

REVELATION 21:9-27

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Revelation chapter 21 as we continue our study through the Word of God, and we will finish up this chapter.

In our last study we covered the first 8 verses of Revelation chapter 21.

In that section, after the Millennial reign of Christ, after Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire, after the Great White Throne Judgment where all unbelievers will be cast into the Lake of Fire, God will create a new heaven and a new earth for us to dwell in with Him.

Our focus this evening as we finish up this chapter, is the New Jerusalem, the capital city in this new heaven and new earth.

Now, keep in mind that history as we know it has ended, time is no more, we are now in the eternal state.

It is as Paul tells us of Abraham's faith in Hebrews 11:8-10, which is a picture of us as we are aliens and strangers in this world. Paul tells us, **“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.”**

We too are awaiting that city that God has built, and we will dwell together with Him in it.

Also, Paul tells us in Hebrews 12:22-24, **“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.”**

Folks, we long for that day when sin will be gone, death is no more, and we dwell with the Lord in the eternal state in a city that God has created.

Let me give you this perspective, one we are living in right now and then, as we continue on in Revelation, you will see another perspective that we will be living in.

This is what one writer had to say,

Fort Knox is famous for being the stronghold where America’s gold is held. It is thought to be an impregnable fortress.

The United States Department of the Treasury has held the nation’s deposit of gold bullion there since 1937.

Gold bullion is 99.9 percent pure gold in bulk form, such as bars. It is not possible for humans to extract 100 percent pure gold.

As an interesting side note, all the gold that has ever been mined has an estimated value of just under six trillion dollars.

The gold vault is lined with granite walls and a blast-proof door that weighs twenty-two tons.

People cannot be trusted, so “no single person is entrusted with the entire combination to the vault. Ten members of the depository staff must dial separate combinations known only to them. Beyond the main vault door, smaller internal cells provide further protection.”

Several fences surround the facility, and armed guards are present. Fort Knox holds 5,050 tons of gold, worth roughly 173 billion dollars. . . .

The Fort Knox Bullion Depository is closed to visitors. No tours are allowed.

Gold isn't the only thing in this world that can be stolen. Three or four years ago the copper downspouts attached to the gutters at the church I pastor (Kenwood Baptist Church) were stolen. I'm told it's a good thing that our heating and air conditioning units are on the roof because churches that have them on the ground have had them stolen. We have bars on some of the windows at our church because people have broken in to steal things.

What kind of world is this where people will steal copper downspouts from a church for the money they will get by recycling the copper?

- James M. Hamilton Jr., Revelation – the Spirit Speaks to the Churches, pp. 391-392

That is a great question, ***“What kind of world is this where people will steal copper downspouts from a church for the money they will get by recycling copper?”***

The answer to that question is simple. We live in a sin filled world and people do what they want because there is no King on the throne of their hearts, and when I say King I mean Almighty God, Jesus!

But here we are, in the eternal state where God has created a new heaven, a new earth and a new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven, and that is what we will be looking at tonight, this new Jerusalem and what it is all about.

Let me also say this. Americans are concerned about their property, their safety and thus, to help offset that concern, that fear, they have home security systems.

Look at this report,

How many Americans use home security systems?

- 38% of Americans own a home security product
- Of those, 18.2% report owning a video camera, doorbell, or both
- 16.2% have a professionally monitored home security system
- 8.1% own a self-monitored system
- 6.8% use a smart lock
- 3.8% answered “Other”

Of that 3.8% replying, “Other”:

- 35.9% turn to dogs
- 25.6% use firearms
- 14.5% did not specify their alternative due to privacy concerns

Almost half of our Americans have been a property crime victim

- 47.13% have been a victim of a property crime
- 52.87% have not

- bit.ly/3tGhwOZ

The paradise lost in Genesis due to sin is going to change and we will see paradise regained here at the end of the book of Revelation! No more crime, no more worrying that someone will steal something of yours. No more death. No more pain. Just abundant, eternal life with God!

Let me show you what I mean when I say there will be no more wickedness in the eternal state!

In Revelation 21:8 we see who will not have their part in the eternal state with God, **“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”**

Also, in Revelation 21:27 we are told, **“But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.”**

In other words, apart from Christ you will by no means enter into the eternal state with Him but apart from Him in the Lake of Fire.

Only believers will enter into the eternal state with Him! And we do long for that day!

It is as Paul reminds us in Hebrews 13:14, **“For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.”**

This is not our home; we are citizens of heaven and long for this New Jerusalem, the eternal city to come.

