

Title of Study: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ”

Theme of Revelation: The majesty and glory of the warrior lamb, King Jesus, who is coming again to rule and reign forever.

Purpose: To encourage and give hope to the persecuted church and call the church to faithful obedience.

Title: “Open House”

Main idea: As believers, we look for a city to come!

- Hebrews 13:14
- We were further introduced to the city in Revelation 21:1-8.
- Now we get a closer look. We even get a look inside.

### 6 Details

#### 1. It is a holy city!

- Revelation 21:2 “Holy city”
- 21:9 “seven angels”
- vs (9) “the bride”
  - The city is so closely associated with its occupants that it can be called the bride.
- vs (9) “Lamb’s wife”
  - The marriage will then be complete (See 19:7)

\*The angel showing the New Jerusalem (the wife) is in contrast to the showing of the city of Babylon (the prostitute).

- Revelation 17:1
- vs (10) “carried me away in the Spirit”
  - The Greek wording can mean “in the Spirit” or “by the Spirit”.
  - This makes it uncertain whether the Spirit took him there or if he only went there in his spirit.
- vs (10) “holy Jerusalem”
  - It is completely perfect, separated from anything unholy.
- vs (10) “from God”
  - God is the builder and architect (Hebrews 11:10).
- vs (11) “having the glory of God”
  - We frequently think of the brilliant light associated with God’s glory.
  - vs (11) speaks of her light “like a jasper stone”.
  - “Jasper” was most likely more like a diamond and the radiant glory of God reflected all over the heavenly Jerusalem.
  - But the “glory of God” also speaks of His holiness, of all His divine attributes which make up His perfection.
  - We “fall short of the glory” in that we are not perfect.

- So His city is a holy city, filled with His glory.
- It won't be contained behind a veil or limited to a cloud or pillar of fire.
- It will fill the New Jerusalem.
- vs (26) "nothing that defiles" will be there.

### Application

- Can you imagine living where everything and everyone is holy?
2. It is an accessible city!
- vs (12) "twelve gates"
  - vs (12) "twelve angels"
    - It's as if they are guards but there won't be anything to guard.
    - It could be a reminder to us as we go in and out that nothing evil can come in.
  - vs (12) "names written"
    - "twelve tribes"
    - We are not told which 12 names as the list varies in Revelation.
    - What we can say is this represents God's people in the Old Testament who trusted Christ.
  - vs (13) "3 gates on the east", "north", "south", "west"
    - This is the same set-up for the camp of Israel.
    - Number 2:1-3
    - Numbers 2:5, 7
    - Numbers 2:10, 12, 14
    - Numbers 2:18, 20, 22
    - Numbers 2:25, 27, 29
    - The Levites were in the middle.
    - So how the Israelites camped pictured how the tribes names would be on the gates of the New Jerusalem. (See also Ezekiel 48 and the millennial temple).
    - Why so many gates it seems to show easy access into the city.
    - vs (25) "gates shall not be shut".

### Application

- We will have access into the holy city at anytime from anywhere in the new heaven and new earth.
  - Nothing will prevent it. Sin won't keep us out any longer. Satan can't keep us out!
3. It will be a great city!
- vs (10) "great city"
  - vs (12) "great and high walls"
  - vs (14) "Wall" "had 12 foundations"
    - It could be on each side – wall, gate, wall, gate, wall, gate. Everywhere there is a wall and gate there is a foundation under it.
    - This would account for 12 foundations with 3 foundations on each side.

- The foundations are not like what we see where they are below ground but are visible.
- “12 apostles names” vs (14)
- This has led some to see Israel and the church as separate in heaven in the eternal state.
- However, it seems more likely to point to the fact that there is one people of God in the city made up of saved Israelites and the church – Old Testament saints and New Testament saints.
- The church does not replace Israel.
- Israel will have a unique role in the end times and in the millennial kingdom.
- But once we get to the eternal state it will be one people of God. The names of the tribes and apostles will remind us that God saved people from all nations to be His people.
- Ephesians 2:20
  
- vs (15) “gold reed to measure the city”
  - Revelation 11:1 he measures the temple during the tribulation period.
  - Ezekiel 40:3 he measures the temple of the millennial kingdom.
  - In some sense God has always measured off what belongs to Him (even though it all belongs to Him).
  
- vs (16) “square”
  - As you look at the description a cube may be a better picture of it. (See height in vs 16).
  
- vs (16) “twelve thousand furlongs”
  - Also called stadia. (607 feet).
  - Because there have been different measurements of a stadia in history this has been given wiggle room between 1380 miles to 1500 miles.
  - 1 Kings 6:20
  - Solomon’s temple was also a cube.
  - Some think that each person in heaven will have a cube as opposed to a block on a street.
  - If so, that would amount to about 75 acres.
  - To put it in perspective this would cover from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico in one direction and from Colorado to the Atlantic in the other.
  
- vs (17) “the wall”
  - All it says is “144 cubits”.
  - It doesn’t tell us but it seems best to see this as the thickness of it.
  - A cubit is the distance from a man’s elbow to the tip of the middle finger and is about 18 inches long.
  - This would make it 2592 inches, or 216 feet, or about 72 yards thick.
  - You say is this literal?
  - vs (17) “measure of a man”, “of an angel” points to it being literal.
  
