

I. THE DESCENT OF THE CITY

- A. This is a scene of eternity future – after the Millennial Reign
 - 1. Most people think of the book of Revelation as “near term”
 - a. But most refuse to think of it as NEAR ENOUGH
 - b. CNN is the most trusted name in news – what do they think?
 - c. “The Book of Revelation has terrified and confused readers for centuries. Few agree on its meaning, but many have opinions.”
 - d. “The book was probably not written by John the Apostle.”
 - e. “The writer of Revelation was actually describing the way his own world ended.”
 - f. “The author of Revelation was like an activist crusading for traditional values. In his case, he was a devout Jew who saw Jesus as the Messiah. But he didn’t like the message that the apostle Paul and other followers of Jesus were preaching.”
 - g. “Pagels, however, says the writer of Revelation didn’t really intend 666 as the devil’s digits. He was describing another incarnation of evil: The Roman emperor, Nero.”
 - 2. All that nonsense came from one critical author (Pagels)
 - a. The CNN writer wouldn’t want to talk to a BELIEVER about it!
 - b. So much simpler to “explain it away” with an “expert”
 - c. So much more comforting to think it was in the distant past
 - d. So much more soothing to intellectualize it into an “allegory”
 - 3. What does the Bible say?
 - 4. It is VERY straight forward, very simple, and VERY NEAR!!!
- B. We have seen many things happen in a logical timeline
 - 1. It has a beginning, middle, and end! VERY understandable!
 - a. It tells the story between two locations – Heaven and Earth
 - b. In chapter 12 God uses allegory for the purpose of summary
 - i. The woman clothed with the Sun is obviously Israel
 - ii. The Son she brought forth obviously Jesus
 - iii. The dragon that waited to attack was obviously Satan
 - 2. We have seen:
 - a. The imminent Rapture of the Saints (not the church)
 - b. The beginning of the Tribulation
 - i. The terrible disasters
 - ii. The terrible famine
 - iii. The terrible plagues
 - iv. The terrible death
 - c. The Antichrist and His mark on Earth

- d. In Heaven, the judgement at the mercy seat of Christ
 - e. The Final Battle – Armageddon, blood to the horses’ bridles
 - f. The Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ on this Earth
 - g. And the final judgement and the Lake of Fire
 - h. The Last Gasp of Rebellion and the destruction by Fire
3. But now a NEW Heavens and a NEW Earth
- C. Now we travel with John to see a new sight – never before seen (vs. 9-10)
- 1. It took a great and high mountain to see it all
 - a. It was a city – whole and entire – descending out of Heaven
 - b. It is coming down to the NEW Heavens (plural) and New Earth
 - c. First heaven (air), second heaven (space), third heaven (God)
 - d. 2 COR. 12:2 – “I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.”
 - 2. I thought about that word “descending” quite a bit
 - a. The word is only used a few times in the Bible
 - i. Jacob’s ladder – angels ascending and descending
 - ii. The Spirit of God resting upon Jesus at His baptism
 - iii. Peter’s vision of a great sheet descending from Heaven
 - iv. And this verse
 - b. In other words, John saw it in MOTION, but it comes to rest
 - c. This word does mean “connecting” or “temporary”
 - 3. It is a real city, built by Jesus Christ Himself!
 - a. This is the only permanent physical dwelling place in the book!
 - b. JOHN 14:2-3 – “In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”
 - c. All the arguments for “sleep rooms” are wrong – heard them all
 - i. But for their sake, let me clear up some confusion
 - ii. This is a “four-square” city – like a cube
 - iii. What does a mansion look like in a cube?

II. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY

- A. There are many instances of the number 12 in verses 11-21 (6 of them)
 - 1. Twelve stands for DIVINITY – divine power and divine authority
 - a. Vs. 12 – 12 gates, 12 angels, 12 tribes with names written
 - b. Vs. 14 – 12 foundations, 12 names of apostles written
 - c. Vs.19-20 – 12 different kinds of stones
 - d. Vs. 21 – 12 gates made of one entire pearl each
 - e. Vs. 16 – the city measures 12,000 furlongs length, width, height

- f. Vs. 17 – The wall is 144 cubits (which is 12 times 12)
- 2. How big (vs. 15-16)?
 - a. The Biblical furlong used 600 Greek feet (about 606 modern feet)
 - b. The English furlong is 660 feet, or 1/8 of a mile (similar but longer)
 - c. 7,281,000 feet = 1379 MILES per side (around 2200 km)
 - d. CUBED!!!
 - i. 10,648,000,000 km³ (10 and one half BILLION)
 - ii. 2,622,362,939 mi³ (2 BILLION cubic miles)
 - iii. That can hold a LOT of mansions!
- B. How big is it really?
 - 1. Estimates of people who have lived since Adam (50 billion)
 - 2. What if 10% were Saved? – 5 billion
 - 3. That would be almost 1/2 of a cubic mile of space EACH
- C. This city is beautiful (vs. 18-21)
 - 1. There are beautiful cities here on Earth
 - 2. I thought Raleigh was nice to look at – good architecture and CLEAN!
 - 3. This will be better than anything we’ve ever seen!
 - a. 1 COR. 2:9 – “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”
 - b. We are not capable of even imagining it right now!

III. THE DIFFERENCES OF THE CITY

- A. The present Jerusalem is here on Earth
 - 1. The NEW Jerusalem will be in the NEW Earth
 - 2. Anyone can travel the current Jerusalem today (get on a plane)
 - 3. Only the SAVED can go into New Jerusalem
 - 4. There will be no missile attacks or bombings in New Jerusalem!
- B. The present Jerusalem is here in the Now
 - 1. The new Jerusalem will be in Eternity FOREVER
 - 2. They must repair their houses today and fix the streets today
 - 3. The NEW Jerusalem will NEVER decay or crumble
- C. The present Jerusalem is 31 miles in circumference
 - 1. The new Jerusalem shall be 1400 Miles foursquare
 - 2. A marathon runner could probably make it around the current one
 - 3. I probably couldn’t!
 - 4. But we will be able to run around the new one with our new bodies!
- D. The present Jerusalem needs to close their gates
 - 1. They have a wall and guards and military installations
 - 2. And they still have terrorist attacks
 - 3. The new Jerusalem will have gates that never close!
- E. The present Jerusalem needs sunshine
 - 1. But in the New Jerusalem, the LAMB of GOD is the Light thereof!

2. No darkness, no night, no reason to shut the doors!
- F. The earthly Jerusalem has held temples built to God (and will again)
 1. The NEW Jerusalem will need no Temple
 2. For we will FOREVER be in the presence of the Almighty God!

IV. THE DESTINATION OF THE SAVED

- A. The only people who will enter here are the SAINTS of God
 1. Names written in the Lambs Book of Life
 2. Those that are Saved. Those that are under the BLOOD OF CHRIST
- B. No one else will enter that city (vs. 27)
 1. No things that will defile the city with sin – it is defeated and destroyed
 2. Nothing that will work abomination – it has been judged and removed
 3. No one who will maketh a lie – it has been corrected and purified
 4. It's interesting that the idea of a "lie" is last in that list, isn't it?
 5. After all, Jesus Christ said that Satan was the "father of lying."
- C. This is that home in glory, but it's only for those who are SAVED
- D. Only those who have FREELY accepted the gift of God's Great Salvation

V. THE DECISION OF THE SOUL

- A. Are you prepared to go to this Great City?
 1. We prepare to travel to cities today, pack our bags, buy our tickets
 2. And that is for just a short trip! Just a few days or even weeks!
 3. This city is eternal – there is no time there
 4. And there will be no time to get your ticket for THIS trip later!
- B. You have to decide NOW
 1. JOHN 5:24 – "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."
 2. JOHN 6:37 – "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."
 3. ROM. 10:13 – "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."
- C. Be Saved Today!