

Link to Lonnie Woodruff's *Revelation for Christians Today*, online:

<http://www.abiblecommentary.com/howtounderstandthebookofrevelation.htm>

## A Study of Revelation 21

### Questions on Chapter 21,

*Revelation for Christians Today*, by Lonnie Woodruff--page 405-06...

**01. What is being described in chapters 21 and 22? (21:2).**

*The last two chapters of Revelation contain some of the most beautiful writings known to man. We often hear passages quoted from these chapters in sermons. We also use them to reassure and comfort those who have lost loved ones. As we study these beautiful symbols, let us keep in mind that these symbols have figurative meanings, not literal. We have searched for figurative meanings throughout the book and should not change our interpretation for these last two chapters.*

*The final section in Revelation gives a beautiful description of **the holy city of God**. This city is described by using items which man considers extremely VALUABLE. For example:*

- 1. There are twelve precious stones garnishing the foundation of the city.*
- 2. The street is pure gold.*
- 3. Each of the twelve gates is one giant pearl.*
- 4. The wall is jasper.*
- 5. The entire city is built of gold so pure it is transparent.*
- 6. Even the light of the city is crystal clear jasper.*

*The wealth and value of such a city could never be measured in terms of money. **The point of this description is to show man the GREAT VALUE of the city of God.** God is telling us that living in His city is far more valuable than any wealth we could possibly acquire or imagine on this earth.*

**02. Define the "Bride of Christ." (21:9).**

*Without any doubt, the bride of Christ, the Lamb's wife, refers to the church—Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God (Romans 7:4).*

**03. What physical city was the center of religious activities among the Jews?**

*Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; Put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: For henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean. (Isaiah 52:1). The temple, which was the designated place of worship to God, was located in this city. Jews from every nation would gather in Jerusalem to worship God—And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. (Acts 2:5).*

**04. What spiritual city is the likeness of that physical city?**

*God's chosen people of TODAY do not worship in a physical, earthly city. Instead, we worship in a spiritual, heavenly city designed by God. That spiritual city in which all of God's people live is **THE CHURCH**. The spiritual Israel of today, Christians, are living in the spiritual city of God, **THE CHURCH**—And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Galatians 3:29). And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. (Galatians 6:16).*

**05. Compare the physical Law of Moses with the spiritual Law of Christ.**

*Under the Law of Moses, the children of Israel experienced the PAIN AND SORROW of sin. The Law of Moses was a law of spiritual death because it could not provide the forgiveness of sins. There are many passages in the New Testament which confirm this...*

- *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. (Romans 3:20).*
- *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (Romans 5:12).*
- *That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:21).*

*The people who lived under the Law of Moses could not experience spiritual life. They could only experience the pain and sorrow of sin. Because of the pain and sorrow of sin, they are figuratively described as weeping and crying and having tears in their eyes. Today, UNDER THE LAW OF CHRIST, we have forgiveness of our sins. The tears of our spiritual sorrows have been wiped away.*

#### 06. Who are members of God's spiritual city?

*In verse 2 John sees the holy city as A BRIDE ADORNED FOR HER HUSBAND. It is almost impossible even to imagine how this vision may have appeared because it is hard to comprehend how a city could be adorned AS A BRIDE. This is truly figurative language, and it must be interpreted by letting the Bible define the symbols.*

*The first symbol which must be defined is the HOLY CITY or NEW JERUSALEM. Many commentators today believe that this refers to heaven or that eternal abode of the saints. As we study this symbol, let us use the Bible's definition as given here: *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, 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,* (Hebrews 12:22-23). These verses define the CITY OF GOD, the heavenly Jerusalem, as THE CHURCH. This must be the intended meaning because it is also referred to as A BRIDE ADORNED FOR HER HUSBAND and we have Romans 7:4 saying that we are married to another, even to the One Who is raised from the dead. The church IS MARRIED to Christ today; it is the bride of Christ. We do not have to wait until judgment to be the bride of Christ or to be married to Him. We are Christ's bride today. Therefore, the HOLY CITY which John saw in this vision is the spiritual city of God, THE CHURCH.*

#### 07. What does the holy Jerusalem refer to? (21:10; Hebrews 12:22-23).

*The church.*

#### 08. From what place did the holy city descend? (21:2).

*From God out of heaven. **EEE** This should serve to show that the HOLY CITY and HEAVEN are **two different places**. The bride of Christ, (the church) has already descended from God out of heaven. This took place on the first Pentecost after Christ's resurrection. Since John performed such a major part in the establishment of the church, certainly he would have recognized that it would be symbolically described as a holy city, a new Jerusalem, or as a bride adorned for her husband. This spiritual city, the NEW JERUSALEM, replaced the physical city of JERUSALEM as man's place of worship to God. When this took place, God's chosen people no longer dwelt in a physical earthly kingdom (Israel), but rather in a spiritual heavenly kingdom (the church).*

