

# REVELATION Lesson 201

## Chapter 21:12-27 —Some Final Details About the Great City, New Jerusalem

7 March 2022

The New Jerusalem differs and surpasses the Millennial Jerusalem in various ways.

### The Gates to the City (vs 12)

Twelve gates stationed by **twelve angels**.

Names of the **twelve tribes** of Israel written on the gates.

- Israel's history (Law, prophets, covenants, fathers, etc.) can bring a person to the gates of the city but cannot get a person into the city.

### The Inner Foundations of the City (vs 14)

The foundations contain the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

- It takes the New Testament **gospel** teaching of the **apostles** to get a person into New Jerusalem.
  - The Old Testament Law convinces a man of sin and reveals our inability to do right and our need of a Savior (Rom 7:7-12).
    - It brings us face to face with the fact that we cannot get in that city without Jesus.
    - Until the Law convinces you that you're guilty before God, you won't seek a Savior.
  - Twelve gates reveal that there are **many approaches** to the throne of Jesus Christ.
    - No one can enter the city, but by Jesus Christ (only one gospel), but there are many ways that people **hear the gospel** and learn about the Lord and Savior.
      - Charismatic movement and other liberal denominations
      - Southern Baptist Convention and other worldly organizations
      - House visitation, walk an aisle in a church, hear street preaching, etc.

### Perfection in This City

The number 12 is mentioned seven times (**vs 12, 14, 21**), representing the perfect government.

- Twelve apostles are the foundation of the Church.
- The wall with 12 gates shows a connection between what is inside the city (the Lamb and the Church) and what is outside the city (the earthly Jerusalem governing the world).
  - The earthly Jerusalem has connection with the earthly nations. The Church does not.
    - Today we should not get caught up in worldly affairs, trying to change the world.
    - The Church today needs to keep her eyes on heavenly things.
- **Ephesians 2:20-22** The Church is built on the foundation of the apostles AND prophets.
  - The apostles preached what the prophets wrote.

### The Measurement of the City (Rev 21:15-16)

The city measured twelve thousand furlongs (1500 miles, 2400 km) and is a perfect cube as high as it is wide and deep.

- The Holy of Holies in the Temple was a perfect cube of 20 cubits and typified the New Jerusalem (1 Kings 6:20).

- Some teach that New Jerusalem is the shape of a pyramid.
  - This shape is not found in the Holy Bible.
  - The pyramid is a shape used in paganism.
  - It is more likely that the city is a cube like the Holy of Holies.
- New Jerusalem is large enough to fit all of mankind from Adam to the year 2000 A.D.

### **The Wall of the City (Rev 21:17)** The wall of the city measures 144 cubits

- A cubit (Latin *cubitus* = elbow) is the length from a man's (often a king) elbow to the tip of his middle finger (18-21 inches). That would make the wall approximately 216 feet.
- A wall 216 feet high in a city that is 1500 miles high (7 million feet), would not be called "**Great and high**" (vs 12).
  - The measurement is not said to refer to the height.
  - The 144 cubits more likely refers to the width of the wall. (See Jeremiah 51:58 and Ezekiel 41:9 for biblical examples).
- The cubit used in the measurement of the wall is not the usual (18-22 inch) cubit. "The angel" is used as the standard of measurement here.
  - In the millennial temple, the temple was measured using a **cubit and an hand breadth** (Ezek 40:5, 43:13).
  - The wall of the city is likely bigger than 216 feet since the cubit used is that of "the angel."

### **The Measurement is that of "The Angel" (Vs 17)**

The wording of this verse is significant. It reveals that the Lord Himself was the standard of measurement.

### **Where else is "hand breadth" used for a unit of measurement?**

**Exodus 37:12** The table of shewbread (border). Because only God can bring you into a place of communion with Him.

**2 Chron 4:5** The molten sea. God is the only One who can make you clean enough to stand before Him.

**Psalms 39:5** The length of your life is compared to an hand breadth. God gave you life and He is the only One who makes it possible to live a righteous life.

### **The Nations of Them Which are Saved (vs 24)**

Men think the way to heaven is by uniting all of mankind (tower of babel).

- Today we see men working to erase all differences in people (race, sex, culture, nationality, etc.).
  - Outside the body of Christ, the Lord never authorized such actions.
  - Even in eternity, there are still independent, separate, sovereign nations (twelve of them). God has a policy of segregation when it comes to the earthly nations.

**Psalms 72:8-17** All nations shall fall down before Him...and serve Him. Men shall be blessed in Him.

**Amos 9:11-12** A day is coming when all the heathen (non-Jew) will be called by God's name.

**Micah 4:11-12** God will gather the nations as the sheaves to into the floor.

**Isaiah 60:19-21** This is a great cross-reference for Revelation 21:23.