And John gets to see what we wait in faith for – the new heavens and the new earth with the New Jerusalem descending out of heaven and God walking among us in this everlasting city!

With that as our introduction, let’s begin reading in Revelation chapter 21 beginning in verse 9 and let’s see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word.

REVELATION 21**VERSE 9**

Here we see this angel, the one **“who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues”** come on the scene to show John this New Jerusalem, this place for the Bride of Christ to live.

That means the last time we saw this angel was one-thousand years earlier, during the last part of the Tribulation Period!

Now, as some read this verse, they come to the conclusion that this is not a literal city, but it is speaking of the Bride of Christ symbolically representing this city.

The reason they say that is because of what the angel tells John, **“. . . ‘Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.’”**

And then in verse 10 John sees this holy city descending out of heaven.

I don’t believe that is the correct interpretation. I truly believe that this angel is speaking of a literal city, the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven.

How can I be so sure?

The reason I can be so sure is what we are told in Revelation 21:2, **“Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”** And we will also be given the dimensions of this city!

Thus, I believe this New Jerusalem is known by the people who dwell there, the Bride of Christ, you and me. The Old Testament saints, and all believers throughout the ages will visit!

The city isn’t the bride, but it’s being described and identified by its inhabitants.

Think about it like this.

Remember the song that Frank Sinatra sang – *My Kind of Town*. The lyrics go like this,

This is my kind of town

Chicago is my kind of town

Now Frank is not singing about the bricks, the mortar, the steel buildings. He is speaking about the people, which are the heart of the city!

The same is true with this city, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven, the city isn't the Bride, but it is the Bride's city!

Now you may be thinking, "*Why in the world do we even need to know this?*"

Think about it like this.

When you prepare to go on vacation to a place you have never been before, you find out all you can so you have an idea of what it will be like.

I believe we, as believers, should long for this day and by getting a glimpse of what it will be like, the beauty, the peace, the joy; it will make us even more eager to go there one day.

I remember my first trip to the Grand Canyon. I had an idea of what it looked like, but when I got there, the picture gave me an idea, but it was even more spectacular than what I thought it would be like.

When we went to Mount Rushmore, I have to admit I was not too excited about going. Some Presidents faces carved in stone, big deal. I saw pictures of Mount Rushmore and it gave me an idea of what it was like, but then, when I saw it in the daytime and then at night all lit-up, it blew me away.

And that is what I think we have here, a picture of what it will be like. God only gives to us a small glimpse of what it will be like, but the glimpse itself is overwhelming.

Thus, I truly believe this is important for us to know, for one day we will enter into this eternal state with the Lord, and we will be blown away because of its beauty and the beauty of the Bride of Christ!

VERSES 10-11

Here we see this angel take John away in the Spirit to this high mountain.

Why did he do that?

I believe that this city is so big that to see the fullness of it, this angel had to take John to this high mountain!

And as he does John sees this holy city of Jerusalem descending out of heaven.

Folks, in the eternal state this city will be the focus because the Lord will dwell there.

Now, does this city come down to the earth?

I don't believe so. I think the way this verse is structured the holy city of Jerusalem hovers above the earth and below the heavens.

Now this is interesting to me.

The word that John uses for "**light**" is *PHOSTER*, (foce-tare') in the Greek and it means "***Illuminator.***"

This New Jerusalem radiates light and that is interesting because the brilliance or the light, which radiates from her is like a "**precious**" or very costly stone.

A Jasper stone is opaque but this stone, John tells us is "**clear as crystal.**" Thus, it would seem that this stone speaks possibly of a diamond, which is flawless, which is crystal clear, which is precious, and, as the light of God shines through it, the heavens and earth are ablaze with God's glory! Just try to imagine what that will be like!

That makes sense to me because, as Revelation 21:23 tells us, there will be no sun or moon in this new heavens and new earth to illuminate it, but the glory of the Lord will not only illuminate Jerusalem but also the new heavens and the new earth.

Now what happens when you shine a bright light through a multi-faceted diamond or crystal?

It acts like a prism, and it shoots multi-colored lights in all directions. Can you image the beauty of this!

Bible teacher Dave Hocking said that he actually submitted a description of the New Jerusalem to a professional gemologist who teaches at the University of Los Angeles.

After reviewing all the information that David gave to him, this is what he had to say, ***“If this is true this is going to be the most spectacular sight that the human eye has ever seen. And in fact I doubt seriously that without a radical change of the human eye that we could possibly stand the sight of it for all of its brilliance!”***

It is going to be incredible!

