

Rev41 - The Real New Jerusalem - Rev 21:9-23

Did you hear about the elderly couple, who'd been married forever, who passed away at the same time, and both went to heaven. They'd been in exceptional health in their latter years because of the wife's insistence on them eating healthy.

When they reached heaven - Peter greeted them & showed them their spectacular new home with an incredible view of the entire universe and then took them right over to the most lavish buffet you could imagine, with every desirable food all laid out.

The Old man asked "How much does it cost?" - Peter said "This is heaven; it's all free!" - - "Well then, I guess you better show me to the low-fat and high-fiber foods?" said the man

Peter said "That's the best part," "You can eat as much as you like, of whatever you like, and you'll never gain weight or get sick. Because this, is heaven." The old man looked at his wife and said, "You and your stupid bran muffins - we could have been here ten years ago!"

Now - I'm not saying we need to RUSH ourselves to Heaven -
But we DO need to GET EXCITED about what's In-Store for us

we're in our 4th Message - Getting us Excited about Heaven -

We started with the "Big Picture" message - "Heaven is Real"

& then we looked More - at the REALNESS of our Heavenly Lives in "Real Earth - Real Bodies"

& then - we kinda had to back up a little in our Last Msg
To explain the diff between "Present Heaven & New Heaven"

& Thru it ALL - our GOAL has been to SHAKE UP
our Misconceptions & Misunderstandings about Heaven

I believe - The Enemy, Using the influence of this World
Has CLOUDED our minds about HEAVEN

& he has DEFLATED our EXCITEMENT -
& STOLEN our PASSION for Heaven

Which has CAUSED us to be Far Less ACTIVE
About trying to get other people to GO THERE with us

& we're trying to TURN that around - in our own HEARTS & MINDS

& so Today - we're going to look at the REAL New Jerusalem
Continuing to focus on the REALNESS of our Eternal Life in Christ

Let's Pray

I need to start today - back in Rev 21:1
Cause there's something there I kinda left Hanging

Revelation 21:1 (ESV)

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

I KNOW some of you have been wondering when I was going to
deal with this statement - the sea was no more

Here's the deal - There's not very many Scholars that AGREE
on how to interpret this statement

It certainly DOES NOT Mean - there will be No More WATER
Altho possibly No More SALT-WATER

Some **Creation Scientists** believe
there was **NO SEA** - **Before** the **Flood**

& so **the OCEAN** - *as we know it* -
Might be **Replaced** by all **FRESH Bodies of Water**

But **Also** - The **Open Sea** has always **been seen** as
a **Dangerous Unknown** - of **Struggle**, **High Risk**, & **Death**

& so **John** may be **referring** to the **Danger**, **Struggle**, & **Death**
So often **associated** with **the Sea**

But **Really** - **if I can't** find **Bible Scholars** who **agree** here -
I'm **Definitely Not** throwing **MY 2-CENTS** in

So - **Let's** just **move forward** to our **Focus for Today**

Let's Re-Read - Revelation 21:2-4 (ESV)

***2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.***

4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

We **keep reading** these vs's - **because**, for me - **these are** the
EVERYTHING Vs's - - **GOD is going to be WITH US**

We said **1st msg** - these **vs's** are **CLEAR** - **God** is **Coming Down**
to **Dwell** with **US** - **ON** the **New Earth** He's **created** for us

We might imagine a return to a Garden-of-Eden type Life w/ God

We said 1st wk - in Eden - God made a Paradise for Mankind
then Came Down to the Paradise He made for them - to be w/ them

In a Similar Way - that Paradise is being Re-Created for Eternity

God will be with us, as our God - He will Wipe away every tear -
& Forever Remove Death - Mourning - Crying - Pain

All those things will have PASSED AWAY

There's just ONE HUGE Difference between the Eden Paradise
& the New Earth Paradise

& THAT IS - the NEW JERUSALEM!!

