

Message #54**Revelation 21:9-27**

There are some big cities in this world that are becoming nothing but crime-infested slums. New York, Chicago, San Francisco. When we were in Florida, I talked with a retired detective who had worked in New York. He said I had to get out of there, things are horrible. I talked with a person in Florida who at one time lived in Chicago. She said I would be scared to live there now. These big cities are becoming lawless places filled with violence and crime. The beauty and grandeur of the big cities is declining and eventually, according to the book of Revelation, God will bring all the cities down. But there is one city that will be the most spectacular city to ever exist.

Now we must admit we have never heard anyone ever compare a city to being like a “bride adorned for her husband” (**Revelation 21:2**). In **Revelation 21:9**, God actually refers to this city as “the bride” and “the wife” of the Lamb. He calls this city that because this amazing, beautiful city will feature God’s people from the New Testament and the Old Testament. **This New Jerusalem will be a city for Israel and a city for the church.**

Verse 9 says that one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls of wrath with those last plagues came and spoke with John and told him to come with him so he could show him this city.

What this tells us about angels is that once they have poured out their wrath and plagues, they apparently have other assignments. Also this angel is no threat to John in any way.

Now **verse 10** says that this angel “carried me away.” The Greek indicates that the angel carries John off and whisks him away to take him to another location. Now prepositional phrase “in spirit” may refer to the fact that this spirit being angel gave John a ride to this place, or it may mean that the angel took John’s spirit to see this, while leaving his body somewhere on Patmos.

We know from Revelation 17:3 that these angels have been taking John to see some very key prophetic things and this is certainly one of the most amazing things he will see.

Verse 10 says that this angel took John “to a great and high mountain.” Now two adjectives are used to describe this mountain:

- 1) It is a great mountain—literally a mega mountain meaning its external size is majestic.
- 2) It is a high mountain—meaning it is the highest and loftiest mountain in existence.

Now from this mountain, John sees the most amazing city that has ever or will ever exist.

CITY SIGHT #1 – The city was a holy city. **21:10b**

This point is stressed in **verse 2** and again here in **verse 10**. God wants us to know that this city will be a holy city. It will be built by Him and it will be holy. Imagine seeing a city that is holy. No sin, no corruption, no crime, no lying, no lawlessness.

CITY SIGHT #2 – The city was named Jerusalem. **21:10c**

This is the only city with a name that we know exists after the Tribulation. The city is called in 21:2 the “new Jerusalem.” The adjective “new” means this is a brand new city. This is not a refurbishing of the old Jerusalem.

CITY SIGHT #3 – The city was coming down out of heaven from God. **21:10d**

This city continually is coming down out of the heaven from God. This city actually comes out of the Throne of God, directly from God.

We may remember that in Genesis 28:12, there was Jacob’s ladder that reached into heaven. This is an entire city that comes down out of the heaven and is from God.

CITY SIGHT #4 – The city continually has the glory of God. **21:11a-22:5**

This city is a city that continually reflects the glory of God. So what we get to see here is the kind of city that reflects the glory of God.

Quality #1 - It is a brilliant city. **21:11b**

The word “brilliance” is one that speaks of brilliant, shining light.

Quality #2 - It is a wealthy city. **21:11c**

It is a city built like one of very costly stones, like crystal clear jasper.

Quality #3 - It had a great high wall. **21:12a**

These are the same adjectives used to describe the mountain. This wall will be externally majestic and very lofty and high to the highest level.

Quality #4 - The great high wall had twelve gates. **21:12b-13**

These are entrance gates into this city and there are three facts brought out about these gates:

(Fact #1) - Each gate had its own stationed angel. **21:12c** The angel is visible to John.

(Fact #2) - Each gate is named after one of the twelve tribes of Israel. **21:12d**

(Fact #3) - Each gate was in a specific location. **21:13**

Three gates each on east, north, south and west side of the city. It is clear from this that there are still north, south, east and west directions still operative during this time.

Quality #5 - It had twelve foundation stones. **21:14**

Normally you do not see foundation stones, but these are very visible. If it is a city built by God, it isn't going to come down so foundation stones can be anywhere God wants them.

These foundation stones have the names of the twelve Apostles. Just as there will be a continual reminder of God's program in the Old Testament, so there will be one of God's program in the New Testament.

We do know that the twelve Apostles will play an important role in judgment (Matthew 19:28ff; Luke 22:28-30).

Quality #6 - It had specific measurements. **21:15-17**

There are five measurement observations we may make:

(Observation #1) - The city was measured by an angel and not John. **21:15, 17a**

Frankly, no human or engineering firm could measure this.

(Observation #2) - The city was measured with a gold rod. **21:15**

This will be a perfect, pure measurement.

(Observation #3) - The city is a perfect square. **21:16a**

Actually this is a perfect square cube.

(Observation #4) - The city has colossal dimensions. **21:16b**

This city is as tall as it is wide. The length, width and height are the same dimensions, approximately 1,500 miles. Literally, the Greek reads 12,000 stadia. One stadia is about 600 feet which is about 1,500 miles.