VERSES 12-13

Imagine living in the 1800's and trying to describe an airplane, what it looks like and what it does! That would be pretty difficult. But for us today, we have seen them, and it is easy to describe them.

Remember that the plane was not invented until December 17, 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright made four brief flights at Kitty Hawk with their first powered aircraft. The Wright brothers had invented the first successful airplane.

In saying that, keep in mind that John is trying to describe what this eternal city will be like using human words, which helps some, but we only get a glimpse of its beauty, of what it will look like.

Around this city was a great wall.

Today, if we see a wall around a city, and especially in the days of John, it was there for protection, to keep the enemy out.

But not here because sin is gone, there is no evil, only righteousness and thus, these walls are not there for protection, but they are there for beauty!

So who dwells in this city?

Some say it is only the Bride or the Church who will dwell in this New Jerusalem.

But listen again to Revelation 21:12, **“Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel.”**

Some feel that the Jews, Israel will be part of this city as well. But, more than likely, the Jews will be visiting the new city of Jerusalem, for this is the place of the bride!

And these gates into the city have the names of the 12 tribes of Israel may be showing us that as the entrance into the city is through the nation of Israel and thus – ***SALVATION IS OF THE JEWS!***

Paul, in Romans 9:4-5 tells us, **“who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.”**

And Jesus said this in John 4:22 to the woman at the well in Samaria, **“You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.”**

You see, God used the Jewish people to point us to the Lord and not only that, but Jesus was Jewish.

Thus, they have given to us the Word of God in written form and in the flesh, pointing us to the true and living God, giving us the forgiveness of sin through His shed blood.

We owe a lot to the Jewish people for what they have given to us through the Lord and the Lord will establish what they have done for eternity as their names are written on the gates of the city.

And thus, as we enter through these gates, we are reminded of what the nation of Israel has done for us Gentiles, and through these gates we come to the Lord, as I have said.

Now these 12 gates; 3 gates facing east, 3 gates facing north, 3 gates facing south and 3 gates facing west, according to Revelation 21:25 these gates will never be shut, they will always be open, and 12 angels will be standing at these gates.

Again, this is not for protection or for guarding this city, but these angels are there to attend to the Lord and to serve God’s people.

Paul makes that point in Hebrews 1:14, **“Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”**

One last point here. How are these gates divided up?

It is possible that they follow how the Millennial Temple was set up, not in size but with these gates in this order.

In Ezekiel 48:31-34 we are told, **“(the gates of the city shall be named after the tribes of Israel), the three gates northward: one gate for Reuben, one gate for Judah, and one gate for Levi; on the east side, four thousand five hundred cubits, three gates: one gate for Joseph, one gate for Benjamin, and one gate for Dan; on the south side, measuring four thousand five hundred cubits, three gates: one gate for Simeon, one gate for Issachar, and one gate for Zebulun; on the west side, four thousand five hundred cubits with their three gates: one gate for Gad, one gate for Asher, and one gate for Naphtali.”**

Thus, this New Jerusalem may be set-up like that, we shall see one day.

VERSE 14

Here we see that the wall of this city is anchored by 12 foundation stones.

And on this foundation are the names of the 12 Apostles.

I find that interesting because in Ephesians 2:19-20 we are told, **“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.”**

In reading that, let me ask you this question. What was the church built upon?

The church was built upon the foundation of what the Apostles taught.

In other words, they spoke forth the Word of God and thus, why lay another foundation?

Tragically, that is what some are doing in the church today, speaking forth new doctrine, but don't lay another foundation, we have what we need in God's Word!

Notice the picture we have here.

As you look at the gates of this city you see the names of the 12 tribes of Israel.

These gates rested upon the foundation stones and the names of the 12 apostles were written on them.

Here we see God's love for all of His people, both Jew and Gentile, both the Old Covenant people and the New Covenant people who are brought together in Christ.

That is exactly what Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:11-18, **“Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh - who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands - that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”**

In the eternal state there will be no wall of separation.

Yes, Christ has abolished that today, but even today many rebuild those walls and isolate themselves from other Christians.

Obviously that is wrong but in the eternal state, there will be no divisions!

Before I move on, let me ask you this question.

Who is the twelfth apostle, Matthias or Paul?

Some will say that Matthias isn't the twelfth one and that the apostles acted too quickly in picking him. And, because not much is known of him after this, they feel he is not the right one.

Let me say this. How much is written of the apostles besides Peter, John and a few others?

Not much, so that is not a good reason.

