

A golden city with a bright light shining through a doorway, set against a background of colorful, swirling clouds.

The New Jerusalem

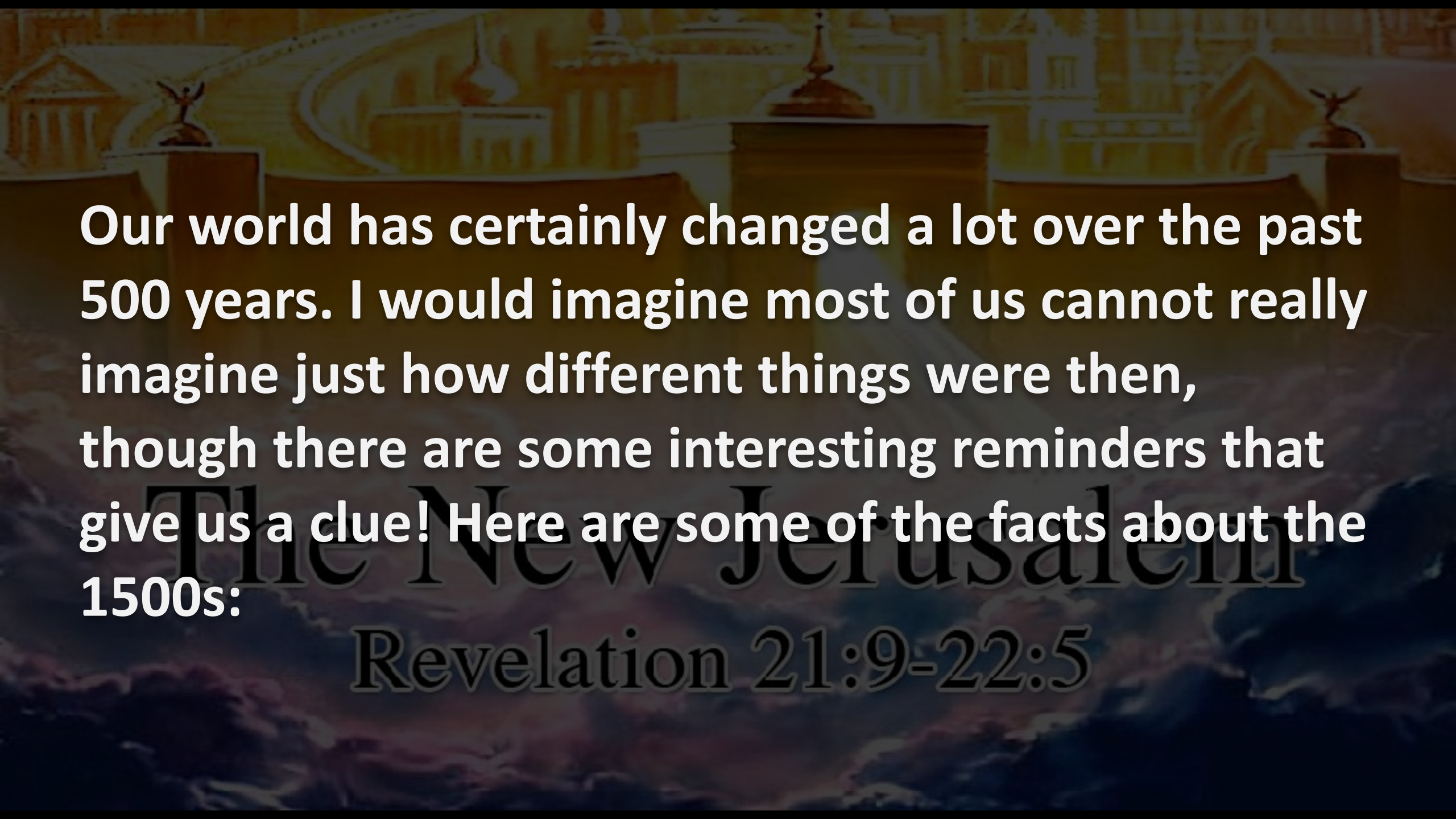
Revelation 21:9-22:5



INTRODUCTION

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5



Our world has certainly changed a lot over the past 500 years. I would imagine most of us cannot really imagine just how different things were then, though there are some interesting reminders that give us a clue! Here are some of the facts about the 1500s:

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June, hence the popularity of “June Weddings!” However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water.

Revelation 21:9-22:5

The man of the house had the privilege of going first and enjoying the nice clean water, then came all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children - - last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it - - hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

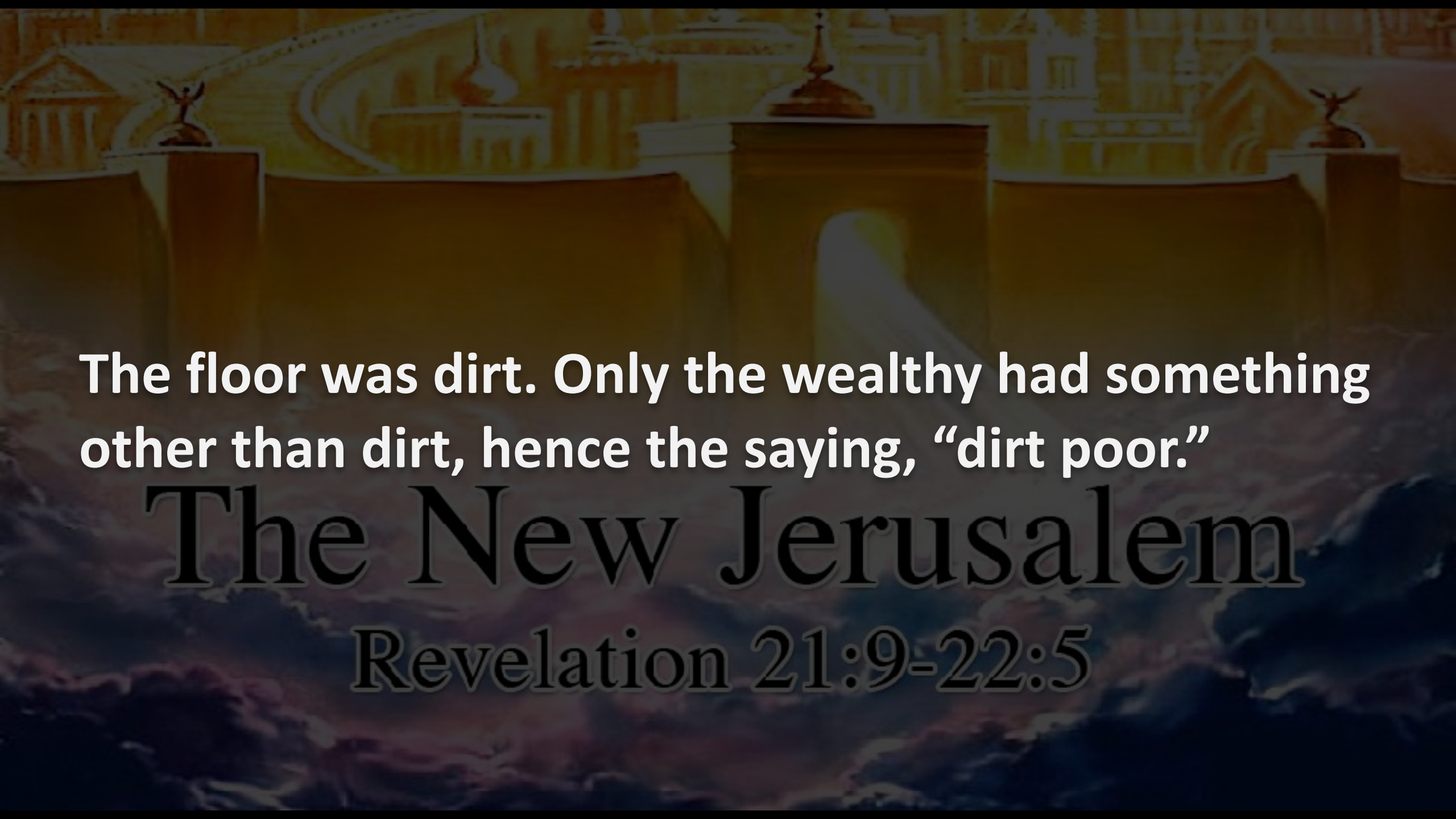
Revelation 21:9-22:5

Houses had thatched roofs - - thick straw, piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats and other small animals (mice, rats and bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery, and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof - - hence the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs."

Revelation 21:9-22:5

However, there was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

Revelation 21:9-22:5



The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt, hence the saying, “dirt poor.”

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Most people had very little meat, but sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man “could bring home the bacon.” They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and “chew the fat.”

Revelation 21:9-22:5

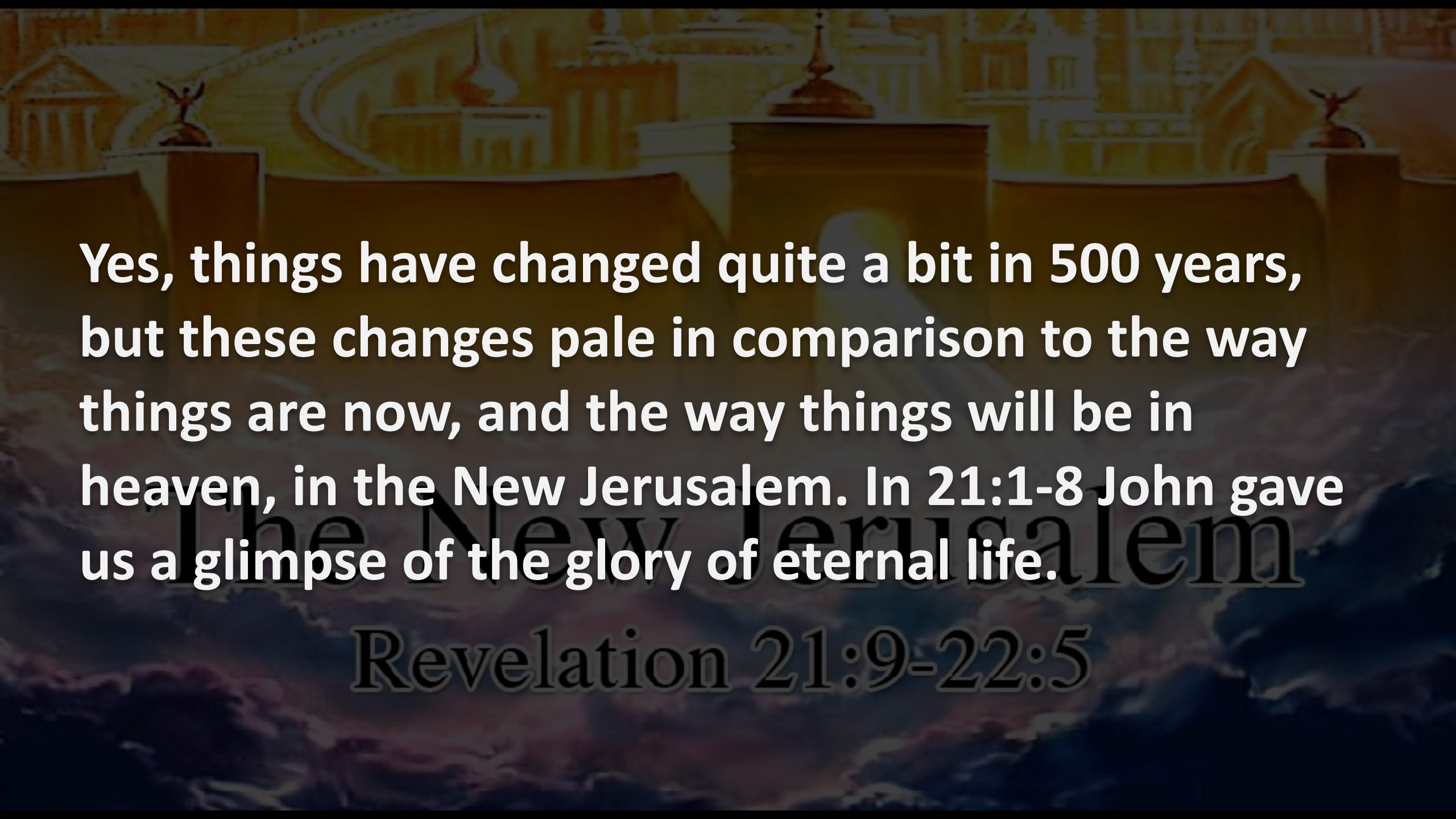
Lead cups were used to drink ale or whiskey. The combination would sometimes knock them out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up - - hence, the custom of holding a “wake.”

England is old and small and they started out running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a “bone-house” and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive.

The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5

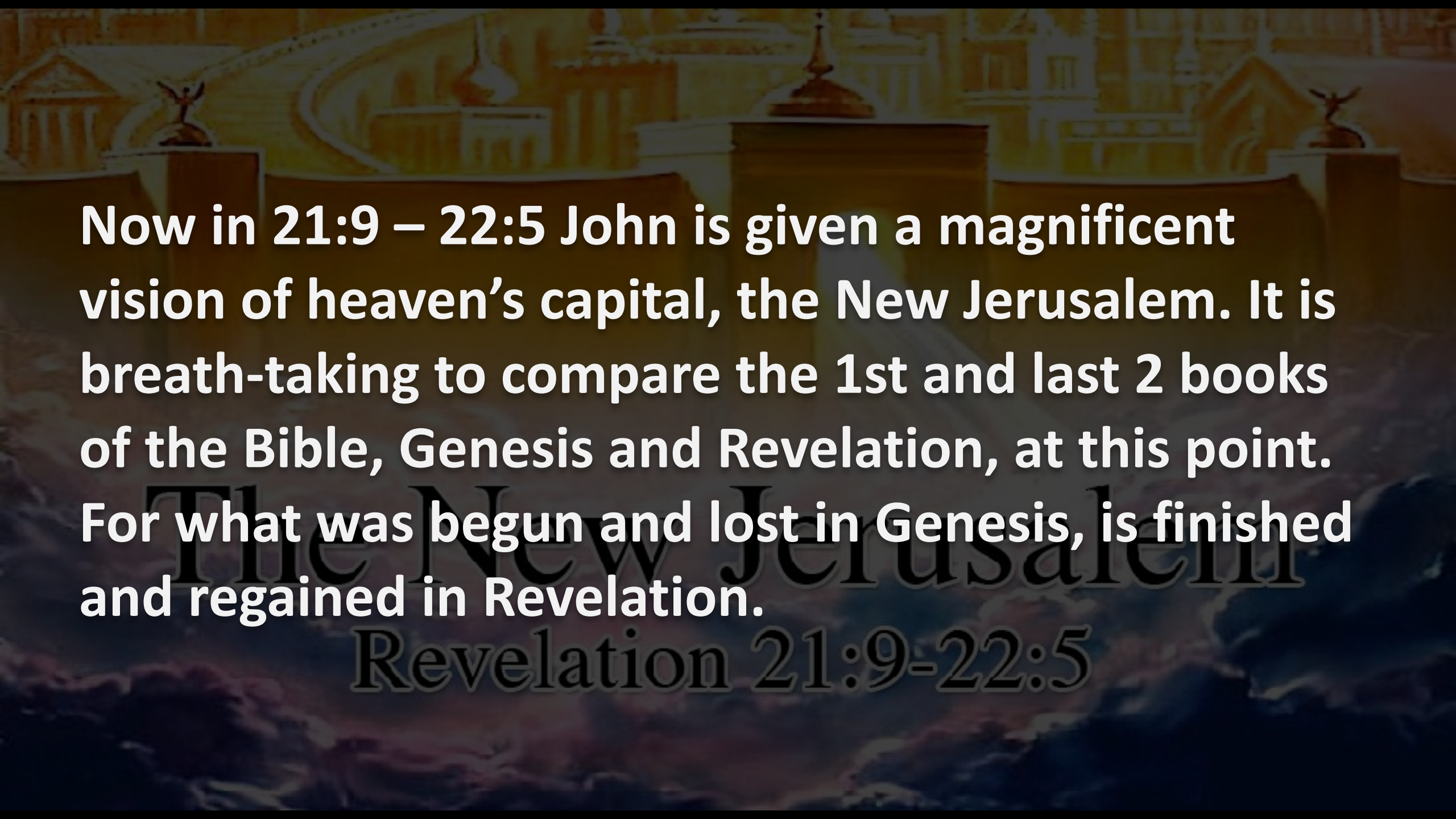
So they thought they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the “graveyard shift”) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be “saved by the bell” or was considered a “dead ringer.”

The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5



Yes, things have changed quite a bit in 500 years, but these changes pale in comparison to the way things are now, and the way things will be in heaven, in the New Jerusalem. In 21:1-8 John gave us a glimpse of the glory of eternal life.

Revelation 21:9-22:5



Now in 21:9 – 22:5 John is given a magnificent vision of heaven's capital, the New Jerusalem. It is breath-taking to compare the 1st and last 2 books of the Bible, Genesis and Revelation, at this point. For what was begun and lost in Genesis, is finished and regained in Revelation.

Revelation 21:9-22:5

A golden cityscape with a bright light shining through a doorway. The scene is set against a background of golden buildings and a bright light shining through a doorway. The overall tone is warm and divine.

CONTEXT

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Genesis

Heaven and earth created, 1:1

Sun created, 1:16

The night established, 1:5

The seas created, 1:10

The curse announced, 3:14-17

Death enters history, 2:19

Man driven from paradise, 3:24

Sorrow and pain begin, 3:17

Revelation

New heavens and earth recreated, 21:1

No need of sun, 21:23

No night there, 22:5

No more seas, 21:1

No more curse, 22:3

Death exits history, 21:4

Man restored to paradise, 22:14

Sorrow, tears and pain end, 21:4

REVELATION 21:9-22:5

Indeed, one of the wonderful things about the Bible is that in its first two chapters the devil is not there and in its last two chapters the devil is not there. Examine Genesis 1 & 2 and you will find no mention of Satan. Examine Revelation 21 & 22 and you will likewise find no mention of Satan. He is not there. He is in the Lake of Fire.

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Still, when it comes to heaven there are many different ideas and opinions held by different religious persons. For example, the Jehovah's Witnesses have fixed the number of persons who will be there as 144,000. Mormons are not so much concerned with its population as they are its dimensions.

