"THE SPLENDOR OF NEW JERUSALEM"
Revelation 21:9 - 22:5
12-4-2022

INTRODUCTION: I Peter 1:4-5

A Practical Key Truth -- * Appreciate the greatness (splendor) of your future inheritance!**

The great splendor of new Jerusalem is described from the outside and inside.

I. The EXTERIOR splendor of New Jerusalem (v. 12-21)

A. The city's size (v. 12-17)

B. The city's quality (v. 18-21)

II. The INTERIOR splendor of New Jerusalem (v. 22 - 22:5)

A. The city's Temple (v. 22)

B. The city's Light (v. 23-25)

C. The city's Purity (v. 26-27)

D. The city's River (22:1)

E. The city's Tree of Life (22:2)

F. The city's Occupants (22:3-5)



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V. 9

"One of the seven angels" = Evidently the same angel that showed John the fall of apostate Babylon (17:1), now shows John the descent of holy Jerusalem.

"The Bride, the Lamb's Wife" - Who is the Bride?

1. "They which are written in the Lamb's book of life" (v. 27)
2. "His servants" (22:3)
3. They are the ones who "shall see His face" (22:4)
4. Whose foreheads bear His name (22:4)
5. Who will reign for ever and ever (22:5)

The angel not only shows the Bride, but spends much time describing the dwelling place of the Bride.

V. 10

"In the Spirit" = in the realm of the Spirit. (John now travels in the Spirit as he did in 1:10, 4:2)

v. 10-11

John from a mountain top view sees a city which could be described in one word: "Splendor"

1) A great city - no city will compare
2) A holy city - set apart from all defilement
3) A heavenly city - it comes from Heaven where Christ built it (Jn. 14:1-2)
4) A glorious city - it radiates (glows) with the brilliance of God. Every facet of the city sparkles like the glimmer of a diamond.

A Practical Key Truth -- * Appreciate the greatness (splendor) of your future inheritance!**

The great splendor of new Jerusalem is described from the outside and inside.

I. The EXTERIOR splendor of New Jerusalem (v. 12-21)

A. The city's size (v. 12-17)

V. 12

Names on the gates = Compare: Ezekiel 48:31-34

- North = Reuben, Judah, Levi
- East = Joseph, Benjamin, Dan
- South = Simeon, Issachar, Zebulun
- West = Gad, Asher, Naphtali

Those who originated the nation of Israel will have their names inscribed.

V. 14

"Twelve foundations" - the same apostles who laid the foundation for the Church will have their names inscribed as perpetual reminders.
Eph. 2:20 - "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone."

"the twelve apostles of the Lamb" - **All except Judas who was replaced by Matthias (Acts 1:26)
[Some argue that Matthias was not God's replacement but was the choice of Peter and the other 120 disciples (Acts 1:23-26), who acted impulsively without direction from God. They say Paul will be the twelfth. This argument is untenable.]

The Apostle John no doubt saw his name inscribed. Imagine the thrill he felt!

V. 16

"Foursquare" = a complete square with four sides.
The length, breadth, and height are all equal in dimension.
Hence, the wall is as high as it is long! No wonder it is called "great" (v. 12).
Like the Holy of Holies in the temple of Solomon where God has his dwelling place, the holy Jerusalem is a perfect cube (Smith, p. 289).

"Furlong" = [Greek "stadion"] - 1/8 Roman mile, 185 meters, 607 feet.
12,000 furlongs = 7,284,000 feet or 1,380 miles

The dimensions can be compared as follows:
The distance of Maine to Florida
The distance from the Atlantic Ocean to Colorado

Over 1/2 the size of the USA is God's eternal city!
"If you allocated 1 mile per floor level, then there would be 1380 floors, with each containing 1,904,400 square miles. Therefore the total surface area of The New Jerusalem would be 2,628,072,000 square miles. The total surface area of the Earth is only 510,100,000 square miles. The surface area of the New Jerusalem is more than 5 times the surface area of the Earth." (Rosenthal, Zion's Fire/May-June 1993, p.11)

V. 17

The thickness of the wall is 144 cubits; Cubit = 18 inches
Hence, the wall will be 2,592 inches thick, or in other words 216 feet! (2/3 the length of a football field, or 72 yards).

