts. Lies upon lies founded upon lies.

A new heaven and a new earth; God will completely destroy the present Heaven and Earth; the Heaven He refers to may simply mean the first and second heavens which refer to 1. our air and atmosphere and 2. outer space, but not the Third Heaven where is God's Throne and all that He has created there. But we know that the entire Earth will be completely destroyed and consumed by fire:

'But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.' 2Pet 3:10 The works... everything... every work of man will be destroyed.

But, it may also mean that God has chosen to destroy, even, the present 3rd Heaven where lies God's Throne. Why might He do, even that? Perhaps to show us, His Eternal children with Him, that He is even able to exist

in 'nothing,' that He needs absolutely nothing and, yet, He chose to create us for Himself and all of Creation for us to enjoy, forever... and ... and we will watch in wonder, and awe, as He, once again, creates everything, the entire New Universe, from nothing.

Here is a major reason why God will completely destroy the present Earth and Heavens: we could not come into God's Presence while sinful; Sin cannot come into God's Presence. God will bring His Throne Room down to Earth in the New Jerusalem; the Earth will have had to be recreated in sinless perfection to host God because the entire creation is corrupted by sin.

We also read that there will be no more sea... no more oceans. Undoubtedly, there will be rivers, streams and lakes but no more large seas or oceans. Currently, about 71% of the Earth's surface is covered by water. That means that 8 billion people now live on only 29% of the Earth's surface and, in reality, if there were no deserts or frozen areas, along with the huge, unpopulated areas of Russia, Canada, South America, etc, that number could easily be doubled. So, if the present Earth had no unusable areas, it could support a population upwards of 16 billion and that is only on 29% of the surface but actually far less than 29% because of present deserts and frozen places. If there were no more oceans, frozen or desert areas, the New Earth, after the Millennium, will easily support a population of more than 55 billion! And with the wise and perfect government of the Lord Jesus Christ as we rule and reign with Him... all will be paradise.

And... *'Of the **increase of his government and peace there shall be no end,**'* Isa 9:7

Everything... all of that, over which He governs, will never end and it will never stop increasing and expanding... eventually out into the farthest corners of His vast, unending Universe!

Verse 2: *'And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.'*

John reminds us, again, who it is reporting all of this and that He is an eye-witness to all he is writing and that all that he reports is just as he sees it; God is actually allowing us to see, through John's eyes, into the future and some of what will be. Imagine if someone from John's time could see what the World is like in our time; he would be utterly amazed. John is allowing us to see what is just as amazing and even more so and, yet, so many just ignore or gloss over what God has so graciously chosen to reveal to us. These same ones would be thrilled to look into the Earth of 200 years future but when God is the One revealing 1000 years into the future, their response is, 'meh... whatever... big deal!' How unbelievably stupid!

New Jerusalem comes down out of Heaven... it is not just then being created... it's simply now being revealed on the Earth. We're not told, exactly, the specifics of who lives there but it may be that the New Jerusalem is the place to which Jesus referred, *'In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.'*³ *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.'* John 14:2

New Jerusalem may be the place He created for us, His Bride, which would explain John writing, 'prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. If that is the case, then at this time, in the New Heaven and New Earth, we will have lived there for at least 1007 years.

On the other hand, it could be that New Jerusalem will be connected to Eternal Israel. After all, Jerusalem doesn't really have the same connection to the mostly Gentile Bride as it does for Israel, in which case, a bride adorned for her husband would refer to Israel. The True Church is the Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ while Israel is known as the wife of God, the Father.

'For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God.' Isaiah 54:6

Hosea is commanded to marry the harlot, Gomer as a picture of Israel being the unfaithful wife of Jehovah.

But here, New Jerusalem is beautiful; the True Church is the perfect and holy bride of the Lord Jesus Christ and Israel is the holy and perfect wife of Jehovah.

On the other, other hand, it may be that New Jerusalem is to be the home of the True Church, the Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ, and Israel, the wife of Jehovah... both groups, as in Christ, all divisions' have been broken down and, in Him, we are all one: *'For he (the Lord Jesus Christ) is our peace, who hath made both (Israel and Gentiles) one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us'* Eph 2:14

Verse 3: *'And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.'*

Holy and Righteous God will bring His Throne Room down to the New Earth which will have been prepared for Him, in being recreated in holy perfection. New Jerusalem is the tabernacle of God, and this is the event to which the Feast of Tabernacles always looked forward. Even during the previous 1000 years of the Millennium, the Feast of Tabernacles will be required of all the nations repopulating Earth under the Reign of the Lord Jesus Christ:

'And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. ¹⁷ And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain (that year).' Zech 14:16

God, the Father, will finally be with and among us all; it's the picture of the many children gathered around Jesus, on His lap and in His arms. Finally, we will all have full, physical access to God... forever!

