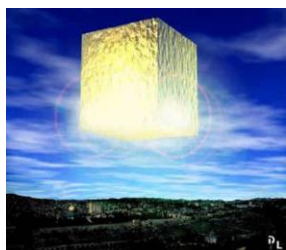


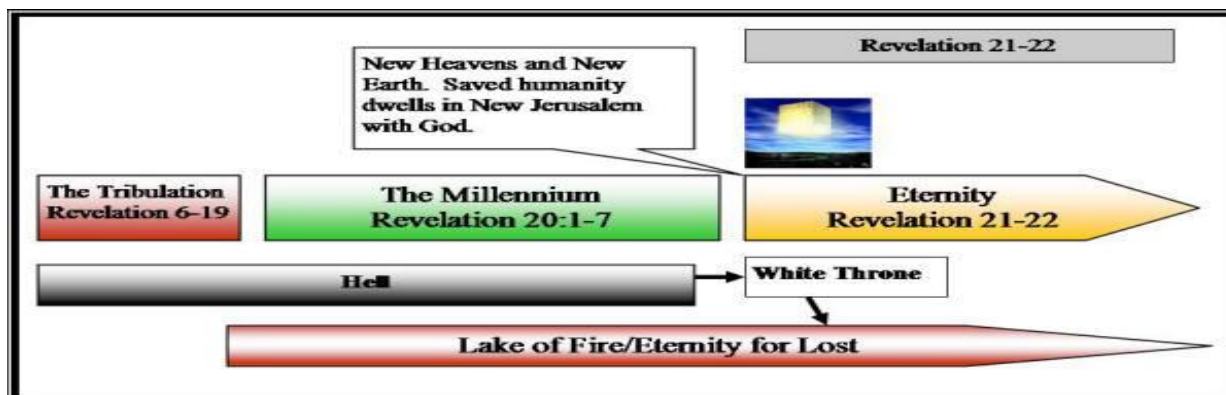


SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL
A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION
SESSION 28 - CHAPTER 21



At the close of the 20th chapter, the lost are eternally separated from God's presence. The saints, Old & New Testament, Tribulation and Millennium are in the eternal city, The New Jerusalem. Chapters 21 & 22 mark the beginning of a new phase of the redeemed. From the fall of Adam to the completion of the Millennium, the lost and redeemed lived together on the earth. At death, the lost and redeemed are separated.

At the Great White Throne, the lost are eternally judged, and separated from the redeemed in the lake of fire. Following the Great White Throne, the redeemed are presented with their eternal dwellings.



Revelation 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."

At the time of the second resurrection and the judgment, John also sees a new heaven and a new earth. This is still the same planet because scripture says in several passages that the earth is without end. The Greek word used for "passed away" can also be used for changing from one condition to another. The earth and all creation were completely renovated by fire.

Eph. 3:21 ***Unto him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen***

Psa. 78:69 *And he built his sanctuary like high palaces, like the earth which he hath established for ever.*

Ecc. 1:4 *One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.*

As the earth and its atmosphere were changed by water during the time of Noah, the earth and atmosphere will be renovated by fire before its eternal state. The verse says there was no more sea. This may just mean there may be no more Mediterranean Sea, or it could mean that there will again be only one continent on the earth and the oceans will be outside of the landmass like they were before the earth was divided in the days of Peleg (**1Ch 1:19**). The scriptures say the earth will always have seedtime and harvest and for this to happen oceans are likely to be required (**Gen 8:22**).

Of course, I could be wrong.

2 Pe 3:12-13 *"¹² Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."*

Revelation 21:2

"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

Many people get confused on this passage because they interpret the passage by the allegorical theology they have been taught. They seem to think that because New Jerusalem is prepared as a bride for her husband that New Jerusalem is the Church. Nowhere in scripture does it say that the city of New Jerusalem is the Church or the bride. However, the bride of Christ will be citizens that occupy New Jerusalem because New Jerusalem is the eternal dwelling place of the Lamb's wife.

John 14:2 *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.*



The Passage says the Holy City comes down from heaven *as a bride adorned for her husband*. To understand the passage, one might consider some conjecture that is not directly taught in scripture. *It is not physically possible for the billions in the Body of Christ to dwell in Israel.*

The saints will live in the Holy City orbiting above the earth or in the third heaven and they will ascend and descend from it on assignment. Jacob had a dream vision where he saw angels ascending and descending upon the earth from heaven. In the era of the thousand-year reign, the immortal saved people will be ascending and descending to and from the Holy City.