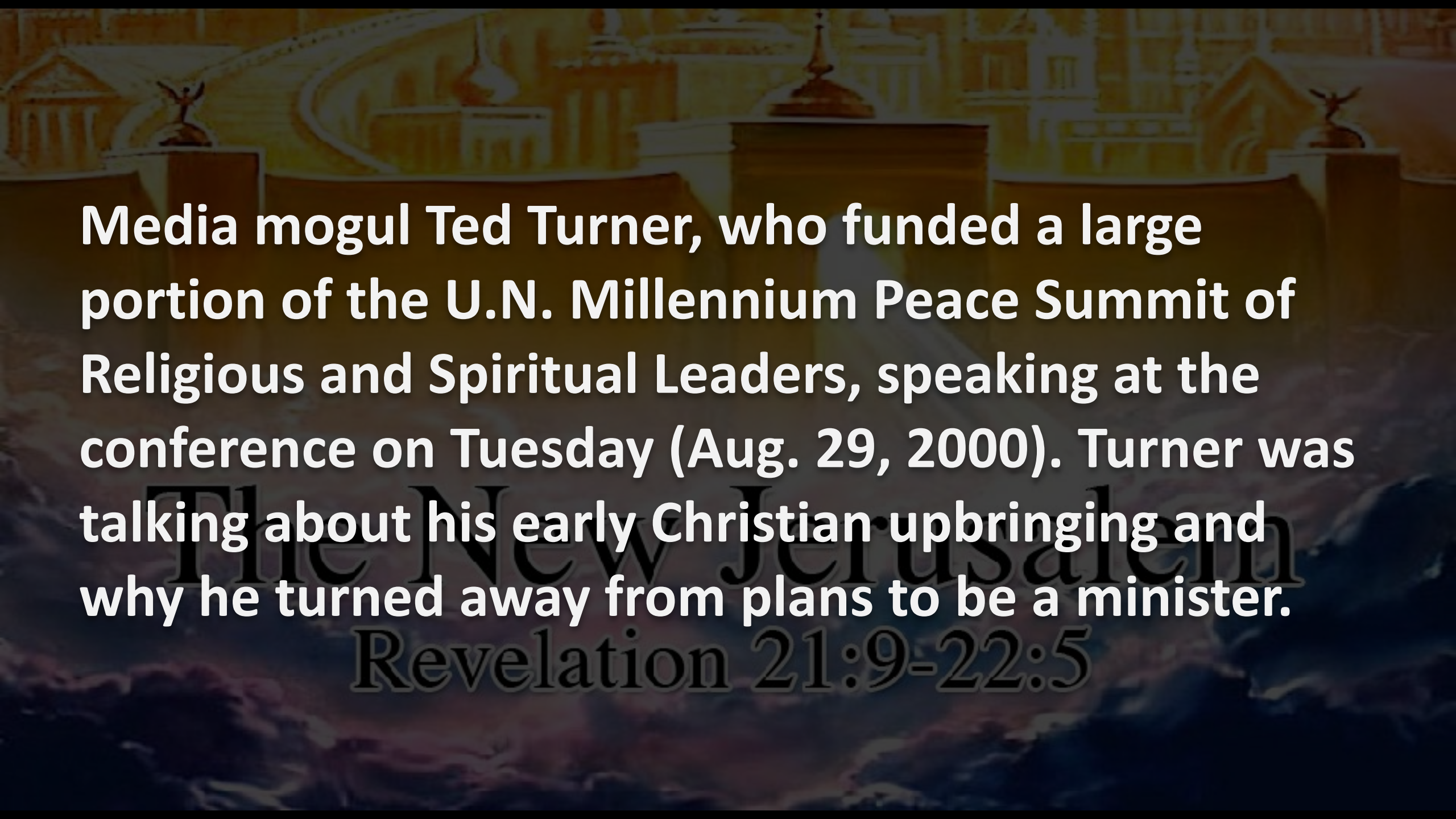
The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5

They divide heaven into three spheres, the telestial, terrestrial and celestial, the latter being reserved only for very good Mormons and those united in Mormon marriage in a Mormon temple. Islam on the other hand believes that those whose good works outweigh their bad will make it to heaven and that heaven will be filled with big bright brown-eyed beauties that men will enjoy forever and ever along with wine unending.

Add to this the words of media mogul Ted Turner.
(RNS) “Nobody was going to heaven but just us. ...
It just confused the devil out of me because I said
heaven is going to be a mighty empty place with
nobody else there. So I was pretty confused and
turned off by it. I said it just can’t be right.”

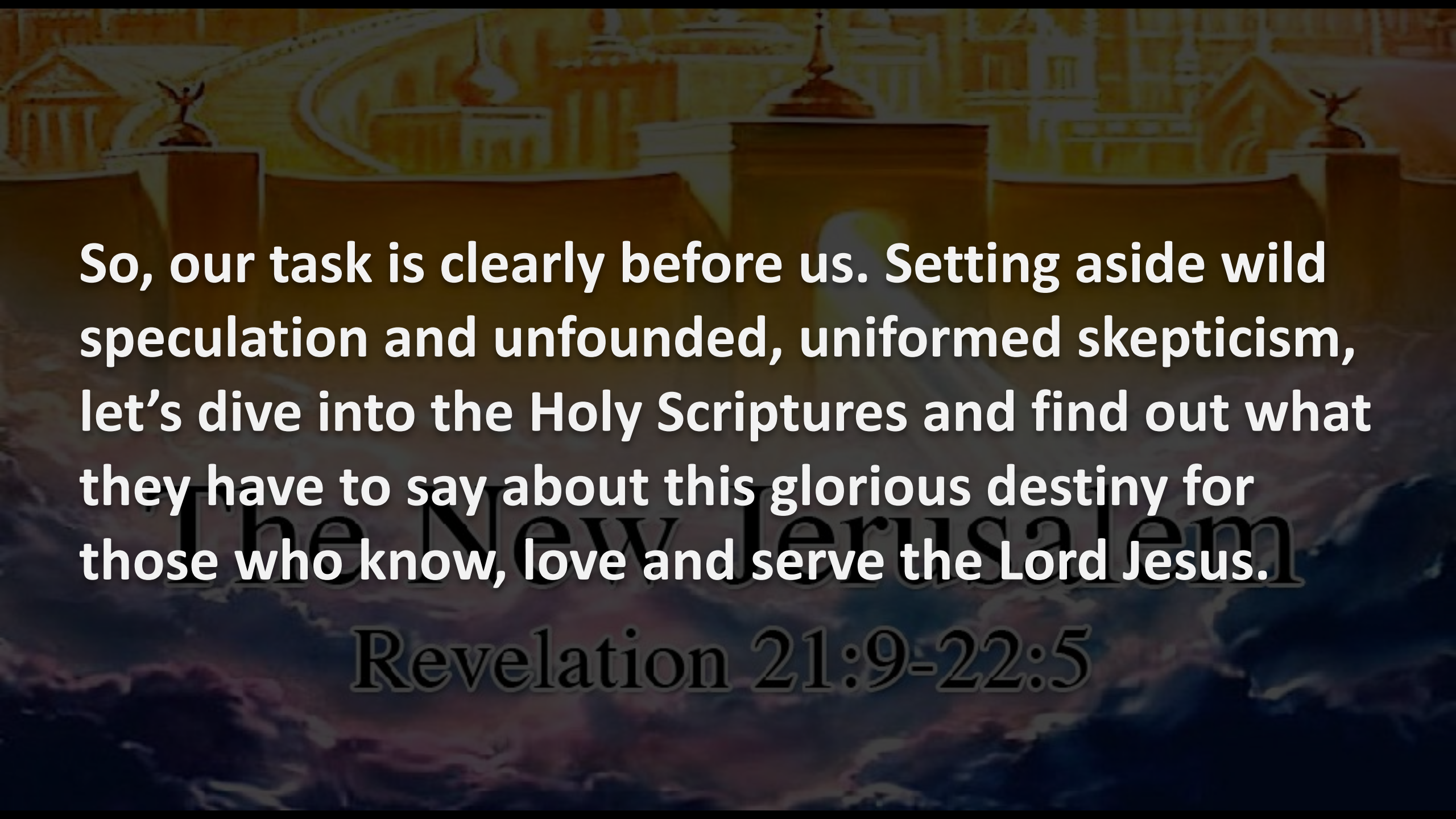
The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5



Media mogul Ted Turner, who funded a large portion of the U.N. Millennium Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders, speaking at the conference on Tuesday (Aug. 29, 2000). Turner was talking about his early Christian upbringing and why he turned away from plans to be a minister.

Revelation 21:9-22:5



So, our task is clearly before us. Setting aside wild speculation and unfounded, uniformed skepticism, let's dive into the Holy Scriptures and find out what they have to say about this glorious destiny for those who know, love and serve the Lord Jesus.

Revelation 21:9-22:5

A golden cityscape with a bright light shining through a doorway. The scene is set against a background of golden buildings and a bright light shining through a doorway. The overall tone is warm and divine.

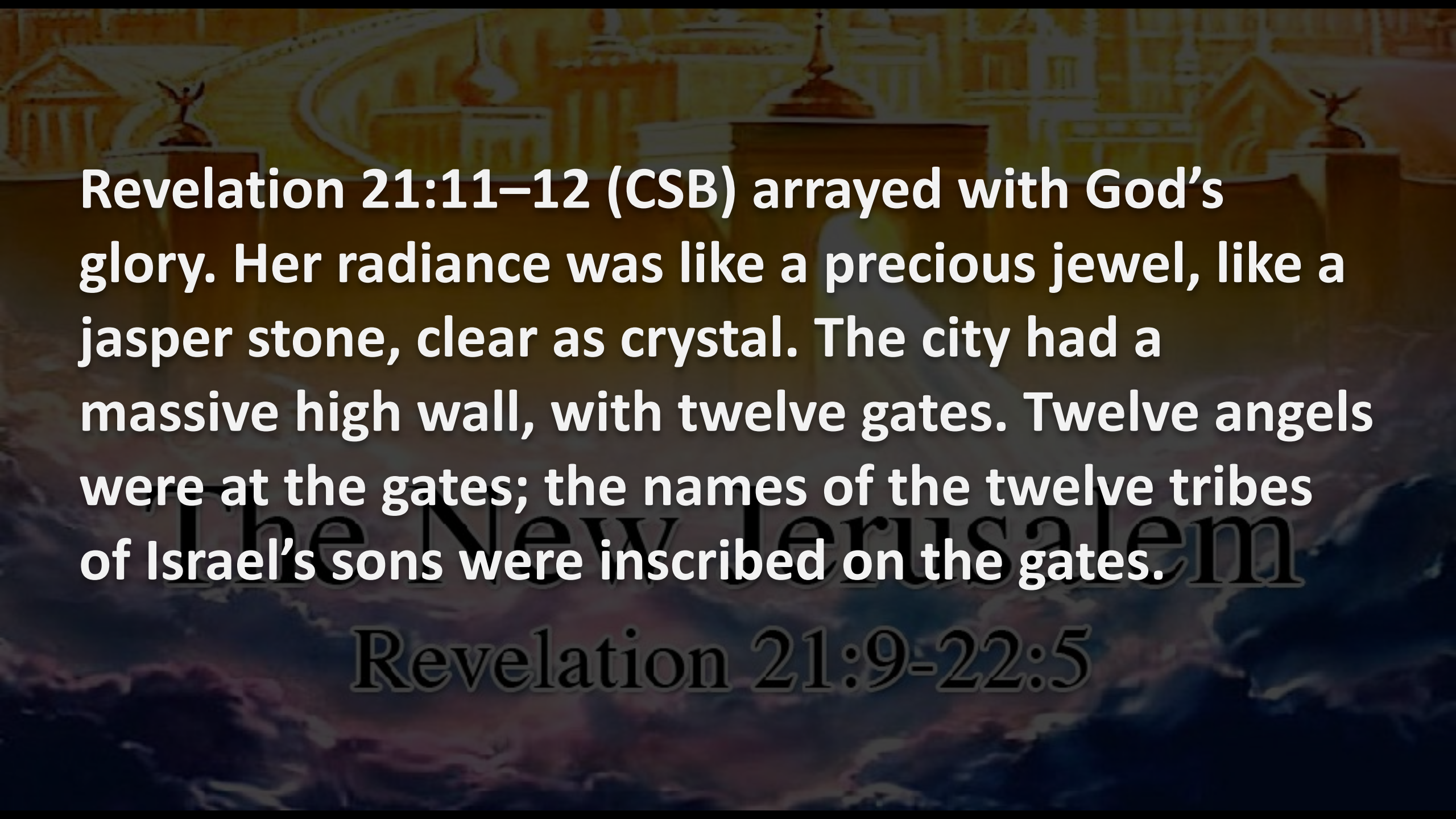
TEXT

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5

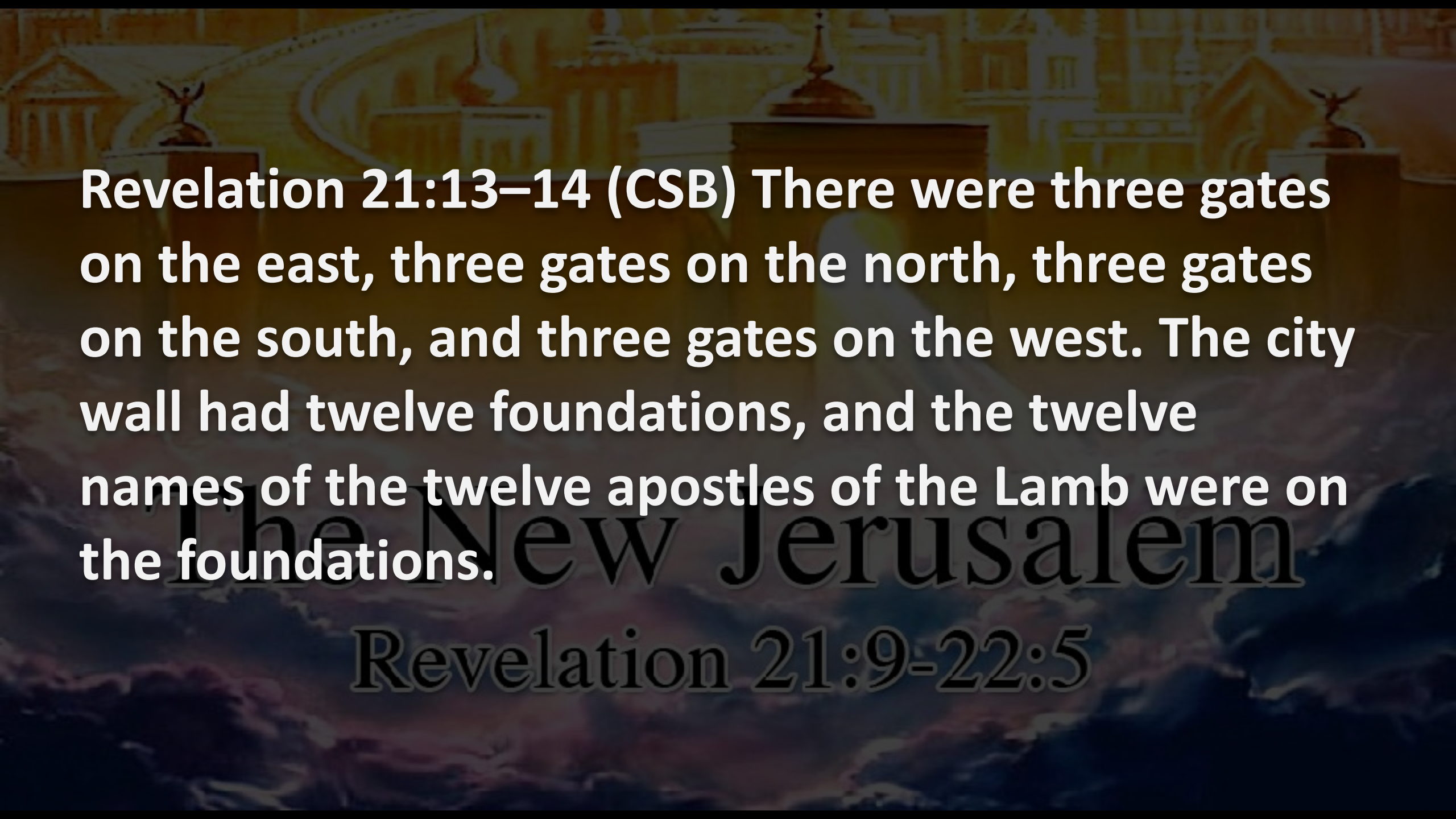
Revelation 21:9–10 (CSB) Then one of the seven angels, who had held the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues, came and spoke with me: “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” He then carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

Revelation 21:9-22:5

The background of the slide features a golden, glowing cityscape with a prominent high wall and twelve gates. The scene is set against a dark, cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on this image in a white, bold font.

Revelation 21:11–12 (CSB) arrayed with God's glory. Her radiance was like a precious jewel, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. The city had a massive high wall, with twelve gates. Twelve angels were at the gates; the names of the twelve tribes of Israel's sons were inscribed on the gates.

Revelation 21:9-22:5

The background features a golden, glowing cityscape with twelve pillars or foundations. Each pillar is topped with a golden eagle with its wings spread. The city is set against a dark, cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on this scene.

Revelation 21:13–14 (CSB) There were three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. The city wall had twelve foundations, and the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb were on the foundations.

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Revelation 21:15–16 (CSB) The one who spoke with me had a golden measuring rod to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city is laid out in a square; its length and width are the same. He measured the city with the rod at 12,000 stadia. Its length, width, and height are equal.

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Revelation 21:17–18 (CSB) Then he measured its wall, 144 cubits according to human measurement, which the angel used. The building material of its wall was jasper, and the city was pure gold clear as glass.

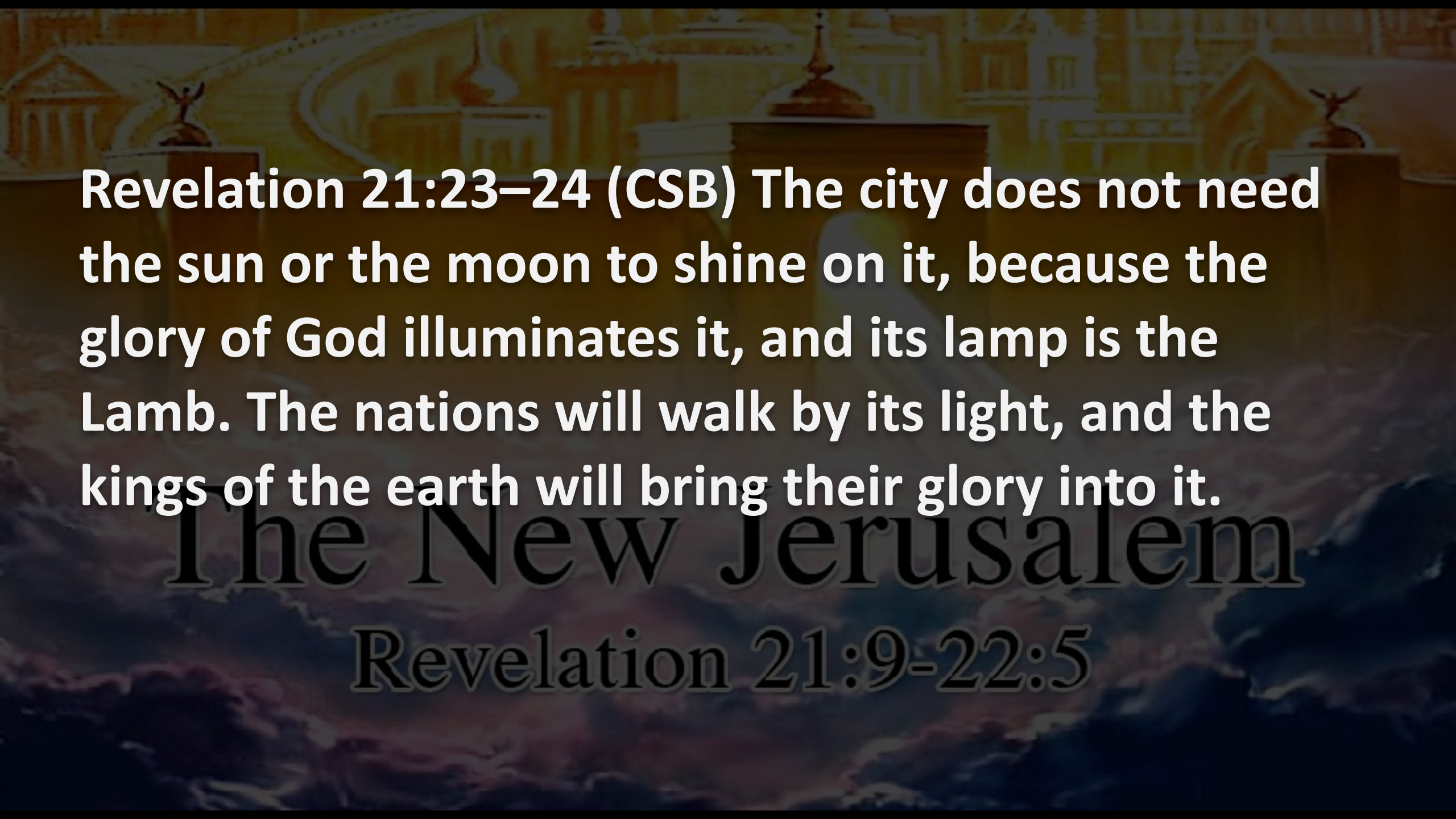
The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Revelation 21:19–20 (CSB) The foundations of the city wall were adorned with every kind of jewel: the first foundation is jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. Revelation 21:9-22:5

