



ENTERING THE CITY OF GOD

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Revelation 21:8-22:5

⁸ But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

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.” 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 having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 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. ¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

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. Its length and width and height are equal. ¹⁷ He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. ¹⁸ The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 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. 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.

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

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. ²⁴ By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring

their glory into it, ²⁵ and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. 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.

¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

SUMMARY

All believers in Christ have an eternal home, the City of God. This special section of Scripture gives us a glimpse into what dwelling in God's presence will be like. It is in our eternal home where we "will see His face, and His name will be on our foreheads. And night will be no more. We will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be our light, and we will reign forever and ever." What a day of rejoicing that will be!

PASSAGE OUTLINE

- I. The City of God's Purposeful Design - Revelation 21:9-21
- II. The City of God's Glorious Light - Revelation 21:22-22:5

Hebrews 11:8-10

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Hebrews 13:14

¹⁴ For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

Walvoord, J. F. The Revelation of Jesus Christ, p. 325

"The city is undoubtedly far more beautiful to the eye than anything that man has ever been able to create, and it reflects not only the infinite wisdom of power of God but also His grace as extended to the objects of His salvation."

BY HIS DESIGN, ALL GOD'S PEOPLE WILL COME INTO HIS HOLY PRESENCE.

The MacArthur NT Commentary, Revelation 12-22, p. 279

“The glory of God is the sum total of His attributes and is manifested as blazing light and in His Son.”

The Spurgeon Study Bible: Notes, p. 1719

“What a happy blending-service and communion-the hands busy but the eyes ravished with the wondrous sight of the face of God. To serve the Lord and to see his face at the same time- this is a double joy. This is to be like Martha and Mary in one person. There can be no fellowship better than that which serves, and no service sweeter than what sees the face of the Master while serving him.

BY HIS GRACE, ALL GOD’S PEOPLE WILL REIGN WITH HIM
FOREVERMORE.

SET YOUR SIGHTS ON THE CITY OF GOD.

- I. Sit with the Spirit of God in front of the Word of God.
- II. Read & reflect on Revelation 21:1-22:5 daily this week.
- III. Speak to someone about Jesus your Savior.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean that the New Jerusalem is called both a city and the Bride, the wife of the Lamb?
2. How does the city’s radiance reveal the glory and presence of God?
3. What spiritual truths are reflected in the city’s perfect design and measurements?
4. Why is there no temple in the New Jerusalem?
5. What does it mean that the nations will walk by the city’s light and bring their glory into it?
6. How do the river and tree of life show the completion of God’s redemptive plan?
7. What is the significance of there being no more curse?
8. Why is seeing God’s face the ultimate hope of His people?
9. What challenged you and/or interested you from the sermon?

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