Verse 4: *'And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.'*

Notice, all those things: death, sorrow, crying, tears, pain are connected to sin. This, then, is when there will finally be no more tears, death, sorrow or crying... not before. For everyone who is still alive after the Battle of Armageddon, these will still be part of life for mortal humans during the Millennium as they will still deal with sin. For us, all these will have ceased at the Rapture... at least mostly so. We may have a short time of sorrow and tears regarding loved ones who were not saved... maybe.

All of that... all the former things, connected to sin, are now passed away completely. All things are New!

Verse 5: *'And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.'*

And His command to us is: Read! Hear! Believe! For these Words are true and faithful!

These are the last things God revealed to us; these are the things He considered so very important for us to remember and continually meditate upon that we would be setting our hearts and minds on things above, things coming, these things! Yet these are the things most despised and rejected, the most neglected words of Scripture... Prophecy. In His Words of Prophecy, Jesus Christ is being despised and rejected, all over again.

I think one of the reasons so many reject Prophecy is that they must somehow believe that if they don't know what it says, they won't be responsible for what it says.

Verse 6: *'And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.'*

It is done! I Am the beginning and the end! This is the fulfillment of God's Eternal Plan.

Before anything existed at all, God planned to Glorify Himself by accomplishing His unimaginably huge, elaborate, intricate Eternal Plan of Creation; everything would be created by the Lord Jesus Christ. He would create Heaven and the angels; Lucifer would rebel to set in motion the most glorifying and wondrous aspect of His Plan which would be to create a Nation of people for Himself, and a Bride for His Son, who would all sin but He would accomplish their eternal Salvation in and of Himself. He would create perfection, sin would mar everything and He would eventually bring it all to perfection again and through it all, He would glorify Himself before all angels and before all humans; every Divine Aspect of His Character, every Attribute would be glorified and exalted: His Love, Grace, Mercy, Holiness, Righteousness, Justice, Wrath, etc. to infinity; He would glorify Himself, His Son and then, He would even glorify His children, His chosen Elect.

We see references to the 'Water of Life' and the 'Tree of Life' being in New Jerusalem. They appear to possibly be necessary for some group of people to maintain life but I don't believe that we, the True Church, the Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ, are among that group. We were given Eternal Life at the moment of our Salvation, when we trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on the Cross in full payment for all our sin. We were never given 'probationary life' but, rather, we were given Life from God. 1 John 3:2 tells us that we will be like the Lord Jesus Christ: *'We will be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is!'*

We just read in verse 4: *'And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be **no more death**, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.'* There shall be no more death.

In Rev. 2:7, we read: *'To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.'* Since we'll see that the Tree of Life is in New Jerusalem, we can conclude that New Jerusalem is the Paradise of God.

It could be that everyone who are, finally, in New Jerusalem will have Eternal Life and that the Tree of Life and the Water of Life are simply wonderful, marvelous expressions of our Eternal Life. The tastes of the Waters and of the fruits of the Trees will be beyond description... just one more incredible reward of our Faith in Jesus Christ.

'There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. ⁵ God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.' Psa 46:4

Further in our study, we'll see that the River of Life proceeds from the Throne of God. This is an indication that our Eternal Life is sure; it comes from, and is maintained by, God, Himself; we shall have no doubt or worry. He is our Life Eternal and He will never fail.

I read something which said that the Water of Life and the Tree of Life are merely metaphors for God's supplying all of our needs and wants in Eternity. If that were the case, which it most certainly is not, then where would we ever draw the line between what is metaphor in God's Word and what is true in God's Word? In New Jerusalem, there will be the Real God, sitting upon His Real Throne from which will issue a Real River of Life, on both sides of which will grow the Real Tree of Life bearing 12 different, real fruits, each in its season, one per month. God's Word is True and God can not lie!

Verse 7: *'He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.'*

Who will inherit all things? Who shall be a son of God? Who is he that overcomes?

Earlier in his ministry, this same John, under the inspiration of the same Holy Spirit, wrote: *'For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. ⁵ Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?'* 1 John 5:4

Every true believer is an overcomer because every one is born again of God's Holy Spirit; the victory which overcomes the World is, simply, our Faith: our Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, in His Word and in His finished work on the Cross in payment for all our sin; it is every one who believes that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Every one of us is a co-heir with Jesus Christ; He is Heir of all things and we, as His Body, as His Bride, as His adopted children, as His friends and brothers are also fellow-heirs of all things... Everything! And we are sons of God, sons and daughters of the Most High God Almighty.

Everything that exists was created by God with no effort, whatsoever. He needs nothing and the only thing that holds any value to Him at all is... us! Not His Creation... Us! God was willing to allow His Son to be crucified to pay for us. His Son's shed blood, of inestimable value, was shed for us but things... any things... are valueless and He will freely give us all things.

'He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?' Rom 8:32