Revelation 3.7-13 – HOLD FAST that no **man** take away your crown,

and *What is my crown?*

**7** And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

I. These things say Him that is **true** and has the key of David: He opens and no man shuts and shuts and no man opens!

**7** And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David,\* he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;\*\*\*

**\***A key indicates control or authority; therefore, having the Key of David would give one control of David’s domain, i.e., Jerusalem, the City of David, and the kingdom of Israel. The fact that, in Revelation 3:7, Jesus holds this key shows that He is the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant,\*\* the ruler of the New Jerusalem, (discussed below) and the Lord of the kingdom of heaven.[[1]](#endnote-1)

In Isaiah 22.22, ...the prophet tells the palace secretary Shebna that he will be replaced by Eliakim, for God “will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David.”

**Isaiah 22.22** And the **key of the house of David** will I lay upon his shoulder; *so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.*

The one who holds the keys has the authority. Thus, the “key of David” implies control of David’s domain, which was promised to the Messiah in both the Old and New Testaments:[[2]](#endnote-2)

**Isaiah 9.7** Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, **upon the throne of David**, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

**Luke 1.32** He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

\*\*Davidic Covenant: **2 Samuel 7:4-17**  And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying, **5** Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in? **6** Whereas I have not dwelt in *any* house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle. **7** In all *the places* wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar? **8** Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel: **9** And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great *men* that *are* in the earth. **10** Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime, **11** And as since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house. **12** And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. **13** He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. **14** I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: **15** But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I put away before thee. **16** And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. **17** According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

\*\*\***Isaiah 9.6 6** For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and *the government shall be upon his shoulder*: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

**Isaiah 22.22** And the **key of the house of David** will I lay upon his shoulder; *so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.*

**1Corinthians 16:9** For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and *there are* many adversaries.

**2 Corinthians 2.12**Furthermore, when I came to Troas to *preach* Christ’s gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord,

**Isaiah 45.1**Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;

Application Questions:

 1. Am I listening/hearing from Him that is TRUE?

 2. How do I trust the One Who opens and no man can shut and shuts and no man can open?

 3. What situations face me now to demonstrate that?

II. I ***know*** your works: BEHOLD I set before you an OPEN DOOR and no man can shut it – you’ve a little strength and have kept My Word – NOT DENIED My Name (#3686 ***onoma* –** character, authority).

8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Application Questions:

 1. What does HE know my works to be?

 2. What are the open doors before me?

 3. Where is my strength “little”? (Proverbs 24.10 *If thou FAINT in the day of adversity thy strength is SMALL.*)

 4. Where do I KEEP His Word?

 5. In what ways do I DENY (abnegate) His character? How can I change that IMMEDIATELY?

III. Behold I’ll make those that lie (deceive by falsehood) come and worship before your feet and KNOW that I have loved you, **BECAUSE** you have kept (#5083 ***tereo*** – guarded from loss or injury) the Word of My patience (#5281 ***hupomone*** – constancy, enduring), I’ll keep (SAME WORD! -- #5083 ***tereo*** – guarded from loss or injury) you from the hour of temptation which will come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth.

9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try (#3985 – *peirazo* – test, scrutinize, prove) them that dwell upon the earth.

Application Questions:

 1. How is it known/shown to others that He has LOVED me?

 2. How have I **kept** (guarded from loss/injury) His Word of patience (constant endurance) so that HE CAN KEEP ME (guard against loss or injury) from the hour of temptation that will TEST ALL ON THE EARTH?

IV. BEHOLD! I come quickly! HOLD FAST so that NO MAN take away thy crown!

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.\*

\*James 1,.12 *Blessed is the man that ENDURES temptation, for when he is tried, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to them that love Him.*

Application Questions:

1. How am I HOLDING FAST/ENDURING in temptation?

 2. How do I guard against loss/injury by not allowing MAN to take away my crown?

V. To him that overcomes I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God and he’ll no more go out and I’ll write upon Him the Name of My God and the city of My God which is New Jerusalem and I’ll write upon him My NEW NAME!

