

# Lesson 6- “The Heavenly City – Rev. 21-22”

## 1. The Dimensions of the City

- 12,000 stadia long X 12,000 wide X 12,000 high= Approx. 1500 miles square (2400 Kms square)
- Approximately 3.2 million square Kms or 42% of Australian land mass; larger than India; from the west coast of the US to the Mississippi River, from the Canadian to Mexico border.
- Statisticians calculate that the total number of human being who have ever lived is 106 billion people.
- The New Jerusalem could comfortably house all of them, each one in a 3,000 square foot home.
- The same dimensions as the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle/Temple



## 2. The Description of the City

- **The Holy City** (Rev. 21:2) “It will be holy because everyone in it will be holy”
- **The Pearly Gates** (Rev. 21:12, 17, 18, 21) They each bear the name of the 12 tribes of Israel. A pearl is an organically formed jewel caused by the wounding of the flesh of a sea creature, an oyster. The sea in an image of the nations. The nation Israel, its wounding and the wounding of her Messiah has meant entry for all into the heavenly city.
- **The Foundations of Precious Stones** (Rev. 21:14; 19-20) Each precious stone foundation bears the name of the 12 apostles of the Lamb. Foundations (The Church) and gates (Israel) are united.
- **The Streets of Gold** (Rev. 21:21) “Pure gold”; no dross; possibly more “translucent” than “transparent”. The word is **δαιυγάζω** meaning to “glimmer or shine through” as at dawn. Only other occurrence in 2 Pet. 1:19 “And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day **dawns** and the morning star rises in your hearts.”
- **The Lamb That Is The Light** (Rev. 21:11, 23; 22:5) There will be no lights required in the New Jerusalem nor will there be night for the glory of God will Lit. “enlighten upon them”(22:5) and the Lamb will be the lamp.
- **The Tree of Life** (Rev. 22:2) **Lit.** “on this side and on that side [the] tree of life producing fruits twelve, according to month each yielding the fruit of it.” (έντεῦθεν καὶ ἐκεῖθεν ζύλον ζωῆς ποιοῦν καρποῦς δώδεκα, κατὰ μῆνα ἕκαστον ἀποδιδούν τὸν καρπὸν αὐτοῦ).
  - David Jeremiah writes; “There is a river flowing through the middle of the New Jerusalem, and on either side are growing the trees of life (“trees” is plural in the original). There are twelve trees of life, “which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month”.<sup>1</sup>
  - However, with respect, “tree of life” is not actually plural, but singular in the Greek.
  - The Greek text also appears to have “each- ἕκαστον- adjective accusative masculine singular” modify the noun “month- μῆνα- accusative masculine singular”, rather than “tree” which is nominative neuter singular.
  - Thus, respectfully, it does not appear that the text supports there being 12 “kinds” of the tree of life, with each of the “twelve kinds of trees” bearing distinct fruit on a monthly basis.

<sup>1</sup> David Jeremiah; *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven- Study Guide; Turning Point; 2009; Outline p.77*

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- Rather, it appears that there is one “tree of life”; one “class of tree” that grows on either bank of the river, shooting up all along the boulevard.
  - The text also does not appear to support the idea that the tree of life produces one sort of fruit one month, and another sort another month, and so on, but rather the one tree produces twelve sorts of fruit every month.<sup>2</sup>
  - Arguably this is a difficult passage to interpret as seen in the fact still others see “The idea is, that the tree bore every month in the year, so that there were twelve fruit-*harvests*. It was not like a tree that bears but once a year, or in one season only, but it constantly bore fruit - it bore every month. The idea is that of abundance, not variety. The supply never fails; the tree is never barren.”<sup>3</sup>
  - Healing” is the Greek word for therapy...growing in our sense of fulfilment, pleasure and joy at being in the presence of God.”<sup>4</sup>
- **The River of Life** (Rev. 22-1-2) Compare Psalm 46:4 “There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God”. This appears to indicate that many streams along with the shooting tree of life, will branch off into all parts of the city, bringing joy, gladness and therapeutic healing.
  - **Read Hebrews** 11:8-16; 12:22-24; 13:11-16

**3. The Denial to the City<sup>5</sup> (Rev. 21:27)** –“Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.”

- 21: 8 “...the cowardly (δειλός- a person who loses their "moral gumption (fortitude)" that is needed to follow the Lord.)<sup>6</sup>, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts (φάρμακος- people using drugs)<sup>7</sup>, the idolaters and all liars...lake of burning sulphur.”
- “Every person who enters the New Jerusalem will be a person who has sinned...But they will be sins that have been repented of and forgiven and that no longer characterize the life of the one who once committed them”<sup>8</sup>

**Question:** Under what circumstances might someone’s place in the New Jerusalem be removed? (Rev. 22:19)

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<sup>2</sup> John Gill; *Exposition of the Entire Bible* [1746-63]. Text Courtesy of Internet Sacred Texts Archive.

<sup>3</sup> Albert Barnes; *Notes on the Bible* [1834]. Text Courtesy of Internet Sacred Texts Archive.

<sup>4</sup> David Jeremiah; *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven- Study Guide; Turning Point; 2009; Outline p.77-78*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* 73

<sup>6</sup> HELPS Word Studies; Copyright © 1987, 2011 by Helps Ministries, Inc.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> David Jeremiah; *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven- Study Guide; Turning Point; 2009; Outline p.79*