The New Jerusalem - coming down out of Heaven
is Truly WHAT Makes the New Earth - HEAVEN

So let's dive into it - starting in Rev 21:9 - & let me just remind you
before we even get started - THIS IS REAL !!

Revelation 21:9 (ESV)

9 Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb."

The Angel uses the same descriptive language for the City
that John used in V.2 (*a Bride adorned for her husband*)

& for those thinking - Isn't the CHURCH the BRIDE of Christ ?
YES we are - & we are THERE - with God - Making up the City

Revelation 21:10 (esv)

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,

11 Times in Rev 21 & 22 - John uses the word CITY to refer to this NEW CENTER of Heaven

Now - to those of us living in a small Farm Town - the idea that the CENTER of Heaven will be a CITY - may not be that appealing

But this is a city like earth has never seen & like you & I can't even Fully Imagine

It is the Perfect PARADISE CITY

With Everything RIGHT in it - & Nothing WRONG

HOWEVER - It IS a CITY still - A REAL CITY

That will be the BASE of our life in the New Universe w/ God

AND - it's a CITY that's been Longed-For thru-out the Bible

Hebrews 11:10 (NLT)

10 Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.

A City w/ Eternal Foundations Designed & Built BY GOD

For ALL Believers - - Now THAT'S a City

& it is where we will REST & DWELL with God

& FROM THERE - we'll Travel Out - around the New Universe!

In Rev 21:11 - John tries to SUMMARIZE the Indescribable Glory

Revelation 21:11 (esv)

11 having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

The **GLORY OF GOD** is the **Radiance** of **God's Full Deity**

In **Exo 40** - when the **GLORY OF GOD** Filled the **Tabernacle** -
Moses **Could Not** even **ENTER** the **Tent**

In **1Kin 8** - when the **GLORY OF GOD** filled the **Temple** -
The **Priests** **Could Not** even **ENTER** the **Temple** to minister

But - **NOT SO** - when the **GLORY OF GOD**
Dwells **Permanently** in the **New Jerusalem** - **NOT SO !!**

IN attempting to **describe** the **GLORY OF GOD** in the **New Jerusalem**
John grasps at all he can **imagine** - **He says;**

its radiance is like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal

Many commentators believe
John is **trying** to **describe** a **Perfect DIAMOND** here

Now - **we're gonna** get to **the SIZE** of the **New Jerusalem**

But **let me** just **tell** you - **while** we're **talking about** the **Glory**
Of our **Eternal Home** **looking** like a **Perfect Diamond** →

The SIZE of this City - That the **GLORY OF GOD** makes look like
a **Radiant Diamond** - Is **ONE HALF the Size** of the **United States**

Can you **IMAGINE** - a **Perfect DIAMOND** - **Half the Size** of the **U.S.**

With The **FULL GLORY OF GOD** shining from **INSIDE IT**
Coming Down out of Heaven - to Earth

The New Jerusalem is truly
The Crown Jewel of the New Heavens & New Earth !!

& while we're talking about the FULL GLORY of God
Radiating from inside this Diamond of a City →

Just Glance down at Revelation 21:23

23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

THAT is how Incredible the GLORY OF GOD is going to be
in our new home - It will LITERALLY be our LIGHT in Heaven

The Most VITAL - All Encompassing - Indescribable Truth
of the New Jerusalem

Is the Permanent, Full, Tangible Presence - of The Glory Of God

It's the Glory Moses ASKED to see - When Moses needed to KNOW
that God was WITH HIM - He cried out - "God, Show me your Glory"

& God said - *If I did - you'd die !!*

But *there's coming a Day Moses* - When we will LIVE
in the Very Presence - of the Full GLORY OF GOD !!

