



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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Chapter 21

- **9** Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”
10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **11** having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. **12** It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. **13** There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. **14** And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Chapter 21

- **15** The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall. **16** The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. **17** And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements. **18** The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. **19** The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone 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; the twelfth, amethyst. **21** And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

Chapter 21

- If we put verse #2 and verse #9 and verse #10 together we see this
- **2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.**
- **9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”**
10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

Chapter 21

- **So there is some sort of strong connection between the Bride of Christ and the New Jerusalem.**
- **But John will also go to describe the New Jerusalem in terms of height, depth, length, thickness, walls, and gates so it becomes apparent that the city is not the bride.**
- **I suppose it is maybe not such a great mystery when you conclude that the New Jerusalem is the eternal home of the Bride – so to see one is to see the other.**

Chapter 21

- **John 14:1 “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.**
- **So what we see in Rev 21 is the unveiling of the promise Jesus made in John 14 – that He would go and prepare a place for those who believed in Him.**

Chapter 21

- **Consider this – when we read in verse #1 “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth” we were reading of the redemption of the universe.**
- **And then in verse #5 we read - “Behold, I am making all things new.” I think John was writing again about the redemption of the universe.**
- **When we read about the New Jerusalem, I think we are reading about something that had always been AND was also in a constant state of preparation.**

Chapter 21

- **The size of the New Jerusalem –**
- **Some people put the size of the city as a 1,500 mile cube and some put it as a 1,400 mile cube. So why the difference?**
- **Well John wrote before measurements were standardized as succinctly as they are today – he used a “cubit” as his standard and a cubit would vary from person to person because it was the distance from your elbow to the tip of your middle finger.**

From “Answers in Genesis”.

The length of a cubit was based on the distance from the elbow to the fingertips, so it varied between different ancient groups of people. Here are some samples from Egypt, Babylon, and ancient Israel:

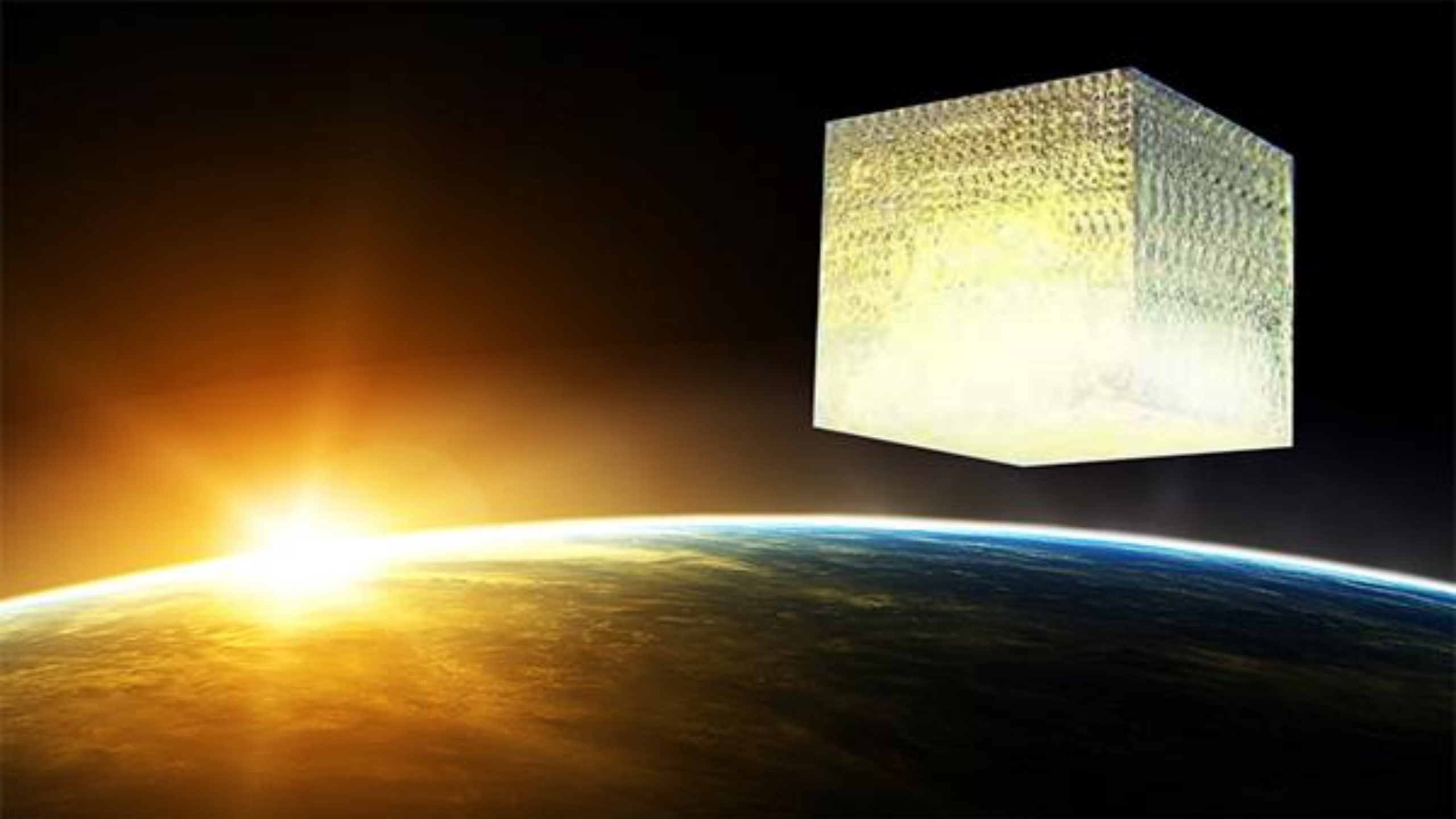
Culture	Inches (centimeters)
Hebrew (short)	17.5 (44.5)
Egyptian	17.6 (44.7)
Common (short)	18 (45.7)
Babylonian (long)	19.8 (50.3)
Hebrew (long)	20.4 (51.8)
Egyptian (long)	20.6 (52.3)

