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# The Book of Revelation: Session 28

## Revelation 21:1-14

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**YouTube:** “Verse by Verse Teaching | Revelation 21 | Gary Hamrick”  
(taught on February 17, 2021 | 39:26 minutes)

**Notes:**

The New Jerusalem:

- Rev 21:3 – God will be present.
- Rev 21:4 – Death, pain, and all our sorrows will be absent.
- Rev 21:5 – All things will be new.
- Rev 21:7 – Believers will be present.
- Rev 21:8, 27 – Unbelievers will be absent.
- Rev 21:11, 23 – No sun or moon, but the light will be bright with God’s glory.
- Rev 21:12, 17, 21 – The wall will be high and wide, with 12 pearl gates.
- Rev 21:14 – The foundation will be deep (12 layers).

John MacArthur: “The gates had names written on them, which are the names of the 12 tribes of the sons of Israel, celebrating for all eternity God’s covenant relationship with Israel, the people of the promises, the covenants, the Scriptures, and the Messiah. ... These foundation stones, with the names of the Apostles on them, commemorate God’s covenant relationship with the church, of which the Apostles are the foundation (see Eph 2:20). ... Thus, the layout of the city’s gates and foundations picture God’s favour on all His redeemed people, both those under the old covenant, and those under the new covenant.”

## Questions:

1. Read Revelation 21:1-4. In our day, “new” is not always better than the old. But a new heaven and a new earth are most certainly better, “superior in value” (Chuck Swindoll). John MacArthur explains why a new heaven and a new earth are needed: “God originally created the earth to be suitable as mankind’s permanent home. The entrance of sin, however, corrupted the earth and the universe, and God will destroy them” and make everything new. What part of John’s description in these first four verses particularly catches your attention? Why?
2. Read Revelation 21:5-8. Swindoll explains: ““It is done” (Revelation 21:6) carries with it absolute finality. Literally, the Greek word “gegonan” means “they have become.” This isn’t the same word as Jesus used in His statement on the cross, “It is finished” (“tetelestai,” John 19:30).” MacArthur explains further: “Jesus’ words (“It is finished”) marked the completion of the work of redemption; these words (“It is done”) mark the end of redemptive history.” And all of this is inherited and enjoyed by those who “overcome” (v. 7). What does it mean to “overcome”? How can we cultivate an “overcoming spirit” in ourselves?
3. Read Revelation 21:9-14. MacArthur comments: “The word “jasper” in this passage is best understood as referring to a diamond. ... Heaven’s capital city is thus pictured as a huge, flawless diamond, refracting the brilliant, blazing glory of God throughout the new heaven and the new earth. ... To John, the heavenly city appeared like a giant light bulb, with the brilliant light of God’s glory (the sum total of His attributes) streaming out of it.” And this city has 12 pearl gates inscribed with the tribes of Israel, and is built upon a twelve-layer foundation, with each layer named after an Apostle. What is the significance of these gates and foundations? How does this impact you?

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Want to dig deeper? Engage with these sermons by John MacArthur, taught in 1995:

- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-80/the-new-heaven-and-the-new-earth-part-1>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-81/the-new-heaven-and-the-new-earth-part-2>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-82/the-new-heaven-and-the-new-earth-part-3>