



The New Jerusalem

The Bible speaks about New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven (Rev 3:12; 21:1), but what exactly is New Jerusalem? There are many theories regarding what exactly New Jerusalem is. Is it a literal city that will exist on earth in the future? Is it a city that exists in the spirit realm? Or is New Jerusalem a spiritual analogy intended to teach a spiritual concept to a physical audience? To understand what exactly New Jerusalem is we need to not only examine the scriptures that specifically mention it, but we also need to place these verses in the context of the overall plan of God as revealed in the Bible.

Christ tells us in the book of Revelation that those who successfully overcome and make it into the Kingdom of God will have the name of New Jerusalem placed upon them.

Rev 3:12-13

¹² He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. **I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God.** And I will write on him My new name. ¹³ “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

The book of Hebrews tells us that those who have been called and given their opportunity to obtain salvation have been called to “the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem”.

Heb 12:18-24

¹⁸ For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. ²⁰ (For they could not endure what was commanded: “And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.” ²¹ And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I am

exceedingly afraid and trembling.”) ²² But you have come to Mount Zion **and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem**, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

The book of Hebrews also tells us that Abraham and the other patriarchs of the Bible looked forward to receiving a spiritual reward that they would receive after their physical lives were completed and they understood this reward in the context of a city “whose builder and maker is God”.

Heb 11:8-16

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ **for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God**. ¹¹ By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. ¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. ¹⁵ And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ **But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country**. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

God Has Always Desired To Dwell With His People

To understand why the spiritual reward for those who make it into the Kingdom of God is referred to as a city we first need to understand the Biblical pattern of God desiring to dwell together with the people He enters into a covenant relationship with. When God brought Ancient Israel out of slavery in Egypt, one of His main purposes for doing this was specifically so that He could dwell among the Israelites. This was the reason He instructed the Israelites to build the Tabernacle where His presence would dwell among the Israelites.

Ex 25:8-9

⁸ **And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.**

⁹ According to all that I show you, that is, **the pattern of the tabernacle** and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.

Ex 29:43-46

⁴³ And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory. ⁴⁴ So I will consecrate the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. I will also consecrate both Aaron and his sons to minister to Me as priests. ⁴⁵ I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God. ⁴⁶ And they shall know that **I am the LORD their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them.** I am the LORD their God.

Lev 26:11-12

¹¹ **I will set My tabernacle among you,** and My soul shall not abhor you. ¹² **I will walk among you and be your God,** and you shall be My people.

Later the Tabernacle was replaced by the Temple and this building then served the same purpose as the Tabernacle as it was the place where the presence of God dwelt among the Israelites.

1 Kings 6:11-13

¹¹ Then the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying: ¹² “Concerning this temple which you are building, **if you walk in My statutes, execute My judgments, keep all My commandments, and walk in them, then I will perform My word with you,** which I spoke to your father David. ¹³ **And I will dwell among the children of Israel,** and will not forsake My people Israel.”

With both the Tabernacle and the Temple, God required the Israelites to be obedient to His commandments for Him to continue to dwell among them. It was Israel's repeated history of disobedience to God commandments that caused His presence to later depart from the Temple in Jerusalem (Ezek 10). This basic principle of obedience to God's commandments is a requirement for dwelling with God in all the applications of this concept.

Ps 15:1-5

¹ LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? ² He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart; ³ He who does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; ⁴ In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the LORD; He who swears to his own hurt and does not change; ⁵ He who does not put out his money at usury, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

New Covenant Christians Are The Temple of God

As we have seen, God dwelt among the Ancient Israelites by having His presence dwell among the people first in the Tabernacle and later in the Temple in Jerusalem. God has this same desire to dwell with those He is calling to salvation in the New Covenant Church, but He dwells with us today on a more personal level. With New Covenant Christians the presence of God dwells directly inside each of us through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. This is why the New Testament tells us that we are the "Temple of God".

John 14:22-24

²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" ²³ Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him and make Our home with him.** ²⁴ He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

1 Cor 3:16-17

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

1 Cor 6:18-20

¹⁸ Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. ¹⁹ **Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you,** whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

2 Cor 6:14-16

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? **For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."**

When the Bible states that Christians in the New Covenant Church are the "Temple of God" this is obviously meant as a spiritual analogy. Clearly, the Bible is not saying that New Covenant Christians have an altar, a table of showbread, or an ark of covenant inside them. Referring to New Covenant Christians as being the "Temple of God" is meant as an analogy to convey a spiritual concept to a physical audience. The first century Church of God was familiar with the Temple. They understood the Temple to be the place where the presence of God dwelt among the people of Israel. So, the easiest way to convey to them the idea that the presence of God would now dwell directly within each of them through the Holy Spirit was simply to tell them that now they were the "Temple of God". Understanding this fact is a major key to understanding why the Bible describes the spiritual reward for those who make it into the Kingdom of God as a city.