Revelation 21:21–22 (CSB) The twelve gates are twelve pearls; each individual gate was made of a single pearl. The main street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass. I did not see a temple in it, because the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

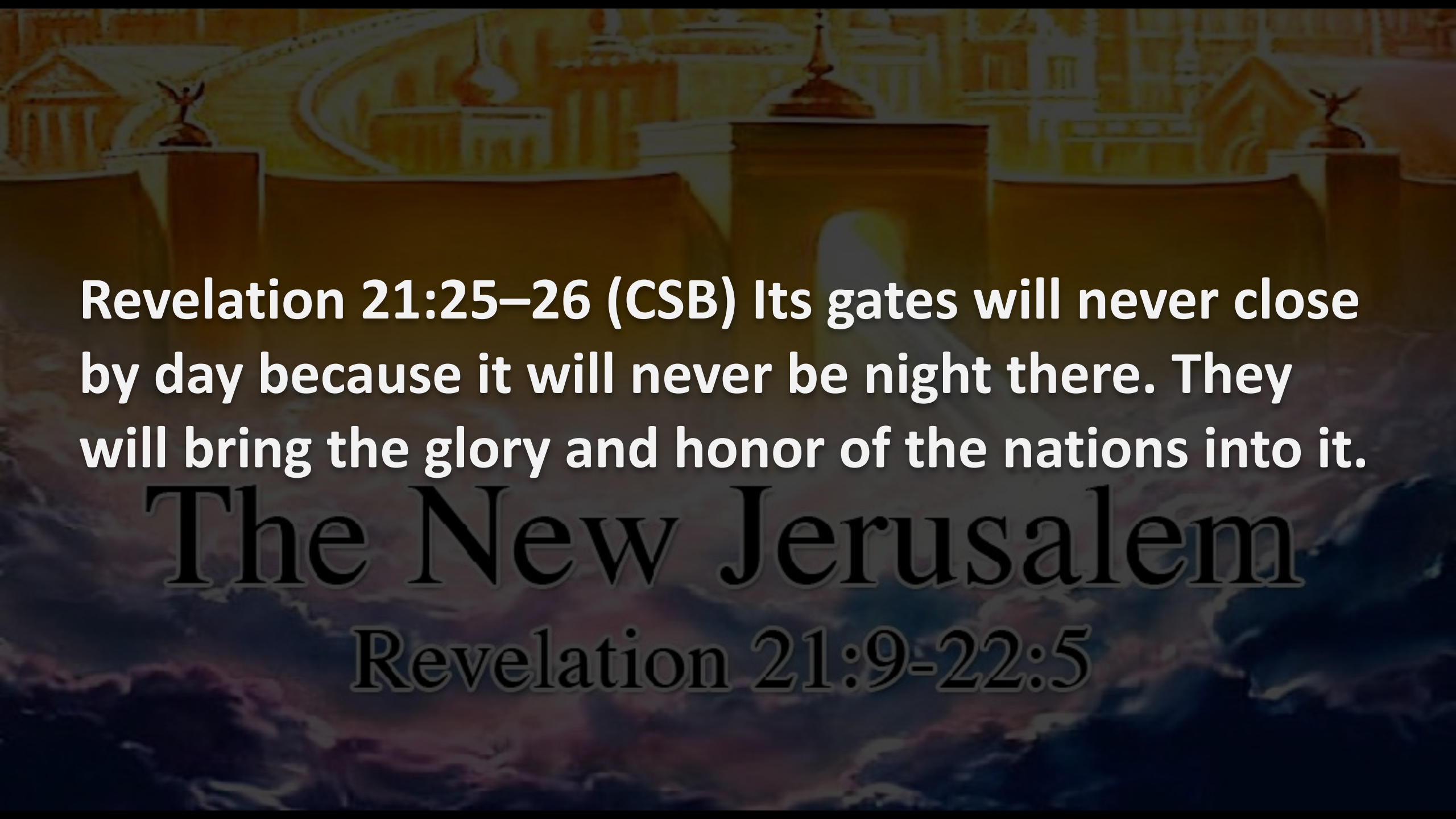
The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5



Revelation 21:23–24 (CSB) The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because the glory of God illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5



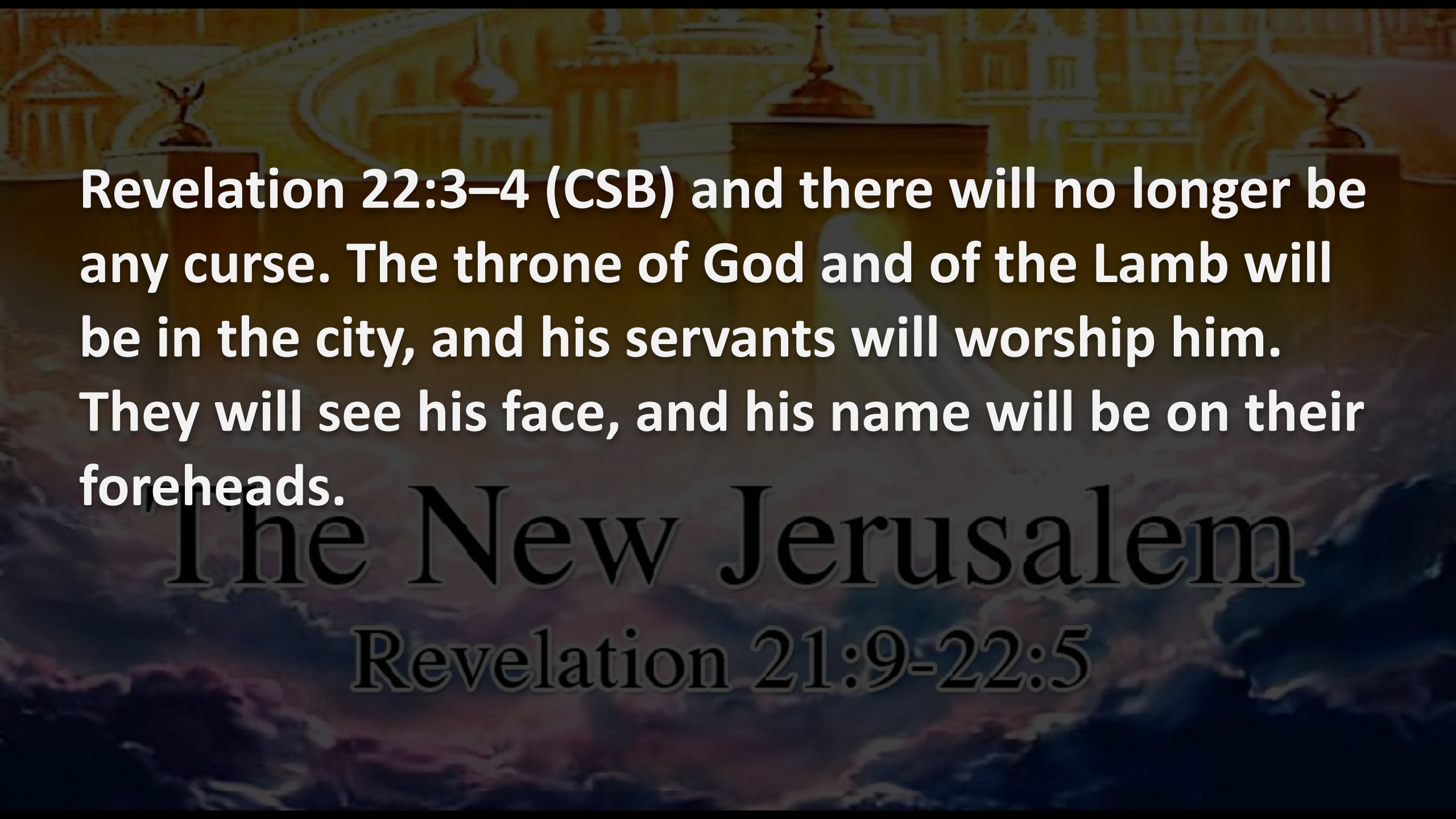
Revelation 21:25–26 (CSB) Its gates will never close by day because it will never be night there. They will bring the glory and honor of the nations into it.

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Revelation 22:1–2 (CSB) Then he showed me the river of the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the city’s main street. The tree of life was on each side of the river, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree are for healing the nations,

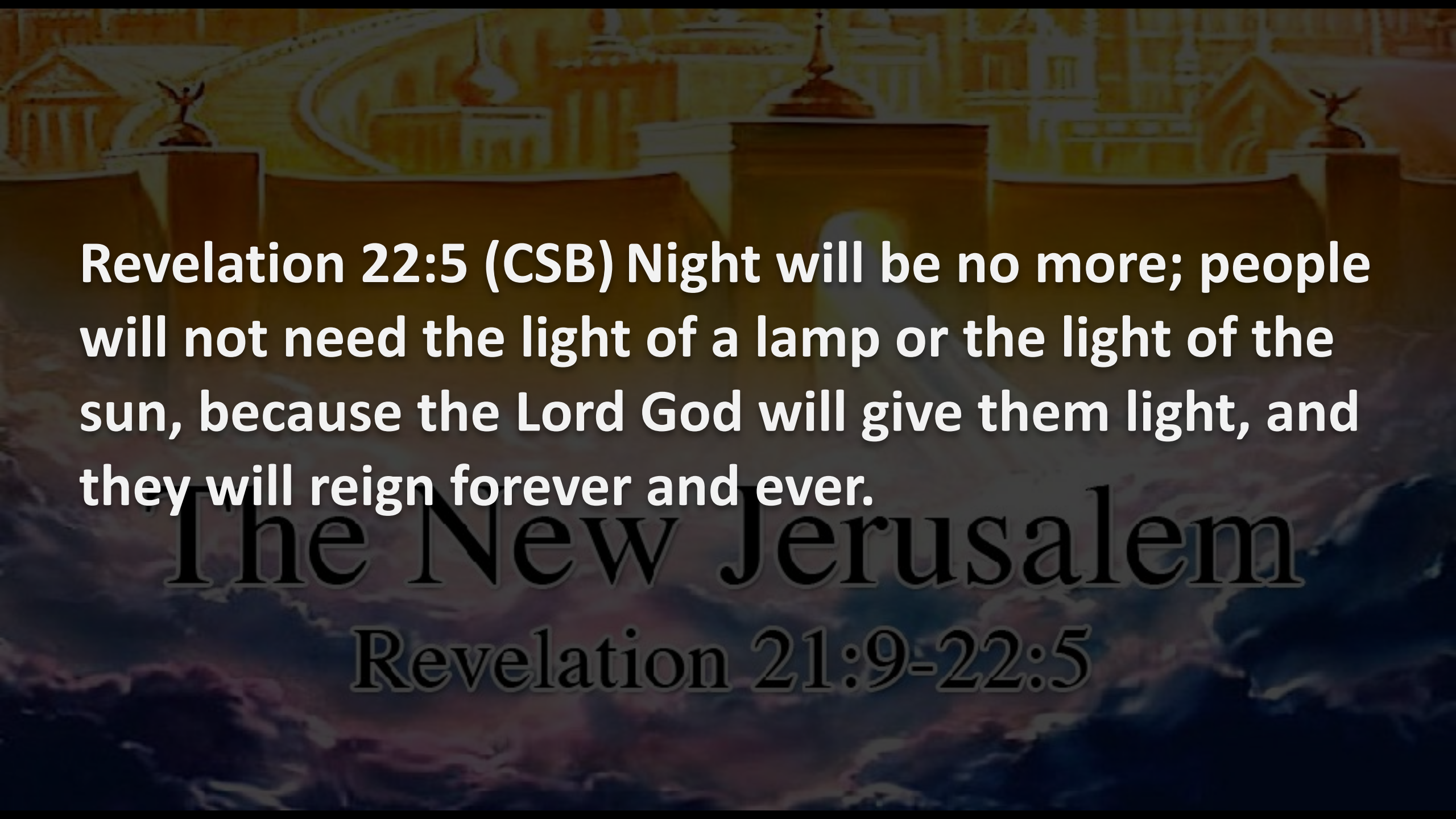
The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5



Revelation 22:3–4 (CSB) and there will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5



Revelation 22:5 (CSB) Night will be no more; people will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will give them light, and they will reign forever and ever.

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5

A golden cityscape with a bright light shining through a doorway. The scene is set against a background of golden buildings and a bright light shining through a doorway. The overall tone is warm and divine.

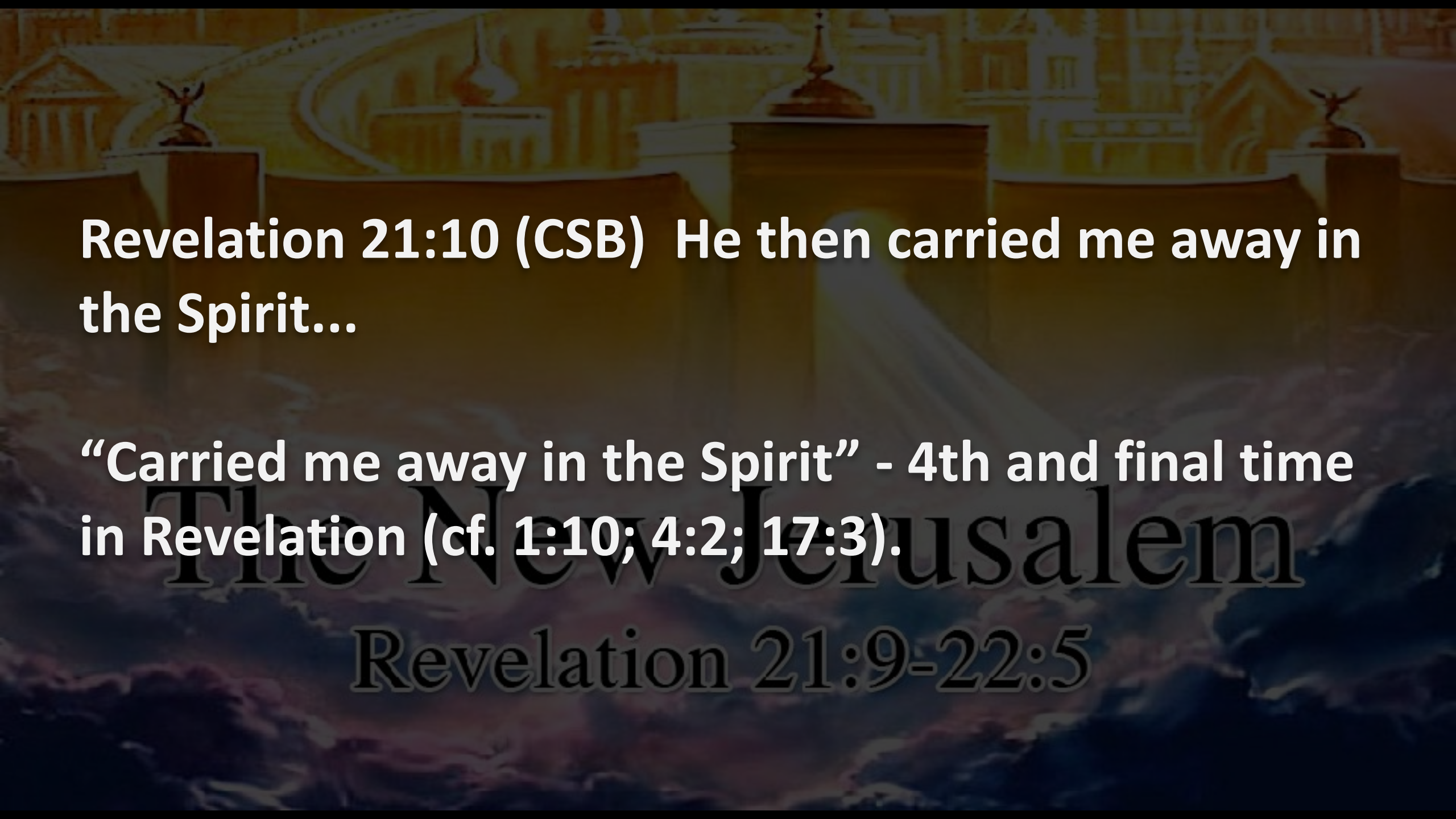
COMMENTARY

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Revelation 21:9 (CSB) Then one of the **seven angels**, who had held the seven **bowls** filled with the seven last **plagues**, came and spoke with me: “Come, I will show you the **bride**, the wife of **the Lamb**.”

7 angels, bowls, last plagues (ch. 16) - **Bride**, the Lamb's wife - the Bride is the Church, the people of God, who are identified with the city in which they live: the New Jerusalem. **The Lamb** – Christ, called the Lamb 28 times in Revelation.



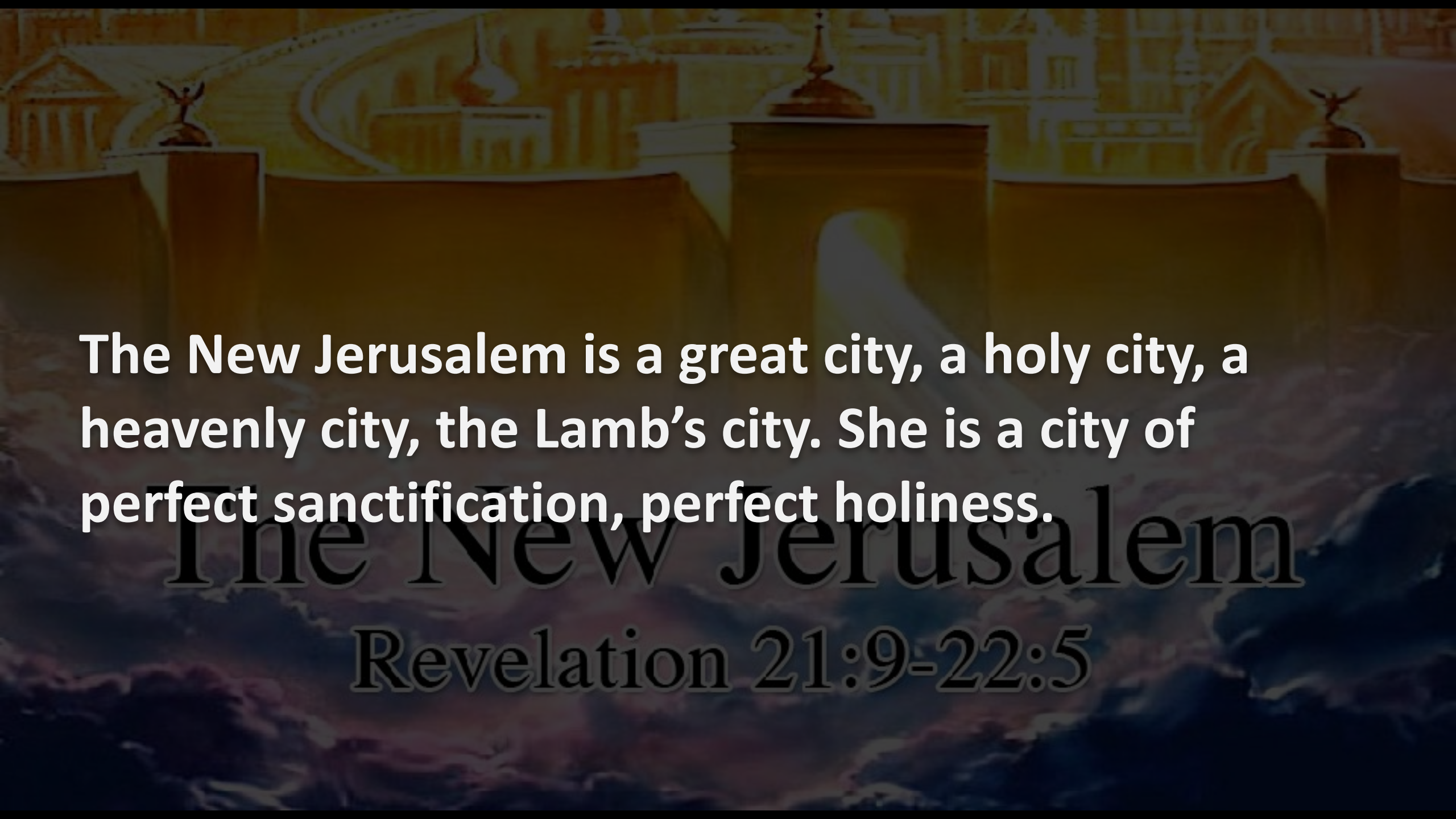
Revelation 21:10 (CSB) He then carried me away in the Spirit...