I believe Matthias is the twelfth and not Paul because Paul speaks of himself as being an apostle to the Gentiles.

We see this in Romans 11:13, where we are told, "**For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry.**"

Again, not a salvation issue, but it is interesting to think about.

VERSES 15-17

When you understand that size of this New Jerusalem, it blows your mind.

Now let me also say this. There are some, and I am not sure why, but some commentators see this cities shape as that of a pyramid.

Now I was not very good in geometry, but I think I can safely say that this is not a pyramid, but as John says, it is a square.

I think Henry Morris has it correct when he compares these two shapes.

He tells us, *“Such an interpretation is quite forced, however, the language of the passage being much more naturally understood to mean a cube, with the length and breadth and height all the same. . . . The pyramidal shape . . . (whether as in Egypt, Mexico, or the stepped-towers of practically all ancient nations), seems always to have been associated with paganism, with the pyramid’s apex being dedicated to the worship of the sun, or of the host of heaven.*

The first such structure was the Tower of Babel, and the Bible always later condemns worship carried in high places (Leviticus 26:30) whether these were simply natural high hills or artificially constructed hills in the form of a pyramid or ziggurat.

The cube . . . was the shape specified by God for the holy place . . . in Solomon’s temple (1 Kings 6:20), where God was to “dwell” between the cherubim. Both the language and the symbology thus favor the cubical, rather than the pyramidal, shape.”

And like Henry Morris said, the pyramid shape has always been associated with pagan practices. These structures were and are in defiance of God or they are against the true and living God!

Also, if you look at Solomon’s Temple, the one he built, you find that it is cube shaped and not like a pyramid.

Thus, I truly believe this holy city will be cube shaped.

The size, 12,000 furlongs or stadia equals about 607 feet.

That would make this city some 1,380 miles in each direction or to round it off, 1500 miles long, 1500 miles wide and 1500 miles high.

The wall around the city is 144 cubits, and a cubit is about 18 inches, which makes these walls some 216 feet thick or possibly 216 feet high.

Now, if this city is cubed shaped, we can live on different plains within it.

And keep in mind that we will be in our glorified bodies, which are different than these bodies of flesh.

Henry Morris makes this interesting observation regarding this cubed-shaped city of Jerusalem, *“It should also be remembered that the new bodies of the resurrected saints will be like those of angels, no longer limited by gravitational or electromagnetic forces as at present. Thus it will be as easy for the inhabitants to travel vertically as horizontally, in the new Jerusalem. Consequently, the ‘streets’ of the city (verse 21) may well include vertical passageways as well as horizontal avenues, and the ‘blocks’ could be real cubical blocks, instead of square areas between the streets as in a present-day earthly city.”* (Henry Morris, The Revelation Record, p. 451)

Now let me give you some interesting speculation on this, to kind of give you an idea of how big it is and how all these people can fit into this New Jerusalem.

Henry Morris put it like this, *“It can be calculated that the total number of people who have lived between Adam’s time and our time is about 40 billion. Then, assuming that a similar number will be born during the Millennial Kingdom, and allowing another 20 billion for those who died before or soon after birth - it is then reasonable that about 100 billion men, women and children will be members of the human race from Adam through the thousand year Millennial Kingdom . . . Let’s assume that 1 out of 5 or 20% of these will be saved including those who die in infancy.(This is obviously a guess but the Lord did make it plain that only a few will find eternal life - Matt.7:13-14). If this estimate is correct then the New Jerusalem will hold about 20 billion people.”*

That is a lot of people, will they fit in this New Jerusalem?

Henry Morris, guessing that there will have been 100 billion people in the human race through history, and that 20% of them will be saved, calculated that each person would have a *“block”* with about 75 acres . . . each . . . to call their own. This is highly speculative but illustrates the point that there is plenty of room in the New Jerusalem.

In fact, just to give you a perspective, this city is so large (about the size of the moon) that it would cover from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and from the Atlantic Ocean to Colorado!

Also, when John says that it is **“according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel”** he is saying that the cubit measure of a man is equal to that of an angel, about 18 inches.

VERSES 18-20

As you look at this city you see that it is primarily made up of precious stones and gems.

We don’t see it made up of trees, bushes, grass, flowers and-so-on.

It is not at all like the Garden of Eden.

Why is that?

I believe it is built this way to radiate the glory of God and thus, nothing will block His glory or be a distraction from His glory.

The walls are made of Jasper or crystal clear, diamonds as I said before.