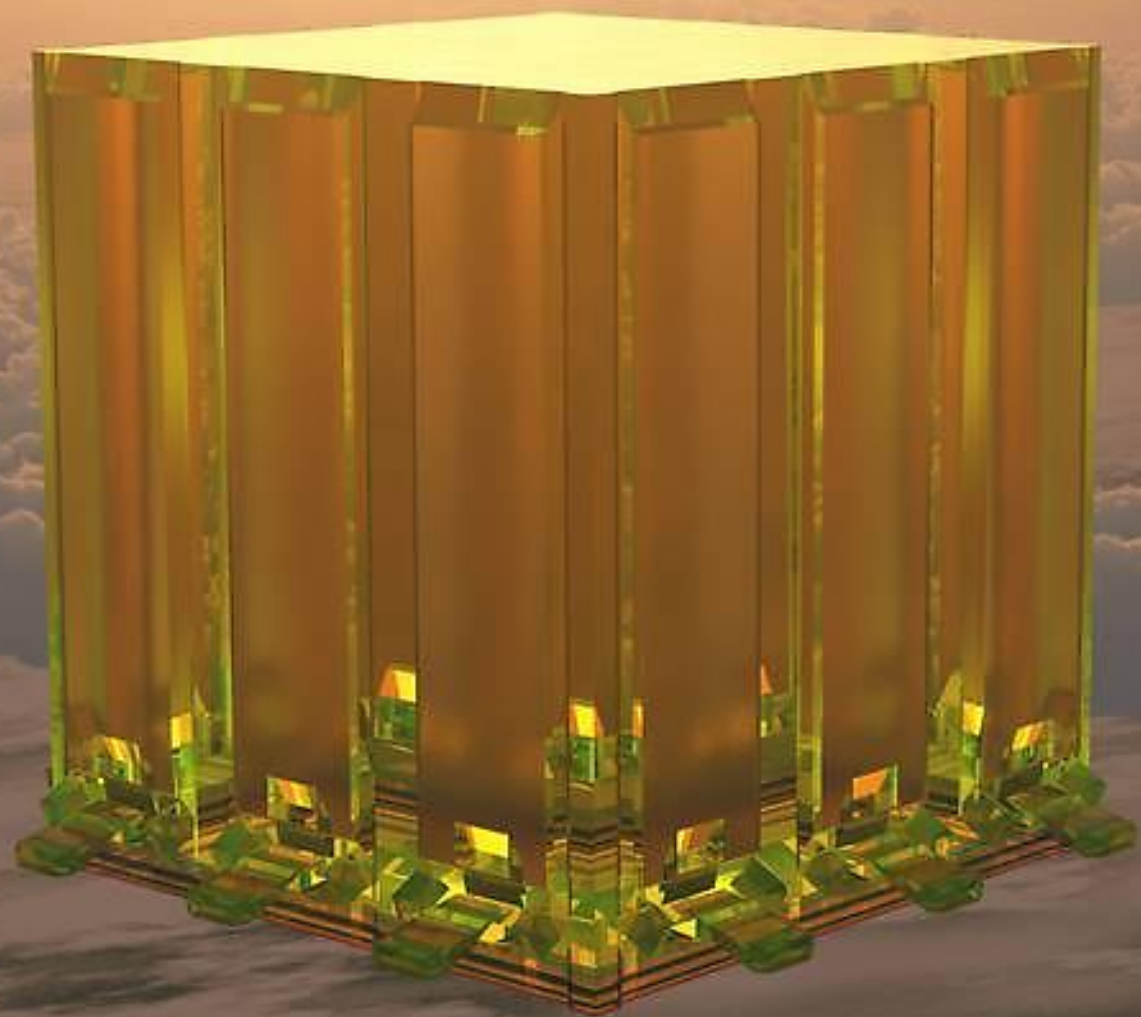
Chapter 21

- Perhaps the larger point is this – the Heavenly city, the New Jerusalem is a big, big, city that is capable of housing billions of people comfortably.
- When we consider the size of the *New Jerusalem, which is synonymous with Heaven*, we begin to see the enormity of Jesus' pledge to go and prepare a place.
- 16 The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal.

Chapter 21

- **Some writers have suggested that the formation of the New Jerusalem could be a pyramid – but because pyramids were commonly associated with pagan religions and cults, most theologians see it as a cube.**
- **As for the walls around the New Jerusalem, we are not given any measurements other than what must certainly be the width of the wall, 216 feet thick.**
- **The height is only defined as, “It had a great and high wall”.**







- "This kind of geometry makes it easier to understand how all the redeemed of all the ages could be living in a single city. Although there's no way to know precisely how many people will be there, one can make at least a somewhat accurate guess. It can be calculated, of the total number of people who have lived between Adam's time and our time is about 40 billion. Then assuming that a similar number will be born during the Millennium, because of the conditions, and allowing another 20 billion who died before or soon after death and never really populated the earth, it is reasonable that about 100 billion men, women and children could have been members of the human race, past, present and future. Assume for the sake of argument that 20 percent of these will be saved, including all of those who die in infancy. It's obviously only a guess but the Lord Jesus did make it plain that the large majority will never be saved. If this figure is used then the new