

Revelation 21:15-27 - City of God (part 2)

Introduction- The Bible is an amazing book. It corresponds to reality. The Bible has history, it gives prophecy & it shows destiny. Its individual parts stand alone and yet it's connected to the whole.

The Bible gives us the beginning, shows us where we have been and reveals we are going.

Rev. 21 is an amazing description of what things will be like when God makes all things new (21:5). It describes eternity future to give hope in the present and yet this reality is hinted at throughout the past. A golden city, a colorful cube with 12 stones as its foundation and for millennia's this was fore-shadowed. Ex 28:15-21 – priests breastpiece- golden square- blue, purple and scarlet – 12 stones. Such things were woven into the fabric of history/sprinkled in prophecy and now we get a vision of their reality. This future reality is shown by: what's there and what's not there. But Rev. 21 is what will be

What is PRESENT in the City

1. Dimension there is size and shape a tangible reality measurable reality
 - a. Angelic tour guide had a measuring rod (21:15) human measurements (21:17)
 - i. The City is revealed with dimensions that correlate to our reality
 - ii. City is much different than our reality (much bigger)
 - b. Often the idea of heaven is conveyed as floating in air. Dimensionless/ethereal vapor
 - c. The City is not just symbolic but a revealed reality tangible and measurable
2. Beauty the Heavenly Jerusalem is described with exquisite beauty and permeating light
 - a. Symmetry nothing out of place
 - i. Lots of 12's mentioned. Heaven is a full dozen
 - b. Color an array of colors is mentioned kaleidoscope
 - i. 12 gemstones (birthstones/zodiac?) Pearl and Gold
 - ii. Rev. 4:3-6 Isaiah 54:11-12 Ezek. 1:26-28
 - c. Light light is the first order of beauty (photography/architecture/art/happiness)
 - i. the whole city is pure and translucent 21:18,21 Light permeates all
 - ii. God is light – 1 John 1:5 1 Tim. 6:16 unveiled/unhindered light
 1. Moses Transfiguration Saul/Paul Num. 6:24-26
3. Activity Joyful activity peoples coming and going thru gates/streets
 - a. Not Nirvana – absorbed into emptiness Heaven = active “somethingness”
 - b. A hustling and bustling city with movement in and out gates/streets/many mansions
 - c. Heaven is not a restrictive place to be confined it “gates not shut”-21:25
 - i. Hell is a prison, heaven is ultimate freedom (not boring or confining)
 - d. Walk with God on the streets of gold 21:24a
 - i. Better than Adam and Enoch (imagine getting your steps in with the Savior)
4. Diversity retained diversity 21:24 nations = *ethnos* in Gr. (ethnic)

- a. We retain our uniqueness and distinctions
 - i. Nirvana = loss of self....as a drop of water is absorbed into the ocean
 - ii. Heaven = complete/redeemed self. Free to be the best me (unique)
- b. Heaven is not monolithic sameness "kings"- 21:24 Matt. 5:19- great/least
 - i. Our distinctiveness will adorn heaven 21:26

What is ABSENT from the City

1. No temple - 21:22
 - a. A Temple in heaven is mentioned several times in Rev.(Trib. saints and angels serving in)
 - i. In this New Jerusalem there is no Temple. This is NEW!
 - b. No dedicated place for worship. No distance between us and our Redeemer
 - i. Heaven and earth will have been cleansed from all barriers
 - c. Excuse for not coming to church "I can worship God anywhere (golf/lake/woods /etc)
 - i. True (in a way)....but this is a place with dedicated places. (unclean place)
 1. then there will not be whole city is the Holy of Holies-cube
 - ii. John 4:21-24 not on this mountain or in Jerusalem....in truth
 - d. No barriers or distance between us and God God and Lamb are the Temple
 - i. His light will permeate us -we will see Him as He is (a constant presence)
 1. God with us. immediate, eternal , constant, consistent access /worship
2. No need of sun or moon 21:23
 - a. The new earth will be much different than the present world - no sea- 21:1
 - i. Also, there is no sun , no moon...at least no need for them
 - b. In the 1st creation the sun, moon and star are receptacles and reflectors of light
 - c. In eternity (new creation) we will enjoy the SOURCE...Light Himself Isaiah 60:18-20
 - i. If we can enjoy the light of a sunrise/sunset/full moon...
 - ii. Imagine the joy of seeing the SOURCE
3. No night 21:25b
 - a. Took vacation...cabin...arrived at night...no elect/no light no fun without light
 - b. We live in an existence of mixture - good and bad, bitter and sweet, light and darkness
 - c. Eternity will be a pure place Pure light or pure darkness
 - i. Heaven = eternal day
 - d. Night/darkness is the time for thieves and adulterers Job 24:13-17
 - i. "nothing good happens after midnight" (in heaven - no night= all good)
4. Nothing impure, shameful or deceitful 21:27a
 - a. Heaven is a pure place....pure and secure walls , gates, guards
 - i. nothing impure will enter
 - b. this earth is full of shame society with no shame glory in shame
 - i. forgotten how to blush- Jer. 6:15; 8:12
 - c. no deceit. God is Light and Truth so all lies and deceit will be banished

There are many things and people PRESENT and ABSENT in the City of God.

Be there!