



## REVELATION 21:9-27

### THE BEAUTIFUL NEW BRIDE

<https://youtu.be/1g65M14zL00>

**9** Then **one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls** filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."

- It has been 1,000 years in prophecy since John has seen an Angel
- **John recognizes him!**

- **(Angels do not all look the same!)**

**Revelation 15:1** Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: **seven angels having the seven last plagues**, for in them the wrath of God is complete.

- **Christ's 1000 year reign in Jerusalem has come to an end.**
- **Time has come to an end**
  - Sun and Moon are gone
  - Stars and earth are gone.
- **Casting Lucifer into the bottomless pit**

**Revelation 20:1** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.  
**2** He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;  
**3** and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

**10** And he carried me away **in the Spirit** to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem,

descending out of heaven from God,

- **The identical phrase** described John's journey with the angel who showed him the Harlot (Rev. 17:3). An intentional contrast is being made between the *Harlot*, the great city Babylon, and the *bride*, the great city, the New Jerusalem.
- **It is the Holy Spirit who transports John** while the angel journeys with him. <sup>1</sup>  
**Revelation 17:3** **So he carried me away in the Spirit** into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

**11** having **the glory of God.**

Her light was like a most precious stone,  
like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

**2 Corinthians 4:6** For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**12** Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the **twelve tribes** of the children of Israel:

- Which 12 of the 14 tribes?
  - Same as Rev 7?

**Revelation 7:4** And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand **of all the tribes of the children of Israel** were sealed:

**13** three gates on the east,  
three gates on the north,  
three gates on the south, and  
three gates on the west.

**14** Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations,  
and on them were the names of the **twelve apostles** of the Lamb.

- Clement of Alexandria argues that this variety illustrates the variety of gifts and graces in the twelve apostles. <sup>2</sup>
- **The question arises as to which twelve names are represented? Eleven of the twelve seem clear enough, but who will be listed as the twelfth?**

Will it be *Judas*, the original apostle chosen by Jesus (John 6:70)? Or perhaps *Matthias*, chosen by the eleven to replace Judas (Acts 1:26)? The third possibility is *Paul*, chosen by the Lord (Acts 9:3-6, 15-16).

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.spiritandtruth.org/teaching/Book\\_of\\_Revelation/commentary/htm/chapters/21.html#Revelation%2021%3A9](http://www.spiritandtruth.org/teaching/Book_of_Revelation/commentary/htm/chapters/21.html#Revelation%2021%3A9)

<sup>2</sup> A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Re 21:20.

While it is impossible to know, and perhaps not of great importance, **we are inclined to think the twelfth name will be that of the Apostle Paul, for it seems impossible that his name would not appear on a foundation as a major contributor to the early church and the New Testament.** On the other hand, like the scars which remain on Jesus' glorified body (John [20:27](#) cf. Rev. [5:6](#)), perhaps the name of Judas will be retained as a memorial of Christ's atoning work on the cross. <sup>3</sup>

**15** And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.

**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.

**Its length, breadth, and height are equal.**

**17** Then he measured its wall:

one hundred and forty-four cubits,

according to the measure of a man, **that is, of an angel.**

• **The number 12 is prominent in the city with:**

- 12 gates and 12 angels (v. 12)
- 12 tribes of Israel (v. 12)
- 12 foundations (v. 14)
- 12 apostles (v. 14)
- 12 pearls (v. 21)
- 12 kinds of fruit (22:2)
- with the wall 144 cubits—12 times 12 (21:17)
- the height, width, and length, 12,000 stadia, about **1,500 miles** (v. 16). <sup>4</sup>

- Commentators differ as to whether the city is a cube or a pyramid. **The descriptions seem to favor the pyramid form.** <sup>5</sup>

- Surrounding this huge city is a wall (144 cubits) 216 feet thick. <sup>6</sup>

## Just how large is this New City?

### Distance from Santa Maria to Houston Texas – 1500 miles!

- How large is the city? That varies slightly depending on the version of the Bible. The ESV and NIV versions say it is 12,000 stadia in length and width (Rev. 21:16), where a stadia is 607 feet. This translates to 1,400 miles, which is what the NLT Bible says. However, the KJV and other versions say 12,000 furlongs, which translates to 1,500 miles.