Jerusalem would have to accommodate 20 billion residents. Also assume that 25 percent of the city is used for the dwelling places of the inhabitants with the rest allocated to streets, parks, public buildings, etc.. the average space assigned to each person would be one over thirty cubic miles. This would correspond to a cubicle block with about 75 acres on each face. Obviously there's adequate room in the holy city for all who will be there." Dr. Henry Morris

- **“We don’t need to worry that Heaven will be crowded. The ground level of the city will be nearly two million square miles. This is forty times bigger than England and fifteen thousand times bigger than London. It’s ten times as big as France or Germany and far larger than India. But remember, that’s just the ground level. Given the dimensions of a 1,400-mile cube, if the city consisted of different levels (we don’t know this), and if each story were a generous twelve feet high, the city could have over 600,000 stories. If they were on different levels, billions of people could occupy the New Jerusalem, with many square miles per person. The cube shape of the New Jerusalem reminds us of the cube shape of the Most Holy Place in the Temple (1 Kings 6:20), the three dimensions perhaps suggestive of the three persons of the Trinity. God will live in the city, and it is his presence that will be its greatest feature.”** Randy Alcorn

Chapter 21

- **10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.**
- **As far as I know, we do not talk about “crystal-clear jasper” and know very little about it, but that does not mean it isn’t special.**
- **We should think in terms of the finest diamond you can imagine, one that refracts light in every direction and almost too radiant to look upon.**

Crystal clear
jasper stone –
so clear that
you can see
right through
it.