12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar\* in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem,\*\*[[3]](#endnote-3) which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

13 **He that hath an ear, let him hear** what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

\*pillars = living persons

**1Cor. 3:9** For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, **ye are God’s building**.

**Eph. 2:21-22** In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22In whom **ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit**.

**Eph. 4:15-16** But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the **edifying** [3619. **οἰκοδομή** oikodome, oy-kod-om-ay´; feminine (abstract) of a compound of 3624 and the base of 1430; architecture, i.e. (concretely) a structure; figuratively, confirmation: — building, edify(-ication, -ing)] of itself in love.

**1Pet. 2:5** Ye also, **as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house**, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

God builds Himself into His people and builds His people together to replace the physical buildings of the Old Testament.

We will not be IN New Jerusalem (where there’s a possibility of going out) – but BUILT INTO it – we shall BY NO MEANS go out any more! This City is a LIVING BUILDING joined/fitted/knit together in love as our physical body’s different parts are!!!!

Revelation 21.22 – the Triune God = the Temple of New Jerusalem – “the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.”

In/for eternity God’s people are ***built into the New Jerusalem and into the temple which is God Himself.***

*Lord Jesus, grant us grace every day that we may cooperate with You to overcome. Build us into Your building and write Yourself and New Jerusalem on our hearts and in our lives.[[4]](#endnote-4)*

\*\*PILLARS in Philadelphia (Turkey) – many earthquakes there – pillars were IMMOVABLE!!!

No matter what life sends you, what trials and temptations you face – you will NEVER LOSE YOUR FAITH... no more *going out* but **fixed.**  You’ll be able to bear ANYTHING.

*Not won by ONE victory – He who OVERCOMES is a PILLAR – IT IS A PROCESS – overcomes, overcomes again and again – a VICTORIOUS LIFE built by FAITHFULNESS in trials and temptations that shape you into a pillar that strengthens, bears and supports others.*

* Needs to be set on a SOLID foundation (not on sand! Matthew 7.26) – or it would shift and HARM THE STRUCTURE.
* Needs to be set on the KINGDOM OF GOD (Matthew 6.33), prioritized on **heaven** and **not earth** Matthew 6.19-24 –

**Matt. 6:19-24** Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. 22The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. 23But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! 24No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. *Ye cannot serve God and mammon*.

* Needs to be growing in grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3.18 – *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*)
* Needs to be studying the Word and know the heart of God –

**2Tim. 2:15** Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

**2Tim. 3:15-17** And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

* Needs to be putting what we know to work!

**Rom. 12:1-2** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

**Matt. 25:34-40** Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 37Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 38When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 39Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 40And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

* **Pillars CANNOT stand ALONE** – need to be joined properly to the structure – to what GOD is building – not a *“loner”*.
* Pillars = testimony

**Galatians 2:9** And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars,...

**1Timothy 3:15** But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the **pillar** and ground of the truth.

Reward =

* Being pillar of perfect character with firm, permanent position in God’s Temple.
* Remaining close to God forever.
* Bearing God’s Name: character, majesty, authority, honor
* Living working w/God at His headquarters for all eternity.

Safest place to stand in earthquake unswerving to uphold and support.

Doesn’t SWAY and BUCKLE in tremors – straight and strong!!

Pillars are *placed;* pillers are *positional!!!*

When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased." Matthew 3:16-17 Grasping and accepting the unconditional love of God are some of the most basic elements of the Christian faith.

And yet, somehow, they're also some of the hardest.

We are, at our core, strivers. Deep down, we are convinced we must do to earn our standing. Or we must make amends for all the ways we have failed. This mindset is so entrenched that we don’t even recognize when it is driving us.... This never-ending mode of earning is arguably the default setting of humanity. If we are not intentional about remembering how loved we are by God, we will slip into seeking approval. WHY?

...the first thing God does, prior to Jesus launching his earthly ministry, is validate Jesus's identity.