“Carried me away in the Spirit” - 4th and final time in Revelation (cf. 1:10; 4:2; 17:3).

The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5

Revelation 21:10 (CSB) ... to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

Great and high mountain (contrast with the woman, the great harlot, and the desert in 17:3). Here are 2 very different women. - Carried to a great mountain to see a great city, a holy city, coming down (cf. 21:2), see its heavenly origin.



The New Jerusalem is a great city, a holy city, a heavenly city, the Lamb's city. She is a city of perfect sanctification, perfect holiness.

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Revelation 21:11 (CSB) arrayed with God's glory. Her radiance was like a precious jewel, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

John's description is accurate but inadequate given the limitations of language. - She has the glory (doxan) of God. - Her light is indescribably beautiful (like a clear, translucent diamond).

Revelation 21:12 (CSB) The city had a massive high wall, with twelve gates. Twelve angels were at the gates; the names of the twelve tribes of Israel's sons were inscribed on the gates.

Here is the "massive high wall," symbolic of stability and security. - 12 gates, 12 angels, 12 tribes of Israel.

The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5

Revelation 21:12 (CSB) The city had a massive high wall, with **twelve gates**. **Twelve angels** were at the gates; the names of the **twelve tribes** of Israel's sons were inscribed on the gates.

***12 gates** – abundant access from any and every direction (v. 13)

***12 angels** – “honor guards!” *names written – permanence, identification

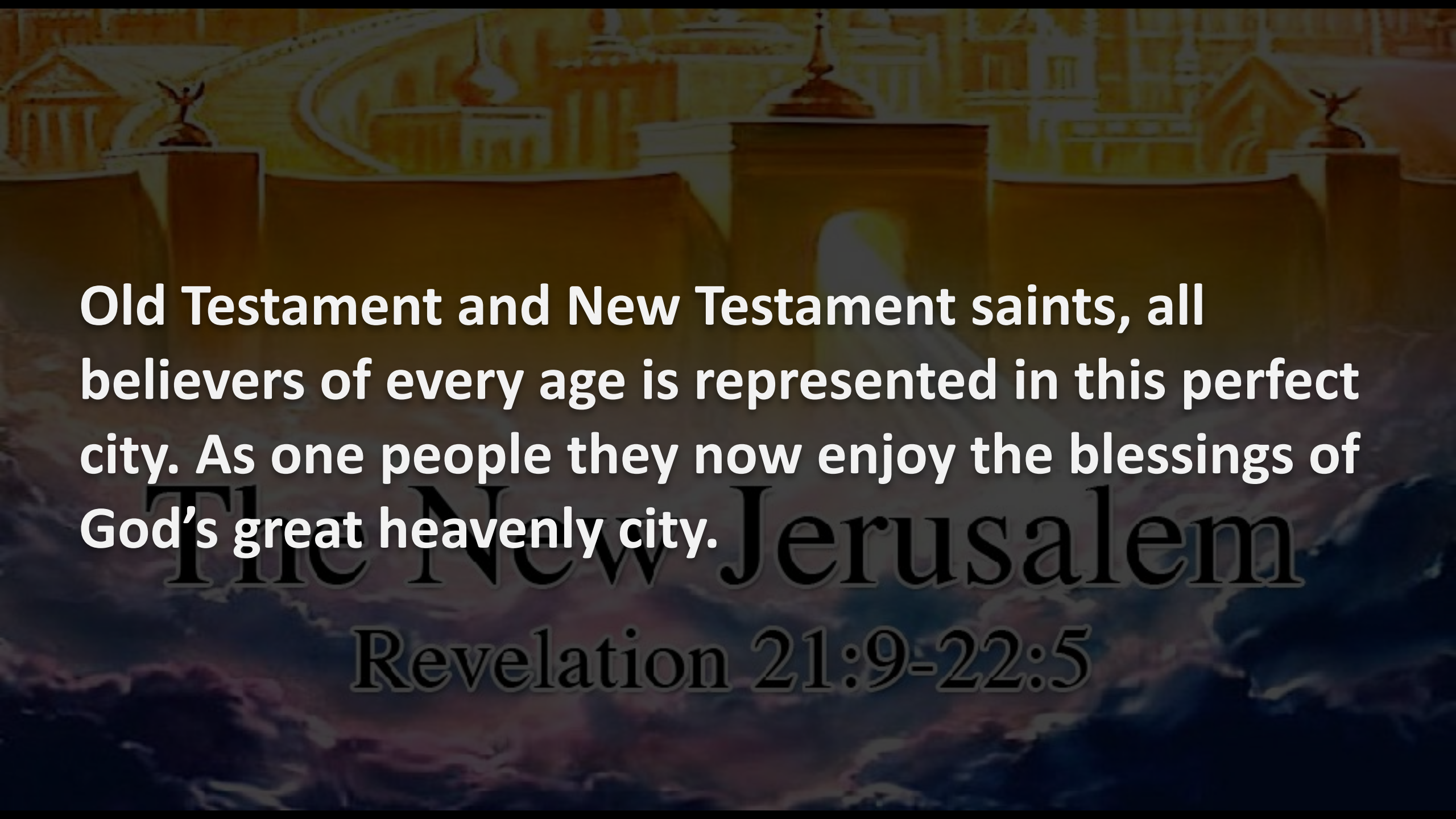
***12 tribes** – God keeps His Word in covenant faithfulness to Israel.

Revelation 21:13 (CSB) There were three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

All of this is reminiscent of the 12 tribes encamped around the tabernacle in the wilderness (Num. 2) and of the tribal arrangement around the millennial temple (Ezk. 48).

Revelation 21:14 (CSB) The city wall had twelve foundations, and the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb were on the foundations.

Foundation stones contain the names of the 12 apostles and testify to God's covenant faithfulness to the Church of which the apostles are the foundation (Eph. 2:20).



Old Testament and New Testament saints, all believers of every age is represented in this perfect city. As one people they now enjoy the blessings of God's great heavenly city.

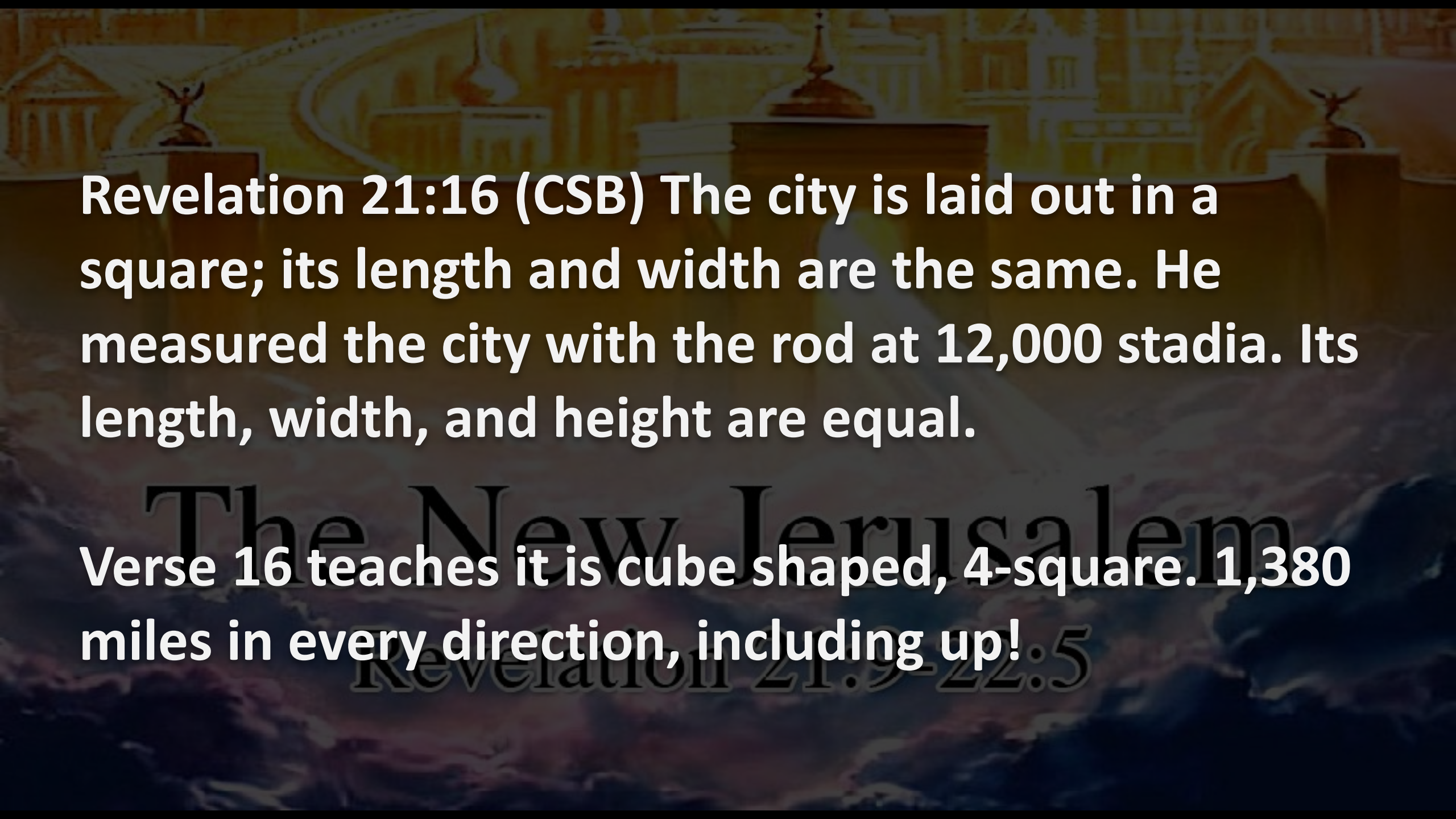
The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Revelation 21:15 (CSB) The one who spoke with me had a **golden measuring rod** to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.

Gold rod – to measure this priceless city (cf. 11:1; signifying it belongs to God), its gates, its walls. All of it is the Lord's.

The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5



Revelation 21:16 (CSB) The city is laid out in a square; its length and width are the same. He measured the city with the rod at 12,000 stadia. Its length, width, and height are equal.

Verse 16 teaches it is cube shaped, 4-square. 1,380 miles in every direction, including up!

Revelation 21:9-22:5

1,500 miles per side







The New Jerusalem is cube shaped, having sides of 1,500 miles each.



1,500
miles tall



2,537,716,544 Cubic Miles
The New Jerusalem is **HUGE!**

Revelation 21:17 (CSB) Then he measured its wall, 144 cubits according to human measurement, which the angel used.

Verse 17 teaches the thickness of the wall at 72 yards or 216 feet. - Verses 18-20 describe the inexpressible value of the city's materials (note each foundation is adorned with a different stone).

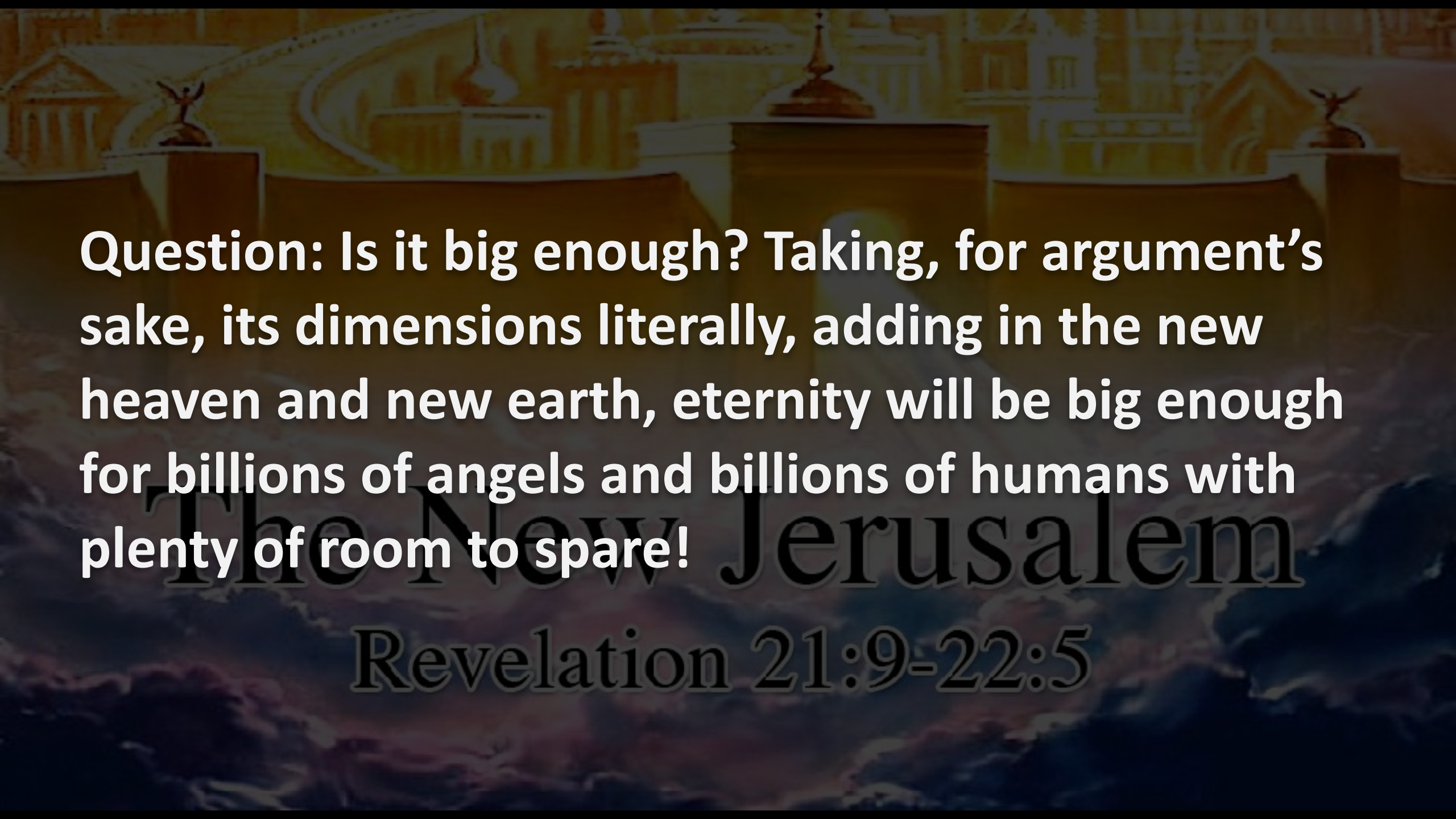
Revelation 21:18–20 (CSB) The building material of its wall was jasper, and the city was pure gold clear as glass. The foundations of the city wall were adorned with every kind of jewel: the first foundation is jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

Revelation 21:21 (CSB) The twelve gates are twelve pearls; each individual gate was made of a single pearl. The main street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.

Verse 21 says each gate was a single pearl 1400 miles high! The street of the city is pure, translucent gold! Pearls were costly. They are created from a wound to living flesh! Is there a hint of redemption here?

Question: Is this description to be taken literally?
Answer: The description is more than literal not less than literal. It is what John describes and more. - Perfect cube harkens to the dimensions of the Holy of Holies. - Dimensions and materials speak of perfection and splendor, beauty and magnificence, holiness and absolute purity.

The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21.9-22.5



Question: Is it big enough? Taking, for argument's sake, its dimensions literally, adding in the new heaven and new earth, eternity will be big enough for billions of angels and billions of humans with plenty of room to spare!

The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5

Revelation 21:22 (CSB) I did not see a temple in it, because the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

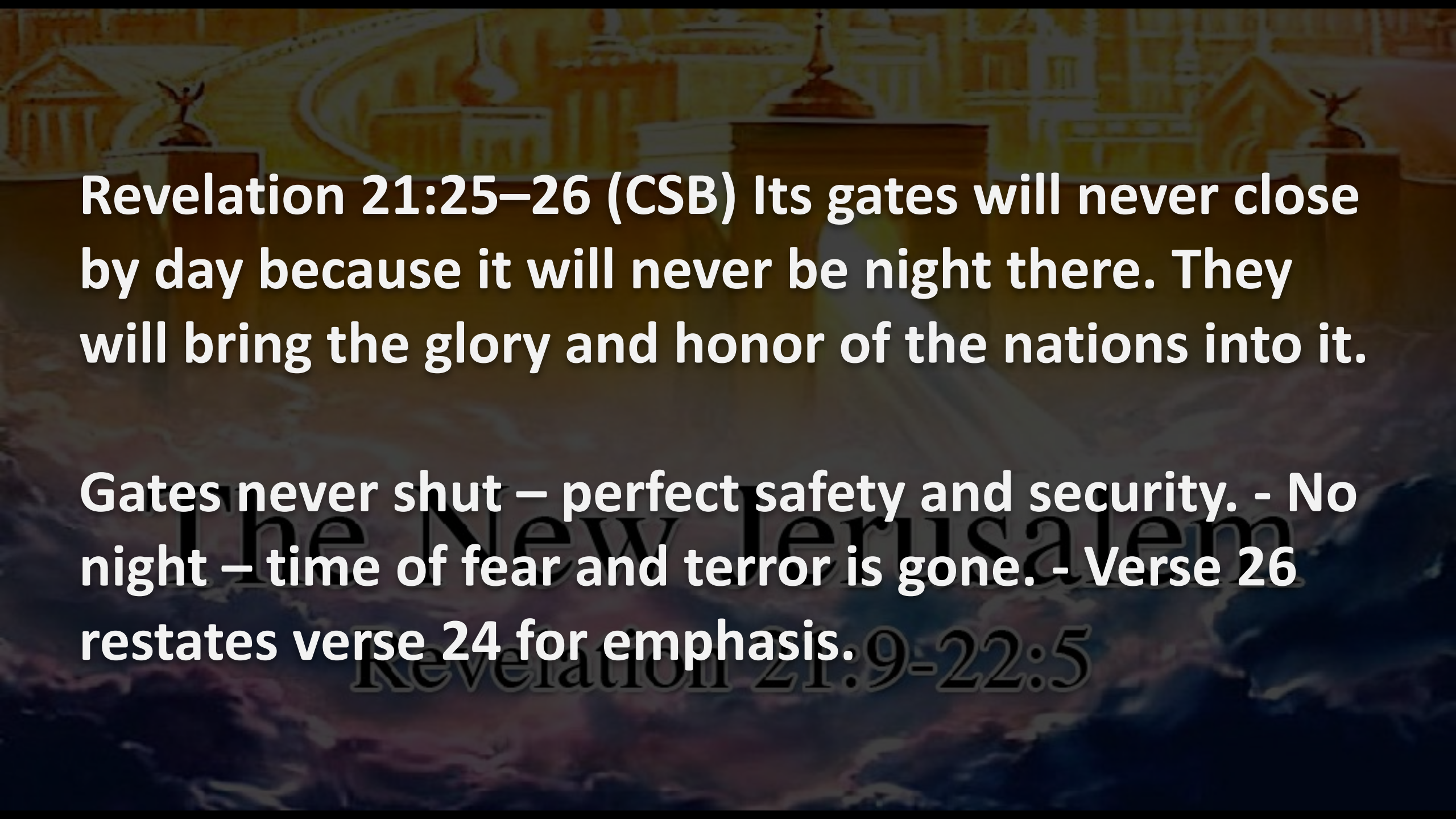
No temple is not a contradiction with 7:15; 11:19; 14:15, 17; 15:5-8; 16:1, 17, for there is now a new temple: the Lord and the Lamb are its temple! Symbol gives way to reality. The temple represented God's presence, believers now have His presence!