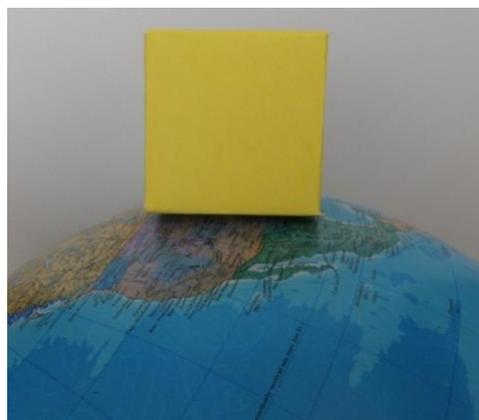
<sup>3</sup> [http://www.spiritandtruth.org/teaching/Book\\_of\\_Revelation/commentary/htm/chapters/21.html#Revelation%2021%3A9](http://www.spiritandtruth.org/teaching/Book_of_Revelation/commentary/htm/chapters/21.html#Revelation%2021%3A9)

<sup>4</sup> Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

<sup>5</sup> Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

<sup>6</sup> Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

- Regardless of whether the city is 1,400 miles or 1,500 miles in length and width, it is shaped like a square at the base. **This means New Jerusalem is larger than India with nearly 2 million square miles.** These measurements are meant to be literal since they are described as man's measurements (Rev. 21:17).
- Even more astounding than the size at the base is the height that is also at least 1,400 miles (Rev. 21:16). **This goes well beyond Earth's atmosphere and into space.**
- If a building in the city is this high and has a generous 12 feet per story, the building would be over 600,000 stories!



- The base of this city would need to conform to the curvature of the earth – IF the earth stays the same size as it is now.
  - What if the New Earth is many times larger than it is now?
  - God is doing a NEW thing – a NEW creation – a NEW earth!
- The city itself is gargantuan; it is a cube of 12,000 stadia (i.e., with sides of 1,380 miles each [depending upon the value taken for 1 stadia]). Now, the base of the city is staggering enough, for its area is 63% of that of the forty-eight contiguous states of the USA, yet it is 1,380 miles high as well. Now, as we are given no details, we cannot say what significance the height has, but by way of comparison, this city would only need 102 levels to equal the surface area of the earth, i.e., the combined areas of the oceans and the land masses (this last figure would require each level to be separated by 70,000 feet, considerably higher than commercial jet airplanes operate in 1998). These hypothetical 102 levels would have a combined area 340% larger than the total land area, deserts and vast frozen wastes included, of the present earth. **The point of all this comparison is to emphasize that the city God describes is actually many times more commodious than the earth we know.** <sup>7</sup>

**18** The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

**19** The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones:

the first foundation was **jasper**, (clear with golden hue)

the second **sapphire**, (blue)

the third **chalcedony**, (greenish)

the fourth **emerald**, (bright green)

**20** the fifth **sardonyx**, (white with layers of red)

the sixth **sardius**, (fiery red)

the seventh **chrysolite**, (golden yellow)

the eighth **beryl**, (green)

the ninth **topaz**, (greenish gold)

the tenth **chrysoprase**, (gold-green)

the eleventh **jasinth**, (violet, hyacinth)

and the twelfth **amethyst**. (purple)

- Difficult to analyze
  - “With every precious stone.” The list of the twelve stones in verses 19 and 20 has no necessary mystical meaning. “The writer is simply trying to convey the impression of a radiant and superb structure” (Moffatt). <sup>8</sup>
  - Decorative stones of Jerusalem

**Isaiah 54:11–13**

**11** “O you afflicted one,

<sup>7</sup> Monty S. Mills, *Revelations: An Exegetical Study of the Revelation to John* (Dallas, TX: 3E Ministries, 1987), Rev. 21:16.

<sup>8</sup> A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Re 21:19.

Tossed with tempest, and not comforted,  
Behold, I will lay your stones with colorful gems,  
And lay your foundations with sapphires.

**12** I will make your pinnacles of rubies,  
Your gates of crystal,  
And all your walls of precious stones.

**13** All your children shall be taught by the LORD,  
And great shall be the peace of your children.

o **12 stones of the High Priest?**

- The twelve gems do correspond closely (only eight in common) with the twelve stones on the high priest's breastplate <sup>9</sup>

**Exodus 28:17-21**

**17** And you shall put settings of stones in it, four rows of stones: The first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and an emerald; this shall be the first row;

**18** the second row shall be a turquoise, a sapphire, and a diamond;

**19** the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst;

**20** and the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper. They shall be set in gold settings.

**21** And the stones shall have the names of the sons of

**Israel**, twelve according to their names, like the engravings of a signet, each one with its own name; they shall be according to the twelve tribes.

o **Alluded to regarding Lucifer:**

**Ezekiel 28:12-14**

**12** "Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

**13** You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper,

Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold.

