

Revelation – Week 7 A Tale of Two Cities

Ron Introduction

We have come to the end of the book of Revelation. In Revelation 21:1 John says, “*Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.*”

Humanity has always been **pre-occupied** with **heaven** and what heaven will be like.

God has instructed us from His Word **not** to **store up** all our **treasure** here on earth. The Lord has a **“long-term”** investment in mind.

The Bible speaks of heaven over **500 times** and 50 of those references are from the book of Revelation.

After John mentions heaven in verse 1, he speaks about a “holy city” in verse 2 – Revelation 21:2 “*Then I, John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*”

Tonight, we want to consider what the **significance** is for this **“city theme”** that is found in Revelation.

- **Why** does Revelation **contrast** the **New Jerusalem** with **Babylon**?
- **What prominence** does this **ancient city** have to do with mankind’s future?

Greg Introduction

1. Ron – What will the New Jerusalem be like?

(Basic description, alternate metaphor, physical characteristics)

- The **New Jerusalem** will be a city made by God, **for God**.

The **“original”** Jerusalem was the first city made **expressly** for God.

The **old** Jerusalem was a place for **God’s ark**.

The **new** Jerusalem is a place for **God’s throne**.

Revelation 21:2 describes it as the **“holy city”**.

Verse 2 also describes the city as an **“adorned bride”** (it’s rare that you see an ugly bride, in fact I don’t think I’ve ever seen an ugly bride; maybe a few who just made the cut). This city is special to God.

- **Revelation’s physical description of the New Jerusalem**

Revelation 21:10-21

- The **“light”** of the city – her light was like a jasper stone, or like a pure **diamond**.
- The **“walls”** of the city are described as “great” and “high”. These are the descriptions of a physical place, not a puffy cloud!
- The **“gates”** of **pearl**, the rest of the city is built from stone or metal, but pearls are created from the agitation of a living thing.
- The **“dimensions”** Revelation 21:15-18

The angel had a measuring device; the city is a square or cube (1,500 miles x 1,500 x 1500).

Its mass would cover $\frac{2}{3}$ of the United States and towering 600,000 stories into the air.

Perhaps the most prevailing feature of the city is that it is **“translucent”** radiating the light of God’s glory.

- The **“street”** – singular. We always say streets – plural. But it appears to have a main street of gold; again transparent.

We make much over what God uses for construction. But when we are there, we will make much over who God is, not what He builds with.

1 B. Greg

2 A. Ron – The Inhabitants

Revelation 21:7 *“He who overcomes shall inherit all things.”*

The inhabitants of the new heaven and New Jerusalem will be those whose names are written in the Book of Life, along with God’s angels that did not follow Satan.

The Nations – heaven will be a place of **diversity**. Revelation 21:24 “*And the nations of those who are saved. And the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.*”

Those who enter heaven **“surrender”** their **glory!**

Our nation’s struggle for **equality**; it will happen in heaven. There will be no need of class structure or social classes. Only God will be magnified.

2 B. Greg

3 A. Ron – **The Significance!** (the “so what” statement!)

Revelation 21:4 “*And God will wipe away every tear*”

- No more **death**
- No more **sorrow**
- No more **pain**

- **The river of life** – Revelation 22:1 “*And he showed me a pure river of water of life.*”

Remember when Jesus spoke to the “woman at the well” and He said to her (paraphrase) “If you knew who I was, you would ask me for water!”

And Jesus called that water **“life”** – here is the river of life.

- **The tree of life** – Revelation 22:2-3

“*For the healing of the nations*”

The ultimate health; to not suffer decay or death or any health abnormalities.

- No need for **night** to sleep
- No need for **lamps**
- No need for **sun**

“*And they shall reign forever and ever*”

3 B. Greg

Ron's Conclusion:

This brings us to the end of Revelation.

Rather than end with our words, I would like to end the study by reading the last 16 verses in our Bibles. John MacArthur calls these verses **“God's last invitation”**.

Revelation 22:6-21