

**A RENEWED PLACE**

- The new heavens and earth (21:1)
  - Renewed not replaced (Rom. 8:18-22; 2 Pet. 3:11-13)
  - The curse lifted (21:4)
  - The culmination of Christ’s work. (1 Cor. 5:17; 1 Jn. 2:17)
- The new Jerusalem (21:2; 9-27)
  - The City of God, the antitype of Babylon.
    - If Christians are to leave Babylon (18:4-5), now we know where they are to go.
    - Whereas the nations originated with the initial judgment at Babel (Gen. 11), now they flow into the new Jerusalem. (21:24-26; see Isa. 60:11)
  - It’s architecture symbolizes the perfect plan of God finally fulfilled. (21:10-21)
    - The city shines with God’s glory
    - The number 12 symbolizes the people of God
      - 12 Gates with 12 angels named with the 12 tribes of Israel.
      - 12 foundation stones named with the 12 apostles
      - A perfect cube of 12,000 stadia (approx. 1400 miles)
      - The walls are 144 cubits thick.
  - It is beautiful, adorned with precious jewels.
- The new Eden (22:1-5)  
[From B. Tabb]

**Eden (Gen. 2-3)**

**The new and better  
Eden (Rev. 21-22)**

A Garden to keep and till (2:5)	A radiant, heavenly city (21:10-11)
River flowing from Eden (2:10)	River of the water of life (22:1)
Gold and onyx nearby (2:1-12)	Gold, onyx and jewels (21:19-21)
Command to rule and serve (1:26; 2:15)	Serve as kings and priests (22:3,5)
The serpent deceives and brings shame (3:1)	Nothing unclean, shameful, or deceitful enters (21:27)
Exiled from God’s presence (3:23-24)	God’s presence endures forever (21:3,23)
Lost access to the tree of life (3:22-24)	Eternal access to the tree of life (22:2,14)
One man and woman (2:22-24)	The nations (22:2)

## A RENEWED PEOPLE

- The adorned bride (21:2, 9)
  - In contrast to the faithless wife of the OT
  - In contrast to Babylon, the prostitute
  - Her robes represent her righteous deeds (19:8)
- The people of God freed from their present suffering. (21:4)
  - The church on earth has been long-suffering. (2:9-11; 3:10; 12:12-17)
  - Now she enters her eternal rest freed from the presence of all that would afflict her. This includes not only sickness but persecutors as well. (21:4,8,27)
- The conquering people of God who finally receive their reward. (21:6-8; 22:3-4)

## A RENEWED PRESENCE

- Heaven and earth are joined
  - As in the original creation when God walked on earth with humanity.
  - Fallen humanity had tried to build a tower from earth to heaven starting with Babel and continuing with the pagan "high places". If heaven and earth are to be connected the initiative must come from God. (21:2-3,10)
- Immediate worship (21:22-26; 22:3)
  - The new temple/ tabernacle
  - This is a renewal of worship in the garden sanctuary when humanity worshipped face to face.