

“The Holy City”

(Rev. 21:9-22:5)

Dr. Richard S. Koole
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I. Introduction

A. Trying to describe a place somebody has never seen

1. Varanasi, India
 - a. Cows and monkeys everywhere
 - b. Bodies in the Ganges River
 - c. Cooking with dried cow dung
 - d. Using the streets as a toilet
2. San Diego
 - a. America’s finest city
 - b. The Bay with Aircraft Carriers
 - c. The “top gun school”
 - d. The coast line

B. Even more difficult to try to describe Heaven

1. I Cor. 2:9-10

(9)No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him, (10) but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God

2. Today....the New Jerusalem
 - b. The Holy City
 - a. An awesome place

- c. Will be your permanent home
- 3. Let me tell you what we know about it

II. Review

A. Judgment is completed (ch. 20)

B. Heaven and Earth have been made ready (Rev. 21:1)

- 1. This earth has been renovated
- 2. Made ready for the Holy City

C. The New Jerusalem descends

- 1. Comes down from Heaven
- 2. To this earth

D. Now it is described (21:9-22:5)

- 1. Let's take a tour of your future home

III. Rev. 21:9-22:5

A. Your future home

1. You will live in an actual city (v. 9-11)

(9) One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

- a. John's tour guide
 - 1. One of the seven angels
 - a. With the 7 bowls of wrath
 - 2. Let me show you "The Bride"
- b. *"The Bride"*
 - 1. May be a reference to the City

- a. It will have been the site of the Marriage Feast
- b. Still decked out from wedding
- 2. Contains the Church...the Bride of Christ
- c. A literal city

(10) And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

- 1. An actual place
- 2. Called “The Holy City, Jerusalem”
- d. Heaven is more than a “state of mind”
 - 1. Gives detailed description of the city
 - 2. Where you will live forever
- e. It will descend from Heaven

2. It will shine with a special brilliance (v. 11)

(11) It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

- a. “It shone with the glory of God”
 - 1. Why?
 - 2. Because God dwells within
- b. The Light of the City
 - 1. God is the source of all light
 - 2. God’s glory always manifested as light
 - a. Shekinah glory
- c. The light radiates throughout the city
 - 1. Like a crystal

2. Scattered brilliance

d. Like a Jasper stone

1. For us it means opaque
2. For John... a crystal clear diamond
3. Diamonds and light

3. It will have a great wall around it (v. 12-14)

(12) It had a great, high wall with twelve gates and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. (13) There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. (14) The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

a. The city surrounded by a great wall

1. 144 cubits high (v. 17)
2. 216 feet high

b. The walls of the present Jerusalem

1. Massive stones
2. My walking tours

c. The various gates

1. To secure the city
2. Given names
3. Current gates

a. Damascus Gate

b. Zion Gate

c. Golden Gate

d. Jaffa Gate

e. Lions Gate

d. The Holy Jerusalem

1. Twelve gates
2. Each is named for one of the 12 tribes of Israel
3. Three on each side

e. The Foundation

1. Massive stones?
2. Named for the 12 apostles

4. *The city will be enormous (v. 15-17)*

(15) The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. (16) The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia (1,400 miles) in length, and as wide and high as it is long.

a. The angel measured it for John

1. Used a reed
2. 10 ½ feet measuring device
3. Angels can really move
 - a. Covered a lot of ground

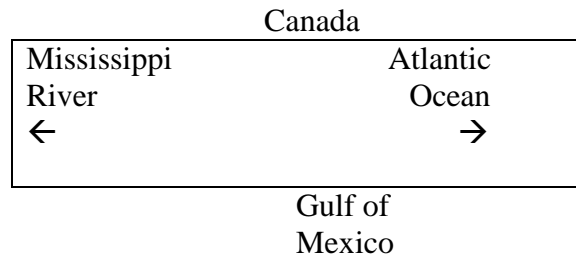
b. Laid out in a square

1. Height – Length – Breadth are equal
2. Two possibilities
 - a. Pyramid
 - b. Cube

3. Either is acceptable

c. 12,000 furlongs

1. Nearly 1500 miles
2. Huge city!



3. Same height
 - 1500 miles
 - Could cover Europe and W. Russia
- d. Room enough for everyone
 1. If based on people / square mile in London
 2. 100 billion people
 3. 30 times world's population
 4. Enough room for angels, etc.
- e. Will apparently occupy all levels
 1. I don't know how!
- f. The wall

(17) He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits (216 feet) thick, by man's measurement, which the angel was using.