Revelation 21:23 (CSB) The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because the glory of God illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

No need (does not say they are not there) of the sun or moon to shine, for God's glory illuminates it, and the Lamb, who is the "Light of the World" (John 8:12) is its lamp (light).

Revelation 21:24 (CSB) The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

Nations (ethes), peoples, will “walk about” in it, where the greatest on earth, shall bring their glory and honor here, into it. All the redeemed from every people group will come here, worship here, give glory and honor here!



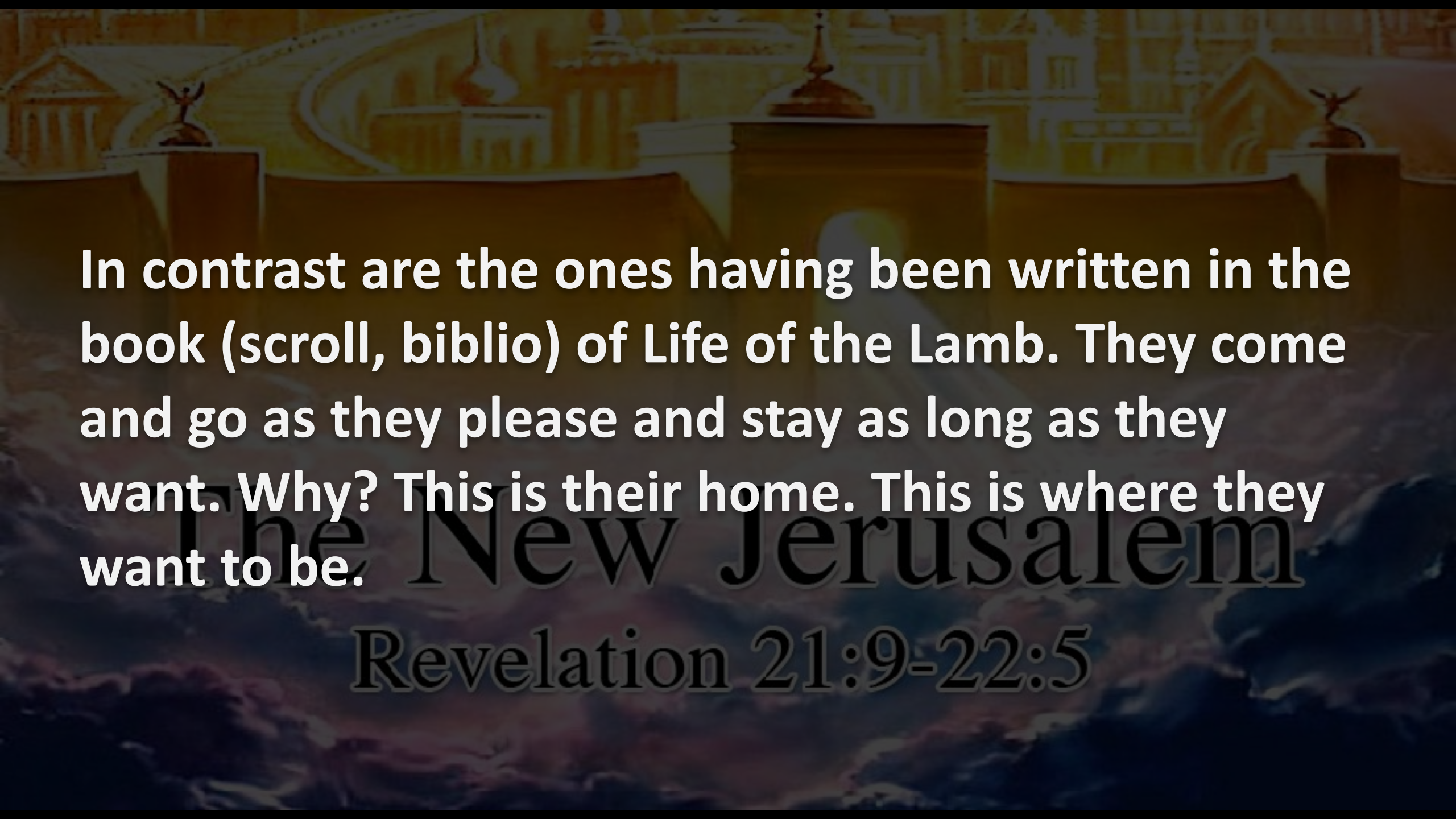
Revelation 21:25–26 (CSB) Its gates will never close by day because it will never be night there. They will bring the glory and honor of the nations into it.

Gates never shut – perfect safety and security. - No night – time of fear and terror is gone. - Verse 26 restates verse 24 for emphasis.

Revelation 21:9-22:5

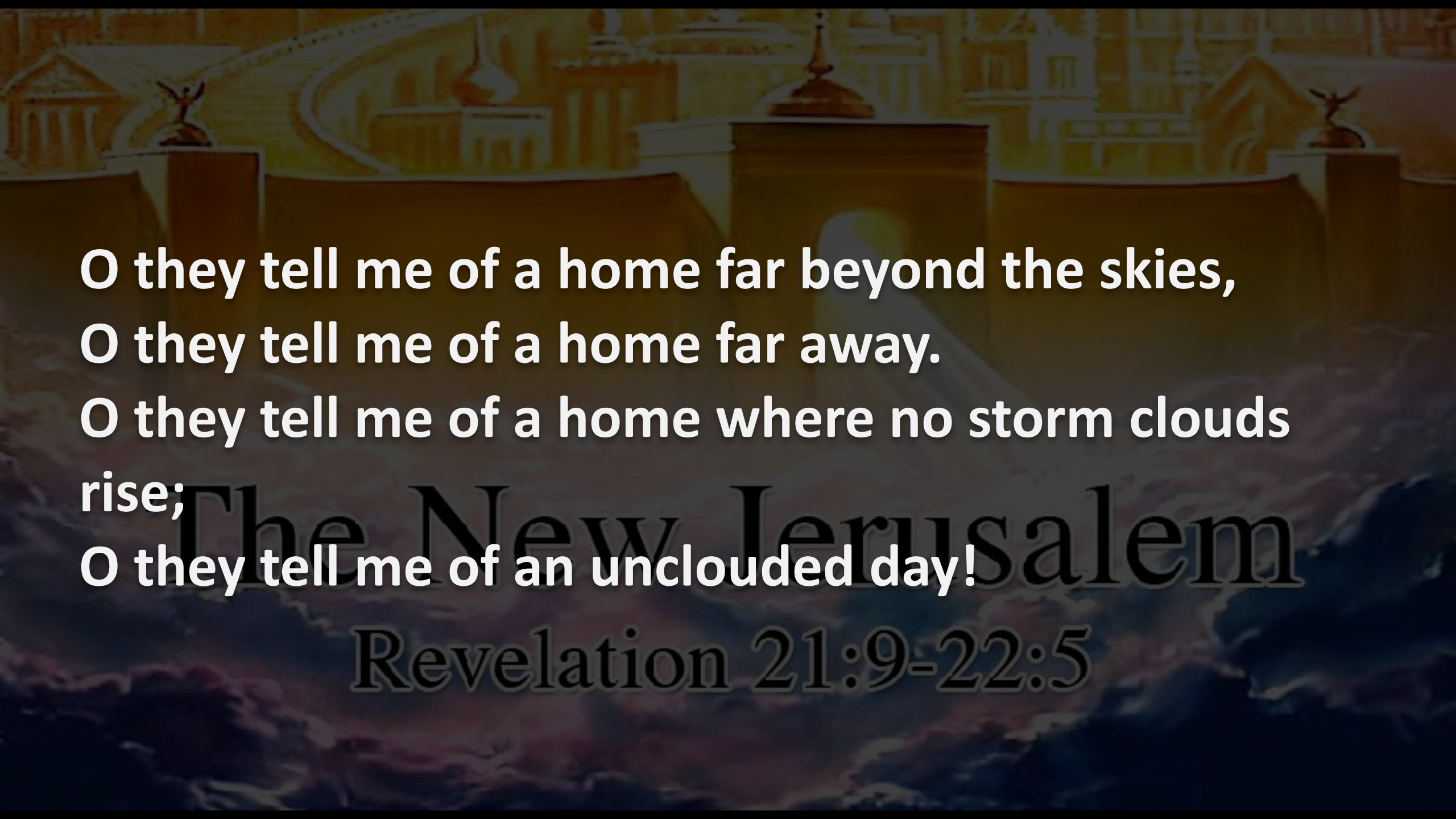
Revelation 21:27 (CSB) Nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those written in the Lamb's book of life.

"Nothing" is a double negative, "no not" will enter anything that defiles (profane, unclean, impure), or makes an abomination (NIV, shameful) or a lie (NIV, deceitful) recalls 21:8. All these and those like them are excluded from the holy city.



In contrast are the ones having been written in the book (scroll, biblio) of Life of the Lamb. They come and go as they please and stay as long as they want. Why? This is their home. This is where they want to be.

The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5



O they tell me of a home far beyond the skies,
O they tell me of a home far away.

O they tell me of a home where no storm clouds
rise;

O they tell me of an unclouded day!

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Revelation 22:1 (CSB) Then he showed me the **river of the water of life**, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb

River of Life – symbolic of eternal life (cf. Ezk. 47:1-12), it is “an eternal life giving stream” clear as crystal whose source is the Lord and the Lamb. No more death.

The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5

Revelation 22:2 (CSB) down the middle of the city's main street. The tree of life was on each side of the river, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree are for healing the nations,

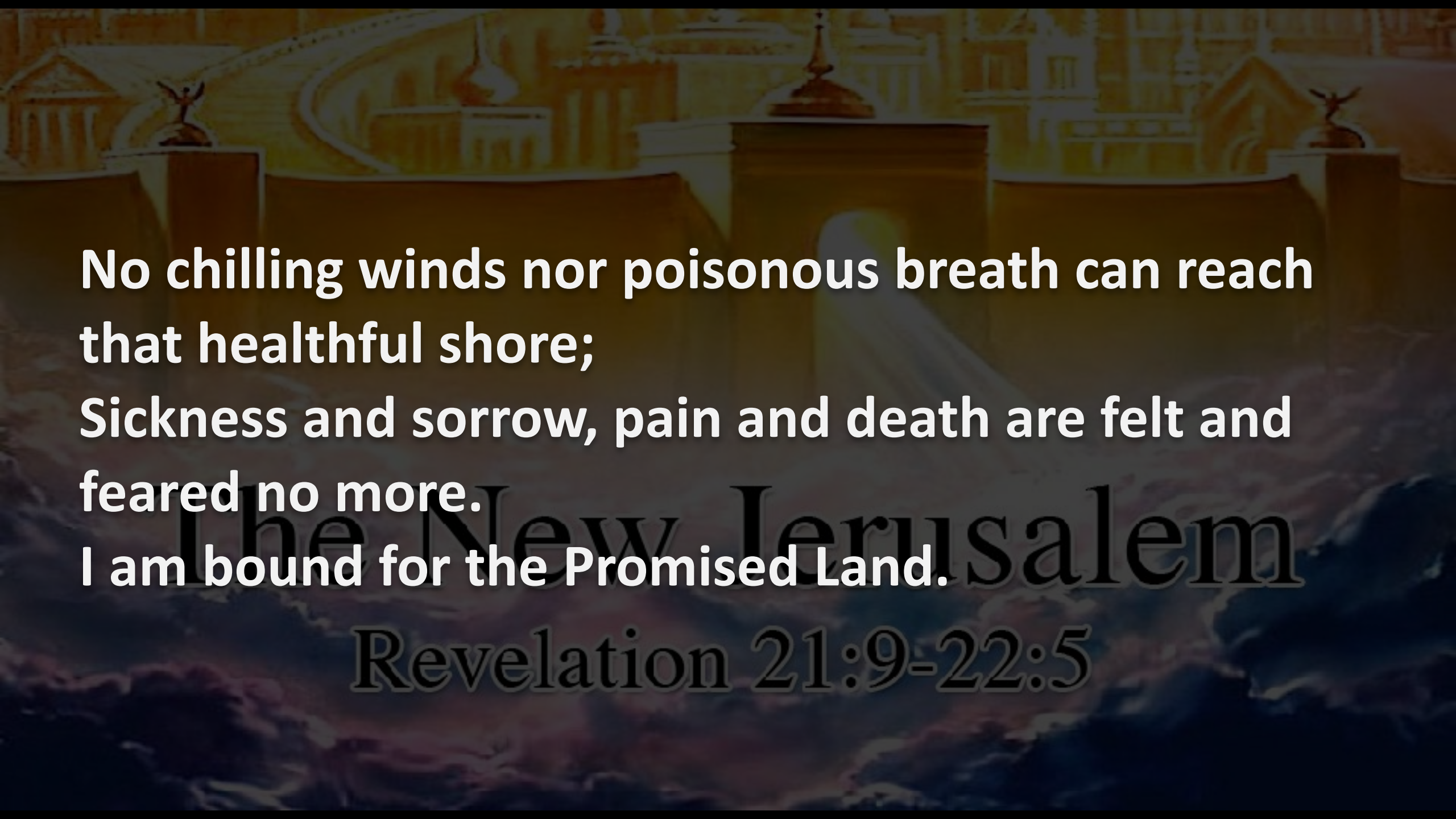
The New Jerusalem
Tree of Life – heavenly counterpart to the tree of life in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:9; 3:22-24).

Does the river flow under and through the tree?! It likewise pictures eternal life, but also abundant life with its plentiful fruit reproducing every single month. Further the “leaves for the healing of the nations” symbolizes the absolute absence of physical and spiritual disease. Life here is eternal, abundant and whole. It is celebrative, joyful and satisfying. Revelation 21:9-22:5

Revelation 22:3 (CSB) and there will **no** longer be any **curse**. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship him.

No curse – Gen. 3 is reversed and undone forever (cf. 21:4). Sin, Satan, sickness, suffering are forever gone!

Revelation 21:9-22:5



**No chilling winds nor poisonous breath can reach
that healthful shore;**

**Sickness and sorrow, pain and death are felt and
feared no more.**

I am bound for the Promised Land.

Revelation 21:9-22:5

The background features a golden, glowing cityscape with various architectural structures, including domes and spires. In the foreground, a white, ethereal figure is visible, possibly representing a person or a spirit. The overall scene is set against a dark, swirling, blue and purple background, suggesting a celestial or otherworldly environment.

What is our response to all of this?

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Revelation 22:3–4 (CSB) ...and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

1. His servants (slaves, douloi) shall worship (latreuo) or serve Him. Heaven is not eternal boredom, sitting on a cloud, strumming a harp. We will not be idle, bored or disappointed. We will serve Him. To be a heavenly street sweeper or janitor...that would be enough for me!

Revelation 22:4 (CSB) They will **see his face**, and **his name will be on their foreheads**.

2. We will see the Lord. 22:4 - **See His face** – perfect fellowship - **Bear His name** – perfect relationship

When, by the gift of His infinite grace, I am accorded in Heaven a place, Just to be there and look on His face, will for eternity be enough for me.

Revelation 22:5 (CSB) Night will be no more; people will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will give them light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Since night has been banished (cf. 21:25), God's servants will bask in light from the God of radiant glory and truth, who dwells in "unapproachable light" (1 Tim. 6:16; Rev. 21:23–24).



Revelation 22:5 (CSB) ...and they will reign forever and ever.

**In union with Jesus their king, believers will not only worship as priests but also reign as kings over the new earth forever and ever (5:10).
(The ESV Study Bible)**

Revelation 21:9-22:5



MODERN APPLICATIONS

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5

1. Because of God's great love for us, he is preparing a great future for us. Marriage was chosen to describe life in the presence of God because a strong marriage is perhaps the best picture of a deep love relationship (Eph. 5:25–33). Jesus told his disciples the night before he was crucified that he was going away to prepare a place for them.

The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5

He continued, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am” (John 14:3).

These are the words of a bridegroom to his bride.

God has planned a beautiful, glorious future for us because he loves us and wants to be with us.

People crave a mental and emotional vision of what God has in store to sustain them through difficult times, and it needs to be a vision rooted in God’s faithful and perfect love.

2. We can only begin to understand the depth of God's love for us (and the future he has planned) by reflecting upon the godly love relationships we share with other people now, such as a strong **marriage relationship**. But even when these relationships are at their absolute best, they are merely a drop in the ocean of God's love.

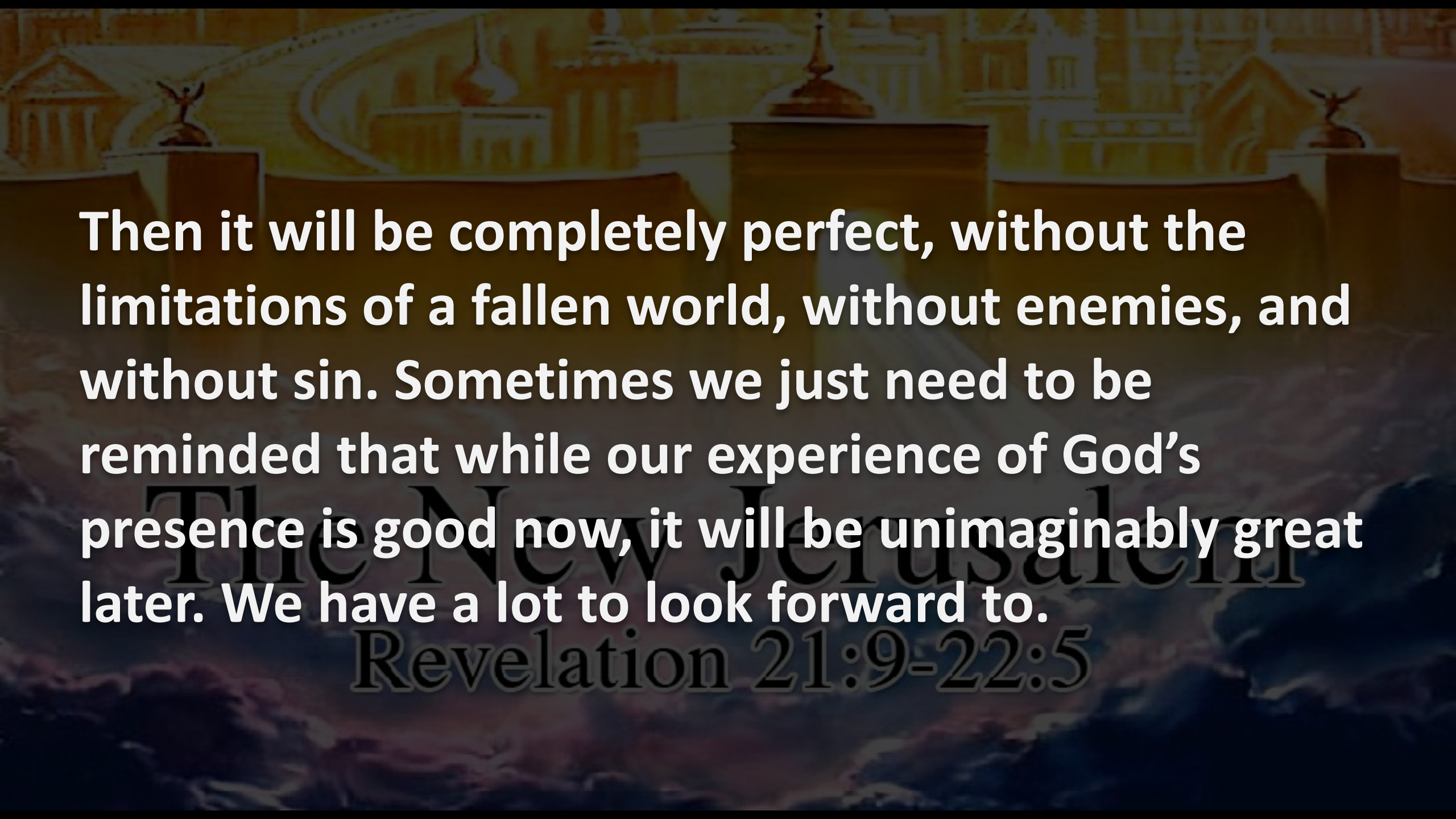
The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5

The heavenly city is spectacularly beautiful because of God's glorious presence. We sometimes hear people talk about God's glory like it is a detachable substance, a mere theological attribute that can be disconnected from God himself. At times, people even seem to worship God's glory above God. But as noted earlier, God's glory is a way of describing God's presence.

