

THE NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH Part 2

Revelation 21:9-21a

The Holy City (21:9-11)

The Bride (9) = the city is viewed as a “the bride, the wife of the Lamb” because it contains the bride and therefore portrays the character of the bride as being holy.

- Holy due to the imputed righteousness of God – Rom. 4:2-5
- The title “bride” is used of both Israel (Is. 61:10) and the Church (Rev. 19:7-14) is now enlarged to encompass all of the redeemed of all time.

The wife of the Lamb = Jesus is referred to as the Lamb 29 times in Revelation.

- The first usage is in 5:1-14.
 - Compare with Acts 8:26-35
- From the fall onward, Messiah Jesus as Savior and Lord is the major theme in all of scripture. (Gen. 3:14-15, 3:21)
 - Jesus as the Lamb of God demonstrates the greatest act of humility ever witnessed. – Phil 2:6-11

He carried me away in the Spirit to a great high mountain (10) = describes the state of being in a prophetic trance to a new location to receive a new vision.

And showed me the holy city, Jerusalem = this second look from a different vantage point was for the purpose of giving John greater details about the new Jerusalem than from before (21:2).

Having the glory of God (11) = the glory of God will be on full display in this city.

Her brilliance was like a very costly stone (11) = brilliance refers to something from which light radiates. Compare with 21:23.

- Chrystal clear jasper = does not equate with what is called jasper in our day which is an opaque stone that could be red, yellow, or brown. This one is more like a diamond of extreme high quality.

The External View of The City (21:12-21a)

A great and high wall (12) = high walls were very common in ancient times. They were built for the protection of the cities they surrounded. This massive wall will not be needed for protection, but perhaps is a reminder of the eternal security of the city’s citizens.

Twelve gates = literally “gate towers,” of which there will be 3 on each wall (21:13).

Angels = no information is given as to what duties these angels will perform.

Names of the 12 tribes (12) = for all eternity, a reminder of God's covenant promises with Israel. – Ezekiel 38:26-28

- The names = Rev. 7:4-8

Twelve foundation stones and on them, the names of the 12 apostles of the Lamb (14) = commemorates the close relationship and covenant of Christ and His church of which the apostles were part of its foundation. – Eph. 2:19-22

- Apostles of the Lamb = Acts 1:13-26

NOTE: It is significant that the 12 tribes of the sons of Israel and the names of the 12 apostles of the Lamb are distinct from each other yet both have a prominent place in the New Jerusalem. The point being, to identify the 12 tribes in Rev. 7:4-8 as the church **does not work**.

The dimensions of the wall (15-17)

- 1500 miles in length and width and height (16) = a cube
 - From coast to coast in the U.S. is 3000 miles.
- 72 yards (17) = the thickness

The glorious beauty of the city (18-21)

- The material of the wall was jasper (18)
 - Material (endomesis) = something built into
 - Jasper = the same diamond like stone mentioned in verse 11.
- The city was pure gold, like clear glass (18) = seems to indicate these jaspers were imbedded into the 72-yard thick wall made of gold so pure you can see through it.
- The foundation stones (19-20)
 - Jasper = crystal clear diamond
 - Sapphire = a brilliant blue
 - Chalcedony = sky blue with colored stripes
 - Emerald = bright green
 - Sardonyx = red and white striped
 - Sardius = various shades of red
 - Chrysolite = gold or yellow-hue
 - Beryl = various shades of green, yellow, blue, and more
 - Topaz = yellowish green
 - Chrysoprase = gold tinted green
 - Jacinth = blue or violet
 - Amethyst = purple

The 12 gates (21a) = each gate a single pearl