

Revelation 21:9-21 - THE CITY OF GOD (part 1)

Introduction - two kinds of people those who like to travel and those who would like to travel.
 Generally one likes info/description of destination before you go there. Well, is heaven on anyone's destination list? We have an approved description. The destination comes to us

THE CITY AND ITS CITIZENS

THE CITY AND ITS SPARKLE

THE CITY AND ITS SIZE

THE CITY AND ITS CITIZENS

1. Rev. 21:9 an angel is the tour guide
 - a. One of the 7 angels from Revelation 16 (multi-task - dispense wrath and describe city)
2. Rev. 21:9b-10
 - a. The city is closely associated with its citizens
 - b. Described as: "a bride", "the Lamb's wife", "Holy City", "Jerusalem"
 - c. The church is described as - the Bride of Christ (Eph. 5:25ff) ,
 Temple of God (1 Cor. 6:19) living stones (1 Peter 2:5)
 - d. The redeemed are citizens (Eph. 2:19; Phil. 3:20) and the city
 - i. A real place defined by real people who reside there (people make the place)
3. Cities can be know by name or nicknames - City of Love, Pearl of the Orient, Big D, Big Easy, City of 7 Hills, Steel City, Motor City, Windy city, City of Brotherly love, City of Angels (fallen), City that never sleeps/ Big apple, Sin City the Eternal City has a name also
 - a. HOLY CITY JERUSALEM (city of peace) corresponds to the present city (type)
 - b. A city that free from sin(holy and set apart) and free from strife
 - c. Its residence are holy/saints (Heb. 12:14) and peacemakers (Matt. 5:9)
4. Rev. 21:10b
 - a. This "destination city" is coming to us. Rev. 3:12 Rev21:2Rev. 21:10

THE CITY AND ITS SPARKLE

- Rev. 21:11 John is taken to the top of a great mountain so he can see this jewel descend
 - o It description is as a brilliant jewel shining with the glory of God
 - o Refracted light from the many facets of beauty (whole city is magnificent- no bad areas)
- The city is secure and stable
 - o A great high wall - 21:12a (sin and Satan were allowed in the open Garden)
 - o 12 foundations - 21:14a a kingdom that cannot be shaken - Heb. 12:28
 - Heb. 11:10 a lasting city, one with foundations
- The city is alive with color
 - o Fortress walls and foundations are usually drab - grey/brown- stone/brick. Steel slats

- o Rev. 21:17-18 wall of jasper and city of pure gold
 - Wall 144 cubits thick = over 200 ft. thickof clear jasper!
- o Rev. 21:19-20 foundations of every kind of precious stones
 - 12 gemstones are mentioned as the foundations – every beautiful color
 - Not just hidden structure but foundations of exposed beauty
- The Gates and Foundation have names on them
 - o Rev. 21:12,14 there is continuity between the OT and NT (all the Bride)
 - The 12 tribes had 12 stones associated with them (on High Priests clothes)
 - o Eph. 2:19-20 “citizensbuilt on foundation of apostles and prophets...”
- Gates of Pearl – Rev:21:21
 - o Each gate of single pearl(huge oyster ☺)
 - Pearls are made from irritation/agonny and suffering
 - We enter through the suffering of another
 - Jesus said “I am the gate” (John 10:9) He is the Pearl of Great price
 - On Him are inscribed the names of rascals He redeemed
 - He makes us precious, beautiful, colorful and living stones

THE CITY AND ITS SIZE

1. Rev. 21:15-17
 - a. The city has perfect symmetry it is a cube....a huge cube
2. 12,000 stadia = approximately 1,400-1,500 miles
 - a. Ft. Smith to Los Angeles and Houston to Winnipeg (large floor plan)
 - b. 1500 miles high! (Many floors? – 300 floors at 5 miles per floor)
 - i. Tallest building in world is the Burj Khalifa 2700 ft. (1/2 mile- 163 floors)
 - ii. The New Jerusalem will be 1500 miles tall! (Atmosphere is 62 miles)
 1. Top floor will be great view of new heavens and new earth
 - c. In Genesis 11 mankind built the tower of Babel (the first skyscraper)
 - i. Tower that reaches to heavens to make name for themselves - Gen. 11:4
 - d. This New City will be built by God
 - i. It will come down from heaven and reach to the heavens
 - ii. Jacobs ladder that connects heaven and earth
 1. The Holy of Holies was a cube – 1 Kings 6:20 God with us
 - iii. This city is only the capital city –there is still the new heavens and earth to enjoy
3. The City is enormous
 - a. It is big enough for you
 - b. There is an entrance guarded by an angel (peters name is on the one of the foundations)
 - i. Pearl – made from irritation/agonny/suffering - name of a saved sinner on it
 - c. Your name could be on one of those living stones
4. Do you like to travel or would you like to travel?
 - a. This is a small discription
 - b. Is heaven your destination?