

Revelation 21:15-27

Before we enter the New Jerusalem proper in Revelation 22, these verses continue a description of the city itself. We already know it was made without human hands or engineering, and that it was constructed in heaven and moved down to earth in a completed, ready to inhabit condition. We already know it has foundations that will eternally remind us of the Apostles and gates that will eternally remind us of Israel – so when it says “the former things are passed away” in Rev. 21:4, it’s referring to the evil things, not everything. Just as the wounds in the body of Jesus will eternally remind us of how we got to the New Jerusalem, so the gates and foundations will remind us of “former things.” Old Testament saints and New Testament saints will mingle as one redeemed people in the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:15-21

The seemingly impossible dimensions of the New Jerusalem must be considered in the context of Exodus 25:8, 9, 22, 30, 33 and I Kings 6:1-2. The Holy of Holies in the Wilderness Tabernacle had the dimensions of 15’x15’x15’, and the Holy of Holies in Solomon’s Temple had the dimensions of 30’x30’x30’. In other words, the glory of the Lord dwelt in these “models” in a perfect cube. Since the New Jerusalem is described in Rev. 21: 3 as the dwelling place of God, it’s no wonder that the dimensions of the city are that of a cube. 12,000 furlongs is about 1,500 miles. That’s about the distance from Land O’ Lakes to Quebec City, or from London to Vienna. Jacksonville, FL, covers 875 square miles. The New Jerusalem covers 2,250,000 square miles. Just imagine, if each “floor” of the New Jerusalem was 1 mile high, that would be 1,500 of these 2,250,000 square miles! The wall is 144 cubits thick (?) – $144 \times 1.5 = 216$ feet. That’s just over $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of a football field. The *foundations* of the city are amazingly beautiful as they are studded with precious stones. The gates of the city are of mother of pearl. The streets of the city are of gold more pure than anything ever seen here.

Revelation 21:22-27

Besides the list in 21:4-5, here are some more things not in the New Jerusalem – no temple, no sunlight or moon light, no night, nothing that defiles, nothing that works abomination, nothing that lies.

Since Satan once offered Jesus the glory of the kingdoms of the world (Luke 4:5-8) and Jesus refused the offer, we assume that the glory of those kingdoms will never be His, but those glories are here rightfully brought to the New Jerusalem.