The city itself was made of gold, transparent as glass. You see, the new city of Jerusalem needs to be clear so that the glory of God can radiate through it!

Also, decorating the foundation of the wall were all kinds of precious stones. Eight of these twelve stones were mounted on the breastplate of the high priest, and you can read of that in Exodus 28:17-20 and 39:10-13.

Look at the colors we see on this wall:

- Jasper – diamonds which are crystal clear
- Sapphire – a brilliant blue stone
- Chalcedony – a sky blue color with colored stripes
- Emerald – a bright green stone
- Sardonyx – a red and white striped stone
- Sardius – a red stone
- Chrysolite – a transparent gold or yellow-hued stone
- Beryl – a green, yellow or blue colored stone
- Topaz – a yellow green stone
- Chrysoprase – a gold-tinted green stone
- Jacinth – a blue or violet colored stone
- Amethyst – a purple stone

Now, as the light of God's glory shines forth imagine the beauty, the flashing colors that come forth.

We think that the colors of the rainbow are spectacular, and they are, but they pale in comparison to what this will look like.

Can you imagine seeing the breathtaking beauty of this holy city of God, the New Jerusalem shining forth the glory of God through these precious stones!

It is as John Walvoord tells us, ***"The constant mention of transparency indicates that the city is designed to transmit the glory of God in the form of light without hindrance."***

I can't agree more!

Now we look at all this and I can honestly tell you, I can't imagine what this will be like. And the reality is, we should expect it to be beyond our comprehension.

Why is that?

Because Almighty God created it, and He is way beyond anything we can imagine. All I can say is that it will be beautiful!

VERSE 21

So each of these gates is made up of one pearl, one giant pearl that is!

Now a pearl is nothing more than a by-product of an irritating grain of sand or tiny parasite, which is coated by the lustrous nacre of an oyster.

What does that mean to us?

In Matthew 13:45-46 we are told, **"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it."**

In other words, we are that pearl of great price for which the Lord purchased with His life. We are irritating, parasitic and yet God purchased us and has clothed us in His righteousness.

And thus, we are put on display for eternity as the angel's marvel at the grace of God.

How God has taken something as worthless as we were and make us into a pearl of great price, something beautiful that He has on display? Only through Jesus can that be accomplished!

Thus, the gates are symbolic of God's people.

And so, as you enter through these gates you are reminded of what God has done.

Also, the streets of the city are made of pure gold, they are transparent!

Henry Morris adds this, *“Although the description is not specific enough for us to be sure, it seems probable that these twelve gates extend upward through the entire height of the great walls, thus permitting access at all levels [into the city].”*

Also, compare what is valuable to us to what is valuable to God.

For us, gold, silver, precious stones, metal's, money, is all valuable to us, but it is not valuable to God.

He built the New Jerusalem out of these things like they were asphalt and rocks!

Then what is valuable to God?

You and I are!

Isn't that incredible!

Psalm 149:4 tells us, **“For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; he will beautify the humble with salvation.”**

Also, in Psalm 147:11 we are told, **“The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy.”**

And in Revelation 21:3, 6-7 we are told **“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.’ . . . And He said to me, ‘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. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.’”**

Never forget that fact, that you and I are precious to Him, more precious than all the gold or silver or precious stones that are in this world!

Think about it, Almighty God became flesh and blood in order to redeem sinful man and not because we were worth it, but He took this irritant, you and me, and made us into those pearls of great price and now for eternity we will be reminded what the Lord has done for us as we enter through those gates!

VERSE 22

This is interesting to me; in this New Jerusalem where God dwells there is no Temple, why?

Think about it. The Temple was a place where God’s people would come to worship Him, but they could not see Him face-to-face.

The Temple was also the place where sacrifice for sin was made so man could approach God. But now the object of our worship is before us, Almighty God is with us and the One who made the sacrifice for our sin, God the Son is also present and thus, there is no need for a Temple any longer!

VERSE 23

Notice there is no need for the sun to give us light in the New Jerusalem, for the glory and brilliance of God will illuminate the place.

Now let me say this. From how this is written it doesn't say that the sun and the moon will be gone. It just says they will not be needed to illuminate the New Jerusalem, for God will do that.

And think about this. Can you imagine the light of God hitting all those precious stones and the pure gold that filled the city - incredible! How beautiful it will be.

It is as I John 1:5 says, **“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.”**

That light will shine for eternity now!

And understand this is not the emerald city that Dorothy and her three friends went to in The Wizard of Oz; this is the New Jerusalem, not a fairy tale or a story. It is a reality!