Dwelling With God In The Spirit Realm

As we have seen part of God's covenant relationship with Ancient Israel was Him dwelling among the Israelites through His presence being in the Tabernacle and later the Temple. Today He dwells directly inside each New Covenant Christian through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit in each of us. Consistent with this pattern, in the future all of those that are born into the Kingdom of God will be able to dwell directly together with God the Father and Jesus Christ in the spirit realm. At that time, they will be able to directly see the face of God the Father (Rev 22:3-5; 1 John 3:2).

God the Father, Jesus Christ, and all human beings that successfully make it into the Kingdom of God directly dwelling together in the spirit realm for all eternity is the concept that the Bible is conveying to us by describing the reward of salvation as a city called New Jerusalem. A city by definition is a sizable group of people dwelling together in close proximity with one another. To illustrate this point let's use an example of a major US metropolitan area. Most of the population in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas area lives within an area that measures approximately 50 miles east/west and approximately 50 north/south. This is an area with a population of over 7 million people. However, you could take this same 7 million people and spread them out over an area the size of the entire state of Texas and they would all be living in rural, isolated areas.

No one would refer to these areas as a city, because a city, by definition, is a sizable group of people dwelling together in close proximity with one another.

The Bible uses the term “New Jerusalem” because Jerusalem is where the Temple was located and the place where God chose to “place His name” (1 Kings 8:44-48; 9:3; 11:36). As we have seen previously in this paper, the Temple is where the presence of God dwelt among the Israelites. So, the Bible explaining the concept of God the Father directly dwelling together with His children in the Kingdom of God as a city called “New Jerusalem” is just like explaining the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in New Covenant Christians by stating that New Covenant Christians are the “Temple of God”. Both statements are analogies used to explain a spiritual concept to a physical audience.

The Timing of Revelation 21 & 22

Revelation 21 & 22 provide more details regarding New Jerusalem than any other chapters in the Bible. However, before addressing these details it is important to first clarify the timing being addressed by these chapters. Revelation 21 & 22 are often assumed to be speaking about a period in time when physical humans no longer exist. This assumption is due to the wording in verse 1 and verse 4.

Rev 21:1-4

¹ Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. **Also there was no more sea.** ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, **“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.** ⁴ **And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”**

The statement in verse 1 that “there was no more sea” is often assumed to be a reference to no more bodies of water. In addition, the statement in verse 4 that “there shall be no more death” is often assumed to mean that physical human beings could not possibly still be in existence at the time that is being described in these verses.

However, we also have to consider the statement in verse 3 that “the tabernacle of God is with men”. The Greek word translated as “men” in this verse is “anthropos”. The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament by Spiros Zodhiates defines this word as:

Anthropos (Strong's # 444) – “Man, a generic name in distinction from gods and the animals. In the NT, used to make the distinction between sinful man, whose conduct, way, or nature is opposed to God...A man or woman, an individual of the human race, a person....Spoken in reference to his human nature, a man, i.e., a human being, a mortal. Here is included the idea of human infirmity and imperfection, especially when spoken in contrast to God and divine things. (emphasis added)

This indicates that John is speaking about physical humans still being in existence at this time. We also have to consider that in verses 6-8 John speaks about humans that overcome being rewarded with eternal life and those that continue in a life of sin being thrown in the lake of fire. If physical humans no longer exist at this point, these statements would be irrelevant.

Rev 21:6-8

⁶ And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. ⁸ But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

No More Sea

As previously mentioned, the statement that “there was no more sea” in Revelation 21:1 is often interpreted to mean that John is saying there are no more bodies of water. However, the book of Revelation is filled with symbolic descriptions that are not intended to be taken literally. So, we also need to consider the possibility that John was speaking symbolically when he stated “there was no more sea” and he was not referring to bodies of water. The Bible repeatedly uses the term “sea” symbolically when speaking about Satan and those under his influence. Satan is symbolically pictured in the Bible as a sea creature named Leviathan and the Beast power that he leads is symbolically pictured as creatures rising up out of the “sea”. Consider the following examples:

Job 41:1-8

¹ “Can you draw out Leviathan with a hook, Or snare his tongue with a line which you lower? ² Can you put a reed through his nose, Or pierce his jaw with a hook? ³ Will he make many supplications to you? Will he speak softly to you? ⁴ Will he make a covenant with you? Will you take him as a servant forever?

