

**Redemption Church of Bristol**  
**Revelation 21-22 Worksheet**

**Overview:**

Rev 21-22 is a picture of the new heavens and the new earth. John gives us 5 different scriptural metaphors to describe what the new heavens and new earth are like:

- A New Jerusalem
  - Jerusalem represents the place of God's kingdom and God's presence. Having recently been destroyed by the Romans, John now envisions a New Jerusalem, bigger, more beautiful, more lasting, and more secure than Rome (the prostitute).
  - Jerusalem is also on a mountain great and high (Mt Zion), an allusion to Isaiah 2, where all nations are drawn to God's kingdom to live in perpetual peace.
- A Wedding
  - Heaven is like the final wedding of God to his people. Marriage language has been implied since Abraham (Gen 12) and renewed despite Israel's constant wandering (Isa 54, Hos 2). Here, God finally gets his wayward bride.
- The Garden of Eden Restored
  - The people walk with God, without the curse, with full access to the Tree of Life. The River of Life flows from the throne and restores all of creation (Ezek 47).
- The Holy of Holies
  - Like the Holy of Holies, the city is a cube lined with gold where the presence of God rests. Only the high priest could enter the HOH. The twelve jewels in the city are the jewels on Aaron's breastplate (Ex 28:15-21) and the people have God's name on their foreheads, just as the priest wore God's name on his forehead (Ex 28:36-38).
  - Rev 22:4 says, "They will see God's face." To see God's face was an honor reserved for the high priest in the HOH. It was believed that anyone else would die.
- The Marching Camp of Israel
  - The 12 gates and the square formation refer to the marching camp of Israel (Num 2). In Numbers, the 12 tribes camped with 3 tribes on each side and the tabernacle in the middle. In Revelation, the same formation exists, but there is no temple or tabernacle, because God is the temple.

**Summary:** Each of these 5 metaphors are a visual version of what John had said in Rev 21:3-4: "God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

**Application:**

What do we do with these visions? What do they call us to?

- Enjoy - These visions are meant to delight. They are beautiful. We should enjoy them! We should delight in them on good days and rest in them on difficult days.
- Keep going - To a people suffering persecution, the visions remind them that the end is that good. While the hike up the mountain is difficult, the view at the end is worth it.
- Live them out - While this is a future vision of heaven, it is also a present vision of the church. These future realities are all available now in part. When we die with Christ now, we can walk with God, without shame, without fear, in God's beautiful abundance!