It is just as Isaiah 60:19-20 tells us, **“The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; but the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, and your God your glory. Your sun shall no longer go down, nor shall your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning shall be ended.”**

Can you imagine what this will be like!

I will give you one more thing to think about. Some feel that this New Jerusalem will orbit the earth. It is possible as God is going to create a new heaven and a new earth! I do believe that is how this is played out.

VERSES 24-27

It seems that the redeemed gentile nations which do not belong to the church, for they were redeemed after the church is removed from the earth, or before the church came into existence, are the ones who come to this New Jerusalem to worship the Lord!

You see, they will occupy the earth and come as visitors to the city, so probably not all of the redeemed will live in the New Jerusalem.

I don't know if any of you have experienced this before, but you leave to go somewhere, to some destination and when you get there you find that the place is closed, you can't get in.

How frustrating that is.

Maybe some of you saw that Chevy Chase movie Vacation and how he was taking his family to Wally World and as they travel cross-country they encounter all kinds of trouble.

But nothing is going to stop Chevy Chase from reaching his destination.

Finally they get there and as they do they find that the whole place is closed down and as you can expect, he was not too happy about that!

But here, in the New Jerusalem, it will never close down, it is always open, the gates are never shut and thus, we can always come to worship the Lord there, there are no restrictions!

Also, we are told that there is no night there and night or darkness is a symbol of evil, a dark heart you might say.

Remember the night of the last supper as Judas betrayed Jesus. We are told in John 13:21-30, **“When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.’ Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke. Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke. Then, leaning back on Jesus’ breast, he said to Him, ‘Lord, who is it?’ Jesus answered, ‘It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it.’ And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, ‘What you do, do quickly.’ But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him. For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, ‘Buy those things we need for the feast,’ or that he should give something to the poor. Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.”**

Yes, it was dark outside, but that is not the point that the Lord is making here. He is also speaking of the heart of Judas and how dark it was, it was overflowing with darkness!

Thus, in the New Jerusalem there is no darkness, there is no evil, only righteousness, beauty, light, glorious light! And we can bring glory and honor to God any time we want because the gates of the city are never closed!

There is no need to close them because there is no darkness!

Now, as you read verse 27 here it almost seems like there will be some ungodly people in the eternal state.

John tells us, **“But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.”**

How can that be?

That is not what John is saying here, not at all.

How do I know that?

Because Satan, the Antichrist, the false prophet, all the unholy angels, and all sinners, unbelievers have been cast into the Lake of Fire.

Remember what we were told in Revelation 20:10-15, **“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”**

Thus, if your name is not written in the Lambs Book of Life, you will not enter into the eternal state with the Lord, but the eternal state apart from the Lord in the Lake of Fire is where you will go.

Only those whose names are written in this Book will enter into the eternal state with the Lord and our names are not blotted out of this book because we received Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and His blood then cleanses us from all our sins! Unbelievers' names will be blotted out!

Therefore, this is more of an exhortation to people today, telling them that the only way to participate in the future eternal city is to receive the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ now!

Let me share with you these words from a pastor who wrote,

It is true that the church is to be a hospital where people who are hurting can come and be healed through the body of the Great Physician, Jesus Christ (Matthew 9:12), it is also true that the church is to be a school where we can study to show ourselves approved unto God (II Timothy 3:15).

It is also true the church is to be a gymnasium wherein we work out our salvation (Philippians 2:12), and exercise unto godliness (I Timothy 4:7).

But perhaps most importantly the church is to be a travel agency, booking people on an eternal excursion to heaven.

Revelation 21 and 22 constitute a travel brochure for just such a journey . . .

- Jon Courson, Jon Courson's Application Commentary – New Testament, p.1788

I guess the question for you this evening is, ***“What flight are you booked on?”***

The one that is going to the Lake of Fire where you will be eternally separated from God or the one that is booked for heaven and this eternal state where there will be a new heaven, a new earth, a New Jerusalem where God will dwell and His glory will shine brilliantly for all to see?

The choice is yours!

It is as Paul said in Titus 1:1-3, **“Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God’s elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior.”**

Thus, what God has promised He is more than able to bring to pass. We will enjoy eternal life with Him in this new creation, in this eternal state!

You see, citizenship in eternity is applied for here on the earth by going to the cross!

Won’t you come and receive that free gift of life that is found in Christ, for He desires you to join Him in eternity!

You see, *“The exhortation warns present readers that the only way to participate in the future city is to turn one’s loyalties to the Lamb now.”*