The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5

In the new Jerusalem, we become God's temple—the very place where God lives—and the result is beautiful and glorious beyond description. Brilliance language dominates this passage because it's straining to convey the awesome, majestic, glorious presence of God. If God's presence with his people is his ultimate goal, we should begin to enjoy God's presence now like it matters most, especially through prayer, worship, and community.

3. In the eternal city, we will not only live in God's presence; we will also live without anything that will threaten or hinder our experience of his presence. There will be no temple, no sun or moon, no closed gates, no night, and nothing impure, shameful, or deceitful. Our experience of God's presence is limited now by many things (1 Cor. 13:12: "Now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face").



Then it will be completely perfect, without the limitations of a fallen world, without enemies, and without sin. Sometimes we just need to be reminded that while our experience of God's presence is good now, it will be unimaginably great later. We have a lot to look forward to.

Revelation 21:9-22:5

4. God is on a mission to redeem people from every tribe, language, people, and nation. Some have interpreted this passage in an overly literalistic way and concluded that all the nations will be converted. But images throughout the book must not be pressed in this manner. The wicked have already been destroyed (19:18–21; 20:8–10, 13–15). This passage does not teach universalism, as verse 27 makes clear.

What it does teach is that the nations have either been condemned or given citizenship in the new Jerusalem, depending on the witness of the church and the nations' response to God's offer of salvation. God longs for and celebrates ethnic diversity among his people. He created and loves all peoples. Sadly, the church in many places remains remarkably homogenous. A multicultural church by its very nature proclaims the liberating gospel of Christ and offers the world a window into heaven.

5. Those who practice immorality and deception will not be allowed to enter the eternal city. This text warns us to follow Christ in what we say and how we live. The whole city will be God's temple with no more division between the sacred and the secular; all will be sacred space. And the citizens will be wholehearted worshipers of God and the Lamb.

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Immorality and deception are specifically named as sins that will prevent one from entering the new Jerusalem. This passage calls for God's people to inspect their lives carefully for patterns of sin and challenges them to make radical choices about avoiding sin and following the Spirit. After listing the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:19–21, Paul warns, "those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal. 5:21).

That is exactly John's message here. While holiness may not be fashionable in some circles today, Revelation (and the entire Bible) repeatedly tells us to turn away from sin and to encourage others to do the same (e.g., 20:15; 21:8, 27; 22:15). Overcoming involves holiness!

Revelation 21:9-22:5

6. God is the only power source needed in the eternal city. In other words, God is the source of all life. When we think of botanical gardens, we think of life. We imagine rivers and trees and flowers and all types of vegetation pulsing with life. Since all life comes from God, should we not look to him now to provide life?

Revelation 21:9-22:5

How often do we seek life apart from God—in God’s blessings such as friends or possessions or, moving in the opposite direction, in sinful habits? Ironically, our unrighteous adventures are often attempts to satisfy a desire that God has legitimately provided. May we stop being deceived and seek the Lord, who is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).

The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5

7. We will not be bored or unemployed in the new creation. The notion that heaven will be an eternally exhausting church service or even a never-ending vacation doesn't fit with the text. Just as Adam and Eve were entrusted with ruling in the original garden (Gen. 1:26, 28), so God's people will also bear the responsibility of reigning with him in the eternal garden city. Our relationship with God will involve doing something productive under God's guidance and for his glory.

What began in the millennium (see 20:4–6) now continues throughout eternity. We will not be bored or lazy or lack opportunities to serve. Heaven is not the absence of responsibility and work; it is the fulfillment of and completion of such things. We will do meaningful work forevermore. And we humans will do it right this time around.

Revelation 21:9-22:5

8. Life in God's presence will mean all healing and no curse. All of us have been devastated by the death of a loved one, many of us have dealt with a life-threatening illness, and some of us have experienced poverty. To survive such enemies now, we need hope—hope that we are coming closer to a time and a place when we will only know complete physical and spiritual healing.

This will accompany the full and unhindered presence of God. And don't miss the point: the presence of healing is one thing, but the absence of curse is another thing altogether. In his presence there will be no more deprivation, disease, or death. God's Shekinah presence will shelter his people so that all we will know is security, provision, peace, and sheer joy. No wonder worship will come naturally in the transformed paradise.

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5



OLD TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Revelation 21:10

He then carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

Ezekiel 40:2

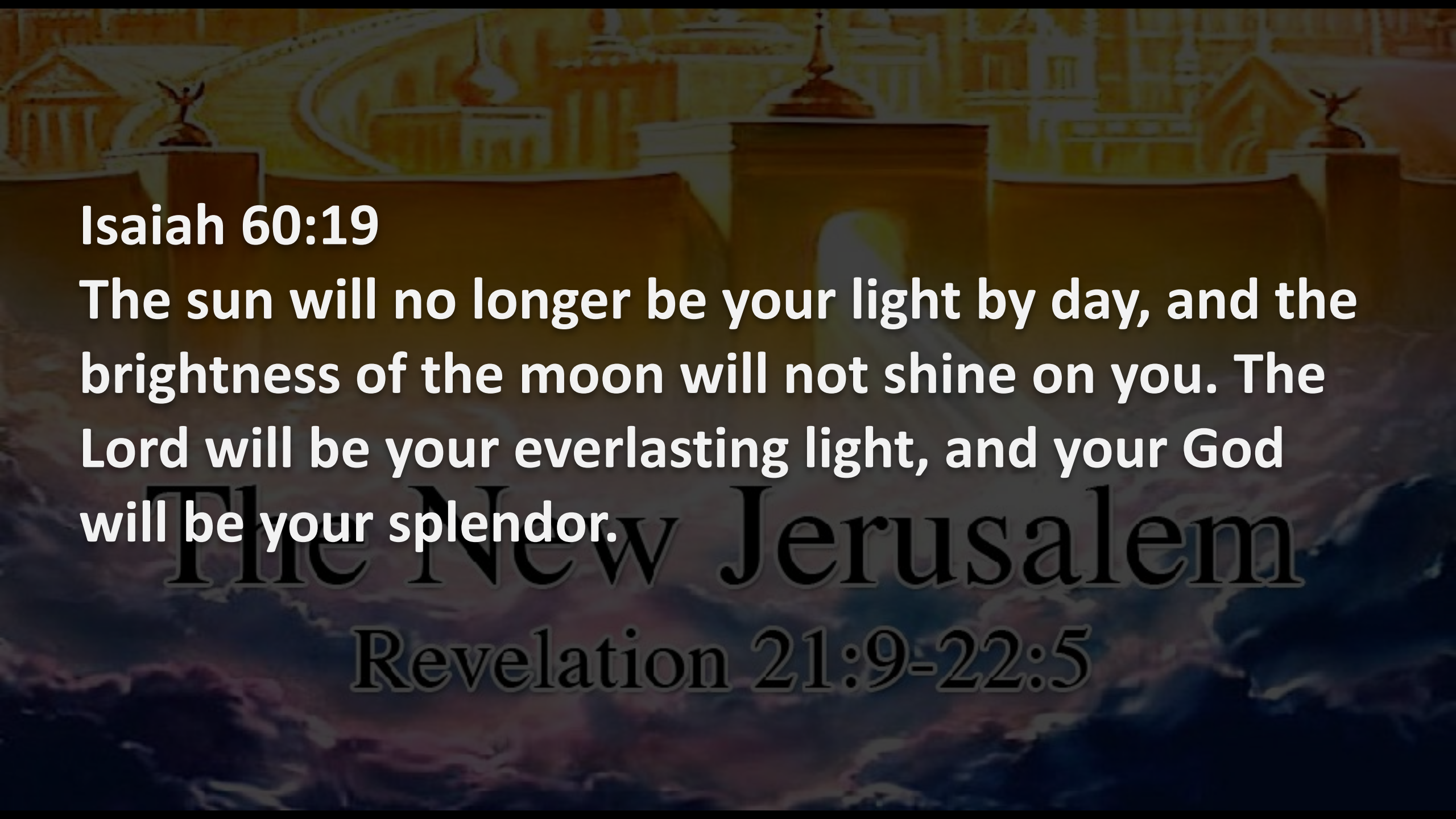
In visions of God he took me to the land of Israel and set me down on a very high mountain. On its southern slope was a structure resembling a city.

Revelation 21:11

arrayed with God's glory. Her radiance was like a precious jewel, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

Isaiah 60:1–2

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord shines over you. 2 For look, darkness will cover the earth, and total darkness the peoples; but the Lord will shine over you, and his glory will appear over you.



Isaiah 60:19

The sun will no longer be your light by day, and the brightness of the moon will not shine on you. The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your splendor.

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Revelation 21:12–13 The city had a massive high wall, with twelve gates. Twelve angels were at the gates; the names of the twelve tribes of Israel's sons were inscribed on the gates. 13 There were three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

Exodus 28:21 The twelve stones are to correspond to the names of Israel's sons. Each stone must be engraved like a seal, with one of the names of the twelve tribes.

Ezekiel 48:30–32 (CSB) “These are the exits of the city: On the north side, which measures 1½ miles, there will be three gates facing north, the gates of the city being named for the tribes of Israel: one, the gate of Reuben; one, the gate of Judah; and one, the gate of Levi. On the east side, which is 1½ miles, there will be three gates: one, the gate of Joseph; one, the gate of Benjamin; and one, the gate of Dan.

Ezekiel 48:33–35 (CSB) On the south side, which measures 1½ miles, there will be three gates: one, the gate of Simeon; one, the gate of Issachar; and one, the gate of Zebulun. On the west side, which is 1½ miles, there will be three gates: one, the gate of Gad; one, the gate of Asher; and one, the gate of Naphtali. The perimeter of the city will be six miles, and the name of the city from that day on will be The Lord Is There.”

Revelation 21:15

The one who spoke with me had a golden measuring rod to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.

Ezekiel 40:3

He brought me there, and I saw a man whose appearance was like bronze, with a linen cord and a measuring rod in his hand. He was standing by the city gate.

Ezekiel 40:5 (CSB) Now there was a wall surrounding the outside of the temple. The measuring rod in the man's hand was six units of twenty-one inches; each unit was the standard length plus three inches. He measured the thickness of the wall structure; it was 10½ feet, and its height was the same.

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Revelation 21:19 The foundations of the city wall were adorned with every kind of jewel: the first foundation is jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald,

Isaiah 54:11–12 “Poor Jerusalem, storm-tossed, and not comforted, I will set your stones in black mortar, and lay your foundations in lapis lazuli. I will make your fortifications out of rubies, your gates out of sparkling stones, and all your walls out of precious stones.

Revelation 21:23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because the glory of God illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

Isaiah 60:19–20 The sun will no longer be your light by day, and the brightness of the moon will not shine on you. The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your splendor. **20**Your sun will no longer set, and your moon will not fade; for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and the days of your sorrow will be over.

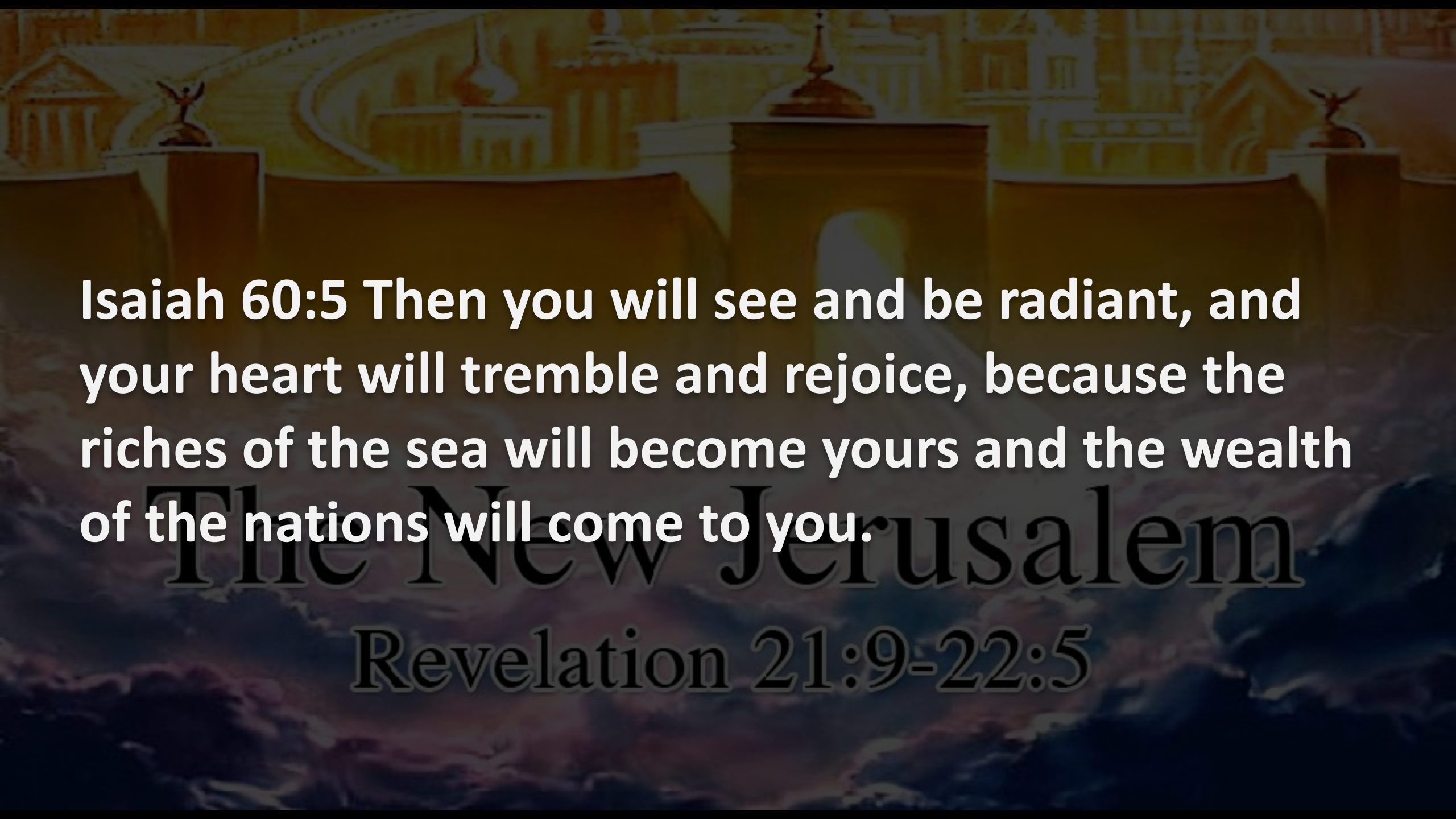
Revelation 21:24

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

Isaiah 60:3

Nations will come to your light, and kings to your shining brightness.

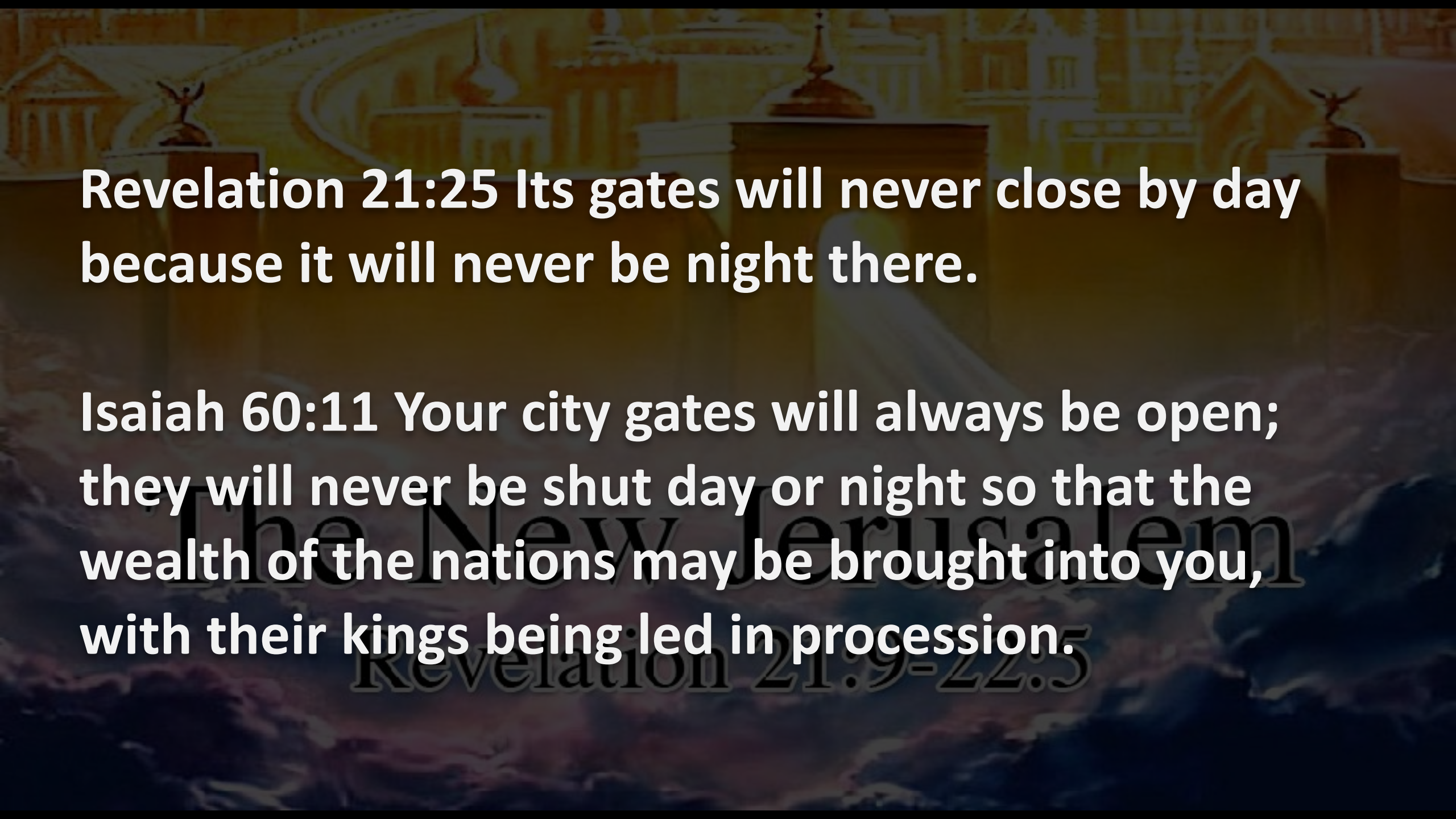
The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5



Isaiah 60:5 Then you will see and be radiant, and your heart will tremble and rejoice, because the riches of the sea will become yours and the wealth of the nations will come to you.

