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The New Jerusalem

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **November 13, 2016**

Revelation 21:9-14, 22-27

Introduction: Scripture tells of God's plan for the **future** of his **creation**, and it assures us that he will yet transform it to accomplish his purposes. The picture we find in Revelation 21 is more glorious than any one of us dare to imagine.

Through **VISIONS**, God had shown John how he would **JUDGE**, **CONDEMN**, and **PUNISH ALL** rebellious creatures. At this point, **ALL judgments** were ended, the **thousand-year reign** of Christ had **concluded**; and **rebels** – **CELESTIAL** and **HUMAN** – had been sent to their **ETERNAL** doom. God was about to reveal what he has in store for the **eternal future**.

What would a tour of the New heavenly Jerusalem be like? The Apostle John actually had such a tour in an **apocalyptic** (pertaining to revelation; disclosing [making known]) **VISION**, and he reported what he **SAW** in Revelation 21. As this week's lesson reveals, some features of present-day cities will **NOT** be there. But, what the eternal city will have is spectacular, flawless, and perfectly suited to the needs of its redeemed residents. It will be all that modern cities aspire to be, but can never achieve in this sinful world.
(Source: *The Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Union Press Publication-Christian Life Series*)

Revelation 21:9-10, *And there came unto me **one** of the seven **angels** which had the seven **VIALS** (**phial** [broad, flat, shallow cup or bowl]) full of the **SEVEN last plagues**, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the **bride**, the Lamb's **WIFE**. And he carried me away **IN the spirit** (**ECSTASY**) to a great and high **mountain**, and shewed me that great **CITY**, the holy **Jerusalem**, descending out of heaven from God...*

NOTE: I. The person that opened the vision to the apostle-- **one** of the **seven angels**, that had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, Revelation 21:9. God has a variety of work and employment for his holy angels. Sometimes they are to sound the trumpet of divine Providence, and give fair warning to a careless world sometimes they are to pour out the **vials** (**phial** [broad, flat, shallow cup or bowl]) of **God's anger** upon impenitent sinners and sometimes to **discover** (**REVEAL**; make known) things of a heavenly nature to those that are *the HEIRS of salvation*. They readily execute every commission they receive from God and, when this world shall be at an end, yet the angels shall be employed by the great God in proper pleasant work to all eternity.

II. The place from which the apostle had this glorious view and prospect. He was taken, in **ECSTASY**, into a high mountain. From such situations men usually have the most distinct views of adjacent cities.

(Source: <https://www.studyLight.org/commentaries/mhm/revelation-21.html>)

Ecstasy, a **MENTAL** state, usually caused by an intense religious experience; of

exaltation (brief duration of a sense of unity with God) OR domination by an EMOTION such as extreme happiness, LOVE, etc. [to include **WEEPING** and/or laughing] or rapturous delight manifested either openly unrestrained or in a very deep CALM, during which self-control and sometimes consciousness are lost or inattention of the MIND to present objects or surroundings.

Revelation 1:10, I was **IN the Spirit** on the **LORD'S DAY...**

NOTE: ...on the Lord's day, **NOT** on the **JEWISH SABBATH**, which was now ABOLISHED, nor was that ever called the Lord's day, and had John meant that, he would have said on the **sabbath day**; much less the Jewish passover, but the **FIRST DAY** of the WEEK is designed; so the Ethiopic version renders it "on the first day"; and is so called just as the ordinance of the supper is called the **lord's supper**, being instituted by the Lord, and the **lord's table**, 1 Cor. 10:21, and that because it was the day in which **OUR LORD ROSE FROM the DEAD**, Mark 16:9;... and in which he appeared at different times to his disciples, John 20:19, and which the primitive churches **SET APART** for his **worship** and **service**, and on which they **met together** to hear the word, and attend on ordinances, Acts 20:7...

Acts 20:7, And upon the **FIRST DAY of the WEEK**, when the disciples came together to break bread, **Paul PREACHED** unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his **SPEECH** until midnight.