#### 09. How was this city adorned? (21:2).

*Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

**10. Does God dwell with His people today? (21:3).**

*Just as the tabernacle was the dwelling place of God under the old law, the church is the dwelling place of God today—And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (2 Corinthians 6:16). We have God dwelling with us IF we are members of His church.*

**11. When did God wipe away the tears of spiritual sorrow from the eyes of men? (21:4; Isaiah 25:7-8; 2 Corinthians 3:13-16).**

*When they were forgiven of their sins through obedience to the gospel.*

- *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. (Revelation 21:4).*
- *And he will destroy in this mountain The face of the covering cast over all people, And the vail that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory; And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; And the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: For the LORD hath spoken it. (Isaiah 25:7-8).*
- *And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. (2 Corinthians 3:13-16).*

*These statements figuratively describe OUR spiritual situation today under the Law of Christ, as compared to the situation of those who lived under the Law of Moses.*

**12. What were the former things which have passed away? (21:4).**

*The context of verse 4 demands that the phrase FORMER THINGS refer to the Old Law. The announcement is made that former things passed away, and God says in verse 5 that He has MADE ALL THINGS NEW. In verse 6 He announces, IT IS DONE, and because of this we can partake of the WATER OF LIFE. Revelation 22:17 explains that we can drink of that water of life TODAY. We are able to drink of that water of life because these FORMER THINGS have passed away. The water of life refers to the gospel, and we have that gospel because Christ did away with the Old Law of Moses and MADE ALL THINGS NEW through His death on the cross. The Law of Moses has been done away with; the former things are passed away. The Law of Christ is now in effect; all things are made new. IT IS DONE, and because of this we have access to the WATER OF LIFE, which is the gospel.*

**13. What were the things which were made new? (21:5).**

*The things which were made new are those things which took the place of the FORMER THINGS, which have passed away (v. 4). Since the FORMER THINGS refer to the Law of Moses, then ALL THINGS NEW would refer to the New Law of Christ. Consider: *By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; (Hebrews 10:20).* This is in contrast to the Old Law which could never take away sins—*And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: (Hebrews 10:11).**

**14. What is available to mankind today because “it is done”? (21:6).**

*IT IS DONE must refer to the completing of God’s will by establishing the New Law of Faith. Notice: *When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished; and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. (John 19:30).* Obviously, one thing that was finished was Christ’s physical life, but there was probably much more meant by that statement. Read: *Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. (John 4:34).* Christ came to this earth to do His Father’s will, which*

*was to fulfill the Old Law of Moses and establish a new one. Salvation through the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross is what is available today because of the fact that IT IS DONE!*

**15. What will those who overcome inherit? (21:7).**

*Each of the letters to the seven churches in chapters 2 and 3 ends with a promise to those who OVERCOME. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. (1 John 5:4). We overcome by being born of God, which is to be obedient to His Word—Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. (1 Peter 1:23). When we become obedient to the God’s will, we overcome this world of sin and this enables us to inherit all things which God has promised. When we overcome, we become the sons of God. We are NOW the sons of God (as Christians), according to 1 John 3:1-2. Therefore, verse 7 is referring to OVERCOMING this present sinful world. When we do this, we inherit spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3), as well as eternal life if we remain faithful (Revelation 2:10).*

**16. What will happen to those who do not follow the ways of God? (21:8).**

*They are children of the devil. Therefore, they will have their place in hell along with their master, the devil, the one who deceived them (Revelation 20:14).*

**17. What is the second death? (21:8; 20:14).**

*Eternal SEPARATION from God. This is the final destruction of the soul. It is a spiritual death to which those who oppose God will be doomed to suffer for all eternity.*

**18. What is the bride, the Lamb’s wife? (21:9).**

*The BRIDE OF CHRIST, THE LAMB’S WIFE is a definite reference to the church. John is about to see a vision of the church as it is described by God. This is the church which was established by Christ when He first came to this earth, and we can be members of that church today. We do not have to wait until Christ comes again to set up some thousand-year kingdom. IT IS PRESENT in the world today. When Christ comes the second time, He will take those home with Him who are members of this church, His bride, and they will spend an eternity with Him.*

**19. From where does this holy city descend? (21:10, 2).**

*OUT OF HEAVEN from God.*

**20. Describe the light of the city (21:11).**

*Verse 11 begins the detailed description of the holy Jerusalem, the spiritual city built by God. It is extremely important to keep in mind that the description is FIGURATIVE! There are many who believe that this CITY describes HEAVEN, and some even go so far as to take the dimensions of the city and figure how many people heaven could hold. This type of thinking is **totally foreign** to the proper interpretation of this book. This city is the spiritual city built by God and will hold all those people who are obedient to His will!*