Gen 28:12 *And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.*

After the new heaven and earth are created, the Holy City takes orbit above the earth in the sight of those who dwell on the earth. The city is so beautiful it is said to come in appearance as a bride adorned for her husband. She will be a beautiful flawless city made by God. The city probably will not actually rest on the earth because of her enormous size. The laws of physics make that extremely unlikely.

Revelation 21:3

“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.”

The tabernacle (dwell or dwelt) of God (Gr. skeînōō ... to fix one's tabernacle, have one's tabernacle, abide (or live) in a tabernacle (or tent), tabernacle) This same word used in **John 1:14** describing the incarnation of God dwelling in human flesh being in the presence of man.

John 1:14: *“¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

New Jerusalem is the fulfillment of its foreshadowing going back to the tabernacle in the exodus journey. The tabernacle and later the Temple are where the presence of God, the “Glory of the Lord,” would appear to be in the presence of Israel. During the Millennium, Christ will be King over Jerusalem dwelling in a Millennial Temple. The Tabernacle and Temple are pictures of New Jerusalem, which will one day be the home of the redeemed saints living in the presence of God. Up until this point God had his own tabernacle in the third heaven but now it says the tabernacle of God is with men. All mankind in the new creation will be indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God and His city will be visible in His creation.

He will dwell with them... God Himself will dwell with the redeemed. Man will have a personal relationship with his creator. Unlike the Tabernacle in the wilderness of Sinai where only the High Priest could approach the Holy of Holies once a year, here those redeemed by the blood of Christ will have direct personal access to God.

Every tear... Tears follow sorrow. Because of the fall in the garden, sorrow and tears followed man (**Gen 3:17-19**). Jesus came to suffer for the sins of man. Tears typified the sorrow of man thru the ages. In addition, following this transition from Old to New there might be sorrow for what the lost have missed.

No more death.... Redemption is complete and death will no longer exist. The second death, (**Revelation 20:14**) is the last death when the lost are cast to the Lake of fire. The redeemed will never again face death. (**I Corinthians 15:50-56**)

Former things Not only is death eliminated, but also crying, sorrow and pain. These emotions are the former things. The former things were the old creation and all those who corrupted it by transgressing God's holy law. All creation will be regenerated back to the way God created it before Satan, his angels and fallen man corrupted it.

Revelation 12:5

"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."

The person that sits upon the throne and that makes all things new is Jesus. He is the creator. He did not make a mistake with His original creation. He will regenerate creation back to the way He created it with the addition of the adornment of the Holy City and the bride who occupies it.

He who sat... Here Jesus communicates to John a message for his church from the Throne of God. All things are new, the New Heavens, Earth and Jerusalem from this point in the eternal state begins. There will be no aging or decay for the rest of eternity.

Revelation 21:6

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.

Alpha and Omega.... These are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The one sitting on the Throne calls himself the A to Z. Jesus is the totality of existence and reality. The term Alpha and Omega is used 4 times in Revelation (**1:8,11,21:6,22:13**). Jesus' identity as God in the flesh is clear by the name Alpha and Omega. Just in case someone did not understand this meaning, two other terms are used; **"The First and the Last"** (**Rev 1:11, 17, 2:8, 22:13**) and **"Beginning and the End"** (**Rev 1:8, 21:6, 22:13**). This same terminology is used to refer to God in the Old Testament.

Isaiah 44:6 *"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.*

Water of life freely..... Water is necessary for life; we are made of 70% water. The picture of water is a spiritual metaphor used throughout scripture. Jesus talking to the women at the well tells her in **John 4:10** *"¹⁰Jesus answered and said to her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.'"*

During the Millennium, water will flow out of the Temple on Mt. Moriah and will flow east toward the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea will be healed and will become alive. The water is a picture of both physical and spiritual life flowing from the Throne of God.

Ezekiel 47:1,7,8 *"¹Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar. ⁷When I returned, there, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other. ⁸Then he said to me: 'This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed.*

Like the Samaritan woman, this water of eternal life is promised freely to those who thirst. The woman at the well was thirsty for more than water.

Revelation 21:7

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

The scriptures make it clear that we overcome by being washed in the blood of the Lamb. All who accept the atoning sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for forgiveness of their sins and drink the living water that comes from Jesus will become the sons of God. They will inherit all the things of God. If one inherits all things it would exclude nothing.