⁵ Will you play with him as with a bird, Or will you leash him for your maidens?
⁶ Will your companions make a banquet of him? Will they apportion him among the merchants? ⁷ **Can you fill his skin with harpoons, Or his head with fishing spears?** ⁸ Lay your hand on him; Remember the battle— Never do it again!

Ps 74:12-14

¹² For God is my King from of old, Working salvation in the midst of the earth.
¹³ You divided the sea by Your strength; **You broke the heads of the sea serpents in the waters.** ¹⁴ **You broke the heads of Leviathan in pieces,** And gave him as food to the people inhabiting the wilderness.

Ps 104:24-26

²⁴ O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions— ²⁵ **This great and wide sea,** In which are innumerable teeming things, Living things both small and great. ²⁶ There the ships sail about; **There is that Leviathan Which You have made to play there.**

Is 27:1

¹ In that day the LORD with His severe sword, great and strong, Will punish **Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan that twisted serpent; And He will slay the reptile that is in the sea.**

Dan. 7:1-4

¹ In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts. ² Daniel spoke, saying, "**I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea.** ³ **And four great beasts came up from the sea,** each different from the other. ⁴ The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

Rev 13:1

¹ **Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea,** having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

When we consider these scriptures, we can see that when John stated “there was no more sea” he was not saying there will be no bodies of water. He was referring to the fact that Satan will be bound during the millennium and mankind will not be subjected to Satan’s influence at that time (Rev 20:1-3). This is because the time period being described in Revelation 20:1-4 is the beginning of the millennium and not a time frame much later when physical humans no longer exist. This is made clear by John’s statement in verse 1 that “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.” The “new heavens and new earth” refers to the replenished utopian earth that will exist during the millennium (Is 65:17-25; 66:22-24). (For more information on this subject please see the paper entitled “The New Heavens and New Earth.”)

No More Death

So now we just need to address John’s statement about “no more death” in Revelation 21:4. As we have already seen, if we assume that John is stating that physical humans no longer exist then we have a direct contradiction with his statement in verse 3 that “the tabernacle of God is with men”. In addition, verses 7-8 speak about the rebellious humans that will be cast into the lake of fire because of their rebellion against God. Verse 8 also describes the lake of fire as “the second death”. So, obviously physical humans will still be in existence at this time and the concept of death will not be totally erased. So, how are we to understand John’s statement that there will be “no more death”? The key to understanding this statement is comparing Revelation 21:1-4 to Isaiah 65:17-20.

Rev 21:1-4

¹ **Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.** Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ **And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.**”

Is 65:17-20

¹⁷ **“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth;** And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, And her people a joy. ¹⁹ I

will rejoice in Jerusalem, And joy in My people; **The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor the voice of crying.** ²⁰ “No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; **For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.**

Notice that both accounts start by mentioning “new heaven and new earth”. Both also then go on to mention the absence of crying and sorrow. However, Isaiah 65:20 mentions very long life spans being the norm during the millennium. The quote above is from the New King James Version of the Bible. This verse is translated more clearly in the New Living Translation.

Is 65:20 -- NLT

²⁰ “No longer will babies die when only a few days old. No longer will adults die before they have lived a full life. No longer will people be considered old at one hundred! **Only the cursed will die that young!**

We can see from Isaiah 65:20 that during the millennium extremely long life spans will be the norm. Only those that are overtly rebellious to God will die young. When compared to human history prior to the millennium one could generally describe this time period with the statement “no more death” because death as we understand it today will not be the norm.

New Jerusalem Comes Down Out of Heaven

Once we understand the meaning of the statements “no more sea” and “no more death” in Revelation 21:1-4, we can see that the time frame being spoken of in these verses is actually the beginning of the millennium and not a time frame much later when physical humans no longer exist. So, when John tells us in Revelation 21:2 that he “...saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband” he is describing a picture of God the Father and the resurrected Firstfruits coming out of heaven down to earth to begin the millennium.

Zech 14:3-5

³ Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle. ⁴ **And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east.** And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south. ⁵ Then you shall flee

through My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. **Thus the LORD my God will come, And all the saints with You.**

1 Thess 4:13-14

¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, **even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.**

John goes on to give us a description of New Jerusalem which is clearly focused on revealing to us that New Jerusalem is a symbolic picture of the resurrected Firstfruits dwelling directly together with God the Father and Jesus Christ in the spirit realm. Notice that in John's vision the angel tells John "I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife" and then he shows John New Jerusalem.