The FIRST Description of the New Jerusalem
is the MOST IMPORTANT Description →

The New Jerusalem will be DEFINED
by the Full GLORY OF GOD Dwelling there

& yet - John ATTEMPTS to Describe MORE of the Indescribable

Revelation 21:12-13 (esv)

12 It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed—

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

This **Great, High Wall** - is **Measured** in **V.17**
& it is **216 Feet THICK** (144 cubits)

A **Wall** of **Clear Jasper** - Like a **Perfect Diamond** - **200 ft thick**
With the **GLORY OF GOD** **shooting** thru it **like a LASER** !!

& **12 Gates** - with **12 Angels** at the Gates -
with the **Names** of the **12 Tribes of Israel** **inscribed** on them

& **V.21** says - each of the **Gates** are Made of **A SINGLE PEARL**

So **YES** - there **ARE** actual **PEARLY GATES** in Heaven - - **BUT**
PETER is **NOT** standing there **telling jokes** about **Priests & Rabbi's**

It's **Actually ANGLES** at each of **the Gates**
GREETING us as we **go in & out** of this **Pure Diamond City**

& notice - The **Number 12** plays a **KEY ROLE**
in **the Description** of the **New Jerusalem**

Like the **Number 7** - **12** **symbolizes completeness** (**perfection**)

But **more specifically**
it symbolizes **PERFECT ORDER**, or **PERFECT GOVERNMENT**

**12 Gates - 12 Pearls - 12 Angels - 12 Tribes
12 Foundations - 12 Apostles - 12 kinds of Fruit**

**& the Measurements of both the Walls & the City
Are in Multiples of 12 . . . *Just because God CAN !!!***

Let's **NOT get WACKY** with the **Numbers**
But **Let's REALIZE - God is INFINITE** in His **Communication**

**& the New Jerusalem Definitely Represents
God's Perfect ORDER & Perfect GOVERNMENT**

& Notice - V.12 says - *and on the 12 gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed*

As an **Eternal Reminder** of **God's Covenant** with **Israel**

<u>You & I</u> - <u>PASS THRU</u> the <u>Gates</u> of heaven - <u>BECAUSE OF</u> <u>God's Covenant</u> to <u>Bring the Messiah</u> thru the <u>Nation of Israel</u>
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Next - in Revelation 21:14 (esv)

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

**We'll see a description of these 12 Foundations in a min
But you can probably guess - It Aint CONCRETE**

& on the 12 FOUNDATIONS - are the Names of the 12 APOSTLES

**Eph 2:20 says that WE (The Body of Christ) have been built
on the FOUNDATION of the Apostles & the Prophets
with Jesus Himself being the Chief Cornerstone**

& so God has Built the New Jerusalem to Forever remember;

**#1) That our KNOWLEDGE of God
came thru the GATES of the Jewish People**

**#2) Our FAITH in Christ has been Built Upon
the Foundation LAID by the N.T. Apostles . . . Incredible!**

& Now - The Angel - MEASURES the City for us

Revelation 21:15-17 (esv)

15 And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls.

16 The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia (1,500 Miles). Its length and width and height are equal. (1,500 mi high)

17 He also measured its wall, 144 cubits (216 ft) by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement.

So - the New Jerusalem - is a Perfect CUBE
1,500 Miles in Length, Width, and HEIGHT

1,500 Miles is the North to South Length of the U.S.
From Mexico to Canada

& 1,500 Miles is from the L.A. to Arkansas

In SQUARE Miles - just the BASE of the New Jerusalem
Is over HALF the size of the United States

**BUT - it's NOT a 2-Dimensional City - it's a 3-Dimensional City
It's also 1,500 Mi High - HALF the U.S. - AND that HIGH also**

Even if you CAN'T think 3-Dimensional - It's still a HUGE City

But - if you **CAN** think **3-Dimensional** - **The city** may have **LAYERS**
& If **Ea Layer** is **1 Mile High** - that's **1,500 Layers**

Which now makes the Total Area of the **City - 700 TIMES**
The **Total Area** of the **United States** - **NOW** that's a **BIG City**

& **remember** - That's **JUST** the **Capital City** of the **New Earth**
We will in **NO WAY** be **Confined** there - but **Coming & Going**