Shall inherit all things... Sonship (Being a child of God) promised to all who are thirsty and quench their thirst with Christ. Being a child of God, we can partake in the inheritance of Christ.

Romans 8:16-18 *¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. ¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

Isaiah 53:12 *“Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.*

This concept of being joint heirs with Christ is beyond our understanding. John gives a sneak preview of the glorious relationship between man and God for the rest of eternity. **(James 2:5, Titus 3:7, Ephesians 3:6, Galatians 3:29)**. Jesus declares, we shall, *“inherit all things”*.

Revelation 21:8

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

In other words, those who do not come to Jesus for forgiveness will retain their sins. As a result, they will have their part in the Lake of Fire. Being cast in the Lake of Fire is the second death. (The first death is death of the body of flesh.) I wondered why it said the fearful would get this fate with the rest of these characters, until I understood that it is talking about those that feared the death of the body more than the death of the soul like those that received the mark of the Beast to save their physical lives.

Their part in the lake ... Our eternal state contrasted with those who reject the Gospel. There are many reasons people reject the Gospel. Listed here are eight particular reasons people will inherit the lake of fire.

- Cowardly (those who fear man rather than God)
- Unbelieving (Those who reject the Gospel)
- Abominable (Those who are abhorrent, disgusting)
- Murderers (Those who kill)
- Whoremongers (Sexually immoral)
- Sorcerers, (Those who use drugs for mind altering, magical experiences (Gr. pharmakeus)
- Idolaters, (Those who serve an image)
- All liars (Those who are liars)

Those who reject the gospel, and sinners in general who are not redeemed will each have to give an account of their sin. All sinners without Christ fall into these categories. It can be one lie or a million murders. Christ is the only hope of redemption.

Revelation 21:9

“And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife.”

One of the seven angels is about to take John to see the bride of Christ. Some are confused by this because after the angel tells John he will take him to see the bride we see the structures of the Holy City described. They then jump to the conclusion that the Holy City is some mystical metaphor describing the body of Christ. Believing that John saw the Church as a structure by this statement, is equal to me saying I will take you to see the French and when we arrive in Paris you see the structures of Paris and then believe the structures are the French.

Revelation 21:10

“And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.”



John is carried in the spirit to a great and high mountain; he could have even been taken to the moon. He was probably somewhere in space so he could get an unobstructed view of this city coming out of the second or third heaven toward the earth. The Holy City will be an awesome thing to see. It does not say the holy city will actually touch the earth. It might just remain in orbit. From the earth, it may look like a jeweled moon in the sky. It may cast different colors and light shows on the earth from the light within her and from the light reflected or refracted from the sun and moon through her twelve foundational colors that are studded with all types of precious stones.

John actually sees the bride within the structure of the city because the walls of the city are clear as crystal. In fact, the whole city is transparent. There is nothing to hide. It should not even be surprising to anyone that the Holy City would be made to reflect the beauty of the bride of Christ. The city was made to be a perpetual memorial of God’s work in His people.

This city was created before the foundations of the world, but Jesus is the one who prepared it for the arrival of His bride. The actual bride is the people that are one with Jesus within the city. There always has been one abode of God in heaven and one Holy City. God has occupied it ever since He created it. This is the Father’s house that Jesus talked about; it is where Jesus came from, and it is where He went after He rose from the dead. Jesus said in His Father’s house are many dwelling places and that He will go and prepare a place for believers so that they can be where He is.

John 14:2-3 *"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. 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."*

This is the city that Jesus prepared for His bride. New Jerusalem is the city of God adorned for the Lamb's wife, the people of faith and the promise. This is the same city that Abraham the father of all people of faith expected to find (**Heb 11:10**). Jesus prepared it by writing names of the apostles on the foundations and the tribes of Israel on the gates and by adorning it with every kind of beauty, which reflects God in her. The names written on her foundational walls and on her gates are names of twenty-four Israelites, so it should be clear that the entire commonwealth of Israel dwells in the Holy City and not just the Church since Pentecost.

Revelation 21:11-14:

"¹¹ Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; ¹² And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: ¹³ On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. ¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.



