

I. The City of God

- A. The final step in the restoration of all things and fulfillment of all the promises of God is the full integration and restoration of the dwelling place of God (heaven) with the earth. The desire to dwell in this city is not about its splendor and majesty but instead the desire to be in unhindered relational fellowship with God.
1. In the beginning God built Himself a city with His own hands, the city was known as Eden. Adam and Eve dwelt in the garden that was in the eastern part of the city. Originally, humanity was created to dwell in the city of God. (Gen. 2:7-10,15)
 2. At the fall they were forced to leave the city and the gate to the city was guarded by an angel with a flaming sword in order to keep them from getting back in. Not only did sin separate them from God relationally but they were separated physically from His dwelling place and their home. (Gen. 3:22-24)
 3. Who knows how long the city of God remained on the earth after the fall, we do know that hundreds of years after humanity was expelled from its walls men were still seeking it. The primary hope of the promised child was to gain them entry back home. (Gen. 3:15, 4:1-2, 25-26, 12:1-3; Phil. 3:20; Heb. 11:8-16; 1 Pet. 2:11)

II. The Tour of the City

- A. Layout and Design – According to the measurements given to us by John as well as multiple other passages throughout the bible the city is designed as a mountain or pyramid, (not cube) and roughly 1500 miles in length, width, and height. That is roughly the distance from Denver to New York. (Gen. 11:4)
1. Mountain City – The references to this city being a mountain city are extensive. This possibly explains the desire of man to build or climb great high things as an expression of their power and nearness to God or Godlike accomplishments. (Ps. 48; 68:15-16; Eze. 28:13-15; Is. 2:1-3; Dan. 2:34-35; Mic. 4:1-2)
- B. Walls – John tells us there is a great wall that encompasses the entire city that is 144 cubits (roughly 216 feet or 75 yards) high. There is definitely some significance to the walls height being the number 144 as it is the same as the sealed of Israel from (Rev. 7). The walls are built primarily out of Jasper stone (Diamond). Under the wall are 12 sections (3 per side) foundations and on each foundation was the name of the one of the 12 apostles. Each foundation was made of a different precious stone possibly representative of the uniqueness of that particular apostle.

- C. Gates - There are 12 gates of entry into the city, 3 on each side, and are most likely massive in both width and height. The gates are all built out of giant pearls and each gate is named after one of the 12 tribes of Israel.
- D. Street – There is only one street highlighted in the book of Revelation and John is drawn to this street because it seems to be the main street of the city. The river of life which proceeds from the throne flows down its center and it is built out of the purest gold. This street leads you to the throne room where you have unlimited open access to the throne and person of God.
- E. River of Life – The river of life that proceeds from the throne flows out from the city to the earth and becomes the source of all life for the creatures and plant life of the earth. This life source heals and brings life to all it touches and causes everything to feel the peace and joy of God himself. (Ps. 36:7-9, 46:1-11)
- F. Trees of Life – On either side of the river of life that flows down the center of the street there are rows of trees. John tells us that these trees are the trees of life. They bear fruit every month and never wither or decline in their production of fruit. The fruit of these trees is meant to be eaten and enjoyed and eating them nourishes life in you. I believe that scripture tells us that these are the very trees that Adam and Eve had unhindered access to. (Ez. 47:1-12)
- G. Light of Glory – The fact that God’s glory illumines this city is stated 3 times. The glory of God is manifest when God’s character is displayed through words or action. When God’s glory is perceived by the beholders the heart grows in love and fascination. Every facet of this entire city is designed by God to be unending encounter with Him. (Ex. 33:18-34:8; 1s:60:19; Jhn 1:1-14)

III. Interaction with the Earth

- A. Its hard to exactly define how the heavenly Jerusalem will be accessible from the earth during the millennial kingdom but scripture makes it clear that it will be at some level. However, the purpose of the millennial kingdom period of restoration is to prepare the earth for the full restoration of God’s dwelling place (Heaven) and earth. John makes it clear that the finality of Jesus making a new heavens and earth is the full union of the city of God and the earth once again as it was in the beginning. (2 Cor. 4:17-5:3)
 - 1. Eternal Reality – John also makes it clear along with many other scriptures that the restored union of heaven and earth will never be separated again. The work of Jesus in restoring all that was lost at the fall is so complete and perfect that the eternal state of the redemptive work of Jesus is exactly that..... Eternal. (Is. 9:6-7; Dan. 7:13-14; Mic. 4:7; Lk 1:32-33)