

The Eternal Bliss of the Saints - -1

Sermon 3 in the Revelation Series

Revelation 21:1-27

Intro: Rev. 20:11-15

I. The Eternal Home of the Bride 21:1-8

A. A New Heaven and New Earth 21:1-4

The prophecy of Isaiah 65:17-19 is now fulfilled in Rev. 21

v. 3 – This is the covenant promise of God. Psalm 100:3 -- He is our God.
We are His people – and the sheep of His pasture.

v. 4 – The Great Promise

B. I Make All Things New 21:5-8

v. 5 – The same Throne and the same One that we saw in chapter 20.

Creation itself groans while waiting for the final day (Rom. 8:19-23).

v. 6 -- points back to chapter 1 and also points ahead to chapter **22:13**
and to the great invitation **of 22:17**.

v. 7 – points to all we saw from v. 3.

v. 8 – points back to what we saw at the end of chapter 20.

II. The New Jerusalem 21:9-10

Is it a city – or is it the people of God?

This High Mountain links to the extensive and mysterious vision beginning in Ezekiel 40:1-2.

Both were taken, in visions to high mountains so they can see a vision of Jerusalem although Ezekiel was in Babylon and John in Patmos.

And both see not their present day Jerusalem, but what God will do in the future glory for a rebuilt Temple and an everlasting dwelling place for God's people.

III. The City Described 21:11-26

v. 11 – first we see dazzling light.

v. 12-14 – High walls

12 gates with an angel guarding each gate.
The absolute security of the city.

v. 15- a measuring rod points us back to Ezekiel's vision starting in chapter 40.

Ezekiel was spiritually viewing the Temple – meant to encourage those in Babylon that God would bring them back and restore them. A great Temple would be built (under Ezra) --enlarged under Herod – but fulfilled in the Greater Temple – Jesus Christ.

v. 16-17 -- 12,000 stadia – about 1,400 miles – A massive cube.

The significance is in the numbers and the massive size.
And the significance is in the numbers -- 12,000 (12 x 1000)
How thick is this wall? 144 cubits. (12 x 12)

The main points are **massive size** and **total security**.

v. 18-21 – The point is the **Purity** of the city

Purest gold.
Purity of massive pearl.

v. 22-26 – Don't think of literal kings and nations living outside the city.

like “no sea” in v. 1 -- no night v. 25b

Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil (John 3:19)

God is **the** light. God **is** light.

Jesus **is** the lamp. The Son is **the agent who reveals** the glory.

Many of these ideas come from Isaiah 60 especially v. 1-5a, 11, 19

Conclusion: v. 27 – Everything that defiles is gone – they were listed in 21:8 and 20:15.

Those that remain – for now and eternity are those written in the Lambs book of life.

Phil. 4:3 -- Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

When was this book written? **Rev. 13:8, 17:8**