

# The Final Curtain: The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9–22:5

## Introduction

### The City's Structure (21:9–21)

- The city's primary and distinguishing feature is that it is the abode of the Lord God Almighty (v. 11).
- The city gates are reminiscent of how the 12 tribes were placed around the tabernacle in the wilderness (Numbers 2) and the allotment of the tribal lands around the Millennial temple (Ezek 48)
- The city is found to measure about 12,000 stadia (a stadia = 607 feet) or 1380 miles in each direction. Some believe it is in the form of a pyramid (Walvoord), and some opt for a cube (MacArthur). "Surrounding this huge city is a wall 144 cubits or 216 feet thick. The reference to [human] measurement simply means that though an angel is using the rod, he is using human dimensions" (Walvoord).
- "The decorations of the foundations (with the apostles' names inscribed on them) include 12 stones involving different colors. The color of the jasper is not indicated. The sapphire was probably blue; the agate comes from Chalcedon, Turkey and is basically blue with stripes of other colors. The emerald is a bright green; the onyx is red and white; and the carnelian, called a "sardius" in the NASB, is usually ruby-red in color, though it sometimes has an amber or honey color. In 4:3 the carnelian stone is coupled with the jasper to reflect the glory of God. Chrysolite is a golden color, probably different from the modern chrysolite stone which is pale green. The beryl is sea green; the topaz is a transparent yellow green; the chrysoprase is also green; the jacinth is violet in color; and the amethyst is purple. The stones together provide a brilliant array of beautiful colors" (Walvoord).

### The City's Inhabitants (21:22–27)

- Unlike the Jerusalems of the past, this one has no temple.
- Nothing unclean or sin-laden will enter this city (Rev 21:8; 22:15); only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will experience it (cf. 3:5, 13:8, 20:12).

### The City's Attractions (22:1–5)

- "While this may be a literal river, its symbolism is clear. Out of the throne of God will flow pure water, symbolic of the holiness and purity of God and the city" (Walvoord).
- "The celestial tree symbolizes the blessing of eternal life ... The use of the term 'month' does not refer to time ... It is an expression of the joyous provision of eternity spoken in the familiar terms of time" ... [We] will spend eternity carrying out the infinite variety of tasks that the limitless mind of God can conceive" (MacArthur).