

God's Plan for the Future

Study Sheet

(Content herein based on the work of David Jeremiah, *The Book of Signs*; and from personal study notes)

The New Jerusalem

Selected Scriptures

- In 2100 BC, the greatest city in the world was _____ of the Chaldeans = 100,000 population (Genesis 11:28)
 - Centuries later, the world's biggest city was Yinxu, _____ = 120,000 inhabitants
 - During time of Israel's kings, _____ was the world's greatest city = 120,000 kids (Jonah 4:11)
 - _____ was the largest city in the world when Christ was born = 1,000,000 people
 - More recently, in 1825, _____ became the largest city = 1.5 million population
 - After WWI, _____ rose to the top = 7.8 million souls
 - In 1968, _____ surpassed all other cities = 20.5 million people
 - Today, _____ is the most populated city in human history = 38,000,000 inhabitants
- Robert Johnson and Gus Lubin, "The 16 Greatest Cities in History," *Business Insider*, 1/21/2013, <http://uk.businessinsider.com/largest-cities>

Hebrews 11:10 – *He was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.*

Our eternal home is described by the word _____ eleven times in Revelation 21-22. Our eternal home is called by several biblical names: Holy City, Celestial City, Mount Zion, New Jerusalem.

Hebrews 12:22 – *...Mount Zion...the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...*

Revelation 3:12 – *The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.*

The new Jerusalem will be an actual place, the capital of God's eternal kingdom.

It is the place Jesus is preparing for us.

John 14:2-3 – *In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.*

Revelation 21:1-5 – *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (4) He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (5) And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

The Scriptures provide us with three characteristics of the heavenly city:

The _____ of the city (Revelation 21:15-16)

And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls.

(16) The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal.

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According to **Rev 21:6**, the city is just as long as it is wide and just as wide as it is *high* = 1,500 miles UP!
 "The sheer, overwhelming, mind-boggling size of the city will exceed anything we can imagine." –D. Jeremiah

The _____ of the city

Note the following seven features of the New Jerusalem from Revelation 21-22

The _____ City (Revelation 21:2, 10)

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ... (10) And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

The Wycliff Bible Commentary: "A holy city will be one in which no lie will be uttered in one hundred million years, no evil word will ever be spoken, no shady business deal will ever even be discussed, no unclean picture will ever be seen, no corruption of life will ever be manifest. It will be holy because everyone in it will be holy."

The _____ of Pearl (Revelation 21:17-18-21)

He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. (18) The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. ... (21) And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

The city will have a wall surrounding it; a wall with twelve gates, each made of a single pearl.

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Oysters make pearls in response to an irritant, such as a grain of sand or another object. When any irritant makes its way within the mollusk's shell, the creature produces a substance called mother-of-pearl, a protective coating that helps reduce irritation. Another name for this substance is nacre (NAY-cur). Made of microscopic calcium carbonate crystals, it lines the interior of a mollusk's shell. Layers of nacre coat the irritant, eventually forming an iridescent gem (the pearl). Once the irritant has entered the shell, a pearl can develop in about six months. Larger pearls can take up to four years to develop. This is one reason why larger pearls can yield higher values. —*americanpearl.com*

_____ is symbolized in the Scriptures as *the pearl of great value* [great price -KJV].

Matthew 13:45-46 (KJV)— *The kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: (46) Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.*

Isaiah 53:5 – *He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities.*

"Heaven is entered through suffering and travail, through redemption and blood, through the agony of the cross. A pearl is a jewel made by a little animal that is wounded. Without the wound, the pearl is never formed." —*W.A. Criswell*

Upon entering heaven, we'll see the pearly gates and be reminded again that the only reason we are there is because of the suffering and pain of our Lord Jesus Christ. He suffered the agony of the cross so we might be redeemed.

The _____ of Precious Stones (Revelation 21:19-20)

The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, (20) the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

"Can you imagine approaching heaven's capital and seeing it from afar? We'll witness this magnificent city, soaring 1,500 miles into the atmosphere, built upon gemstone foundations, with each gate brilliantly crafted from a single pearl. We'll walk into this holy city with jaws dropped and eyes widened in absolute wonder for even the most beautiful places on earth don't hold a candle to what God has prepared for us." —*David Jeremiah*

The _____ of Gold (Revelation 21:21)

And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

The gold of earth isn't transparent. The gold of heaven will be so pure as to be transparent.

The _____ that is the Light (Revelation 21:10-11, 23-24; 22:5)

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. (11) having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ... (23) And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. (24) By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ... (22:5) And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Isaiah 60:19 – *The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.*

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The _____ of Life (Revelation 22:2)

In the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

*Healing = (Gr.) *therapeia*, where we get the word *therapeutic*.*

This "therapy" will not enhance our holiness because we'll be perfectly holy.

The _____ of Life (Revelation 22:1-2)

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb (2) in the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

The _____ of the city (Revelation 21:7-8, 25-27; 22:14-15, 17)

Not everyone will be admitted into the heavenly city.

Many will be denied access to this wonderful, eternal city—by failing to trust Christ as Savior.

The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. (8) But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." (Rev 21:7-8)

And its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. (26) They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. (27) But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Rev 21:25-27)

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. (15) Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. (Rev 22:14-15)

The only ones allowed into the heavenly city will be those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. No exceptions.

In summarizing the New Jerusalem, one theologian described it this way:

"It'll be a great city, a well-built city, a well-lit city, a well-watered city, a well-provisioned city, a well-guarded city, a well-governed city, a well-peopled city, a holy city, a glorious city. ...How eagerly we should look for it! How worthy of it we should live!"

The last invitation in the book of Revelation says:

(Rev 22:17) *The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come."*

And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.