Barnabas, the companion of the Apostle Paul, calls this day the **EIGHTH DAY**, in distinction from the **Seventh Day SABBATH** of the **Jews**, and which he says is the **beginning** of another world; and therefore we keep the eighth day, adds he, joyfully, in which **Jesus ROSE** from **the DEAD**, and being manifested, ascended unto heaven: and this day was known by the ancients by the name of "**the Lord's Day**"...

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/revelation-1.html>)

Revelation 1:10-11 ...and **heard** behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou **SEEST**, **WRITE** in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia...

Jeremiah 9:1, Oh that my head were **WATERS**, and **mine EYES** a fountain of **TEARS**, that I might **WEEP** day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

Jeremiah 23:9, Mine **heart** within me is **broken** because of the prophets; all my bones SHAKE: I am like a **drunken man**, and like a man whom **wine** hath overcome, **because** of the LORD, and because of the **WORDS** of his holiness.

NOTE: III. The subject-matter of the **vision--the bride**, *the Lamb's wife* (Rev. 21:10) that is, the church of God in her glorious, perfect, triumphant state, under the resemblance of Jerusalem, having the **glory of God** shining in its lustre, as *uxor splendit radiis mariti--the bride comely through the comeliness put on her by her husband* glorious in her relation to Christ, in his image now perfected in her, and in his favour shining upon her.

And now we have a large description of the church triumphant under the **emblem** (SYMBOL) of **a CITY**, far **exceeding** in riches and splendour all the **cities** of this world and this new Jerusalem is here **represented** to us both in the exterior and the interior part of it.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/revelation-21.html>)

Revelation 21:11, Having the **GLORY** (Honor; praise, splendor [great brightness; brilliant luster]) of **God**: and **HER light** was like unto a **stone MOST PRECIOUS**, even like a **jasper stone**, clear as crystal....

NOTE: Having the GLORY of God,... Not only upon their souls, which will lie in the glorious robe of Christ's righteousness, the bride's wedding garment being on them, in the perfect holiness which will be in them, and in that complete knowledge of all spiritual and heavenly things they will be possessed of, they will have a **GLORY** revealed in them; but **upon their bodies** also, for **this CITY**, the **church**, the **BRIDE of Christ**, will consist only of **RISEN and CHANGED SAINTS**, whose **BODIES** will be **FREED** from ALL dishonour; deformity, diseases, and imperfections, and will be **MADE like** unto **Christ's glorious body**, and will **SHINE like the sun** in the kingdom of God. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/revelation-21.html>)

NOTE: ...like a jasper stone, clear as crystal - Among precious stones there are some even of the same species **MORE VALUABLE** than others: for their value is in proportion to their being **free from flaws**, and of a **good water**, i.e., a uniform and **brilliant transparency**. A crystal is perfectly clear, the **ORIENTAL JASPER** is a beautiful **SEA-GREEN**. The stone that is here described is represented as a perfectly transparent jasper, being as unclouded as the brightest crystal, and consequently the most precious of its species. Nothing can be finer than this description: the **LIGHT** of this **CITY** is ever intense, equal, and splendid; but it is tinged with this green hue, in order to make it agreeable to the sight. Nothing is so friendly to the eye as **blue or green**; all other colors fatigue; and, if very intense, injure the eye. These are the colors of the earth and sky, on which the eye of man is to be constantly fixed. To these colors the structure of the eye is adapted; and the general appearance of the earth and the sky is adapted to this structure. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/revelation-21.html>)

Revelation 21:12-13, And had a **WALL** great (large in bulk) and high, and had **TWELVE GATES**, and AT the gates **twelve angels**, and **names** written thereon, which are the **names** of the **twelve tribes** of the children of Israel: On the **EAST** three gates; on the **NORTH** three gates; on the **SOUTH** three gates; and on the **WEST** three gates.

NOTE: And had a wall great and high - Ancient cities were always **surrounded** with walls for **PROTECTION**, and John represents this as enclosed in the usual manner. The word "**great**" means that it was **thick** and **strong**. Its height also is particularly noticed, for it was unusual. See Revelation 21:16.

