

ἄβυσσος “Abussos” Abyss

"abyss":—deep, (bottomless) pit.

(Strong’s Definitions)

The abode of demons: Rev. 11:7; 17:8; 20:1.

(Thayer’s Greek Lexicon)

οὐρανός “Ouranos” Heaven

1st The Sky

2nd The Universe

3rd The Kingdom of God

The region above the sidereal heavens, the seat of order of things eternal and consummately perfect, where God dwells and other heavenly beings. (OBU)

Rev. 20:13-15

- The Place of Blessing Has Already Been Emptied
 - o Resurrection/Bema Seat Judgement
- The Place of Judgement is Being Emptied
 - o Resurrection/Great White Throne
- With the Resurrection, Mortality is Concluded
 - o The Justified will Live with God
 - o The Condemned will be Exiled from His Presence
 - o The Places of the Dead (Sheol, Hades) will Pass Away (cf. 1 Cor. 15:54-55)

Ch. 21 The Home Prepared for the Bride

Ref. 2 Pet. 3:10-13

The New Creation (v. 1-4):

- The Natural and the Supernatural Have Been Remade
- Both are Joined at a Fixed Point (New Jerusalem)
- God will Be in Direct Contact with Humanity
- The Curse of Adam is Lifted (Disease, Toil, Death, etc)

The Promise of God to John’s Readers (v. 5-8):

- Restating/Interpreting John’s Vision (Ch. 18-21)
- The Overcomers (Ref. Ch. 2-3) Will Inherit Heaven
- The Unrepentant will Stand Condemned (Ref. Jn. 3)

Describing the New Jerusalem (v. 9-14):

- 12 Symbolic of Fellowship with God
- The Dwelling Place of the Bride of Christ
- Gems are Prophetic Symbols of Light (Surrounded by)
- Physical Reality with Historic/Prophetic Imagery
 - o The Story of Redemptive History
- Each Gate Guarded by an Angel/Named for the Tribes
 - o The Tribes were the Door to the Kingdom
 - o Kingdom was Sustained and Defended by God
- Each Wall Has 12 Foundations (Apostles)
 - o The Apostles are the Foundation of the Church
 - o Each Wall of the City (Church) is Strengthened Through their Work and Testimony
- 12,000 Stadia = 1,400 Miles
 - o Cube Shaped
 - o Materials Shine with their Own Light/Transparent

The Apostles Built from the Old Testament (v. 19-21):

- Each Stone Represents a Tribe and Constellation
 - o Ref. Breastplate of the High Priest
 - o “for the times and seasons...” (Gen. 1:14)
- Foundations are Memorials to the Apostles
 - o Built from the History of the Tribes
 - o The NT in the OT (OT in the NT)
- Imagery of Pearls
 - o Not Kosher (Unclean)
 - o Begin as an Irritant
 - o Covered and Molded
 - o Removed to Become an Item of Adornment
 - o (Gates): Allow the outsider to enter
 - o Never Closed (Unrighteous Have Been Judged)

True Intimacy with God (v. 22-27):

- No Sanctuary (Hidden Place) Needed
- The Shekinah Provides Light to the World
- The Nations are Remade and Glorify God
- Darkness is No More
- The Unrighteous are No More

For Session 33:

- Read Ch. 22
- Review the Questions in Your Journal
- Journal Thoughts and Discuss in Groups