

**The End and the Beginning**  
**Message #3 – The New Jerusalem**  
**Revelation 21:9-27 (1/21/2018 AM)**

**The New Jerusalem is a *literal* physical city (9-10).**

“One of the most remarkable paradoxes of the Church of our times is its abhorrence of materiality in connection with the Kingdom of Christ and the eternal future, while practically up to its ears in materialism and earthiness”, Joseph Seiss. The New Jerusalem is not explicitly mentioned in the Old Testament. The eternity of Jerusalem is seen in, Psalm 125:1. Mount Zion is synonymous with the city of Jerusalem, Isaiah 40:9. Since God is going to uncreate the earth a New Jerusalem must be created to fulfill such prophecies. The term “New Jerusalem” is found only in Revelation, here and in (3:12). The city is described as “the bride, the Lamb’s wife” (9). The Bible uses the imagery of marriage to picture Christ’s relationship to His Church. This title appears to be enlarged to include all the saved of all the ages who occupy the city. It is called “the holy Jerusalem” because all of its inhabitants will be holy which are God, angels and men.

➤ This is the city that *Abraham* looked for, Hebrews 11:9-10.

The writer of Hebrews refers to this city in the next chapter, Hebrews 12:22-24. This is the home of the godly angels. The word “general assembly” is a word for a gathering for a public festival. We will see angels gathering in celebration and worship and we will join with them. We are called the “first born” because we are “joint heirs with Christ”, Romans 8:17. Our names are already on the registry if we are saved. All the saints of all the ages will be there, “just men made perfect”, meaning they are justified by faith in Christ.

➤ This is the place *Jesus* promised to His disciples, John 14:2-3.

The New Jerusalem is “the Father’s house” in which are “many” not mansions (poor translation) but dwelling places. This is the city that all believers should be looking forward to. Hebrews 13:14, ESV “For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.” The fact that John sees the city (10) “descending out of heaven” may indicate that the city is in existence now.

➤ This city’s most striking aspect is the *glory of God*.

John’s revelation of heaven explains Jesus’ words.

Matthew 5:12, “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.” The glory of God is the sum total of His attributes and is manifested as blazing light. The light here is described by John as “like jasper stone”. The Greek word means a transparent stone. In it the glory of God will have its full expression. The city is seen by John as a huge brilliant jewel like a magnificent diamond. The city will reflect all that God is. Isaiah 60:19, “The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; but the Lord will be to you an everlasting light, and your God your glory.” MacArthur, “Human language is inadequate to fully describe the unimaginable magnificence of the believers’ indescribable eternal home.”

**John’s description of the *outside* of the city**

John begins with the gates (12-13). The wall speaks of both definition and protection. The number “twelve” is prominent in the city. The “twelve gates” show that the redeemed of Israel will reside in the New Jerusalem. The Word of God and Son of God came through Israel who will be eternally memorialized. John then focuses upon the foundation of the city (14). The name of the apostles commemorates the Church. The redeemed of both the Old and the New Covenant live here.

➤ John sees a *cube shaped* transparent city.

The angel measured the city “according to the measure of man” (17). This indicates that these are literal not symbolic measurements. (15-16) The Holy of Holies in Solomon’s Temple was a perfect cube, twenty cubits each way, 1 Kings 6:20. Estimates put this as almost 1,500 miles. It is estimated to be about 2 million square miles of interior space.

➤ The construction of the city is one of unimaginable *beauty*.

Jasper (18) refers to a transparent stone. There will be no need for privacy. The city itself is of pure transparent gold (19-20). Jasper is transparent; some see this as a diamond. Sapphire is a brilliant blue stone. Chalcedony may be a sky blue stone with colored stripes on it. Emerald is a bright green stone. Sardonyx is a red and white striped stone. Sardius is reddish honey colored stone. Chrysolite is a yellow hued stone. Beryl is a stone of various colors and includes shades of green, yellow, and blue. Topaz is a yellow-green stone. Chrysoprase is a gold-tinted green stone. Jacinth is a blue or violet colored stone. Amethyst is a purple stone.

▪ ***These stones reflect the dazzling light of God’s glory creating a *spectrum* of brilliant colors.***

Each gate is one massive pearl (21). The pearl is the only stone in the city that is created by a living thing. An oyster creates a pearl through irritation. It is very likely that the gates are a reminder to the redeemed. Every time we pass through them we will remember it is because of Christ's suffering that we are there. Jesus Christ is "the pearl of great price" in Matthew 13:46. As John gazed through the gates he saw the streets going into the city. In the New Jerusalem the purest gold is used for pavement!!!

❖ **John's focus now turns to the city's *interior*.**

We will not need to go anywhere to worship God (22). Our life will be worship. We will dwell eternally in His presence.

➤ The city will be ***illuminated*** by the glory of God revealed in Jesus Christ (23).

The word "light" is lamp. John 8:12, "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.'"

➤ Only the ***redeemed*** will live in the New Jerusalem (24-27).

The word "nations" is *ethnos* which means people. Whatever glory one had in this life and whatever rewards we gain will be laid at the feet of Jesus.

**We will dwell eternally in perfect peace, *harmony* and *security*.**