The New Jerusalem

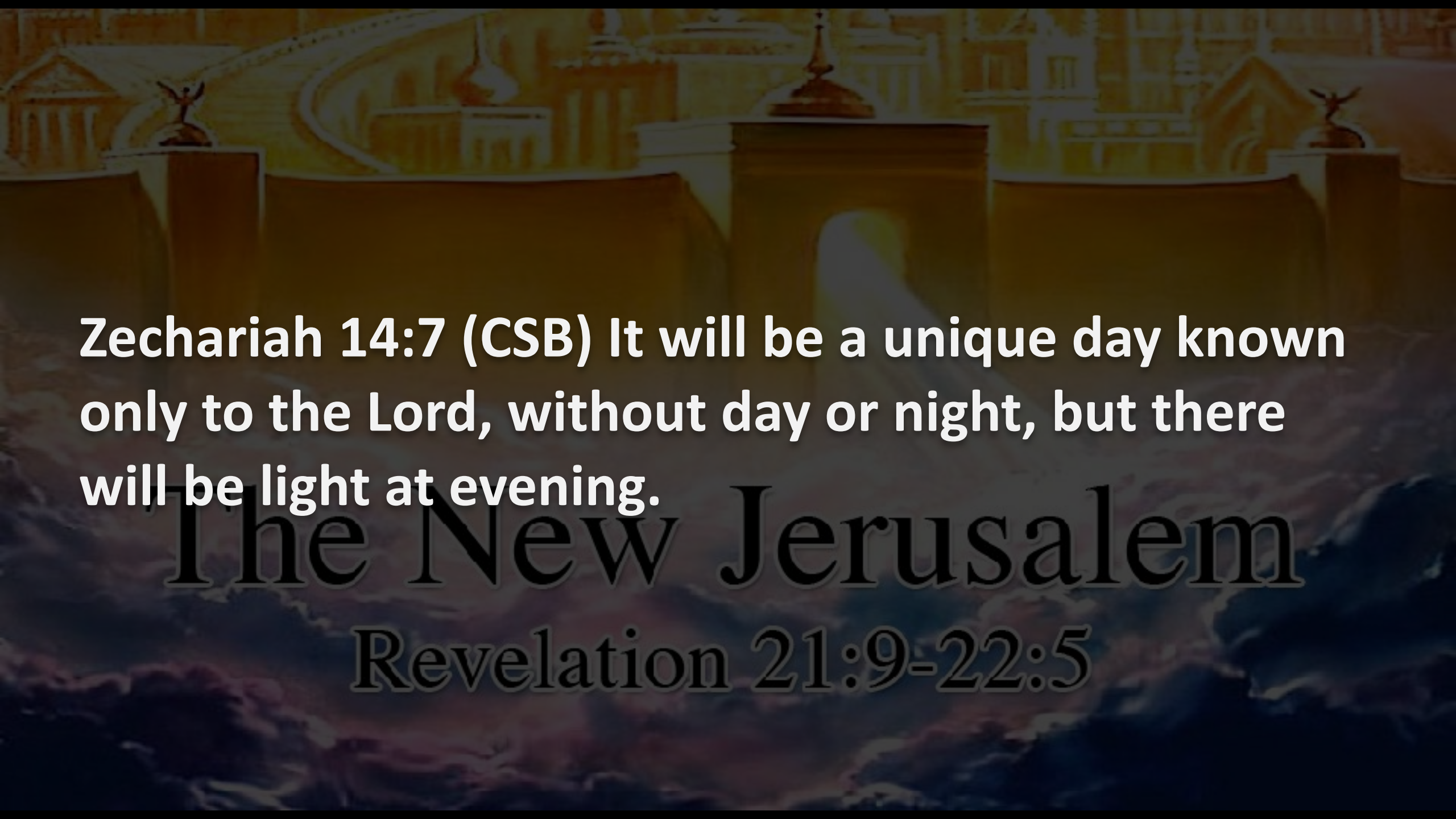
Revelation 21:9-22:5



Revelation 21:25 Its gates will never close by day because it will never be night there.

Isaiah 60:11 Your city gates will always be open; they will never be shut day or night so that the wealth of the nations may be brought into you, with their kings being led in procession.

The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5



Zechariah 14:7 (CSB) It will be a unique day known only to the Lord, without day or night, but there will be light at evening.

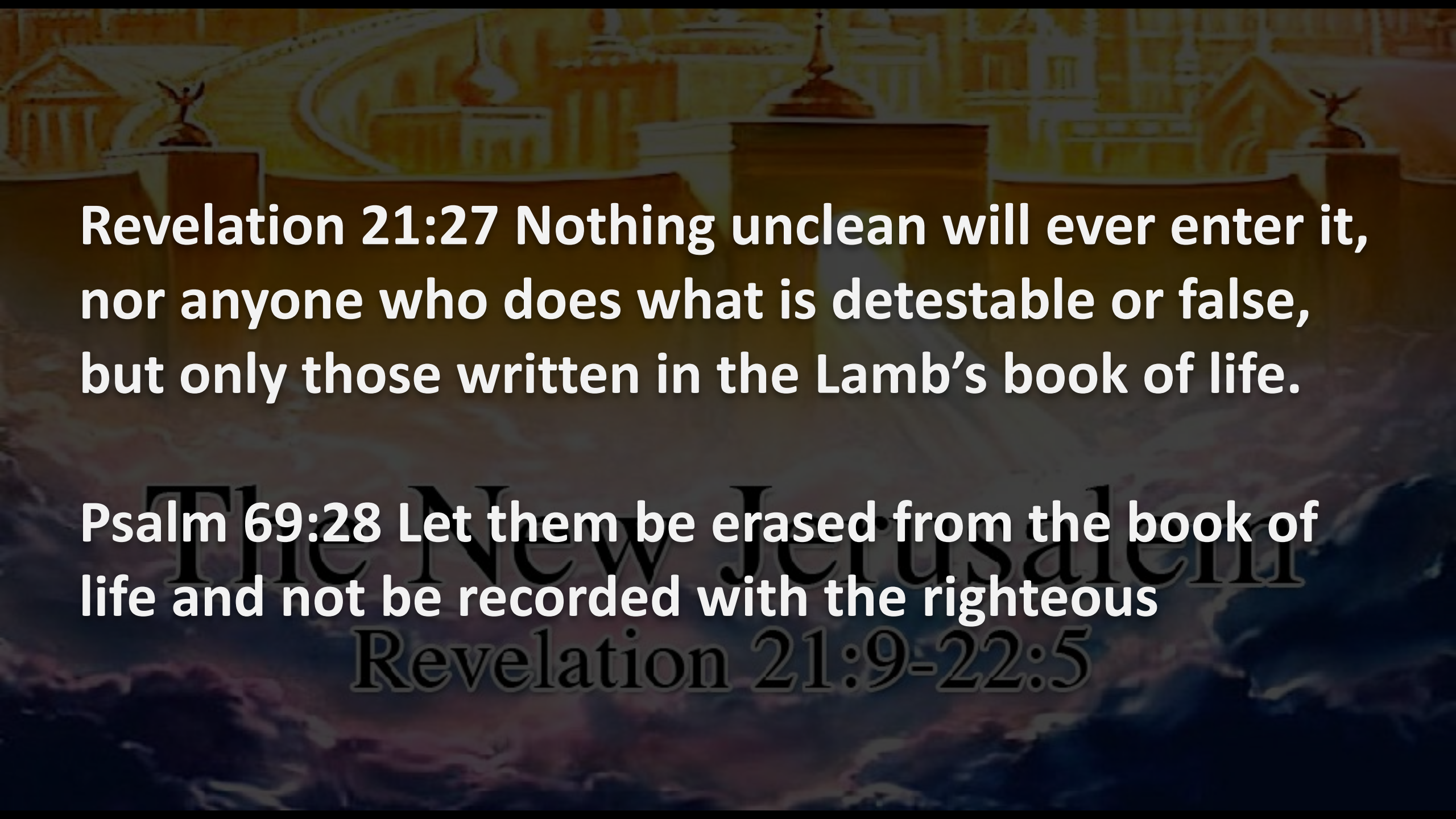
The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Revelation 21:26 They will bring the glory and honor of the nations into it.

Psalm 72:10–11 May the kings of Tarshish and the coasts and islands bring tribute, the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts. 11 Let all kings bow in homage to him, all nations serve him.

The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5



Revelation 21:27 Nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those written in the Lamb's book of life.

Psalm 69:28 Let them be erased from the book of life and not be recorded with the righteous

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Isaiah 52:1 “Wake up, wake up; put on your strength, Zion! Put on your beautiful garments, Jerusalem, the holy city! For the uncircumcised and the unclean will no longer enter you.

Daniel 12:1 At that time Michael, the great prince who stands watch over your people, will rise up. There will be a time of distress such as never has occurred since nations came into being until that time. But at that time all your people who are found written in the book will escape.

Revelation 22:1 Then he showed me the river of the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb

Ezekiel 47:1 Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple and there was water flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the temple faced east. The water was coming down from under the south side of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar.

Joel 3:18 In that day the mountains will drip with sweet wine, and the hills will flow with milk. All the streams of Judah will flow with water, and a spring will issue from the Lord's house, watering the Valley of Acacias.

Zechariah 14:8 On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea, in summer and winter alike.

Revelation 22:2 down the middle of the city's main street. The tree of life was on each side of the river, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree are for healing the nations,

Genesis 2:9 The Lord God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 3:22 The Lord God said, “Since the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil, he must not reach out, take from the tree of life, eat, and live forever.”

Ezekiel 47:12 All kinds of trees providing food will grow along both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. Each month they will bear fresh fruit because the water comes from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be used for eating and their leaves for healing.”

Revelation 22:3 and there will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship him.

Zechariah 14:11 People will live there, and never again will there be a curse of complete destruction. So Jerusalem will dwell in security.

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Revelation 22:4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

Psalm 17:15 But I will see your face in righteousness; when I awake, I will be satisfied with your presence.

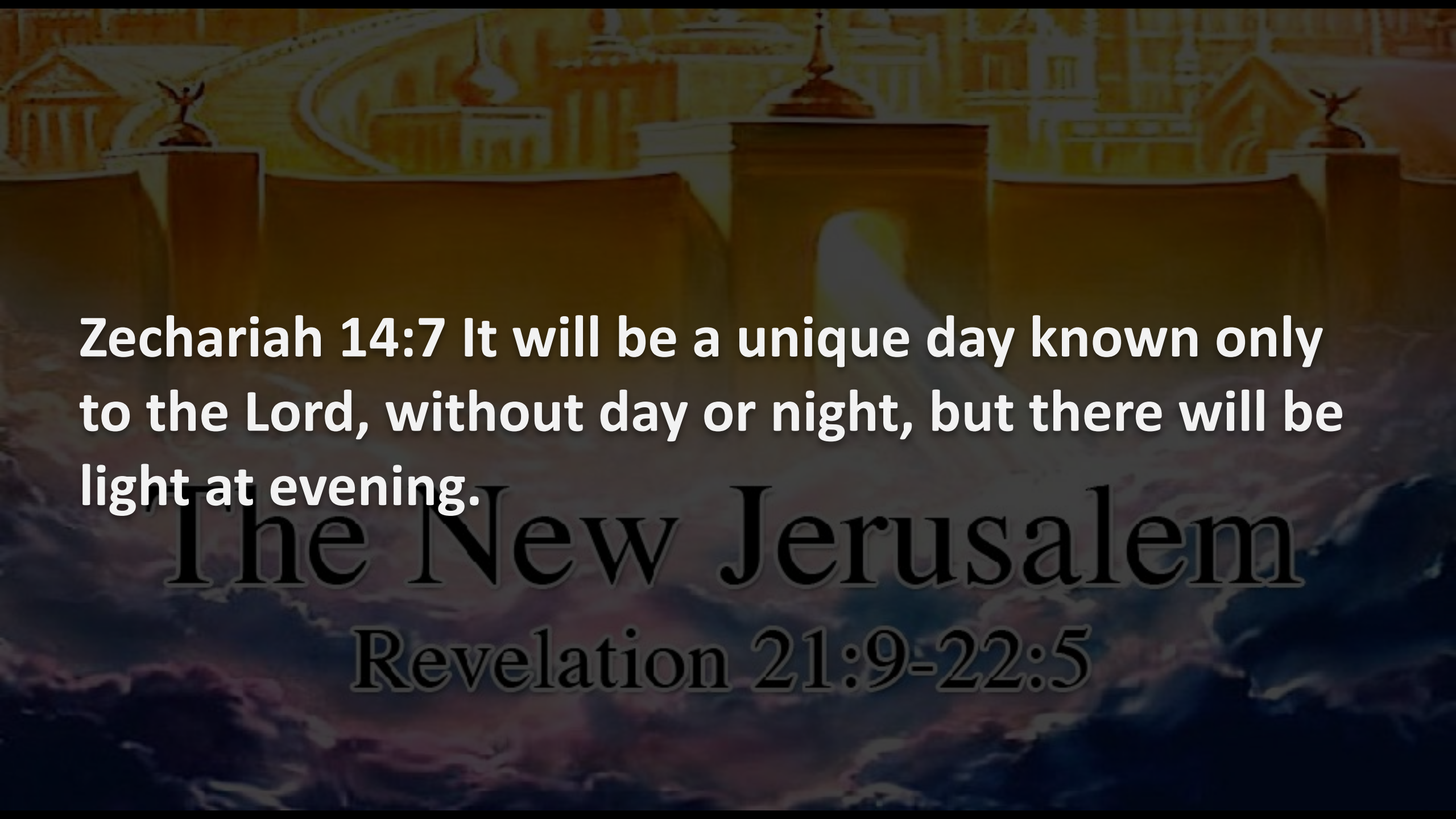
Psalm 42:2 I thirst for God, the living God. When can I come and appear before God?

Revelation 22:5 Night will be no more; people will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will give them light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Isaiah 60:19–20 The sun will no longer be your light by day, and the brightness of the moon will not shine on you. The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your splendor. **20**Your sun will no longer set, and your moon will not fade; for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and the days of your sorrow will be over.

Daniel 7:18 But the holy ones of the Most High will receive the kingdom and possess it forever, yes, forever and ever.'

Daniel 7:27 The kingdom, dominion, and greatness of the kingdoms under all of heaven will be given to the people, the holy ones of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will serve and obey him.'

The background features a golden, glowing cityscape with various architectural structures, including domes and spires. In the center, a white dove is depicted in flight, symbolizing peace. The scene is set against a dark, swirling blue and purple background that resembles a storm or a celestial event.

Zechariah 14:7 It will be a unique day known only to the Lord, without day or night, but there will be light at evening.

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5



SUMMARY

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Key Themes of Revelation 21:9–21

- The new creation is both a people (bride of Christ) and a place (new Jerusalem).
- The heavenly garden city is one of indescribable beauty as it reflects God's glorious beauty.
- The one people of God unites Jewish and Gentile followers of Christ.
- God's people experience protection in his presence, the eternal holy of holies.

Key Themes of Revelation 21:22–27

- **God's glorious presence will fill the new creation, turning the whole of it into a temple.**
- **In the heavenly city, God's multicultural people will worship him with all their being.**
- **Only genuine Christ followers will be allowed to enter the heavenly city.**

The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5

Key Themes of Revelation 22:1–5

- The ultimate source of eternal life is God's personal presence.
- In the eternal garden city there will be no more death or disease, only life.
- God's people will see his face, serve him, and reign with him.

The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5

A golden cityscape with a bright light shining through a doorway. The scene is set against a background of golden buildings and a bright light shining through a doorway. The overall tone is warm and divine.

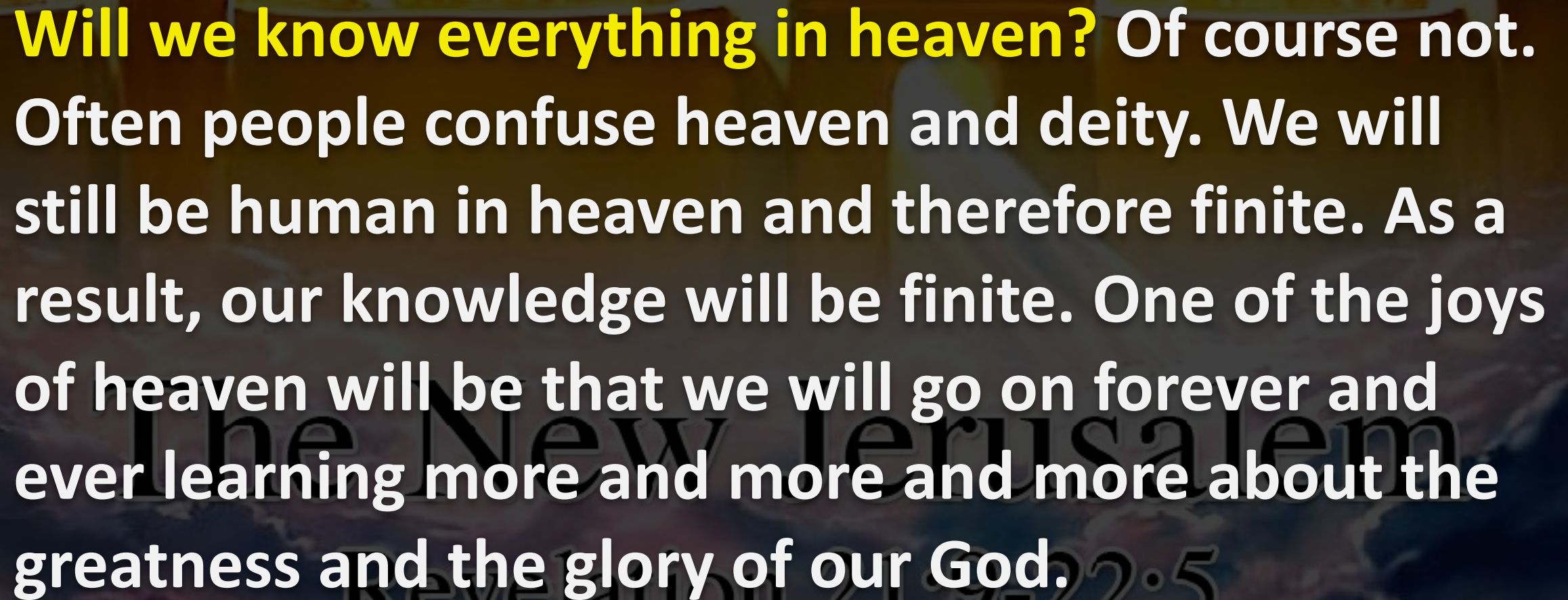
CONCLUSION

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Will animals go to heaven? The Bible is not clear as to whether or not animals go to heaven, though we have every reason to believe that there will be animals in the new heaven, the new earth, and the New Jerusalem. Rom. 8:19-23 speak of the whole creation groaning and waiting for its redemption. Certainly animals would fall into this category.

Why do even Christians sometimes fear death and going to heaven? Because death is unnatural and was never intended by God for us. If Adam and Eve had never sinned, they would have never died. Therefore, there is a sense in which it is natural, even for those who know they are going to be with God, to have some fear of death. Yet the Bible is also clear, that through Christ we can overcome that fear.



