

## Revelation 21.9-27

## Rock-Solid Hope

They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings-and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers. Revelation 17.14

‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him’ but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2.9-10

## Revelation 21.9-27

<sup>9</sup> One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." <sup>10</sup> And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. <sup>11</sup> It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. <sup>12</sup> It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>13</sup> There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. <sup>14</sup> The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup> The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. <sup>16</sup> The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. <sup>17</sup> He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, by man's measurement, which the angel was using. <sup>18</sup> The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. <sup>19</sup> The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, <sup>20</sup> the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. <sup>21</sup> The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.

<sup>22</sup> I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup> The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. <sup>25</sup> On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> The glory and honor of the

nations will be brought into it. <sup>27</sup> Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

1. People 2. Protection 3. Precious 4. Purity 5. Presence 6. Praise 7. Permission

## 1. People

v. 9 the bride, the wife of the Lamb

One of the elders said to me (John)...See, the *Lion* of the tribe of Judah...Then I saw a *Lamb*, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne  
Revelation 5.5,6

The eternal city is not only the home of the bride; it is the bride! A city is not buildings; it is people.  
Warren W. Wiersbe

v. 24 the nations... the kings of the earth

The killing of infidels by any method including martyrdom (suicide) operations has been sanctified by many scholars *even if it means killing innocent Muslims*. This legality has been agreed upon ... so as not to disrupt jihad. Protecting religion is more important than protecting (Muslim) lives, honor or wealth. The *shedding of Muslim blood ... is allowed* in order to avoid the greater evil of disrupting jihad.  
Abu Musab al-Zarqawi

‘You are worthy...because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from *every tribe and language and people and nation*. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.’  
Revelation 5.9-10

In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and *all nations* will stream to it. *Many peoples* will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between *the nations* and will settle disputes for *many peoples*. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning

hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.  
Isaiah 2.2-4

## 2. Protection

v. 12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates.

vs. 16,17 The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, by man's measurement, which the angel was using.

But how can a city be a cube? The description is architecturally preposterous, and must not be taken with flat-footed literalism. In ancient times the cube was held to be the most perfect of all geometric forms. By this symbolism, therefore, John wants us to understand that the heavenly Jerusalem is absolutely splendid.

Bruce M. Metzger

‘great multitude which no one could number, from every nation and from all tribes and peoples and tongues’  
Revelation 7.9

v. 14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.  
1 Corinthians 3.11,12

John is not describing an eternally secure place. He is describing eternally secure people.  
Robert H. Gundry

v. 25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born for you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.  
Psalm 90.1-2

## 3. Precious

v. 11 its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

John is straining the limits of his hearers' experience to try to communicate a beauty that lies beyond the capacity of the 'first earth.' Dennis E. Johnson

vs. 18-21 The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.

The prerogatives that once belonged exclusively to the high priest are now reflected in the entire city. Vern S. Poythress

The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Matthew 13.45-46

The bride, the city, is none other than the church of Christ... We are not merely spectators – we are ourselves the spectacle... The city shown to us here is what we shall be in the age to come, what in a sense we already are, on the level of 'the heavenlies', and what in our earthly experience God is presently making of us. Michael Wilcock

#### 4. Purity

v. 18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass.

v. 21 The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.

I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, 'Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there. But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.' Revelation 11.1-2

v. 15 The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls.

"This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and *I will fill this house with glory*,' says the LORD Almighty. 'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the LORD Almighty. *'The glory of this present house will be greater* than the glory of the former house,' says the LORD Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the LORD Almighty." Haggai 2.6-9

vs. 9,10 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute... Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. Revelation 17.1-4

v. 27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful

Whatever is no part of this permanent work should have no place among us. If it will not enhance the bride's beauty then, when it comes to share her Bridegroom's place at the marriage feast, it has no business to sully her now. Michael Wilcock

## 5. Presence

v. 11 It shone with the glory of God

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the LORD will be your everlasting light Isaiah 60.1,19,20

v. 22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Jesus: 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?' But the temple he had spoken of was his body. John 2.19-22

You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2.19-22

The city is not a holy sanctuary because the redeemed are its inhabitants, except in a secondary sense, but because it is pervaded by the presence of God himself and thus is absolutely holy, and because all blessedness and all grace come from him who is Lord over all both as Creator and as Redeemer. Philip E. Hughes

v. 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

John 1.4

All of life is lived in the presence and worship of God. When there is a 'Temple' in the 'city' of our lives, then there is a place where we can confine God...

Something other than God becomes our 'sun' and 'moon' by which we see to follow our own path through life...When God is allowed to be God, however, his light shines into every corner of our 'city.' The 'slums' are exposed, the disreputable sections of our 'city' are seen for what they are, our questionable practices are disclosed.

M. Robert Mulholland, Jr.

## 6. Praise

v. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.

The kings of Tarshish and of distant shores will bring tribute to him; the kings of Sheba and Seba will present him gifts. All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him.

Psalms 72.10-11

v. 26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.

Summon your power, O God; show us your strength, O God, as you have done before. Because of your temple at Jerusalem *kings will bring you gifts*...Envoys will come from Egypt; Cush will submit herself to God. Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth, sing praise to the Lord  
Psalm 68.28-32

## 7. Permission

We have a strong city; God makes salvation its walls and ramparts. Open the gates that the righteous nation may enter, the nation that keeps faith. You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal. Isaiah 26.1-4

v. 27 Nothing impure will ever enter it...only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. Acts 4.12

Jesus: If you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins. John 8.24

vs. 12,13 twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates...There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. Revelation 22.17

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. Hebrews 11.8-10

