

08 REVELATION 21 AND 22 ARE ALREADY FULFILLED IN CHRIST

Some people believe that parts of Revelation have been fulfilled, but maintain that chapters 21 and 22 have not. The purpose of this paper is to point out the numerous references, citing Jesus and the New Testament writers, that attest to the fulfillment of these promises in the first century. Many more citations can be found. God is indeed dwelling with believers now. (This list is not exhaustive.)

1. New heaven and a new earth. Rev. 21:1

- a) "My kingdom is not of this world." John 18:36
- b) Therefore receiving an immovable [eternal] kingdom, we have grace; whereby let us serve, pleasing God, with fear and reverence. Heb. 12:28
- c) If then you were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God. Col. 3:1

2. The Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven like a bride adorned for her husband. Rev. 21:2

- a) "You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem." Heb. 12:22
- b) "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it; that he might sanctify it...that it should be holy and without blemish." Eph. 5:25f

3. The dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them and they shall be his people and God himself will be with them. Rev. 21:3

- a) "If we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has been perfected in us." I John 4:12
- b) "God is love, and he who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him." I John 4:16
- c) "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39
- d) "Test your own selves. Or don't you know as to your own selves, that Jesus Christ is in you?" II Cor. 13:5

4. He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes...Neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more. Rev. 21:4

- a) "I have spoken these things to you, that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be made full." John 15:11
- b) "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, give I to you. Don't let your heart be troubled, neither let it be fearful." John 14:27
- c) "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Roman 8:38-39

5. Death will be no more. Rev. 21:4

- a) "Whoever lives and believes in me shall never die." John 11:26
- b) I am the living bread which came down out of heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever." Jn 6:51
- c) "We know that we have passed out of death into life." 1 John 3:14

6. For former things have passed away...Behold, I make all things new. Rev. 21:5

- a) "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new." 2 Cor 5:17
- b) "[You] have put on the new man, who is being renewed in knowledge after the image of his Creator." Col. 3:10

7. To the thirsty I will give from the fountain of the water of life without payment. Rev. 21:6

- a) "Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never thirst again; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." John 4:14
- b) "Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will not be hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.'" John 6:35

8. He who conquers shall have this heritage: I will be his God and he shall be my son.**Rev. 21:7**

- a) "Behold, how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God." I Jn 3:1
- b) "For you are all children of God, through faith in Christ Jesus." Gal. 3:26

9. Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the lamb...[He] showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. Rev. 21:10

- a) "You have come to Mount Zion, and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant," Hebrews 12:22-24
- b) "Jerusalem that is above is free, which is the mother of us all." Galatians 4:26

10. I saw no temple in the city for its temple is the Lord God... and the Lamb. Rev. 21:22

- a) "The hour comes, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him." John 4:23
- b) "You are the temple of the living God; as God has said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." II Cor. 6:16.

11. Then he showed me the river of the water of life. Rev. 22:1

- a) "But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never thirst again; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." John 4:14
- b) "He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'from within him will flow rivers of living water.' But he said this about the Spirit, which those believing in him were to receive." John 7:38-39

12. Also [John was shown] the tree of life. Rev. 22:2

- a) "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will still live, even if he dies. Whoever lives and believes in me will never die.'" John 11:25
- b) "He who has the Son has the life. He who doesn't have God's Son doesn't have the life.." I Jn 5:12
- c) "The testimony is this, that God gave to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." I John 5:11

13. Its leaves [of the tree of life] are for the healing of the nations.* Rev. 22:2

- a) "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field; which indeed is smaller than all seeds. But when it is grown, it is greater than the herbs, and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in its branches." Matt 13:31-32
- b) "Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all the nations..." Lk 24:47

14. Night shall be no more. Need no light for the Lord is their light. Rev. 22:5

- a) "I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in the darkness." Jn 12:46
- b) "I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life." Jn 8:12

15. They shall reign for ever and ever. Rev. 22:5

- a) "But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your Kingdom." Hebrews 1:8
- b) "Even when we were dead through our trespasses, [God] made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved). and raised us up with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Eph. 2:5-6

*If chapter 21 and 22 is heaven, or sinlessness, as some believe, why would the nations need healing? Rather, it is speaking of the present "intersection" of heaven and earth that we experience each day.