

## From the Garden to a City – Part 2 Revelation 21

Stand Read 21:1-8 Pray

As we have been looking at the city that we will be living in for all eternity over the last couple of lessons and we have seen a few things.

It will be brand new and prepared by God for us. The former things will be passed away. All pain and suffering will end. Best of all, God will dwell with us!

It is interestingly enough that this city will be presented to us as a bride for her husband. The language is quite clear...it was a moment where John and us the reader are speechless at its beauty.

We left off last time in verses 10-11...

***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, 11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.***

We are going to see all the details of this city today but those are not the most important. What is? The glory of God!

Exodus 40:33-38

So Moses finished the work. 34 Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 35 And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 36 Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. 37 But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. 38 For the cloud of the Lord was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

2 Chronicles 7:1-3

When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. 2 And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house. 3 When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the Lord on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the Lord, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever."

John 1:14

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Now we will see today the secondary aspects of this city. First the who of the city...

***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: 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.***

The first thing we notice is the use of the number "12". We say that this is the number for human government but it's more than that. It is God's government. How do we know that? Look at the names involved. Those related to the Old Testament and the New.

Before we look at the correlation of the two sets let's get out of our mind the idea that these are monuments or memorials. You need to remember that they will be there alive in the city too! These are not like the dry old statues we have in this life. Monuments to men that once lived and are now gone forever. Or the old

brass plaque above a building somewhere of some old forgotten donor. No! These are in honor of the witnesses of the Messiah, whose message provided entrance into it.

First, we see, twelve gates and twelve angels. They are not there to guard. Think of them like doorman. Welcoming you in. "Nice to see you today, Jed." This will be the time when we will really, "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name." Psalm 100:4

We know from the book of Numbers, chapter two that it is, on the east, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun. On the north were, Dan, Asher, Naphtali. On the south were, Reuben, Simeon, and Gad. On the west were, Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin. Now we are not told if these are the names here. Maybe the two sons of Joseph are under his name to make room for Levi, we just don't know. But we do know that they had four banners...The lion to the east, the eagle to the north, a man to the south and an ox to the west. These all point to the four living creatures that also point to the four gospels. This leads us to the twelve foundations, which are the twelve Apostles.

Mark 3:13-19

13 And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. 14 Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, 15 and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: 16 Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter; 17 James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, "Sons of Thunder"; 18 Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Cananite; 19 and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. And they went into a house.

Acts 1:23-26

23 And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. 24 And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen 25 to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." 26 And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on **Matthias**. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

But why foundations?

1 Corinthians 3:9-15

9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Ephesians 2:19-22

19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Hebrews 11:8-10

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Now we see the size of the city...

***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.***

Now we see this angel who is talking with John have a golden reed. It has to be because it is the common material in Heaven. But what about the size? Thank goodness for people who have a lot more time than me to figure all this out. Henry Morris in his book the "Revelation Record" states that the measurement of this city as a square is 1,380 miles in each direction with the wall being about 216'. He then figured how many people could have lived from the time of Adam through the Millennium and he came up with 100 billion. Say that only one fifth of them are saved, that would leave 20 billion. Once you do all the math that leaves each person with about 1/3 of a mile or 75 acres square to live in. Plenty of space for you to join us! Still skeptical?

Look at these pictures of a city they are getting ready to build. It is called "Neom" A 500-billion-dollar project that will go through a section of Saudi Arabia that is 100 miles long, and guess what? Three dimensional and will house 9 million people!

If man can do it, God definitely can!

Now the building materials...

***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, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. 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.***

Now these materials should sound familiar. If you were with us in our Exodus study, you remember.

Exodus 28:15-21

15 "You shall make the breastplate of judgment. Artistically woven according to the workmanship of the ephod you shall make it: of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, you shall make it. 16 It shall be doubled into a square: a span shall be its length, and a span shall be its width. 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.

But wait a minute! These have the names of the twelve tribes and here they are the Apostles. Which are they? Both! See, what do we have? 24!

Ephesians 2:14-18

14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

And of course, we need to mention these great pearls! It is supposed to remind us of...

Matthew 13:45-46

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Elements in Heaven will be different then here.

Finally, we are reminded again of the most important aspect, God Himself!

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

God's glory will be the most important! But notice verse 24. Who and what are the nations? Many a commentator have written volumes about this. They come up with many fancy ideas but the problem with that is we just don't know. What we do know is that we will still possess some form of our identity. We know this from Revelation 7.

Revelation 7:9-10

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of **all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Kind of gives a whole new perspective to...

Mark 13:9-11

9 "But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them. **10 And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations.** 11 But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

But the point of it all is where are you going to spend all eternity? The lake of fire or the city of God? Are you more concerned about earthly riches than eternal life?

Luke 12:22-34

22 Then He said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. 23 Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds

them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? 25 And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 26 If you then are not able to do the least, why [d]are you anxious for the rest? 27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 28 If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith?

29 “And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. 30 For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. 31 But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.

32 “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The choice is yours. Your price for citizenship has been paid by God Himself. You can receive it today. But first you must...

Recognize you are a sinner  
Repent of your sin  
Receive Christ as your Savior

Do it today!

Stand-Pray

Song?