1. 216 ft. high
2. Measured by cubits
 - 18 inches
 - Elbow to finger tips
3. Angels and men are equal in size

5. It will be built out of unique materials (v. 18-21)

(18) The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass.

a. The wall

1. Jasper
2. Flawless diamond

b. The city

1. Pure gold
2. Like clear glass
 - Transparent—or—
 - Translucent
3. Everything is transparent
 - The light radiates through it

c. The foundation

(19) the foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, (20) the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. (21) The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.

1. The city will rest upon this earth
 - a. 1500 miles x 1500 miles
 - b. Huge foundation stones
2. The 12 foundation stones
3. John Walvoord

The various foundations are represented as layers built upon each other, each layer extending around all four sides of the city.

d. The gates

1. Three on each side
 - a. Named for 12 tribes of Israel
2. Each will be a giant pearl
3. How pearls are formed
 - a. A wound
 - b. How we enter Heaven
 - The wounded Savior

e. The streets

1. Running all over!
 - a. The Jetsons
2. Made of pure gold
 - a. Like transparent glass

6. There will be no more night (v. 22-25)

(22) I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. (23) The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. (24) The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. (25) On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.

- a. The current need for energy
 1. Oil (house on building road)
 2. Natural gas
 3. Solar
 4. Hydroelectric
 5. Nuclear

- b. No way to power a city of this size!
- c. The key is in verse 22
 - 1. God is there
 - a. Lord God Almighty
 - b. The Lamb
 - 2. Source of all power and glory and illumination
- d. No need for the Temple
- e. His Glory lights it all
 - 1. Radiates throughout the crystal city
- f. All of the saved dwell within it
 - 1. From all the nations
 - 2. Bring honor to God there
- g. The kings of the earth
 - 1. Those with authority
 - 2. Under His authority
 - a. An infinite difference
- h. Gates remain open at night
 - 1. In olden times
 - a. Colossal gates
 - b. Closed for protection
 - 2. But now...
 - a. No threat
 - b. No night time

7. Only the righteous will dwell in it (v. 26-27)

(26) The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. (27) Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written the Lamb's book of life.

- a. From the nations
 - 1. This is the capitol city
 - 2. Will bring glory and honor into the city
 - a. Give it to God
- b. No unrighteousness allowed in
 - 1. Even though gates are open
 - a. Because none exists on the new earth
 - b. Nor ever will
 - 2. Only those written in the "Lamb's Book of Life"

8. There will be rivers and trees (v. 1-2)

(1) Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb (2) down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

- a. More than jewels!
- b. The River
 - 1. Literal
 - 2. Clear as crystal
 - 3. From the throne of God and the Lamb
- c. Flows throughout the city
 - 1. Up and down and around

2. The source of life

d. The Tree of Life

1. Overspreads the River

a. Its trunk and roots

2. Bears 12 types of fruit

a. One per month

b. Will be months, etc.

3. The healing of its leaves

a. Healing –

1. “thera pe on”

2. “health-giving”

b. For our joy

4. Last seen in Genesis 3:22-24

a. Fall of Man

b. ²² “Then the LORD God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever’— ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out of the Garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.”

c. Live forever as a sinner

1. Horrible!

9. God’s throne will be in the city (v. 3-5)

(3) No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. (4) They will see his face, and his name will be on their

foreheads. (5) There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

- a. Remember—Heaven is wherever God is
 - 1. And He will be in the New Jerusalem
- b. No more curse
 - 1. Of course not
 - 2. God is there
- c. The Throne of God and of the Lamb
- d. And we'll serve Him
- e. We shall see Him face-to-face
 - 1. The unveiled glory
 - 2. We will bear His name
 - 3. "These are *MINE!*"
- f. Final thought
 - 1. No night
 - 2. Yet no sun or lamps
 - 3. Energy crisis solved

10. You will live...and reign...there forever (v.5)

(5) There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

- a. You get to reign
 - 1. I don't understand what that will entail
 - 2. But I know it isn't "short-term"
- b. Forever and ever

1. No aging
2. No death
3. No sadness

11. You can be certain it will happen (v.6)

(6) The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”

IV. Summary

A. The Splendor of Heaven

1. Words are inadequate
2. But we tried

B. But the best part

1. Meeting Jesus
2. Seeing him face-to-face
2. Blind Fanny Crosby wrote, “My Saviour First of All.”

*When my life work is ended, and I cross the swelling tide,
When the bright and glorious morning I shall see;
I shall know my Redeemer when I reach the other side,
And His smile will be the first to welcome me.*

*Thro’ the gates to the city in a robe of spotless white,
He will lead me where no tears shall ever fall;
In the glad song of ages I shall mingle with delight,
But I long to meet my Saviour first of all.*