The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes

Was prepared for you on the day you were created.

**14** "You were the anointed cherub who covers;

**I established (consecrated, set apart from others) you;**

You were on the holy mountain of God;

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<sup>9</sup> A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Re 21:19.

You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

**21** The twelve gates were twelve pearls:  
each individual gate was of one pearl.  
And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

### **Pearls – of great value, but a pearl is not a Kosher stone!**

- From the sea, not from the earth.
- Pearls held the highest rank among precious stones. <sup>10</sup>
  - Each gate – one flawless, perfect pearl – the size of an Angel's height.
  - Not one of them guarded by Saint Peter!

### **1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written:**

**“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,  
Nor have entered into the heart of man  
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”**

- **C.H. Spurgeon: "Oh, when we meet in heaven, we shall see how little we knew about it on earth."**  
Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *The Quotable Spurgeon*, (Wheaton: Harold Shaw Publishers, Inc, 1990)
- Since it is reasonable to assume that the saints will dwell in the city, it is best to take the city as a literal future dwelling place of the saints and angels. <sup>11</sup>
  - If a building in the city is this high and has a generous 12 feet per story, the NEW JERUSALEM would be **over 600,000 stories!**

### **Hebrews 12:22–24**

**22** But you have come to Mount Zion  
**and to the city of the living God,  
the heavenly Jerusalem,  
to an innumerable company of angels,**

**23** to the general assembly  
and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven,  
to God the Judge of all,

<sup>10</sup> Marvin Richardson Vincent, *Word Studies in the New Testament*, vol. 2 (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1887), 569.

<sup>11</sup> John F. Walvoord, "Revelation," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 986.

**to the spirits of just men made perfect,**

**24** to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant,  
and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of  
Abel.

**22** But I saw no temple in it,  
for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

- **God dwelt IN us before our physical death as Christians**

**2 Corinthians 6:16**

**16** And what agreement has he temple of God with idols? For you  
are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in  
them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be  
My people."

- **Now we will dwell in Him, and with Him, in His Sanctuary**

**23** The city had 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.

**24** And **the nations** of those who are saved shall walk in its light,  
and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.

- **70 Nations**

**Matthew 24:14** And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the  
world as a witness **to all the nations**, and then the end will come.

- **M. Heiser:** Jesus sent out seventy disciples.

**The number is not accidental.**

**Seventy is the number of nations listed in Genesis 10 that were  
dispossessed at Babel.**

The seventy "return with joy" (Luke 10:17) and announce to Jesus,  
"Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" Jesus'  
response is telling: "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven"  
(10:18). The implications are clear: Jesus' ministry is the beginning of  
the end for Satan and the gods of the nations.

The great reversal is underway. <sup>12</sup>

- **Who are the kings of the earth? – You Are!**

**Revelation 5:9-10**

**9** And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll,

And to open its seals;

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<sup>12</sup> Michael S. Heiser, *The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible*, First Edition (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2015), 280–281.

For You were slain,  
And have redeemed us to God by Your blood  
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,  
**10 And have made us kings and priests to our God;  
And we shall reign on the earth.”**

**25** Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).

**26** And they shall bring the glory  
and the honor of the nations into it.

**27** But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles,  
or causes an abomination or a lie,

**but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.**

### Open gates!

- **NEVER SHUT**
- We cannot be kept from coming to the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY!
- Every day a bright shining day of God's GLORY – shining eternally from His glorious throne!
  - We are called to bring our GLORY into the City of New Jerusalem
    - **79.18 δόξα<sup>α</sup>, ης f: the quality of splendid, remarkable appearance—‘glory, splendor.’** οὐδὲ Σολομῶν ἐν πάσῃ τῇ δόξῃ αὐτοῦ περιεβάλετο ὡς ἓν τούτων ‘even Solomon in all his splendor was not arrayed like one of these’ Mt 6:29; καὶ πᾶσα δόξα αὐτῆς ὡς ἄνθος ‘and all its splendor as a flower’ 1 Pe 1:24.  
13

### **Isaiah 60:5**

**5** Then you shall see and become radiant,  
And your heart shall swell with joy;  
Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,  
**The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.**

## Benediction

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God,  
that the words, which we have heard this day with our outward ears,  
may through Thy grace be so grafted inwardly to our hearts,  
that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living,

<sup>13</sup> Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 695.

to the honor and praise of Thy Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.