Not only around a Perfect World - But in a Perfect Universe

Again - John struggles to try to Describe the Indescribable

Revelation 21:18 (esv)

18 The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

**Again (from V.11) The clear Jasper is like a Perfect Diamond
& **THAT** is what **the 200 ft thick Wall** is **Made** of**

& then **John** says - ***the city was pure gold, like clear glass***

& **glance down** at the end of **V.21** - **the street of the city**
was pure gold, like transparent glass

We've got to **HOLD ON** to the **already Diamond-Like Look** -
& **now** we **add Pure Transparent Gold**

Transparent Gold is **NOT** hard to **imagine** -
if we **get** the **image** of a **Gold-Bar OUT** of our **mind**

Do you know that it's **actually** the **IMPURITIES** in the Gold
That **make it look** the **way** we **See Gold** today

Imagine GOLD that **Looks** Like **GLASS**

Because IF the **3-Dimensional** view **Correct** (say **1,500 layers**)
Then the Streets **WOULD** need to be **transparent** →

for the **GLORY OF GOD** to **continue** to **create** such an **overwhelming**
LIGHT - that the **Sun & the Moon** are **no longer needed**

The **City of GOLD** - With **Transparent Streets of Gold**
With the **GLORY OF GOD Shining** thru them - **That's AWESOME**

& **now** - **John returns** to the **12 Foundations**
with the **Names** of the **12 Apostles Inscribed** on them

Revelation 21:19 (esv)

***19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald,
20 the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.***

Each of these **jewels** are a **different incredible color**
All **layered together** by the **Master artist** - **God** Himself

AND - **keeping** with **the Image** of **TRANSPARENT Precious Stones**

With all these incredibly **colorful Jewels** - **ALL** with the Full
GLORY OF GOD shining thru - - - **THAT BLOWS YOUR MIND!**

In V.21 we have 2 facts we've already addressed

Revelation 21:21 (esv)

21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

Already looked at these - - Indescribable Glory & Beauty

& **then** - in our **final 2 vs's** today - We see **2 of things** that **WILL NOT Be** in the **New Jerusalem**

Revelation 21:22 (esv)

22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

When John says he saw **NO Temple**

What he **means** is **NO PHYSICAL Temple**

The Temple was the **Place set aside** for **God**

The place where **God** would **MEET** with **the people**

& **now** - in the **New Jerusalem** - it is **ALL**

the Place set aside for the **people** to **MEET** with **GOD**

There **IS** a **Temple** - **The Temple IS God Himself** - & **The Lamb**

The **Crown Jewel** of The **New Heavens & Earth**

will be a **Temple** the **size** of a **1,500 mile Cubed DIAMOND**

It will **ALL** be the **Place of God**

It will **ALL** be the **Place** where we **Meet with God**

& then - to close - Let's Remind ourselves of the GLORY

Revelation 21:23 (esv)

23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

***The GLORY OF GOD gives it light -
& Remember - THAT is the PRIMARY Characteristic of Heaven***

**HOW do we grasp something that is Indescribable in its GLORY
Indescribable in its MAGNIFICENCE
Indescribable in its UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES . . .**

WE REALLY CAN'T !!

Henry Morris, That great Creation Scientist, said

"The New Jerusalem is composed of such beautiful materials, such unique construction, and such amazing dimensions as to be almost beyond human comprehension."

All I can say - is TWO things;

#1) It's MORE & BETTER than you can ever possibly Imagine

#2) Don't MISS IT !!

Get your Name on the Citizenship Role of the New Jerusalem

As Revelation 21:27 says → →

Revelation 21:27 (ESV)

27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

That can be YOU - TODAY

Turn FROM your Sin - Turn TO Jesus Christ

Ask Him to FORGIVE You - - To COME INTO your Life

& He WILL Write Your Name - in the Lamb's Book of Life

Let's Pray