

A New
Jerusalem
The Bible and Its Influence
Ch.36

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Book of Revelation

- Focus on final two chapters of Book of Revelation
- Vision of New Jerusalem
- Symbol of new creation is of a bride
- Bridal imagery has been used in Hosea and Song of Solomon to describe relationship with God

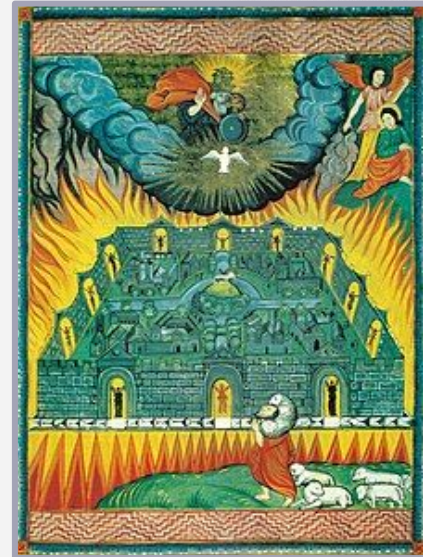


Three Images of the New Jerusalem

1.

“And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God . . . It has a great, high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites; . . . And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb” (Rev. 21:10-14)

- Explicit symbolism
- Imagery of Hebrew scriptures
- Describes the divine city



Three Images of the New Jerusalem

2.

“I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need for sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp the Lamb . . . But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life” (Rev. 21:22-27)

- No temple like in Ezekiel
- Instead temple is God and Jesus

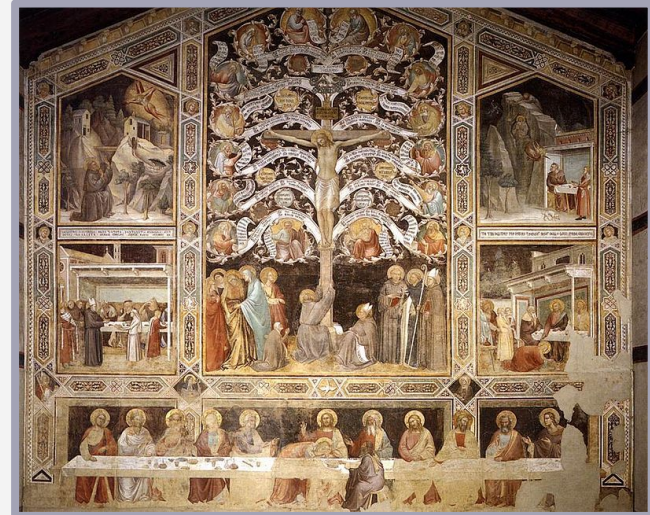


Three Images of the New Jerusalem

3.

“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore” (Rev. 22:1-3)

- Mirrors Garden of Eden in Genesis but with no serpent or rebellion
- Tree of life new centerpiece



Revelation in Western Culture

- Dante Alighieri's *The Divine Comedy* (*Inferno*, nine circles of hell) pulls from John's visions of hell, purgatory, and heaven
- Images of apocalypse influenced many artists
 - "Beatus" manuscripts
 - Woodcuts by Albrecht Dürer
 - William Blake
 - Salvador Dalí



Revelation in Contemporary Culture

- Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*
- Walter M. Miller Jr's *A Canticle for Leibowitz*
- Francis Ford Coppola *Apocalypse Now*