In Matthew 3, notice that God declares his love and approval of Jesus before Jesus has done a single thing. Jesus has not taught, healed, performed miracles, or suffered on a cross. He has not completed his assignment or even started it. And yet, the Father affirms Jesus as his "beloved Son" (v. 17). This identity—as the beloved Son of God—will be Jesus's seat of operations. **Everything he does from this moment forward will be guided by this title.**

The truest thing about you is that you are loved by God.

This title of belovedness is meant to be the seat of operations for each and every follower of Jesus. It sets us free from earning, because we don't have to earn what we already have.

If you find yourself wrestling with identity, especially as your stage of life shifts or your health declines, **receive the identity that is already yours in Christ. You do not have to "find it" or earn it or perform to gain it. The truest thing about you is that you are loved by God and, no matter what comes, that identity will always remain.**

REFLECT: ARE YOU TEMPTED TO OPERATE OUT OF SOME OTHER IDENTITY BESIDES YOUR BELOVEDNESS? What identity is it?[[5]](#endnote-5)

\*\* The New Jerusalem, which is also called the tabernacle of God, the Holy City, the city of God, the Celestial City, the city foursquare, and heavenly Jerusalem, is literally heaven on earth. It is referred to in the Bible in several places (Galatians 4:26; Hebrews 11:10; 12:22–24; and 13:14), but it is most fully described in Revelation 21.[[6]](#endnote-6)

The New Jerusalem is a perfect way to conclude God’s revelation of himself. The Bible begins with a sinless world, followed by a fall into chaos, and ends with the restoration of what it was meant to be. Throughout Scripture, we see God slowly re-establishing his presence, from Eden to the Tabernacle, to the temple, within the church, and finally the New Jerusalem. As we saw, there is good evidence to suggest that the Great City is not a literal city, but a symbol of God’s people living with him in a restored paradise where they will no longer suffer from the effects of sin.[[7]](#endnote-7)

The vision of entering the New Jerusalem offers believers a glimpse of the eternal future promised by God. It serves as a source of hope, encouragement, and motivation to live faithfully in anticipation of the glorious inheritance that awaits the redeemed in the presence of God.[[8]](#endnote-8)

...“the Old Testament tabernacle and temples were symbolically designed to point to the cosmic eschatological reality that God’s tabernacling presence, formerly limited to the holy of holies, was to be extended throughout the whole earth.” So, what is the New Jerusalem? It is a place, a real place (both physical and spiritual), also called the new heavens and new earth, that is where Christians will live in after the final judgement. It is a place where God dwells in all His glory, and He dwells with His people face-to-face. It is a place where everyone is priest because the entire place is the holy of holies. It is a place, it is a people, and it is the presence of Almighty God in all His unfiltered splendor.

**Galatians 4:26** But **Jerusalem which is above** is free, which is the mother of us all.

**Hebrews 11:10** For he looked for **a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God**.

**Hebrews 12:22** But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, **the heavenly Jerusalem,** and to an innumerable company of angels, **23** To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, **24** And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel.

**Hebrews 13:14** For here have we no continuing city, but **we seek one to come**.

**Hebrews 11.9-10** [Abraham...] [Prompted] by faith he dwelt as a temporary resident in the land which was designated in the promise [of God, though he was like a stranger] **in a strange country**, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs with him of the same promise. **10**For he was [**waiting expectantly and confidently] looking forward to the city which has fixed *and* firm foundations, whose Architect *and* Builder is God**.

Application Questions:

 1. How am ***I*** a ***pillar*** in the temple of my God?

* How do I show *consistency* in not *going out* but being firmly fixed as a reliable support?
* Am I ***immoveable***  even in “earthquakes”?
* How is the *name of my God* and the *name of the city of my God* (which is NEW Jerusalem) *written upon me* ***by the Lord Himself*** *and demonstrated in my life?*
* Can I **hear** what the Spirit of God is saying to His body of believers? What do I *hear* and *understand*??
* How do I live as this verse says: that the city of *New Jerusalem* is a living building joined/fitted/knit together in love, just as our physical bodies’ different parts are?
* How do I show forth in the way I live that *...the Triune God = the Temple of New Jerusalem – “the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are [the] temple*” of the NEW Jerusalem?
* Am I being ***built into the New Jerusalem and into the temple which is God Himself*** in and for eternity with the people of God?
* How am I living ...*a VICTORIOUS LIFE built by FAITHFULNESS in trials and temptations that shape you into a pillar that strengthens, bears and supports others*? What can I say have been recent victories and overcoming since a victorious life isn’t one victory but overcoming *again and again*?
* Is my life consistently set upon the *Kingdom of God* and not the kingdom of this world? Recent ways of showing that separation???
* Am I *growing in grace and knowledge?* How?
* Am I studying God’s Word daily to hear and know His heart?
* Am I putting what I know to *work*? How? How do I need to improve in this area?
* How am I *joined properly* to what God Himself is building? How can I improve in this area?
* Does my life show forth HIS *perfect character with firm, permanent position in HIM (He is the Temple)*? How? How can this improve?
* What is the *most true* thing about me? Is it that *you are loved by God and, no matter what comes, that identity will always remain*?
* Does my identity as *beloved* set me free from *earning* something from Christ and demonstrated by my *standing* in relationship with Him? (I don't have to earn what I already have!) Is my life exemplative of Hebrews 4.9-11? (**9** *There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.* ***10*** *For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.* 11*Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.*)
* How do I bear God’s Name faithfully in my ***character***?
* How do I bear God’s Name faithfully in His ***majesty?***
* How do I bear God’s Name faithfully in His ***authority?***
* How do I bear God’s Name faithfully in ***honor?***
* How can I guard against ***any man* taking away** my crown?\* (*What* is my “crown”? Those I bring to the Lord Jesus at His coming!!! – ***incorruptible*** crown of SOULS of men!!)

**\*1Cor. 9:25** And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an **incorruptible**.

**Phil. 4:1** Therefore, **my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown**, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

**1Th. 2:19** **For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming**?

Subject Sentence: **HOLD FAST** that no **man** take away your crown.

Aim: This passage would cause me to keep the Word of His PATIENCE (*constantly enduring*), and be confident and ***know*** He will keep me from the hour of temptation that will come on all the world to TEST all.

*Lord Jesus, grant us grace every day that we may cooperate with You to overcome. Build us into Your building and write Yourself and New Jerusalem on our hearts and in our lives.*

1. <https://www.gotquestions.org/key-of-David.html> [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.gotquestions.org/key-of-David.html [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. **The Characteristics of the New Jerusalem (https://thechristianthinker.com/is-the-new-jerusalem-a-literal-city/)**

We will begin with a summary of the New Jerusalem:

It comes down out of heaven from God (21:2, 10). 21:3 tells us that after it descends from heaven “the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.” There was also no temple in the city because God and the lamb (Christ) are its temple (21:22). God’s throne is in the city and his people will see his face (22:3-4). The Greek word for “people” is plural “Peoples.” God’s people in the New Jerusalem are multi-ethnic.

In the New Jerusalem, God will wipe away every tear. “There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain for the old order of things has passed away” (21:4). The curse that was introduced in Genesis 3 is removed from the world (22:3).

The city “shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal” (21:11).

The city had a huge wall with twelve gates, three on each side, with twelve foundations. The foundations had the names of the apostles on them, and there were twelve angels at each of the gates. The gates also had the names of the twelve tribes of Israel on them (21:12-14). The names of the apostles and tribes of Israel show that believers from the periods before and after Christ will share in the New Jerusalem.

“The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide.” The city was 12,000 stadia; that is about 1,400 miles, long, wide, and high. The wall was 144 stadia (about 200 feet) thick (21:16-17).

“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” (21:19). 21:19-20 then go on to describe twelve different stones. Verse 21 tells us that each gate was made of a single pearl and that the main street of the city was made of pure gold, which was like transparent glass.

Since the glory of God gives the city light, there is no need for the sun or moon (21:23).

The kings and nations of the world will bring their splendor to the city (21:24, 26).

The gates will never be shut because there will never be any night there. Nothing sinful will ever be brought into the city, but only those who have believed in Christ (21:25, 27).