The angel used the measurement of a man's cubit (elbow to forefinger) so that we would comprehend the dimensions.

B. The city's quality (v. 18-21)

V. 18

"Jasper" = the wall will be clear as crystal (v. 11), sparkling and transparent because there will be nothing to hide!

V. 21

"Pure gold as it were transparent glass" - apparently the gold of heaven is so pure it is crystal clear. Recent scientific discoveries revealed that Gold in its absolute purest form is as the Bible says: clear as crystal !

Imagine walking on a crystal-clear street!

II. The INTERIOR splendor of New Jerusalem (v. 22 - 22:5)

A. The city's Temple (v. 22)

In the Millennium (Rev. 20:1-6), there will be a temple (Ezek. 40-46), but not in the New Jerusalem. A temple is a place to go to meet with God. In the New Jerusalem, God is the Temple. Hence, we will be dwelling forever in the midst of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

"The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb" - NOTE: how closely tied together God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are in context (SEE also: v. 23, 22:1, 3) They both comprise the same temple (v. 23); they both radiate the same glorious light (v. 23); and they both sit on the same throne (22:1, 3).

B. The city's Light (v. 23-25)

V. 23

"The Lamb is the light" - Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" (Jn. 8:12, 9:5) NOTE: Christ's brilliance in Rev. 1:16 - *"His countenance was as the Sun shineth in his strength"* [to look into the sun with your naked eye at 12:00 noon would compare with looking at Jesus Christ!]

V. 24

"The nations of them which are saved..."
--Only saved people will be in this city.
Are you saved? (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 10:13; Acts 16:31).

"The kings of the earth..." = (cp. v. 26) apparently people can live outside of the city during eternity - on the new earth (21:1).

V. 25

"The gates of it shall not be shut" = In ancient times, city gates were locked at sunset for security purposes.

"There shall be no night there" - Since God is light (I Jn. 1:5), and God dwells in the city, there will never be any darkness.

C. The city's Purity (v. 26-27)

V. 26

That which is valuable shall not be stored away in some bank, nor in the Vatican, but in New Jerusalem.

V. 27

"There shall in no wise enter ..." (cp. 21:8; 22:14-15).

"Defileth" - that which is common (or unclean) (It is a place of purity)
"Abomination" - shameful or indecent practices (it is a place of righteousness)
"Lie" - falsehood (it is a place of truth)
"The Lamb's book" - it is a book that belongs to Jesus; and a book that only includes the names of those who belong to Jesus (Rev. 20:15).

D. The city's River (22:1)

"The water of life" - God is the only source of such!
Jesus is such living water (Jn. 4:13-14).

E. The city's Tree of Life (22:2)

"The tree of life" - the tree formerly restricted from sinful Adam (Gn. 3:22-24) is now available to all (SEE: Rev. 22:14).

F. The city's Occupants (22:3-5)

V. 3

"No more curse" - no more cursed ground (Genesis. 3).
The reason for no more curse is because God the Father is there. He will not exist where there is a curse (EX: He turned His face away from Jesus as He became a curse for us - Gal. 3:13).

"His servants shall serve Him" - uninhibited service with the curse of sin removed.

V. 4

"They shall see His face" -

Ps. 17:15 - "As for me, I will behold Thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness."

Mt. 5:8 - "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

I Cor. 13:12 - "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."

I Jn. 3:2 - "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him: for we shall see Him as He is."

"His name...in their foreheads" (cp. Rev. 7:3) - indicative of ownership and allegiance.
Satan the counterfeiter, will falsely duplicate such a mark on people's foreheads (Rev. 13).

V. 5

"They shall reign for ever and ever" - In contrast to kings of today; also in contrast to the 1,000 year millennial reign (Rev. 20:6). They will have uninhibited dominion as Adam did before the Fall (Gen.1:26), however, in glorified bodies.