Rev 21:9-11

⁹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "**Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.**" ¹⁰ **And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,** ¹¹ having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

John goes on to describe the details of the vision he was shown of New Jerusalem. If we let the Bible interpret the symbolic details of this vision what we find is that the symbolic picture presented to John repeatedly reconfirms that this is a picture of the resurrected Firstfruits dwelling together with God the Father and Jesus Christ in the spirit realm. The vision John sees of New Jerusalem includes a wall with twelve gates with each gate being named for one of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Rev 21:12-13

¹² **Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates,** and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, **which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:** ¹³ three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

The purpose of a wall around a city is to control access to the city so that only those with permission to enter are allowed to enter the city. The gates allow for an entry point into the city while the wall blocks general access and forces everyone that wants to enter to have to enter through the gates. Notice that all of the gates are named after one of the tribes of Israel. This tells us that to enter the city one has to be a spiritual Israelite.

Rom 2:25-29

²⁵ For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. ²⁶ Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? ²⁷ And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, even with your written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law? ²⁸ **For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh;** ²⁹ **but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.**

Gal 6:14-16

¹⁴ But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ **For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.** ¹⁶ And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, **and upon the Israel of God.**

This picture of spiritual Israel is again confirmed when John describes the foundations of the wall and tells us that they are named after the Apostles. Paul tells us that the Apostles are the foundation of the New Covenant Church which we have already seen is spiritual Israel.

Rev 21:14

¹⁴ Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Eph 2:19-22

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ **having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being**

the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

John then goes on to tell us that the dimensions of New Jerusalem are the shape of a cube with its length, breath, and height measurements all being equal. The dimensions of the Most Holy Place in the Temple (which is where the presence of God dwelt) were also the shape of a cube. This shows us that New Jerusalem is a symbolic picture of the Firstfruits dwelling directly together with God the Father in the spirit realm.

Rev 21:15-16

¹⁵ And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. ¹⁶ The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. **Its length, breadth, and height are equal.**

1 Kings 6:16-20

¹⁶ Then he built the twenty-cubit room at the rear of the temple, from floor to ceiling, with cedar boards; **he built it inside as the inner sanctuary, as the Most Holy Place.** ¹⁷ And in front of it the temple sanctuary was forty cubits long. ¹⁸ The inside of the temple was cedar, carved with ornamental buds and open flowers. All was cedar; there was no stone to be seen. ¹⁹ **And he prepared the inner sanctuary inside the temple, to set the ark of the covenant of the LORD there.** ²⁰ **The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and twenty cubits high.** He overlaid it with pure gold, and overlaid the altar of cedar.

New Jerusalem is then described as being made of gold, pearls, and a variety of precious stones. All of these are items that are considered “treasure” to physical humans. The symbolism intended in this picture becomes clear when we consider that the Bible refers to both the Ancient Israelites and the New Covenant Church as God’s “special treasure”.

Rev 21:17-21

¹⁷ Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. ¹⁸ The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was

jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. ²¹ The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

Ex 19:5-6

⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, **then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.** ⁶ **And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**’
These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

1 Peter 2:9-10

⁹ **But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people,** that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Revelation 21 goes on to describe the picture of New Jerusalem to include God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Firstfruits all dwelling directly together in the spirit realm. This description also reveals that God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Firstfruits will all be working together for “the healing of the nations”. In other words, They will all be working with the rest of mankind to offer them the opportunity to obtain salvation and the opportunity to eventually dwell together in the spirit realm with God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Rev 21:22-22:5

²² But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. ²⁴ **And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.** ²⁵ Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). ²⁶ And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. ²⁷ But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. ^{22:1} And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree

yielding its fruit every month. **The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.** ³ And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. ⁴ **They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.** ⁵ There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. **And they shall reign forever and ever.**

Notice that Rev 22:2 mentions the “healing of the nations”. This shows us that physical humans obviously still exist in the time period John is describing. If only spirit beings existed at this point why would spirit beings need healing? Obviously, this is a reference to the physical humans that the Firstfruits will be working with at this time. This concept is also seen in Rev 21:24. This verse is more clearly translated in the New Revised Standard Version. Notice that this translation omits the words “of those who are saved” that are included in the New King James Version.

Rev 21:24 -- NRSV

²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

This shows us that New Jerusalem (God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Firstfruits) will provide light to the nations (Ps 119:105) by teaching them God’s commandments and offering them the chance to also be born into the Kingdom of God.

Conclusion

Simply put, New Jerusalem is a symbolic picture of the reward of salvation which is the opportunity to dwell directly together with God the Father and Jesus Christ for all eternity. Initially it will just be the Firstfruits that are included in New Jerusalem dwelling together with the Father and Christ as they will receive the resurrection to eternal life at Christ’s return (1 Cor 15:50-55; 1 Thess 4:13-18). However, God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Firstfruits will all work with the rest of mankind during the millennium and Eighth Day period to offer them the opportunity to obtain salvation and eventually dwell together in the spirit realm as part of the picture of New Jerusalem.