

THE NEW JERUSALEM (Revelation 21:9-22:5)

We are nearing the end of our study of the book of Revelation. The theme of Revelation is Jesus in His role as Judge.

- Ch 1--- the Attributes of the Judge
- Ch 2-3--- the Activity of the Judge in the midst of the churches
- Ch 4-5--- the Worthiness of the Judge to execute judgment
- Ch 6-19--- the Activity of the Judge against rebellious mankind
- Ch 20--- the Activity of the Judge among the lost of all the ages

Now what? (There are two chapters left in Revelation.)

If the book of Revelation ended with chapter 20 (and the judgment of the lost at the Great White Throne Judgment), it would truly be an incomplete view of Jesus in His role as Judge. In order for us to have a complete view of Jesus in His role as Judge, we need to see the **end result** of His judgments—the **aftermath of His work**—because He has completed the work of judgment that the Father has committed to Him.

And what is the result? It's wonderful! A new heaven and earth!

Our focus today: **The New Jerusalem**

Revelation 21:2-----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.

What will the capital city of our eternal dwelling place be like?

1. **More beautiful than we can imagine**

- 21:2: "...Like a bride adorned for her husband."
- 21:10-11 "[it descends] out of heaven, having the glory of God..."
- 21:18: "...the city was pure gold, like clear glass."
- 21:21: "...the street...was pure gold, like transparent glass."

In fact, according to chap. 21-22, not only the city, but the river of the city, the light of the city, the wall around the city, and the street of the city are crystal clear---you can see right through them.

We are talking about a city here that is so beautiful that it glitters like a gigantic diamond on the earth's surface.

Though we won't go into all the details, the New Jerusalem will be surrounded by a wall that will be breathtaking. Not a wall for security reasons but simply for beauty. According to verse 18, the wall, like the city itself, will be made of jasper and be crystal clear.

Each of the wall's 12 foundations will be covered with a specific kind of gem and each one will bear the name of an apostle to remind us that the apostles were the foundation of the NT church.

The wall's 12 gates will each be made of one single, massive pearl and will bear the name of one of the twelve tribes of Israel to forever remind us of God's love for and commitment to His chosen people.

So not only will the city itself be dazzling and beautiful, but the wall that surrounds it as well. As hard as we try to describe it, our words fail to do so adequately.

1. **More beautiful** than we can imagine

2. **More massive** than we can envision

The tallest building in Chicago, the Sears Tower (now called, the Willis Tower) is 110 stories tall—around 1500 **feet**—the New Jerusalem will be **1500 MILES!!!**

Revelation 21:16-----¹⁶ The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs [1500 miles]. **Its length, breadth, and height are equal.**

This city will be nearly 275 times higher than Mount Everest. **When we plant it on** a map, this city would stretch from El Paso to Savannah, GA to Quebec, Canada and over to Edmonton, Canada.

(Plus, it is **1500 miles high**---go to globe graphic)

A city this large is hard for us to envision, **but this is a city,** according to Hebrews, that "...has foundations, whose builder and maker is God..." And since God is its builder, it will be a spectacularly stunning city.

The bottom line is that if every person on the entire earth came to the New Jerusalem at the same time (which we will probably do often) there would be no problem at all.

The New Jerusalem will be massive and awesome because it will be the eternal dwelling place of our awesome God.

1. **More beautiful** than we can imagine
2. **More massive** than we can envision
3. **More radiant than we can visualize**

The New Jerusalem will not only look like a gigantic diamond because it is crystal clear---it will be extremely bright because of the Shekinah Glory of God.

21:10--11 says that the light of the city from the glory of God will be:

Revelation 21:11-----...like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

Concerning the glory of God, John Walvoord says, “As the glory of God is the sum of His infinite perfections in their manifestations, so the New Jerusalem reflects all that God is.”

21:23 says that the New Jerusalem will have:

Revelation 21:23-----...no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb *is* its light.

The Bible does not say that the sun or moon will be non-existent in eternity---but simply that that there is no need of it in this city.

The old earth (and the old Jerusalem) is a place of evil and darkness. The New Jerusalem, ablaze with God’s own will be more radiant and brighter than we can even visualize!

1. **More beautiful** than we can imagine
2. **More massive** than we can envision
3. **More radiant** than we can visualize

4. **More wonderful than we can fathom**

Revelation 21:22 ---- But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

—There will be no temple (v. 22)

because we will enjoy God’s personal presence...

—There will be no need of sun or moon (v. 23),

because we will enjoy the Lamb’s glorious light...

—There will be no need to shut the gates (v. 25),

because the King of kings will have no enemies.

- There will be no enemies (v. 27),
because the only inhabitants of this city
aside from God are His sinless children.
- And there will be no more curse, (ch 22, v. 3),
because this is the New Paradise
that we will enjoy forever and ever!

The eternal city, the New Jerusalem is far more wonderful than we can fathom in this life, but there's one more reason why.

Yes, the New Jerusalem is...

- More beautiful than we can imagine, and...
- More massive than we can envision, and...
- More radiant than we can visualize,

but there is one more reason that it is more wonderful than we can fathom, and it is found in verse 4 of chapter 22:

Revelation 22:4-----They shall see His face,
and His name shall be on their foreheads.

About 30 years ago or so, two amazing vocalists, Sandi Patti and Larnelle Harris sang the following words about our Lord Jesus:

...He's more wonderful than my mind can conceive
He's more wonderful than my heart can believe
He goes beyond my highest hopes and fondest dreams
He's everything that my soul ever longed for
Everything He's promised and so much more
More than amazing
More than marvelous
More than miraculous could ever be
He's more than wonderful
That's what Jesus is to me.

(Video---More Than Wonderful---Feb 14, 2018 FBC Dallas)