

Revelation 21:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

Analysis

Nations bringing their glory and honor into the city indicates that redeemed cultural achievements are preserved and sanctified in the new creation. Reformed theology affirms that redemption restores and perfects creation rather than annihilating it. The nations' contributions show that diverse peoples each bring unique gifts to glorify God. This fulfills prophetic visions (Isaiah 60:5, 11) of nations streaming to Zion. The absence of night (v. 25) means continuous worship and activity—no need for rest from labor since work is now perfectly fulfilling.

Historical Context

Ancient cities received tribute from subject nations, demonstrating their dominance. This vision transforms that imagery—nations freely bring their glory to honor God, not under coercion. The inclusion of nations fulfills Abrahamic promises that all peoples would be blessed (Genesis 12:3). First-century Jewish-Gentile tensions made this vision of unified worship profoundly significant.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the preservation of nations' glory in the new creation affirm that your cultural heritage and achievements, when sanctified, have eternal value?
2. What does the continuous bringing of glory (no night to cease activity) teach about the new creation's dynamic, active nature rather than passive eternal rest?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	οἴσουσιν	τὴν	δόξαν	καὶ	τὴν	τιμὴν	τῶν
And	they shall bring	G3588	the glory	And	G3588	honour	G3588
G2532	G5342		G1391	G2532		G5092	
ἐθνῶν	εἰς	αὐτήν					
of the nations	into	it					
G1484	G1519	G846					

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