

THE BOOK OF REVELATION: VERSE BY VERSE

Darin Latham/www.broadwaychurch.com

WEEK SIXTEEN

I. THE TALE OF TWO CITIES – PART TWO (Rev 21:1 – 22:21)

The First City Vs. This Second City...

The book of Revelation ends with a beginning! In contrast to the evil, earthly city of Babylon, the *“New Jerusalem”* is *“coming down out of heaven.”* This is a “God-made” not a “man-made” city!

A. The Heavenly City (21:1 – 22:11)

1. What is NOT there:

a. *“...the sea...”* (21:1)

- i. The sea is an apocalyptic symbol of chaos, or the churning, rebellious masses...

b. *“...tears... death... mourning... crying... pain...”* (21:4)

c. Ungodly character traits... (21:8)

- i. No inner sinful nature and no outward tempter means no sinful presence.

d. The temple... (21:22)

- i. You don't need a tap when you are surrounded by water!

e. *“...the sun or the moon...”* (21:23)

- i. Likely apocalyptic symbols of light (truth) sources...

f. Closed gates... (21:25)

- i. Symbolic of the fact that there are no sources of danger or fear...

g. Any curses... (22:3)

- i. No sin means no sinful consequences...

2. What IS there:

- a. God is there... (21:2-3)
- b. God's glory is there... (21:11, 23)
 - i. **"...the Lamb is its lamp"**: reveals an incredibly high view of Christ!

Some Fascinating Apocalyptic Symbols!

The Holy of Holies is described as a cube in 1 Kings 6:20.

- Notice that the Heavenly City is now described as a cube in 21:15-17!

The walls are 144 cubits thick:

- 12 x 12: symbolizing the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles, which represents all of God's people.

The 12 gates are named for the 12 tribes of Israel...

The 12 layers of foundation named for the 12 apostles...

The Heavenly City is "12,000 stadia" high, wide, and long:

- 12 x 10 is big. 12 x 10 x 10 is REALLY big. 12 x 10 x 10 x 10 is HUGE!!!

- c. People are there... (21:3)
- d. Purpose is there... (21:5; 22:3, 5)
 - i. In the new creation, God's people will serve Him and reign with Him!
- e. Life is there... (22:1-2)
 - i. *Zoe* (the Greek word for eternal life) not just *bios* (the Greek word for physical life)!
- f. God's 'face' is there... (22:4)
 - i. See Exodus 33:18-23; 1 John 3:2
 - ii. **"His name will be on their foreheads"**: symbolic language for the fact that God's character will be in our minds and our thoughts. We will be transformed – living from the 'inside-out'!

B. The Epilogue (22:12-21)

- 1. Reread Revelation 1:1-8 and compare it with 22:12-21. You will see how these two passages serve as fitting bookends!