Flowing from the throne of God is the river of life, which is clear as crystal. The river flowed down the middle of the golden street. On each side of the river stood the Tree of Life, which bared twelve crops of fruit, one for each month. The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations (22:1-2).

We will reign forever and ever with God (22:5).

Those who have washed their robes (Christians) will have the right to eat of the Tree of Life and enter through the gates of the city and partake in paradise. However, those who have rejected Christ are outside of the city (22:14-15).

The New Jerusalem also appears in other parts of Scripture. Paul speaks of the “Jerusalem that is above” (Galatians 4:26), and the author of Hebrews tells us about a city whose architect and builder is God (Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16; 13:14). Revelation 3:12 also mentions the New Jerusalem as a reward for Christians.

The details in Revelation 21 and 22 are an amazing description of an absolutely beautiful city. Streets of gold! Angels at the gates! God living among the people! Drinking from the River of Life and eating from the Tree of Life! The New Jerusalem is a perfect way to close the Bible – God living with his people in a perfect paradise.

However, it is not until we take a closer look at the city and its connections to other parts of Scripture that we will see the full meaning of the New Jerusalem and God’s plan. For ***Parallels between Eden, the Tabernacle, the Temple, and the New Jerusalem,*** see **https://thechristianthinker.com/is-the-new-jerusalem-a-literal-city/.** [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. **Biblical Theology of the New Jerusalem: a Place and a People, in God's Presence**

**https://bridgingthebible.substack.com/p/biblical-theology-of-the-new-jerusalem**

Within John’s Revelation, we are introduced to the New Jerusalem earlier on when he addressed the Church in Philadelphia. John tells them to “hold fast” and then says to those who will hold fast: “I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven and from my new name,” (Rev.3:12-13). This new Jerusalem doesn’t come up again until the end of the vision when John sees the new heaven and new earth (Rev.21-22). According to Beale, John “sees a city that is garden-like,” yet in the “shape of a temple,” and this is perplexing because John “does not describe all the contours and details of the new creation; he portrays only an arboreal city-temple.” A quick glance at Rev.21:1-27 will find that the new Jerusalem is described as: a “holy city” (v.2), as “out of heaven from God” (v.2,10), as a “bride adorned for her husband” (v.2), as “the dwelling place of God” (v.3), “the wife of the Lamb” (v.9), a “great, high mountain” (v.10), as “having the glory of God” (v.11), and as a city having gates, walls, and in the shape of a perfect cube built with the most of precious of stones (v.11-21).

This Jerusalem is a *new* city, a new *heavenly* city (Gal.4:26, Heb.11:10,16, 12:22, 13:14), in contrast to the old earthly city of Jerusalem (Gal.4:25) which is/was destroyed in 70AD. The earthly Jerusalem is symbol pointing to its future heavenly counterpart. Just as Jerusalem was to enjoy the presence of the Lord free from harm/captivity (Isa.24:23, 52:1-10, 65:18-19, Jer.3:17), so too will the new Jerusalem have eternal peace (Rev. 21:2-4). Just as Jerusalem was to put on marriage garments (Isa.52:1, 61:10), so to with the new Bride be adorned (Rev. 21:2). Just as Jerusalem saw many nations coming towards it (Ps. 102:21–22; Isa. 66:20; Jer. 3:17; Zech. 8:22), so too will the new Jerusalem see many nations wanting to go up the high mountain (Micah 4:2, Rev.21:10, 24-26). ...

