

The New Jerusalem - Teacher's Notes (Revelation 21:9-22:5)

- v.9 - one of the seven angels
 - In 17:1, one of these angels showed John the great Harlot, Babylon
 - Now he is shown the New Jerusalem
 - The Bride is contrasted to the Harlot
- the Bride
 - God's people, not the city, are the Bride - John 3:28-30; Ephesians 5:23, 25-27
 - This is the eternal city, not the Millennial city
 - Some people believe that the city will hover above the earth during the Millennium as the abode of the resurrected saints
 - Some people say that 21:2 describes the descent of the Millennial city and that v.10 is the description of the descent to earth of its eternal state. There is no Scripture for this idea
- the wife of the Lamb - marriage in Scripture is used to describe the relationship of the Lord Jesus and His people
- v.10 - the holy city Jerusalem
 - In Ezekiel 40:2, Ezekiel saw the Millennial city and its temple from a mountain
 - Note that the eternal city has a garden vv.22:1-2.
 - Cities on earth today imitate this setting with parks, etc.
 - But earthly cities today reflect man's glory and are dirty and dangerous.
 - God's celestial city will reflect **His** glory and will be inhabited by His saints
 - The eternal city is the link between the celestial heavens and the material universe
- v.11 - like a jasper, clear as crystal
 - jasper is usually reddish quartz with swirls of green, yellow, brown, white, or clear quartz
 - here it is a different substance that is clear but yet retains enough of its original state to be called jasper
 - it is described as "a most rare jewel" = very valuable
 - it is designed to reflect God's glory. There is nothing in the city to hinder the transparent reflection of God's glory
- vv.12-13 - wall...gates
 - wall - typical ancient city
 - names of the twelve tribes...inscribed
- all Jews are welcome
- Ezekiel 48:30-35 - Ezekiel saw the same arrangement for the Millennial city (see Ezekiel 40:5 for the measurement)
- east - named first because it was considered the front
 - the Hebrew word for east, *qadim*, refers to something in the front
 - Ezekiel uses a form of *qadim* for "east" in his city in ch.40
 - During the Millennium, the gates of Zion are always open - Isaiah 60:11
 - all of the gates are mentioned to imply that all may freely go in and out
 - the Heavenly Jerusalem will be much larger than the Millennial Jerusalem

- v.14 - the foundation
 - twelve foundations = foundation stones
 - names...twelve apostles - Gentiles as well as Jews are welcome - v.26
- v.15 - measuring rod of gold
 - gold emphasizes the dignity of the service
 - this is a literal city
 - “No one measures a symbol” - Custer, p. 244 (Revelation commentary)
- v.16 - shape and size
 - foursquare - the city is a cube that reflects the shape of the sanctuary of the Tabernacle and the Temple
 - God’s throne will be in a perfect cubical sanctuary
 - a few think the shape of the city could be a pyramid
 - **12,000 stadia**
 - a stadion = 607 feet or about 200 yards (the length of an arena or stadium)
 - an ancient Greek stadion equals the length of a furrow when plowing with a team of oxen. The actual length varies based on the length of the farmer’s foot
 - The KJV translation uses the word “furlong” which is the British imperial measure that equals 1/8 mile or 220 yards, which equals 1,500 miles
 - Therefore, we have a measure between 1,380 and 1,500 miles. I will use 1,400 miles as a rounded figure
 - Explain what geographical location is 1,400 miles from where you are standing in two earth-bound directions. Explain what one would find 1,400 miles above the earth
- v.17 - 144 cubits
 - one cubit equals about 18 inches, the length from the elbow to the middle finger of a carpenter. The wall will be 216 feet high
 - The wall emphasizes protection
 - Only those who are saved can enter
 - “an angel’s measurement” means the angel was using human measurements
- v.18 - building materials
 - wall = the material of the wall
 - pure...clear - “clean”
- the city is like clear glass all through
- the glory of God shines unhindered throughout the city
- vv.19-20 - the foundations
 - the most precious things in this life will be everyday surroundings in this city
 - what are now small precious gems will then be huge foundation stones
 - “having been adorned” = adorned with every kind of jewel
- jasper - deep red
- sapphire - deep blue
- agate - really chalcedony - pale blue (see original Greek word)
- emerald - bright green
- onyx - really sardonyx - red and white (see original Greek word)
- carnelian - really sardius - brownish red (see original Greek word)