And had twelve gates - Three on each side. The number of the gates correspond to the number of the **TRIBES** of the children of Israel, and to the number of the **APOSTLES**. The idea seems to be that there would be ample opportunity of access and egress (act of going out).

And at the gates twelve angels - Stationed there as guards to the New Jerusalem. Their business seems to have been to watch the gates that nothing improper should enter; that the great enemy should not make an insidious approach to this city as he did to the earthly paradise.

And names written thereon - On the gates.

...the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel - So in the city which Ezekiel saw in vision, which John seems also to have had in his eye. See Ez. 48:31.

Ezekiel 48:31, 35, And the gates of the city shall be after the **names** of the **tribes** of Israel: three gates northward; one gate of Reuben, one gate of Judah, one gate of Levi. ... It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the **name of the city** from that day shall be, **The LORD** (person possessing **SUPREME** [highest] **POWER** and authority) is there.

The inscription in Ezekiel denoted that that was the residence of the people of God; and the same idea is denoted here. The **New Jerusalem** is the **eternal residence of the children of God**, and this is indicated at every gate. None can enter who do not belong to that people; all who are within are understood to be of their number.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/revelation-21.html>)

Revelation 21:14, And the **wall** of the **city** had **twelve FOUNDATIONS**, and in them the names of the **twelve APOSTLES** of the **Lamb**.

NOTE: Twelve foundations. Joshua, the **type** (figure of something to come; symbol) of Jesus, CHOSE TWELVE of the people to carry STONES over Jordan, as Jesus chose twelve apostles to be foundations of the heavenly city, Himself being the chief cornerstone. Peter is NOT the only apostolic ROCK **on whose preaching** Christ builds His Church. Christ is the true Foundation: the TWELVE are foundations only in their **apostolic testimony** concerning Him. Though Paul was an apostle, besides the twelve yet the mystical twelve representing the Church is retained-namely, **three**, the divine, multiplied by **four**, **the world-number**.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/jfu/revelation-21.html>)

Ephesians 2:20, And are built upon the **foundation** of the **apostles** and **prophets**, **Jesus Christ** himself being **the CHIEF CORNER STONE**...

NOTE: As the city had **four equal sides**, answering to the **four quarters** of the **world**, east, west, north, and south, so on each side there were three gates, signifying that from all quarters of the earth there shall be some who shall get safely to heaven and be received there, and that there is as free entrance from one part of the world as from the other for **IN CHRIST** there is **neither Jew nor Greek, Barbarian, Scythian, bond, nor free**. Men of all nations, and languages, who BELIEVE ON CHRIST, have by him access to God in grace here and in glory hereafter.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/revelation-21.html>)

Revelation 21:22, And I saw **no temple** therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the **Lamb** **ARE the TEMPLE** of it.

NOTE: ...the **Lord God the Almighty, and the Lamb, are the temple thereof**. All devices for communicating with God will be unnecessary in the **glorified state**. In a sense, the entire eternal city will be the dwelling place of God (Revelation 21:3). A very interesting fact revealed from the Dead Sea Scrolls is that, "A prominent Jewish sect **rejected the established temple**," a position fully **in harmony** with the view we have taken of it throughout this series.

The Lord God the Almighty, and the Lamb ... These are the temple thereof. Christ is the only true temple of God that this earth ever saw; and it includes also his spiritual body the church. This is the temple which God promised David that "his seed" would build (2 Sam. 7:12-13).
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/revelation-21.html>)

Revelation 21:23-27, And the **CITY** had **NO NEED** of the **SUN**, neither of the **moon**, to shine in it: for the **GLORY** (great brightness) of **God** did **lighten** it, and the **Lamb** is the **LIGHT** thereof. And the **nations** of them which are **saved** shall **WALK** in the **LIGHT** of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their **GLORY** and **HONOUR** into it.

And the **gates** of it shall **NOT** be **shut** at all by day: for there shall be **NO NIGHT** there. And they shall bring the **GLORY** and HONOUR of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise **ENTER** into it any thing that **defileth**, neither whatsoever worketh **abomination**, or maketh a **lie**: but **they** which are written in the **Lamb's book of life**.