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Chapter 21

- **12** It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. **13** There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. **14** And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.
- The twelve tribes are not consistently identified – sometimes they include just Jacob’s twelve sons and sometimes the list has variations.
- And who are “the twelve apostles of the Lamb”? (remove Judas and add Paul, perhaps)

Chapter 21

- **The significance of the twelve tribes and the twelve apostles may be to cement the idea that God's old and new covenants were both effective for salvation.**
- **Those who believed in the one to come without knowing that His name would be Jesus, were just as saved as those who believe in the one who came and now identified as Jesus.**
- **21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. (a gate to a city that is 1,400 miles high must be some really large pearls)**

Chapter 21

- **And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.**
- **So are Heaven's streets really made of gold? "As we investigate this idea of golden streets further, there are some teachers and scholars who do not hold to the idea that heaven's golden streets are literal. However, by looking simply at the text God has given us within the context of the entirety of John's revelation, there seems to be no reason to doubt it." (From gotquestions.org)**
- **I think it's totally consistent with the New Jerusalem to have gold streets that are so pure they are transparent because that is what the whole structure seems to be about – letting the glory of God come forth.**

Chapter 21

- **22 I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. 25 In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; 26 and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; 27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.**

Chapter 21

- **At some point in the future there will not be a temple in Heaven. Clearly there was a temple in Heaven, but by chapter 21 something has changed.**
- **Rev 11:19 And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm.**
- **In many ways man has wrongly restricted “worship” to a building – 1st the temple, and today the church buildings.**

Chapter 21

- **Acts 17:24** The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, *does not dwell in temples made with hands;*
- There has always been this mystique about God and what it would mean to see Him, and to approach one of such power and magnificence.
- When God dwells among us in a new way, mentioned three times already in chapter 21, going somewhere to meet with Him will be an absurd thought.

Chapter 21

- We are told in verse #23 that, “the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it”.
- Some believe this means there will not be a sun or a moon, but that is not what the scriptures say, in verse #23 we read “the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it”
- I come from the point of view that God is going to redeem all of the original creation and that would include the sun and the moon – in the New Jerusalem, inside the city, there is no need for light beyond the radiance of God’s glory.

Chapter 21

- **24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.**
- **Here we see evidence of what we have believed based upon the scriptures – that God is the one who created all people, all races, and all variations and that He is redeeming some from all.**
- **Rev 7:9 After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands.**

Chapter 21

- **From my devotions this morning – Psalm 86:9 All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, And they shall glorify Your name.**
- **David wrote it, but did not know the time of the fulfillment – he just knew it would be a really great day.**
- **The prophecy is not that all the peoples of all nations will worship God, the prophecy is that one day all of the nations of the world will be represented before God in worship.**

Chapter 21

- **There are lots of ideas regarding what the phrase, “and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.” means.**
- **One possibility – no social structure that rates or values one person over another. (the most gifted talented among us will be just another citizen of the kingdom)**
- **Another possibility –the glory of God will be so appealing that not even a king would want to stand apart in his glory, but will gladly have their “glory” subsumed in the glory of God.**

Chapter 21

- **25 In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed;**
- **In ancient times the cities all closed their gates after dark for the protection of the city – well, at this point not only is there no night, but there is no need for protection.**
- **We lock our doors at night because of sin – when “sin shall be no more”, there will be no need for protection from anything or anyone.**

Chapter 21

- **26 and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.**
- **This may be a reference to the fact that while we are all flawed by sin, we are all still made in the image of God, and therefore are capable of doing some tremendous things.**
- **So why wouldn't God allow us to retain our original gifts, talents, and abilities to be used in the eternal kingdom. (great Christian artists, musicians, craftsman, etc, etc,)**

Chapter 21

- **27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.**
- **This is not a warning that any of the lost of all time could possibly enter the New Jerusalem, but an emphasis on the finality of what happened at the Great White Throne in chapter 20.**
- **Perhaps it is also John's way of telling us one more that salvation came through the Lamb of God.**

Questions