Some like to make this structure the bride of Christ but *what is being described is a city of great beauty that reflects the beauty of the redeemed of the commonwealth of Israel within her.* John was looking at this city and describing what he saw. The city is of supernatural design. The names of the twelve tribes of Israel are written on the

gates and the names of the twelve apostles are written on the twelve foundations. Nowhere does it say that the gates and foundations are actually those twenty-four men. The gates of the city will be a testament forever that *salvation is through the Jews*. This is what Jesus told the woman at the well.

John 4:22-24 *"²² Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴ God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

The glory of God... The term “Glory of God” or “Glory of the Lord” is a term used throughout the Old Testament to identify the personal presence of God. The best example is the book of Ezekiel, where the prophet Ezekiel, like John, is taken in the Spirit, and sees the “Glory of the Lord,” in human form. This theophany is Jesus before his incarnation.

Ezekiel 44:4-5 *“⁴ Also He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; so, I looked, and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD; and I fell on my face. ⁵And the LORD said to me, “Son of man, mark well, see with your eyes and hear with your ears, all that I say to you concerning all the ordinances of the house of the LORD and all its laws.” (Ezekiel 1:28,3:12,23,10:4,18,11:23, 43:4,5,44:4)*



The light from the Glory of God illuminated New Jerusalem as the city descended from Heaven. The light that proceeded from the city was like the reflection of Crystal. John describes New Jerusalem for its future occupants.

Had a wall great and high with twelve gates... The height of the wall is equal to the length being 12,000 furlongs (1380 miles). On each wall, there are three gates, totaling 12 gates around the city. At each gate is an angel and the name of one of the 12 tribes of Israel written on the gate. In the wilderness, Israel assembled according to tribes, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun were camped to the east (**Numbers 2:1-9**). Ephraim, Manasseh and Benjamin were on the west (**Numbers 2:18-24**) Dan, Asher and Naphtali on the north (**Numbers 2:25-31**), Reuben, Simeon and Gad on the south (**Numbers 2:10-16**) with the Levites around the tabernacle.

In the Millennial Jerusalem, the gates of Jerusalem are also named after the 12 tribes of Israel, in a different order than those around the tabernacle. (**Ezekiel 48:31-34**). The gates named after the tribes of Israel illustrate a couple of points.

1. There is only one way to God and its thru the covenant established with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and fulfilled in Jesus Christ, as he said He is ***the way, the truth and the life*** in **John 14:6**.
2. The city will include Old and New Testament saints. New Jerusalem is where the saints from Adam till the end of the Millennium are gathered.

wall of the city had twelve foundations... The foundation walls have the names of the 12 apostles. Here we see the city of the redeemed is through the covenant established with Abraham, built on the foundation of the rejected, suffering Messiah.



city is laid out as a square.... The tabernacle and the Temple were both rectangles, while here the city is square. Within the Tabernacle were several distinct areas. One area is known as the Most Holy, where the Ark of the Covenant was located. It was a 15-cubit square room with the Ark at the center of the room. This is a foreshadowing of New Jerusalem, with the “Ark of the Covenant” being a foreshadowing of God’s throne in heaven.



twelve thousand furlongs... Stadia is the Greek word which is equal to 600 feet or 607 English feet. Twelve thousand furlongs is 1380 miles in length. If the city were placed over the United States, it would measure the distance from the top of the state of New York to the bottom of the state of Florida, extending west from New York state to the state of Montana. The wall height would also extend

1380 miles into sky. If you could imagine a building 1000 feet tall, the height of the walls of New Jerusalem would be equal to 7286 buildings stacked end to end, extending for 1,904,000 square miles.

Dr. Henry Morris estimated (Speculates) that if there were 20 billion saved in New Jerusalem because gravity will not be an issue each person would have the space of 75 cubic acres, allowing 25% of the space for streets, parks and public buildings.

measured its wall... The thickness of the wall was 144 cubits or 216 feet thick. Jasper was a translucent stone capable of many colors. (Exodus 28:20, 39:13, Ezekiel 28:13, Revelation 4:3) The material used in construction of the city is flawless gold, in its streets and buildings. The articles used in Temple worship were made of gold. What is highly valued in this world is a common building material in New Jerusalem.

The foundations of the wall... Twelve stones garnish the foundation walls of the city. A collection of twelve stones is in the ephod of the high priest, with one stone representing each of the 12 tribes. (Exodus 28:17-20) Also twelve stones including gold are mentioned in Ezekiel 28:13. Six stones shared in all three lists.

The twelve gates... There are 12 gates, 3 gates on each side. Each gate is made of a pearl. If the gates are placed apart equally, each gate would be 460 miles.