*The LIGHT of this city is described as being LIKE A PRECIOUS JASPER STONE which is clear as crystal. It is hard to understand how light could be compared to a stone, but most likely the intent of this symbol is to show THE VALUE of the light. We cannot even be certain what a jasper stone is, although most say it is a diamond. The light of the church today is JESUS, so, likely that is the light here intended.*

**21. Describe the wall which surrounds the holy city (21:12).**

*This wall has TWELVE GATES and the names of the twelve tribes of Israel are written upon them. Galatians 3:9, 16, 29 explains that the church is the SEED OF ABRAHAM, or in other words, the*

church is the Israel of today. TWELVE is used in Revelation to identify **organized religion**. Those who enter into the city through the gates are God's chosen people or the Israel of today. They are the church.

22. **Give the measurement of the wall (21:17).**  
*144 cubits. The number 144 itself is the key to understanding this verse. The number TWELVE refers to the laws given by God (two of them). If we multiply 12 x 12, we get 144. The number 144 represents the giving of the two laws, or the wall of the city, and the 144,000 (of 14:1), represents all who have obeyed those laws and have entered in through the gates into the city.*
  
23. **Why is the number "12" used so frequently in this description?**  
*It is the number used to represent ORGANIZED RELIGION.*
  
24. **Who are the twelve tribes of Israel whose names are written upon the twelve gates? (21:12).**  
*Galatians 3:9, 16, 29 explains that the church is the SEED OF ABRAHAM, or in other words, the church is the Israel of today.*
  
25. **What does this wall and its gates symbolize?**  
*Symbolic language very similar to this is used here: Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, Wasting nor destruction within thy borders; But thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, And thy gates Praise. (Isaiah 60:18). We know this is referring to the church because Isaiah 60:3 says this is the time when the Gentiles will come to thy light. The Gentiles had no part in the Law of Moses, but the Law of Christ brought all men, Jew and Gentile, under ONE LAW (Ephesians 3:6; Galatians 3:28-29). When we obey the gospel, we enter through the GATES OF PRAISE. We pass through the WALL OF SALVATION, and receive forgiveness of our sins. If we remain faithful, we will never die spiritually.*
  
26. **How many foundations does the city have? (21:14).**  
*TWELVE. Notice: Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; (Ephesians 2:19-20). The foundation of the church was laid by the apostles as they proclaimed the gospel which was given to them by inspiration.*
  
27. **Whose names are in the foundations? (21:14; Ephesians 2:20).**  
*THE APOSTLES.*
  
28. **Give the measurements of the city. (21:16).**  
*TWELVE THOUSAND FURLONGS. This would be about 1500 miles. We need to realize that the number 12,000 is figurative! It is used to describe the church. The number TWELVE is descriptive of organized religion which has been set up by God. The Old Law was given to the TWELVE tribes of Israel, and the Law of Christ was given by the TWELVE APOSTLES. If we take the number 1,000 (symbolizing ultimate completeness) and multiply it by 12, we have 12,000 which represents the complete, religious city of God. All who have ever lived and been obedient to God's commands are inside the wall of this city. This is A FIGURATIVE MEASUREMENT OF A SPIRITUAL CITY.*
  
29. **What are the wall and the city built of? (21:18).**  
*The wall was JASPER and the city was PURE GOLD. Absolutely nothing is more valuable!*
  
30. **What is embedded in the foundation of the walls of the city? (21:19).**  
*All manner of precious stones. The giving of the Law of Christ (herein represented) was the most valuable gift man has ever received because it gave him salvation from his sins.*