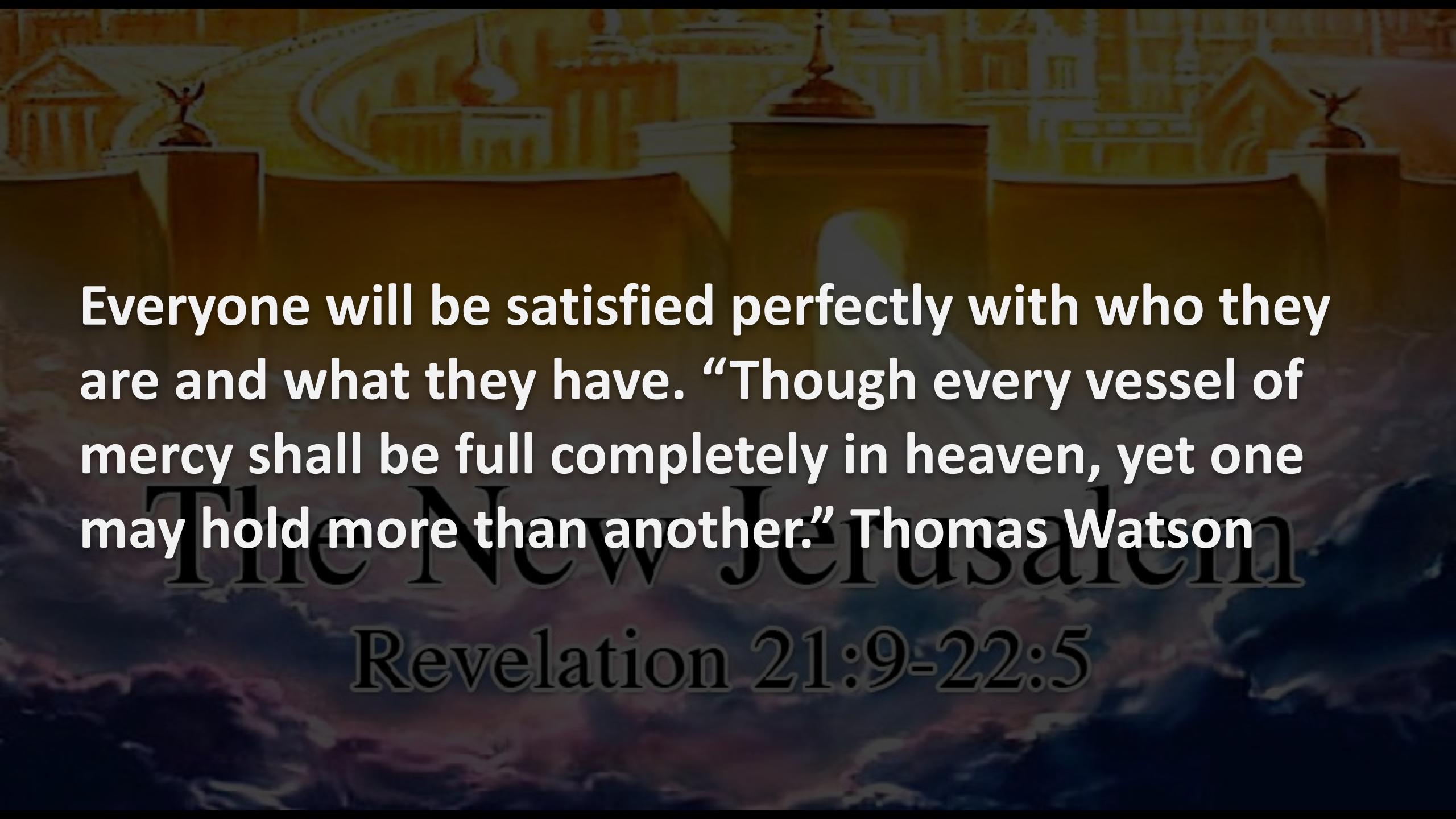
Will we know everything in heaven? Of course not. Often people confuse heaven and deity. We will still be human in heaven and therefore finite. As a result, our knowledge will be finite. One of the joys of heaven will be that we will go on forever and ever learning more and more and more about the greatness and the glory of our God.

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Will we all be equal in heaven? No. The Bible teaches that there are both degrees of punishment in hell and degrees of reward in heaven. However, there will be no jealousy in heaven. Every vessel will be completely filled concerning its capacity. No one will have more than they are capable of holding and no one will have less than they are capable of holding.

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5



Everyone will be satisfied perfectly with who they are and what they have. “Though every vessel of mercy shall be full completely in heaven, yet one may hold more than another.” Thomas Watson

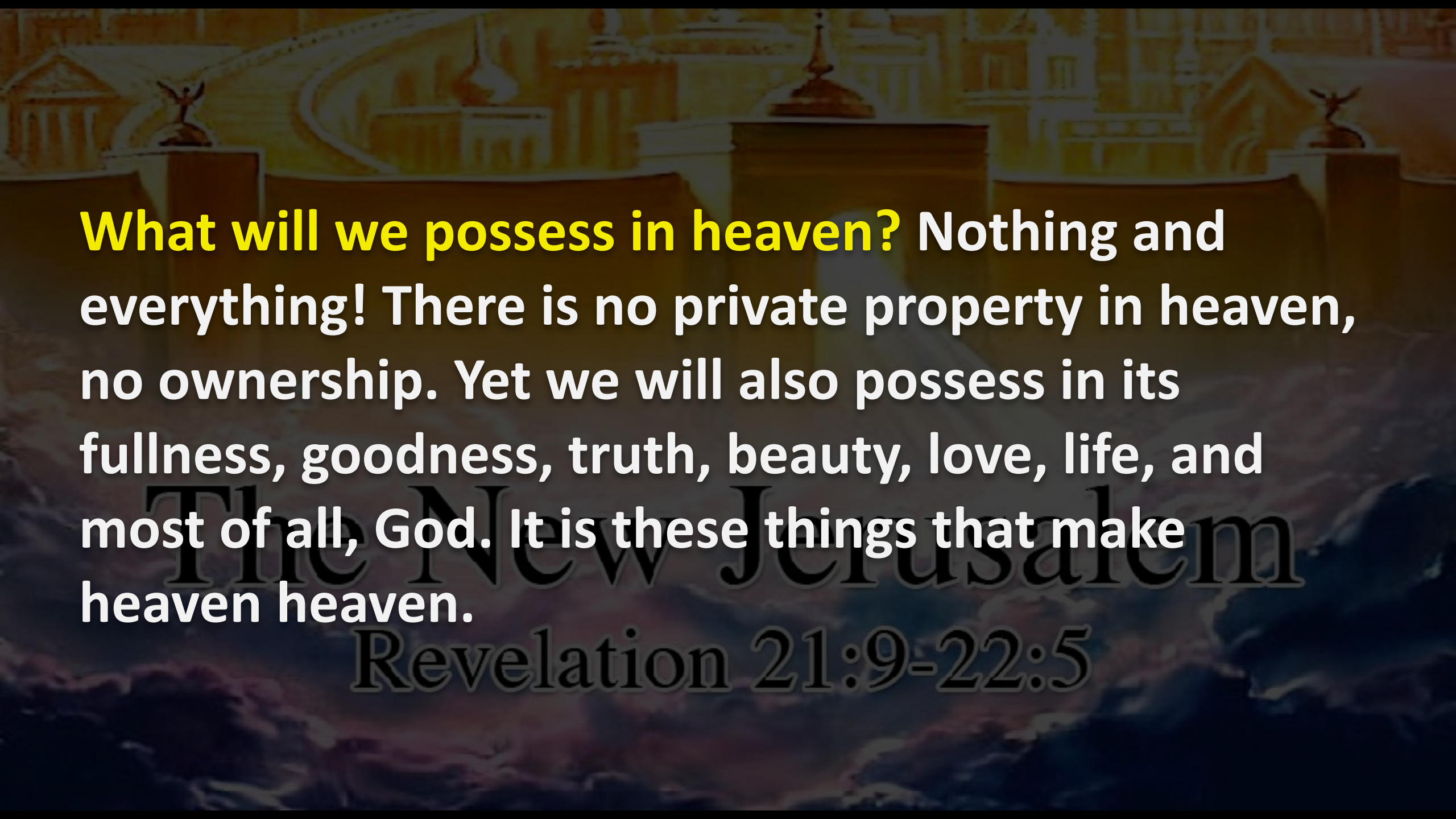
The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5

Will we have emotions in heaven? Yes. Just as we now exist as complete persons with mind, will and emotion, so in heaven, mind, will and emotion will function perfectly as we enjoy fully all that these various components of the human personality provide.

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Will we be free to sin in heaven? No. We will be free not to sin in heaven. Just as God is completely free in His will and sinless, so we in our glorified state will be completely free and sinless. We will be free to be our true selves as God created us to be and that involves both full freedom and the absence of sin.

Revelation 21:9-22:5

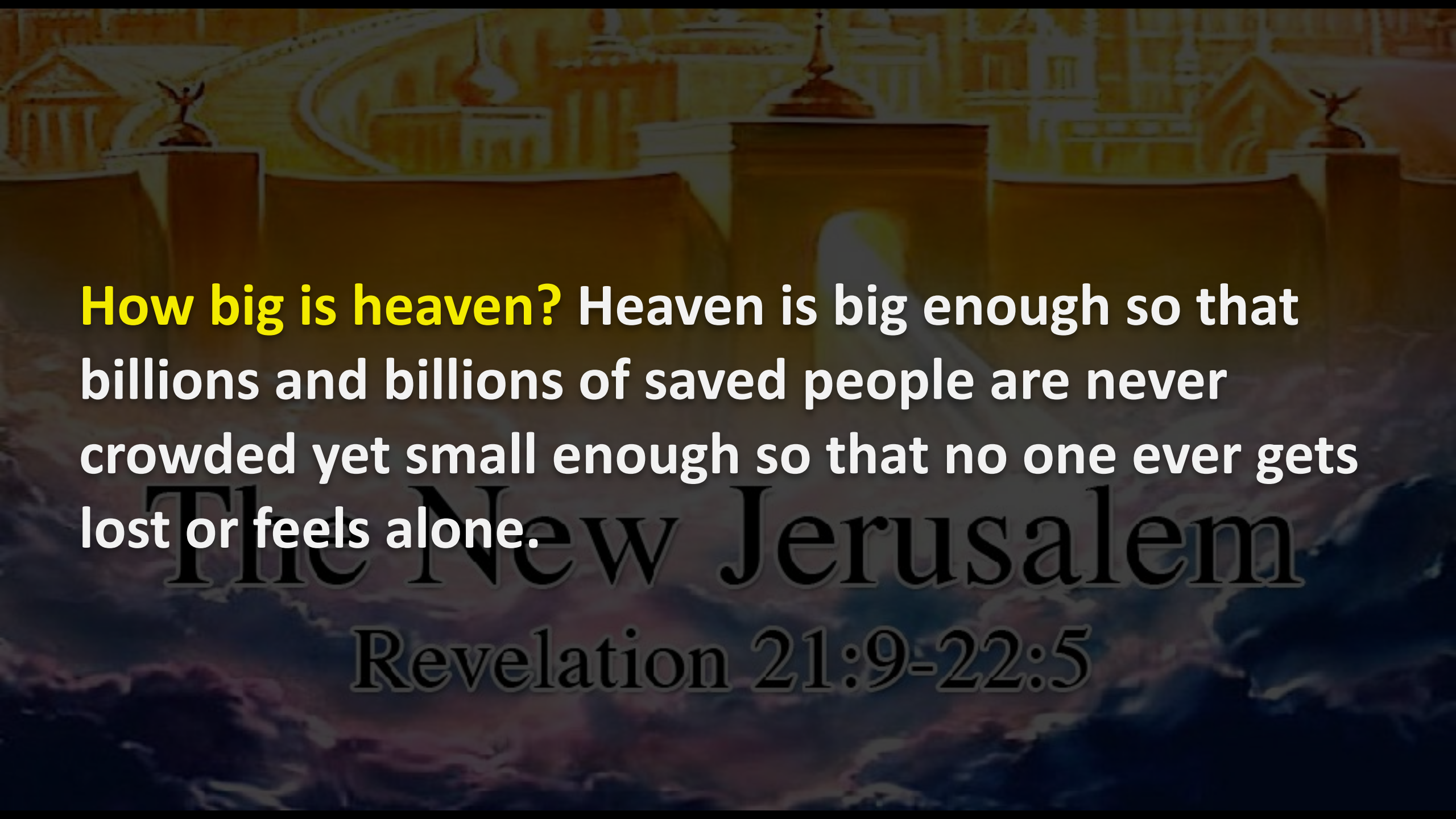


What will we possess in heaven? Nothing and everything! There is no private property in heaven, no ownership. Yet we will also possess in its fullness, goodness, truth, beauty, love, life, and most of all, God. It is these things that make heaven heaven.

Revelation 21:9-22:5

Will we wear clothes in heaven? Yes. Although the Bible seems to indicate that our clothing will be a natural outgrowth of our glorified humanity. In heaven, light is the supreme entity and it reigns in all of its fullness. Therefore, as 1 Cor. 13 teaches we will be fully known and know in a way that we have never known before.

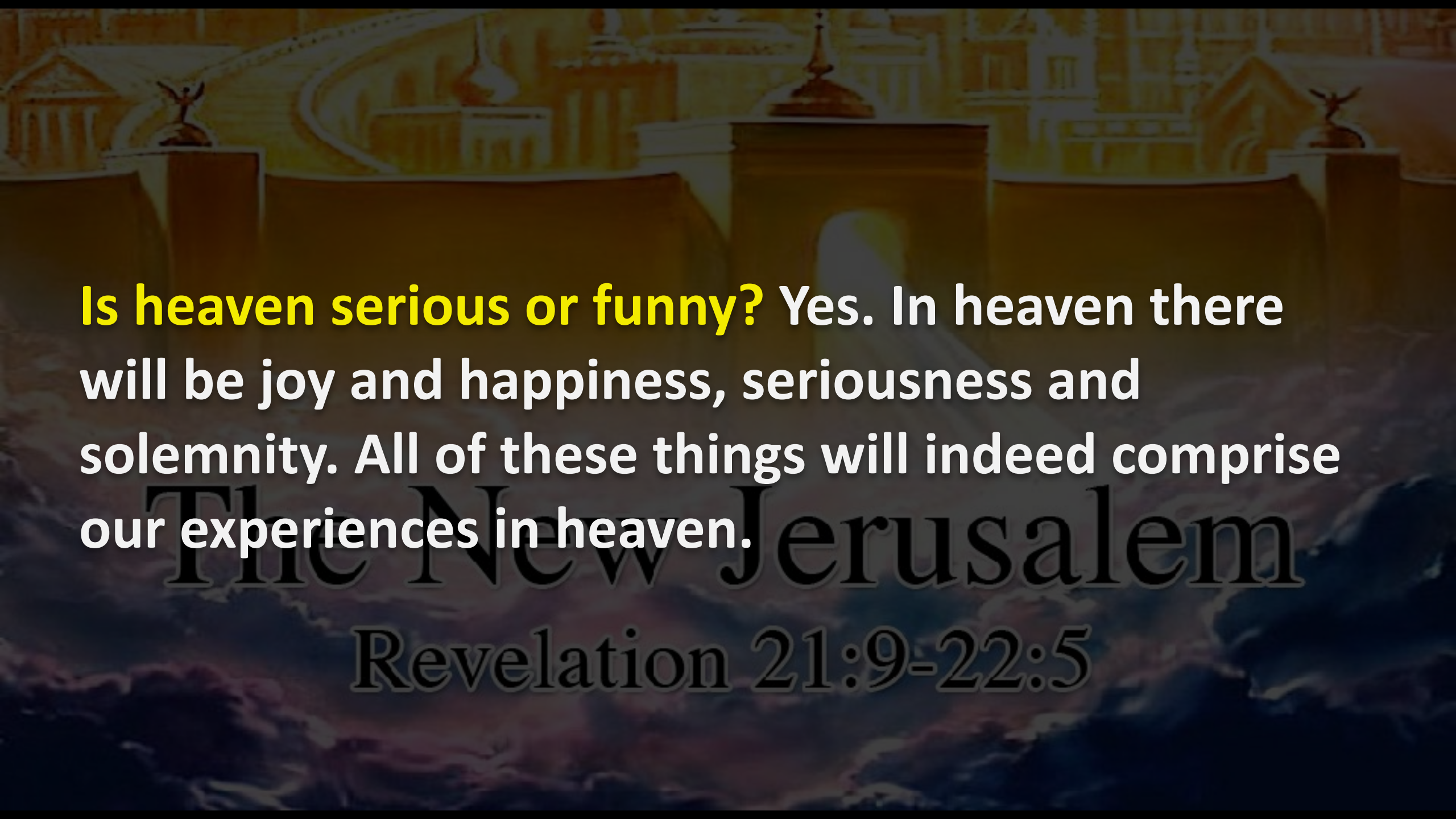
The New Jerusalem
Revelation 21:9-22:5



How big is heaven? Heaven is big enough so that billions and billions of saved people are never crowded yet small enough so that no one ever gets lost or feels alone.

The New Jerusalem

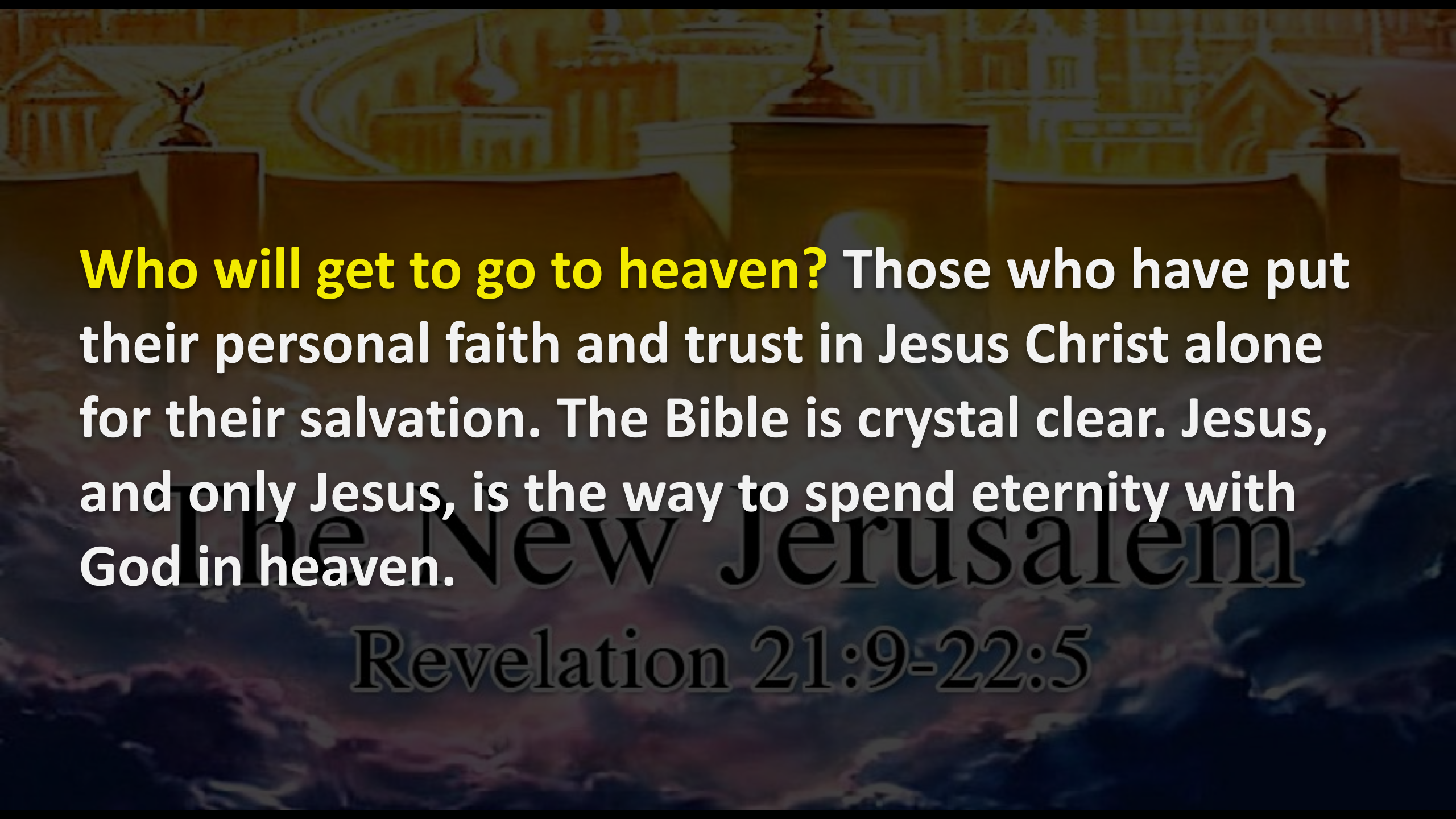
Revelation 21:9-22:5



Is heaven serious or funny? Yes. In heaven there will be joy and happiness, seriousness and solemnity. All of these things will indeed comprise our experiences in heaven.

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5



Who will get to go to heaven? Those who have put their personal faith and trust in Jesus Christ alone for their salvation. The Bible is crystal clear. Jesus, and only Jesus, is the way to spend eternity with God in heaven.

Revelation 21:9-22:5

The image depicts a golden, futuristic city with a prominent central doorway. A bright, white light emanates from the doorway, casting a long, glowing beam across the scene. The city is set against a background of vibrant, swirling clouds in shades of purple, pink, and blue. The overall atmosphere is one of divine light and glory.

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-22:5