**NEW JERUSALEM IS A PLACE**

John explicitly says he did not see a temple in the heavenly city (Rev.22:1), but that’s because the entire city is a temple. Why is it appropriate to conclude this? First, the New Jerusalem is the heavenly counterpart¾or full eschatological fulfillment of¾the earthly Jerusalem, whose center of spiritual activity was the temple. Jerusalem was the focus of the eschatological hope in the OT; thus, “In keeping with God’s redemptive plan, the concept of Jerusalem as the city of God becomes the goal of a greater vision, as God’s past dealings with Israel provide a model or type for his future actions.” Second, the dimensions of the entire heavenly city are a perfect cube (Rev. 21:15-17). The only other part of a building noted to be in form of a perfect cube was the holy of holies, the inner court of the temple. Thus, the entire New Jerusalem is the holy of holies. Third, a future temple is prophesied about in Ezek.40-48. “Like Ezek. 40:1-2,” says Beale, “Rev. 21:10 introduces the vision of the future temple. What Ezekiel saw was to happen in the future, John also saw as still to happen in the future. The two prophets’ visions prophesy the same reality of the final, permanent establishment of God’s presence with his people.” But this future temple is heavenly, not physical. There is no physical temple because “its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb,” (Rev.21:22). This non-manmade temple is different than what was expected by the Jews and Jewish believers. That is why John in Rev. 21:9-22:5 “excludes most of the detailed descriptions of the Ezekiel 40–48 temple and its ordinances is because he understands it as fulfilled in God and Christ’s presence and not in a physical structure.” The New Jerusalem is a place: a restored paradise, a heavenly city marked by God’s holiness, and a temple because of the presence of God dwelling there.

**NEW JERUSALEM IS THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

The idea of the New Jerusalem being a temple will now be expanded upon by further explaining the eschatological reality of a dwelling place for the presence of God, and this dwelling place includes the people of God. The future heavenly city is very much described as a place where God and His people dwell *together*. It is a “dwelling place of God with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God,” (Rev.21:3). That is reminiscent of the OT (Lev.26:11). God’s people are believers of Christ who are indwelt with the Holy Spirit (1Pet.2:5). They are the Bride of Christ (2Cor.11:2). Whoever trusts in Christ by faith has a union with the crucified and risen Christ (1Cor. 6:17, John 15, Rom.8:9). Believers in Christ are in a corporate sense referred to as being the temple of the living God (2Cor.6:14-7:1). Christ also refers to His own Body as the temple that will be destroyed and raised up again on the third day (John 2:19,21). Christians in a corporate sense are referred to as The Body of Christ (1Cor.12:27). All of this points to the temple-reality that is Christ and His people that are in Him. The rebuilding of the temple was always going to be this glorious c0-habitation, and John understood this is what the OT prophecies pointed to.

**CONCLUSION & REFLECTION**

It would be appropriate at this point to revisit the question(s) initially posed in the introduction. Why did John see a temple-like place when he saw the new heavens and new earth, especially when there was no physical temple in that vision? Beale answers it most correctly:

…the mystery of how John can see a new heavens and earth in Revelation 21:1, but then see only a city in the form of a gardenlike temple (21:2–3, 9 – 22:5), is solved by discovering the purpose of the temple throughout biblical history. His equation of the new cosmos with the temple-city becomes natural, not strange. The new heavens and earth are described as a temple because God’s goal of universally expanding the temple of his glorious presence…that was formerly confined to the holy of holies, which was the essence of temple reality, will at last encompass the whole new earth and heaven because of the work of Christ.

For Beale, “the Old Testament tabernacle and temples were symbolically designed to point to the cosmic eschatological reality that God’s tabernacling presence, formerly limited to the holy of holies, was to be extended throughout the whole earth.” So, what is the New Jerusalem? It is a place, a real place (both physical and spiritual), also called the new heavens and new earth, that is where Christians will live in after the final judgement. It is a place where God dwells in all His glory, and He dwells with His people face-to-face. It is a place where everyone is priest because the entire place is the holy of holies. It is a place, it is a people, and it is the presence of Almighty God in all His unfiltered splendor.

For article in entirety see, **https://bridgingthebible.substack.com/p/biblical-theology-of-the-new-jerusalem** [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Gazing at God: A 40-Day Journey to Greater Freedom from Self (Devotional, Gift for Christian Women or Men) Hardcover – August 12, 2025 by Sharon Hodde Miller  [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. <https://www.gotquestions.org/new-jerusalem.html> [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. <https://thechristianthinker.com/is-the-new-jerusalem-a-literal-city/> [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. https://biblehub.com/topical/e/entering\_the\_new\_jerusalem.htm [↑](#endnote-ref-8)