The access to the city is only through the gates of Israel; Angels protect the gates (not St. Peter). The names on the foundations tell us that the saved in the city live on the teachings laid by the apostles. The city has three gates on each side and is four-square in design. The foursquare design speaks of God’s incarnation on earth as Messiah, Servant, Man, and Son of God.

We also see this in the four creatures that surround His throne that have a face of a Lion, Ox, Man, and Eagle. Even the four gospels of his sojourn on earth are written to reflect this truth.

- Matthew's emphasis is that Jesus is the Messiah, the Lion from the tribe of Judah (Lion).
- Mark's emphasis is that Jesus came as a suffering servant (ox).
- Luke's emphasis speaks of Jesus coming as the son of man (man).
- and John's emphasis tells of Jesus' heavenly origin (eagle).

Revelation 21:15-16

"¹⁵ And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. ¹⁶ And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal".

The physical dimensions of the city itself rules out any notion that what is being described is the mystical body of Christ.

Those that hold the theology that the Holy City itself is the body of Christ seem to be saying that those who live in this city have become part of a spatial structure – something like the Borg did in the Star Trek series. The role these theologians seem to teach that we have in heaven is to be stuck in a structure for eternity playing our harps while continually praising God for sticking us in the walls. Some heaven! No wonder those stuck in the pews of such churches have little motivation to believe and trust God for salvation so they can go to the heavenly city.

Revelation 21:17-21

"¹⁷ And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. ¹⁸ And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. ¹⁹ And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; ²⁰ The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. ²¹ And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass."

Johns gives further description of the holy city. It is breathtaking in beauty.

There are twelve foundation colors of jewels and the foundations themselves are garnished with all types of precious stones. The city itself is made of clear gold glass crystal and so are the streets. Each gate is made out of a single pearl. Some of these colors mentioned have changed in meaning over the years so we cannot be certain about all the actual colors. We can be certain that it will be the most beautiful colors if God picked them out!

Revelation 21:22

“And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.”

There will be no physical temple of worship in the Holy City because God and the Lamb are visible to all and worshiped by all. The Spirit of God will indwell all who live there. All in the city will have direct access to the Holy of Holies. God will be worshiped there in spirit and in truth (John 4: 23, 24). Notice, the Lamb in this city is equal in status to the Lord God Almighty yet they are distinctly different persons.

Revelation 21:23

“And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.”

The city itself is not the new earth. Scripture indicates that there will be sunshine, moonshine, and seasons on the earth forever (Psalm 72:5). The Holy City will not need the light of the sun or moon because it will be lit by the glory of God.

Revelation 21:24

“And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.”

The nations really mean the different tribes of gentiles (non-Jewish). All the saved will walk in the light of the Holy City. Notice that it says the kings of the earth will continue to bring their glory and honor into the Holy City, so the city is not all that exists. They most likely will bring gifts into the city on special feast days. These passages seem to indicate that there is a distinction between those who live in the Holy City and the saved that dwell on the new earth.

Revelation 21:25-26

²⁵And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

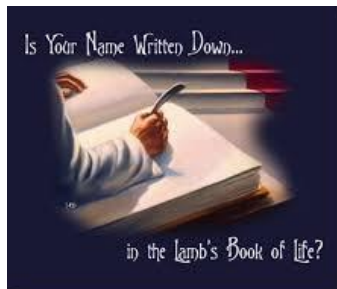
²⁶And they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it.

Its gates shall not be shut.... Only those who are saved have access to the city. Nations, translated gentiles, elsewhere in the scripture are included. The city will contain all the saved of humanity, both those of Jewish and Non-Jewish descent.

They shall bring the glory... The glory of God will be upon his people that are saved.

Revelation 21:27

²⁷And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."



Only those written in the Lamb's book of life will be allowed to enter the gates to the Holy City. Those in the Lake of Fire will never have access to the Holy City. If those in the Lamb's book of life enter the Holy City, it implies that some also go out the gates and leave, so not all in the new creation dwell in the Holy City.



If all that have eternal life only dwell in the Holy City there would be no need for these passages about gates to be written at all. It seems to me that most of those in the Lamb's book of life are living on the earth (or possibly elsewhere in the universe - see chapter 22). However, they will be allowed to enter the Holy City. Why even have a new earth if no one saved is living on it? Regardless, it is going to be a time that being in the presence of our Lord and King will be the only thing we really want!