

Briefing Document-The Fall of the World: Lesson 23

Sunday PM-August 16, 2026

Executive Summary

This document analyzes the biblical transition from the current world to the eternal state. The transition involves the destruction of the old heaven and earth and the arrival of the New Jerusalem. Central to this study is the identity of the "overcomers"—those who believe in Jesus Christ—and the specific rewards they will inherit. The New Jerusalem is described as a massive, symmetrical cube characterized by transparent gold, precious gems, and the unveiled glory of God. This eternal kingdom represents the completion of God's plan, where the social and spiritual barriers of the current world are removed, and God becomes "all in all."

The Preparation for Eternity

Before the eternal state begins, God must complete a specific preparation process. This involves the removal of the current universe to make way for a new creation.

- **Destruction of the Old:** The old earth and the old heaven (the universe) must be destroyed.
- **The End of Authority:** As stated in *1 Corinthians 15:24: Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.*
- **Subjecting All Enemies:** Christ must reign until all enemies are put under His feet. This historical phrasing refers to monarchs whose thrones were elevated above the people, symbolizing total authority.
- **The Final Goal:** The ultimate purpose of this transition is found in *1 Corinthians 15:28: Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.* This indicates that the functional role of "sonship" used during the plan of redemption will be integrated back into the eternal trinitarian glory.

The Presence of God in Heaven

In the eternal state, the presence of God is the defining feature. Jesus identifies Himself as the center of this new reality.

- **The Alpha and Omega:** In *Revelation 21:6*, Jesus says, *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.*
- **A Perpetual Invitation:** Even when describing the end of time, Jesus offers an invitation to those who "thirst" or believe in the present day.

- **Unveiled Glory:** Heaven is characterized by the glory of God, which will be unhindered and unveiled, filling the entire universe with light.

The Possessors: The Overcomers

The inhabitants of heaven are described as "overcomers." According to *1 John 5:5*, an overcomer is anyone who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. These individuals are promised significant rewards across the book of Revelation.

Table of Rewards for Overcomers

Reward	Scripture Reference	Description
The Tree of Life	Revelation 2:7	Permission to eat from the tree in the paradise of God.
Immunity from Second Death	Revelation 2:11	Overcomers will never be touched by eternal death.
Hidden Manna	Revelation 2:17	Spiritual food representing deep fellowship with Christ.
A White Stone	Revelation 2:17	A diamond engraved with a private name, symbolizing God's individual favor.
The Morning Star	Revelation 2:28	Jesus promises to give Himself (the Bright and Morning Star) to the believer.
White Garments	Revelation 3:5	Symbolic of purity; God promises never to blot their names from the Book of Life.
Pillars in the Temple	Revelation 3:12	A spiritual metaphor for being a permanent "hero" in God's presence.
Sitting on the Throne	Revelation 3:21	The privilege of sitting with Jesus on His throne, just as He sits with the Father.

Revelation 21:7 summarizes these promises: *He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son.*

Paradise: The Architecture of the New Jerusalem

The New Jerusalem, also called the "Bride City," is the primary residence of the church in eternity. Its design is based on the number 12, which signifies biblical completeness.

Dimensions and Scale

- **Shape:** The city is a perfect cube, measuring 12,000 furlongs (approximately 1,500 miles) in length, breadth, and height.

- **Surface Area:** The base of the city covers approximately 2,250,000 square miles. For comparison, the city of London is only about 140 square miles.
- **Capacity:** Based on its volume and density, the city could hold 100 billion people.
- **The Wall:** The wall is 144 cubits thick (about 216 feet) and serves as a symbolic marker of exclusion for anything ungodly.

Composition and Materials

The city is built with materials that emphasize transparency and light, ensuring the glory of God is visible from every point.

- **Transparent Gold:** The streets and the city itself are made of pure gold that is as clear as glass.
- **The 12 Gates:** Each gate is a single, giant pearl. There are three gates on each of the four sides (North, South, East, West), named after the 12 tribes of Israel.
- **The 12 Foundations:** The foundations are adorned with 12 types of precious stones, including jasper (diamond), sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, sardius, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprase, jacinth, and amethyst.

Conclusion and Moral Contrast

While the overcomers inherit the splendor of the New Jerusalem, *Revelation 21:8* provides a stark contrast for those who reject the invitation. The cowardly, unbelieving, and those involved in "sorcery" [¹] (pharmakeia) will have their part in the lake of fire, which is the second death. The lesson concludes by emphasizing that while the physical descriptions of heaven are hard to comprehend through exegesis [²], the underlying reality is God's immense love—a love superior to even the strongest human bond between a parent and child.

Terminology and Phonetic Guide

Greek/Technical Word	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Pharmakeia [¹]	far-mah-KAY-ah	The use of medicine, drugs, or spells; the root for the modern word "pharmacy."
Exegesis [²]	ex-eh-GEE-sis	The critical explanation or interpretation of a text, especially Scripture.

[¹]: Referring to the list of those excluded from heaven in Revelation 21:8. [²]: Referring to the method of interpreting the detailed descriptions of the New Jerusalem.