(Observation #5) - The city has a massive wall. **21:17-18a**

The wall is said to be 144 cubits. A cubit is 18 inches which means it is 216 feet or 72 yards high. The wall is made of jasper.

The purpose of this wall is not protection, but it is God's glory. The wall does block off boundaries of this heavenly city and it does reflect the glory of God.

Verse 17 makes it clear that even though this measurement was taken by an angel, it is according to human standards. What this tells us is this is to be taken by humans literally.

QUALITY #7 – It is a city of dazzling beauty and wealth. **21:18b-20**

There will be nothing cheap about this city and it will not be a city with slums. This will be the most spectacular city ever in existence. **Unbelievers will not even get to see it.**

According to **verse 18**, the city is made of pure gold that is like clear glass.

The foundation stones of the city not only had the names of the twelve apostles, but they also were adorned with twelve stones:

- 1) The Jasper Stone - clear in color like a dazzling diamond. **19a**
- 2) The Sapphire stone - blue in color with gold specks. **19b**
- 3) The Chalcedon stone - a greenish color. **19c**
- 4) The Emerald stone - a bright green color. **19d**
- 5) The Sardonyx stone - a red and white stone, some say reddish brown and white. **20a**
- 6) The Sardius stone - a fiery red stone. **20b**
- 7) The Chrysolite stone - a golden yellow stone. **20c**
- 8) The Beryl stone - a sea green stone. **20d**
- 9) The Topaz Stone - a greenish yellow stone. **20e**
- 10) The Chrysoprase stone - a golden green stone. **20f**
- 11) The Jacinth stone - a violet blue color stone. **20g**
- 12) The Amethyst stone - a purple stone. **20h**

These foundation stones will be something to see. They will be beautiful.

QUALITY #8 – The twelve gates to the city are twelve pearls. **21:21a**

These are the same twelve gates mentioned in **verses 12-13**. Each gate contained the name of one of the tribes of Israel and each tower gate is carved out of a pearl.

QUALITY #9 – The city has a gold street. **21:21b**

Many people refer to heaven as a place that has “streets of gold.” Actually there is one street, singular, that is gold and it apparently is transparent and is the main street through the city.

QUALITY #10 – The city has God as its glorious resident. **21:22-23**

God Himself will live in this city (21:3). He will be the light in the city. There will be no need for a Temple or place of worship, because He Himself is there.

Now the identity of God is carefully spelled out:

He is the Lord. **21:22a**

He is the God. **21:22b**

He is the Almighty. **21:22c**

He is the Lamb. **21:22d**

There is a tremendous evidence of the Deity of Jesus Christ here. God the Father and God the Son are here and there will be no need of any sun or moon for they will be the light and glory of God.

QUALITY #11 – The city will contain all nationalities of people. **21:24**

All believers from all nations will be welcome in this city. There will be an international reorganization of nationalities and they will come to this great city.

QUALITY #12 – The city will be forever safe. **21:25**

There will never be a need to close the gates because there will be no night and nothing dark.

QUALITY #13 – The city will receive glory and honor from nations. **21:26**

Nations will joyfully and willingly travel to this city to worship the King and bring honor to God.

QUALITY #14 – The city will never have any sinful unbeliever enter its gates. **21:27**

Nothing evil and no one evil will ever enter this city. God wants this known (21:8). The Greek is very strong here in that there is no possibility of anything evil ever entering this city.

All unbelievers are burning forever in the Eternal Lake of Fire and the New heaven, New earth and New Jerusalem will be a place where nothing unclean or abominable will ever exist.

Nothing unclean, nothing abominable and no liar will enter the gates of this city. The only people in this city will be those written in the Lamb's book of life.

Think for a moment of what will not exist when believers have the privilege of being in this place and city that will forever be our existence:

- 1) There will be no sea. **21:1**
- 2) There will be no separation between God and man. **21:2-3**
- 3) There will be no tears. **21:4a**
- 4) There will be no death. **21:4b**
- 5) There will be no mourning. **21:4c**
- 6) There will be no crying. **21:4d**
- 7) There will be no pain. **21:4e**
- 8) There will be nothing old. **21:5**
- 9) There will be no unmet thirst or needs. **21:6**
- 10) There will be no cowards. **21:8a**
- 11) There will be no unbelievers. **21:8b**
- 12) There will be no abominable person or thing. **21:8c**
- 13) There will be no murderer. **21:8d**
- 14) There will be no one immoral. **21:8e**
- 15) There will be no sorcerer. **21:8f**
- 16) There will be no idolater. **21:8g**
- 17) There will be no liars. **21:8h**
- 18) There will be no Temple or place of worship. **21:22** God is there in Person to worship
- 19) There will be no need for sun light. **21:23a**
- 20) There will be no need for moon light. **21:23b**
- 21) There will be no need for lamp light. **21:23c**
- 22) There will be no night. **21:25a**
- 23) There will be no closed gates. **21:25b**
- 24) There will be nothing unclean. **21:27a**
- 25) There will be no one who practices abominations. **21:27b**
- 26) There will be no one who practices lying. **21:27c**
- 27) There will be no one who is not written in the Lamb's book of life. **21:27d**

If you are not in that book, you don't get in.