- chrysolite - transparent golden
- beryl - aquamarine, sea blue
- topaz - warm yellow
- chrysoprase - another shade of green
- jacinth - orange/red
- amethyst - deep purple
 - many of these stones were on the high priest's breastplate in the O.T. - Exodus 28:17-20
 - these huge foundation stones will reflect God's glory throughout the transparent city in brilliant multicolors
- v.21 - the gates and street
 - each of the gates made of a single pearl - the gates then may be round or spherical
 - street - broad plaza or boulevard
 - transparent - here alone in the N.T.
 - emphasizes that the broadways of the city are like the city--transparent
- v.22 - its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb
 - temple - like the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle and Temple
 - the progression in history: Tabernacle - Temple - Believer's body - God's immediate Presence
- v.23 - the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb
 - the word "light" is the word from which the English word "photo" comes
 - The Lord Jesus said He is the Light of the world - John 1:7-9; 3:19; 8:12; 12:35
 - we know that this is not the Millennium because there is no sun, no moon, no sacrifice, no temple, no darkness, no gates shut and no abomination
- v.24 - the nations
 - the word "nations" can also mean Gentiles
 - "kings...will bring" - this is an international group from the entire history of the earth. These people are the saints of all ages
- v.25 - its gates will never be shut
 - never - this is an emphatic double negative in the Greek = "by no means"
 - no night - constant activity is possible with resurrected bodies that need no rest
- v.26 - the nations
 - this word includes the Gentiles of all ages
 - the glory and the honor - emphasizes the unique personalities of different types of people. This will be an international and cosmopolitan gathering
- v.27 - nothing unclean
 - "nothing...will ever" - the emphatic Greek double negative = "by no means"
 - unclean - a profane thing that defiles
 - detestable - same as verse 8 in this chapter
 - defiled by emperor worship and other heathen practices
 - literally - "having become foul" or "feeling nausea or loathing for food" = disgust
 - does - the present tense of this verb emphasizes constantly doing

- v.22:1 - the river
 - water of life - John 4:14 - outflow of the Holy Spirit in Believer's life
 - bright - Greek word is like English word for lamp
 - flowing - present tense emphasizes the continuous flow
 - God...Lamb - The Father and the Son are both on the throne
 - the Millennial river flows from the temple - Ezekiel 47:1-10
- v.2 - the tree of life
- street - "plaza, boulevard"
- on either side - "on this side, on that side"
 - the tree
 - this tree may span the river or may sprout new trees from its trunk to be the parent tree of a forest
 - a forest would imply forest creatures
 - eagle - Revelation 8:13
 - horses - Revelation 19:11-14
 - leaves...healing - this health-giving therapy to the saints adds to the enjoyment of Heaven
- v.3 - no longer...anything accursed - The Curse is gone
- servants - "slaves"
- worship - "service as worship" - same as Romans 12:1 - we are to serve Him here just like we will in Heaven
- v.4 - they will see his face - I John 3:2 - we shall see him as he is
- name...foreheads - shows complete ownership - Revelation 7:3; 14:1
- v.5 - night will be no more - no need to rest with our glorified bodies
- no light of lamp - very literal translation
- the Lord God will be their light - literally: because the Lord God will shed light (illumine) on them
- they will reign - we are destined to reign with Christ in His Kingdom eternally

Goal: The students will be able to picture the cubical New Jerusalem in their minds

Praxis: The students will be able to illustrate the truth of the New Jerusalem to others