31. **What are the twelve gates made of? (21:21).**  
*TWELVE PEARLS.* This illustrates that obedience to God’s commandments and entrance into this city are *PRICELESS*.
32. **Describe the street of the city. (21:21; Isaiah 35:8).**  
*PURE GOLD* as if it were transparent glass. This illustrates the enormous *VALUE* of the city. *And an highway shall be there, and a way, And it shall be called The way of holiness; The unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: The wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.* (Isaiah 35:8). This is a *SPIRITUAL CITY* with only *ONE STREET*: the street of *RIGHTEOUSNESS*. It is the way that leads to eternal life. The street of gold, the way of holiness, is located in the church today, and only the redeemed may walk there—*No lion shall be there, Nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, It shall not be found there; But the redeemed shall walk there.* (Isaiah 35:9).
33. **Why is there no physical temple in this city? (21:22).**  
*The church today has no need of a physical temple because God and Christ dwell in it. The church IS the temple, or tabernacle, and God dwells in it with His people today.*
34. **Who is the light of the church? (21:23; John 8:12).**  
*The glory of God and Christ is the LIGHT of the church today. The spiritual kingdom of God has no need of the physical lights which illuminate this earth. The sun shall be no more thy light by day; Neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: But the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, And thy God thy glory. Thy sun shall no more go down; Neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: For the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, And the days of thy mourning shall be ended.* (Isaiah 60:19-20)—a prophecy of the coming of the church.
35. **Who walks on the street of the city? (21:24; Isaiah 35:8-9).**  
*THE NATIONS OF THEM WHICH ARE SAVED.* The street of gold, the way of holiness, is located in the church today, and only the redeemed may walk there—*No lion shall be there, Nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, It shall not be found there; But the redeemed shall walk there.* (Isaiah 35:9).
36. **Why are the gates of the city never closed? (21:25).**  
*The gates to the church are never closed. A person may obey the gospel and enter in through the gates into the spiritual city of God at any time, day or night. In ancient times, the gates to the cities were closed at night for protection from their enemies. Because of this, no one could enter into the city at night. This IS NOT SO with God’s city because there is no night there. Therefore, the gates are never closed. Entrance to the church is possible at any time.*
37. **What cannot enter into the city? (21:27).**  
*Anything that defiles or works abomination or makes a lie.*
38. **Who are residents of this spiritual city? (21:27).**  
*The ones who have their names written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.*
39. **Discuss the value of the church and the importance of being a member of it.**  
*There is not one thing that could be as important as or more important than being a member of it!!!!!!*

**Questions Based on Answers to LW’s End of Chapter 21 Questions**

**True/False**

- 01. \_\_\_\_\_ The church is referred to as THE LAMB’S WIFE.
- 02. \_\_\_\_\_ Christians must wait for heaven to have God dwelling with them.
- 03. \_\_\_\_\_ The number SEVEN is the most often used number in this chapter.
- 04. \_\_\_\_\_ The gates of the city were made of pure gold.
- 05. \_\_\_\_\_ For Christians, the tears of our spiritual sorrows have been wiped away.

**Fill in the Blanks**

- 06. Since the FORMER THINGS refer to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, then ALL THINGS NEW would refer to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 07. The FOUNDATION of the church was laid by \_\_\_\_\_ as they \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ which they received by inspiration.
- 08. The city of this chapter is described by using items which man considers \_\_\_\_\_.
- 09. Three passages which describe the Christian’s spiritual condition TODAY include: \_\_\_\_\_ 21:4; \_\_\_\_\_ 25:7-8; and \_\_\_\_\_ 3:13-16.
- 10. Those who enter into the city through the gates are God’s \_\_\_\_\_ people or the \_\_\_\_\_ of today.

**Place the symbol in the space next to its description:**

- 11. \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. \_\_\_\_\_

**Answers to Revelation 20 Questions:** 01 True, 2; 02 False, 22; 03 True, 29; 04 False, 14; 05 False, 17, 20:4; 06 reject, choose, 18; 07 chain, 15; 08 on, the, earth, 5, #7; 09 saved, remaining, sinful, 23; 10 fire, 15, Christians, 21, #31; 11 10 x 10 x 10 = 1000, #9; 12 Camp of Saints or Beloved City, 21; 13 The First Resurrection, 13; 14 Rest of the Dead, 10; 15 The Books Opened, 28.

**VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.** The words may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. -DRL



<b>ABOMINABLE</b>	<b>ANGEL</b>	<b>AWAY</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>COME</b>
<b>EARTH</b>	<b>FIRST</b>	<b>FOUNDATION</b>	<b>GATE</b>	<b>GLORY</b>
<b>GREAT</b>	<b>HEAVEN</b>	<b>HOLY</b>	<b>JASPER</b>	<b>LAMB</b>
<b>LIGHT</b>	<b>LIKE</b>	<b>MEASURE</b>	<b>MORE</b>	<b>NAMES</b>
<b>NEITHER</b>	<b>PASSED</b>	<b>PEARL</b>	<b>SAID</b>	<b>SEVEN</b>
<b>SHEW</b>	<b>STONE</b>	<b>THERE</b>	<b>THEREOF</b>	<b>THING</b>
<b>THREE</b>	<b>TWELVE</b>	<b>WALL</b>		



**IX. EXTRA CREDIT FOR “SUPER” Bible Students...**

*Will you please consider answering these three SIMPLE questions based on the Bible text of this chapter? I will try to make use of your answers. Bring them with you next week. Tear out this last sheet from the Study Guide and be prepared to put it in a basket. I think it will be a great help to all of those in the class if you will do so. Thank you in advance for your marvelous cooperation!*

**W O R D: What word would you like to know more about in this chapter?**

**W O N D E R: I wonder what this phrase, verse, or series of verses means...**

**W I S H: I wish myself—or others whom I know or even don’t know—would understand this fact, principle, or concept from this chapter...**