

Reflection Questions for Chapter 21

For the next session on May 20th, please read Chapter 21, pages 341-356 in *The Revelation* book. Begin with this or another prayer of your choice: "Lord Jesus, Remembering Your Passion, may I follow where you lead, and though I may be fearful, find in You the strength I need. When I am burdened or distressed, please roll away the heavy stone so that I may feel You with me, not abandoned or alone. Risen Savior, You appeared, but unrecognized at first; when I fail to see Your face, in Your love my heart immerse. Amen."

<https://www.heartofthenation.org/daily-prayers> Your reflections will be shared **May 20th** in your small group. Your group may not get to all the questions. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to those questions most important for your group.

In this chapter we see the New Heaven and the New Earth (1-8) and the New Jerusalem (9-27).

New Heaven and Earth (1-2), God Dwelling with Man (3), Everything is New (5-8)

1. (1-2) In these last two chapters, we see God creating something new. It takes us back to Genesis 1:1. This time, however, it will be for our eternal home. Peter also taught us that this present world is temporary (2 Peter 3:10-13). What do you think will happen to the first heaven and first earth? We have received the promise of eternal life; how can this hope be helpful in difficult times to encourage us to push forward in faith so we can "enter into that rest" promised one day? (Hebrews 4:11)

2. (1-2) John saw the New Jerusalem "coming down out of heaven from God." There are many ideas about where and how this will be. God created us to live on earth with legs to walk, hands to hold, and all our senses to enjoy the earth. Where do you think we will live? In heaven or on earth? (p 343)

3. (3) The promise found here is the best. Adam and Eve had visits with God, but God will dwell here with us. Our baptized bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit. How are you honoring Him and welcoming Him into your daily life?

4. (4) Here we read about all the things that will not be on the new earth: tears, death, mourning, crying, pain. How could you use this verse to encourage others to see hope in times of sadness or trouble?

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5. (5) "Behold, I make all things new." *What are some of the things you are looking forward to being made new?*

6. (7-8) On page 346 the author talks about ending up in "the burning pool of fire and sulfur, which is the second death." *Were you surprised to see that cowards were listed first? How can we help others who live in fear?*

New Jerusalem: Description (9-14), Measurement (15-17), Walls (18-21), and Glory (22-27)

7. (9-14) John saw that God would take care of his bride and have a wonderful place for her for all eternity. Every good and perfect gift is from above. *What are some ways He has blessed you? How can we reflect the image of God that He put in each of us?*

8. (18-21) The materials of the city are going to be beautiful. God only uses the best. *What is the most beautiful architecture you have seen? How do you think the New Jerusalem will compare? (1 Corinthians 3:10-13)*

9. (22-27) In Genesis, light was created before the sun. The lamp in the New Jerusalem is the Lamb, Jesus himself. *What do you think the bright light of the Lamb teaches us about Him? (John 8:12, 1 John 1:5, 1 John 1:7, Ephesians 5:8, John 1:14)*

What else stood out for you in these chapters?

For your personal prayer:

Think about the beautiful description of the New Jerusalem in Chapter 21. What are some instances where you have seen the glory of God? (As Benedictines will say, think of these instances as present most often in the most ordinary of circumstances.) Here is a link to a short video on the Vision of the New Jerusalem as seen in the St. John's Bible (Illus. Donald Jackson).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5el1uBac4Y&ab_channel=SaintJohn%27sAbbey