

04/22/2026

# The Book of Revelation (13)

21:1-22:5

Wednesday Night  
Bible Study

# Tonight's Plan

The 'Main Point' of 21:1–22:5

The City, New Jerusalem

The City and Revelation

The City and the Bible

# The Main Point of 21:1-22:5

*God's Presence with His  
People*

# *The Church-Bride*

*The Relationship Between 21:1-8  
and 21:9-22:5*

## 21:1-8 and 21:9-22:5

- New Jerusalem/bride (21:2 & 21:9)
- The presence of God (21:3 & 21:23, 22:3)
- Water (21:6 & 22:1-2)
- Exclusion of the wicked and compromising (21:8 & 21:27)

*Literal City?*

# Reasons Against a Literal City

1. **City = Bride**
2. **Connection to OT passages**
3. **Symbolic nature of city's characteristics**
4. **Losing the rhetorical punch**

# The City, New Jerusalem

*(Ezekiel 40-48; Isaiah 55, 65-66)*

# *Dimensions*

# Dimensions of New Jerusalem

- 'Foursquare'
- 12,000 stadia in every direction (1380 miles)
- Wall has measurement of 144 cubits

## Dimensions of New Jerusalem, Interpreted

- 12 - God's people, wholeness, complete
- 1,000 - strength, power, size, ruling, etc.
- No danger of persecution
- Same dimensions as 'Most Holy Place'
  - God's presence

# *Construction*

# Construction of New Jerusalem

- 12 gates, 3 on each side, always open
  - On the gates are the names of tribes of Israel
- 12 foundations for the wall
  - On the foundations are 12 apostles
- Wall made of jasper, city made of pure gold.

# Construction of New Jerusalem, Interpreted

- The continuity of the people of God

## Ephesians 2:19-21 ESV

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

# Construction of New Jerusalem, Interpreted

- The continuity of the people of God
- The gems = the value of God's presence
  - Breastplate of OT priest

# *Contents*

# Content of New Jerusalem

- No temple, but God and the Lamb (21:22)
- No sun or moon, but God and his glory (21:23)
- The nations enter (21:24-26)
- Those in the Lamb's book of life (21:27)
- River of the water life (22:1-2)
- Tree of life (22:2)

## Content of New Jerusalem, Interpreted

- No temple or sun because God is enough
- Entrance of the kings = Gentile inclusion
- Water and tree = life provided by Christ

# The City and Revelation

# *The Bride, not Babylon*

# *Church Perfected*

## The Letters vs. chs 21-22

- Ephesus: the tree of life (22:1-2)
- Smyrna: the second death (21:8)
- Pergamum: new name (22:4)
- Thyatira: the nations, Psalm 2 (22:5)
- Sardis: name in the book of life (21:27)
- Philadelphia: new Jerusalem (whole section)
- Laodicea, reigning with Christ (22:5)

# The City and the Bible

# *Creation and New Creation*

## 2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

ὥστε εἴ τις ἐν Χριστῷ, καινὴ κτίσις· τὰ ἀρχαῖα παρῆλθεν, ἰδοὺ  
γέγονεν καινά·

# *Creation and New Creation*

# Conclusion