- Truly it is a great city, beyond anything we can imagine.

Application

- Imagine the size, and this is not including the rest of the new earth.
- Perhaps we will be able to go anywhere quickly.

## 4. It is a beautiful city!

- vs (18) “jasper”
  - I already mentioned this is likely a diamond.
- vs (18) “City is pure gold”
  - literally gold without impurities.
  - Our gold today is never completely without impurities.
  - “like clear glass”
  - Everything is designed to radiate the glory of the Lord.
- vs (19) “the foundations are adorned” “precious stones”
  - Precious as compared to common. They are rare stones.
  - The identification is difficult because of the way stones are identified being changed through the years.
- vs (19) “jasper” (see above notes)
- vs (19) “sapphire” A brilliant blue
- vs (19) “chalcedony – From the Chalcedon region (Modern Turkey)
  - Sky blue (still Carolina blue in heaven)
  - It could also have colored stripes mixed in.
- vs (19) “emerald” – Bright green
- vs (20) “sardonyx” – Likely red and white striped
- vs (20) “sardius” Common quartz with various shades of red.
- vs (20) “chrysolite” – Transparent gold or yellow-hued.
- vs (20) “beryl” – Various colors including green, yellow and blue.
- vs (20) “topaz” – A yellow/green.
- vs (20) “chrysoptase” – A gold-tinted green.
- vs (20) “jacinth”- Blue or violet colored in John’s day though the more modern stone is a red or reddish brown.
- vs (20) “amethyst” – Purple
- Imagine the breath-taking beauty of these dazzling colors.
- vs (21) “twelve pearls”
  - Each gate is “one pearl”
  - So each pearl could be up to 1500 miles high.
  - How appropriate! All other precious gems are metals or stones, but a pearl is a gem formed within an oyster – the only one formed by living flesh. The humble oyster receives an irritation or a wound, and around the offending article that has penetrated and hurt it, the oyster builds a pearl.

The pearl, we might say, is the answer of the oyster to that which injured it. The glory land is God's answer, in Christ, to wicked men who crucified heaven's beloved and put him to open shame. How like God it is to make the gates of the New Jerusalem of pearl. The saints as they come and go will be forever reminded, as they pass the gates of glory, that access to God's home is only because of Calvary. Think of the size of those gates! Think of the supernatural pearls from which they are made! What gigantic suffering is symbolized by those gates of pearl. Throughout the endless ages we shall be reminded by those pearly gates of the immensity of the sufferings of Christ. Those pearls, hung eternally at the access routes to glory, will remind us forever of One who hung upon a tree and whose answer to those who injured Him was to invite them to share His home."

*John Phillips*

- vs (21) "street" "pure gold"
  - 1 Kings 6:30
  - The priests walked on floors overlaid with gold.
  - In heaven, we will walk on streets of gold.

#### Application

- We cannot even imagine the beauty of this place.
- Now we see in a "mirror dimly" but one day we will see it.
- It will be breath-taking. And we never have to leave it.

5. It will be a safe city!

- vs (12) "12 angels"
  - I mentioned earlier they will make us secure feeling even though technically nothing bad can enter.
- vs (25) "gates shall not be shut"
  - While earlier I mentioned this shows constant access, in its context it points to security.
  - "(there shall be no night there)"
  - Nighttime is when cities shut their gates because that's when criminals of all sorts would creep into cities. It is also when enemies would attempt to slip in.
  - There will not be a need to shut the gates.
  - Revelation 21:8
  - Revelation 21:27

#### Application

- Won't it be great to never fear crime, to never fear attack, to never fear our enemy, the devil, again?

6. It will be an occupied city!

- vs (9) "wife"
  - We will be there!

- vs (12) Old Testament and New Testament believers
- vs (12) “Angels” will be there
- vs (8) and us vs (27) nothing evil or unholy will occupy it.
- But that’s not the best part!
- vs (22) “no temple in it”
  - John got to look inside.
  - The first thing he might think to look for is the temple.
  - Remember, mention of the temple in other parts of Revelation describe the temple in heaven now, but in the eternal state there will not be one.
  
- vs (22) “the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple”.
  - This is the ultimate experience.
  - God dwelt in a tabernacle or temple in the Old Testament and people had to go there to where He was.
  - God dwelt in a body as Jesus!
  - God’s Spirit dwells in us!
  - But in that day, God’s presence will be seen and experienced and enjoyed everywhere.
  
- vs (23) “glory” “illuminated”
  
- vs (24) “nations”
  - Ethnos simply means peoples. So this could simply mean the Gentiles. In other words, all people from every nation, tongue and tribe will walk in its light.
  
- vs (24) “kings”
  - Could be referring to us as kings. We will reign as kings in the millennial kingdom but perhaps in the eternal state, this is where we cast our crowns before Him.
  - It just simply pictures all of us on equal ground coming in the city and all the worship going to Him!

#### Application

- Revelation 21:3
- This again is the climax of Revelation, the climax of the Bible!