

# The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-21

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## Review: Rev 21:1-8, All Things Made New

- There will be no curse in the Eternal State.
- Our eternal existence will be as physical bodies in a physical world.
- Our eternal existence will be absolutely amazing; no one should want to miss out on it.

## Revelation 21:9-17 – Glory of New Jerusalem

<sup>9</sup> 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.” <sup>10</sup> 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, <sup>11</sup> having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. <sup>12</sup> 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: <sup>13</sup> three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. <sup>14</sup> Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.

## v9 – Who is the Lamb and his bride?

- The Lamb is Jesus who made the ultimate sacrifice to pay the sin penalty of all who’d trust in Him.
- The bride is His followers, the church, us!

## Why is the New Jerusalem called the bride?

Because it is the place where all God’s people are gathered.

- The city is associated with the bride to awe us with a sense of its beauty.

## v10-11 – How is our eternal home described?

It reflected the glory of God, a place worthy of Him spending eternity in it; shining like a precious gem.

## v12 – Why did the New Jerusalem need a wall?

It is symbolic... only the righteous, those legally allowed to be there are permitted. There will be no undocumented refugees in the New Jerusalem.

## v12-13 – What do the 12 gates represent?

- Israel... the people God used to bring the Messiah and document His Word.
- God will never forget the tribes of Israel, even into eternity.
- We will not be confined to the New Jerusalem but it will be our home and may come and go.

## v14 – What do the foundations represent?

The apostles of Jesus who He used to build His church. The New Jerusalem and the church are founded upon the apostles...

Ephesians 2:19-20 – *you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone*

## Will Paul or Matthias be on one of the foundations?

The Bible does not explicitly say, but GotQuestions.org believes it will likely be Matthias.

- Paul would not have been qualified based on the apostles’ criteria in Acts 1:21-22.
- While Paul was way more dominant in “foundation work,” most of the other disciples were likewise not mentioned.
- God is sovereign. If it was not His sovereign will for Matthias to be chosen, Matthias would not have been chosen.

Ultimately, though, we will have to wait to find out.

### **v15-16 – How large is our eternal home?**

- Given a furlong = 1/8 mile...  
1500 miles by 1500 miles by 1500 miles  
(from Maine to Florida), the square footage the size of the moon
- A cube or a pyramid.
- Assume a pyramid with 14B people, 50% common area, each would have a cube 1800 ft on a side; or with a 100-foot ceiling, a room 1.4 miles by 1.4 miles!

### **v17 – How high was the wall?**

Given 1 cubit = 18 inches... 216 feet

### **Revelation 21:18-27 – The Beauty of New Jerusalem**

<sup>18</sup> *The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.* <sup>19</sup> *The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, <sup>20</sup> the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprased, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.* <sup>21</sup> *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.* <sup>22</sup> *But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.* <sup>23</sup> *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.* <sup>24</sup> *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.* <sup>25</sup> *Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).* <sup>26</sup> *And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.* <sup>27</sup> *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.*

### **v18 – What was the wall made of?**

Jasper... hard, pretty stone

### **What was the city made of?**

Pure gold, like clear glass... rare, precious, polished

### **Why like clear glass?**

The constant mention of transparency indicates that the city is designed to transmit the glory of God in the form of light without hindrance.

### **v19-21 – What is the significance of the adornment of the foundation?**

Beautiful & precious gems... what we should consider the foundation of our faith to be.

- If there is any Biblical reference point for this assortment of gemstones, it is probably the High Priest's breastplate (Exodus 28:15-21).

### **Revelation 21:22-27 – God in the New Jerusalem**

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### **v22 – Why will there be no temple there?**

The Triune God will be there, the city itself is the temple.

### **v23 – What will light the New Jerusalem?**

God Himself... we will see everything in the New Jerusalem because everything will reflect the glory of God.

### **Does this mean there will be no sun light?**

No, it doesn't say that... just that sun light will not be necessary to see things.

- The illumination from God will be far superior to any sunlight.

### **v24 – What is this reference to nations, I thought there would be no sea?**

Nations is ethnos in the Greek... we will still have a racial or national identity; we'll just all be one people.

### **How is it the kings of the earth will bring their glory and honor into the New Jerusalem?**

The church will be the kings of the earth... Jesus said we'd rule with Him during the Millennial Kingdom but that merely foreshadows the Eternal State.

1 Peter 2:9 – *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*  
Accomplishments of the redeemed will render honor to whom it is due, our Creator-God.

**v25 – When will the gates of our new home be shut?**

Never, there will be no night with the illumination from God. We will not need to sleep. It will truly be the city that never sleeps.

**v26 – What is the glory and honor of the nations?**

- How people have contributed to people coming to know the source of all glory and honor.
- Everyone will know the contribution of everyone else in building the Kingdom of God.
- And we will continue doing things that honor God and bless our fellow saints... we will not be idle during the Eternal State.

**v27 – Who may enter the New Jerusalem?**

Only those written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

**What is this Book of Life and how do you get your name in there?**

- It is God's official record of all who will spend eternity with Him thus it is all who have been born again and know Jesus Christ as their Savior.
- God wrote our names in the Book in eternity past because He knows who will trust in Him...  
*Rev 13:8 – those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world*

**Who may not enter the New Jerusalem?**

Anything that defiles, causes an abomination or a lie.

**So, does that mean there will be present things that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie during the Eternal State?**

We could write this off as being rhetorical or we could acknowledge that this is a possibility given this vast universe and the potential for additional dimensions where there are new creations that need to know God...

*Isaiah 9:6-7 – For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end***

**How is it that the government of God will increase?**

God is the Creator... Do we really think He will set aside this aspect of His nature when He initiates the Eternal State?

*1 Corinthians 2:9 – 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.*

**What is the blessing to us in this description of the New Jerusalem?**

- There is a city where we can all live in eternal bodies that will never get sick, wear out or grow old.
- We will be spending eternity with our Creator and Savior
- The Eternal State will not have the curse that plagues this fallen world.