

**Rev. 21:15:** *'And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. <sup>16</sup> And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.'*

New Jerusalem is huge, almost beyond imagination; perhaps God also plans that the New Earth will be far larger than the present Earth and able to be home to very high numbers of His Elect Children. Remember: *'Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.'* Isaiah 9:7

There is no reason to imagine that God would stop creating new worlds throughout His infinite Universe. He is first, and foremost, glorified in His Creation.

*'The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.'* Psalm 19:1

*'To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. <sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.'* Isaiah 40:25

*'O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens... When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; <sup>4</sup> What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? <sup>5</sup> For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. <sup>6</sup> Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:'* Psalm 8:1...

Perhaps God will never stop creating more and more for His beloved children, over which to rule and reign forever. He is glorified in His wondrous creation and we will be glorified as well.

**Verse 17:** *'And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.'*

A cubit is about 18" New Jerusalem's walls are about 216 feet high; it could be that the phrase, 'of the angel,' indicates a distance even greater. 216 feet is a towering wall but not as significant when we realize that it is enclosing a city which is 1500 miles high and, yet, we'll see that its height is not so important since the gates of the city will never be closed. On the other hand, maybe that phrase, 'of the angel,' indicates that the angels guarding each gate are, themselves, 216 feet tall... no reason not to think so...

**Verse 18:** *'And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.'*

Jasper is a wonderful family of stones; some of it is filled with many striking layers of colors while others can be as clear as glass.

This entire, unimaginably huge city is all pure gold as well as other precious stones and minerals. No Earthly king has ever had a palace which would even be a shadow of this, our marvelous Eternal Home.

The Hall of Mirrors in the Palace at Versailles would not even be fit to be the broom closet in New Jerusalem.

There are about 5.5 billion cubic yards in one cubic mile. This city fills the space of about 3.4 billion cubic miles... that equals some number followed by around 25 zeros, cubic yards of gold... that comes out to an unimaginable amount of gold which is so pure that it is transparent like glass, a warm, golden glass through which the Glory of God will shine throughout. This is not gold colored glass, it is purest transparent gold.

**Verse 19:** *'And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; <sup>20</sup> The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.'*

All of these beautiful, precious stones are pure and they are, again, huge. In their purest forms, each one is at least as beautiful as rubies, emeralds and sapphires; diamonds are nice but, in my opinion, they're boring next to all of these beautiful colorful minerals.

Firstly, imagine how large a foundation stone must be to support this immense city. Then, remember that all the walls and streets on every level of this colossal city are pure, transparent gold; the light and glory of God suffuses every corner and that same light and glory will shine forth all the way down and throughout every mammoth foundation stone. To see this City of God from a distance, it will appear like bright light shining through a prism, like the brightest rainbow imaginable. We've all seen refracted light shining through a chandelier's crystals... imagine that magnified billions of times over and you only begin to imagine New Jerusalem. Every part of the city will shine and glow with every bright or subdued color imaginable with many, many colors we've never even seen.

Our eyes are capable of seeing the colors: Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet: along with every shade between but there are infinite numbers of colors our eyes will see when we step into our eternal, glorified bodies; nothing will be held back from us, ever again.

I hope we're beginning to imagine the grandeur, the elegance, the uncontainable magnificence and beauty of our Eternal Home.

New Jerusalem is 1500 miles by 1500 miles and 1500 miles high. If it were divided up by floors, and each floor's ceiling is 100 feet (10 stories high), there would be almost 80,000 floors... it is gargantuan. If each, single apartment is 1 square mile with a 100 foot high ceiling, there would room for 720 billion such luxury apartments! Each one could have hills, forests, waterfalls, lakes, gold and precious stones throughout!

All it takes to imagine even a fraction of New Jerusalem's wonders is to allow ourselves to imagine really bigly! John is using language to convey our future home's majesty; our imaginations should match and surpass that.

***Verse 21:*** *'And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.'*

And.... here's where so many imaginations break down and falter; who would believe in pearls like that... Only a fool could believe such a silly notion... but John believes it... the angel leading John believes it... that angel was around when God created the Universe: *'Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, <sup>2</sup>Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? <sup>3</sup>Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. <sup>4</sup>Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. <sup>5</sup>Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? <sup>6</sup>Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; <sup>7</sup>When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?'* Job 38:1

The angels have seen it all and they would, in turn, declare that only an idiot would consider themselves so wise as to dare to doubt God's Word.

This is one of the areas which sent the Church off into the weeds of Catholicism; Origen, Augustine and many others just couldn't bring themselves to really believe the truth of God's Word. These things in The Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ, to John, are too fantastic; it must be allegory... so... no Rapture, no Armageddon, no Second Coming, no Millennium, no genuine New Jerusalem... everything is to be spiritualized into the magnificent mother church ruled over by the queen of heaven with Israel gone, lost and forgotten forever. But then something happened! God began to pull and force the Jews back into their own land of Israel and when they finally became a recognized Nation again, the End Times, the Last Days had suddenly begun in earnest!

Again... this is the Truth of God's Word; we are meant to read this and believe it. The gates of New Jerusalem are huge; their size is that befitting the most beautiful and most immense city ever created.

There are twelve gates; three gates dividing each of the four walls of the city and each gate is one, single pearl! That's right! This is not allegoric or figurative language; this is plain Greek translated into plain English.

The Greek word, here, for pearl is the same word used every other time in the New Testament for pearl: 'don't cast your pearls before swine,' 'a man found a pearl of great price,' 'the merchants of gold, pearls, etc.' John means to convey exactly what he is seeing: Every gate, all twelve, each one is a single, huge pearl. God does not have to explain how that pearl came into existence; He may or may not have first created an even huger oyster but He created these pearls with His Word, like everything else. God can do anything, anything at all! Every street throughout every level as well as every wall and every ceiling: all is of the purest transparent gold. Here is the secret of New Jerusalem; here is what John is really describing: God has created it such that throughout Eternity, we will never stop being absolutely amazed by all the varied Creation of God and, so, we will never cease praising, magnifying, glorifying and exalting Him forever!

New Jerusalem has been created, like everything else, to the Glory of God!

Everything we know and see, now, is but a mere corrupted shadow of all that He will have created in the New Heavens, the New Earth and New Jerusalem. When we see the vivid colors, the magnificent trees, the never-before seen, radiant fish, the astoundingly colorful birds, the noble and stately animals, our own unimaginable eternal bodies like that of the Lord Jesus Christ... everything will cause us to more and more, neverendingly praise, glorify and magnify our own Heavenly Father and His Son, our own Bridegroom, our own Lord Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords, Mighty Creator and Ruler of all that is!

***Verse 22:*** *'And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.'*

When Moses was up on Mt. Sinai, he was shown what the Tabernacle in the wilderness was to be patterned after; the portable Tabernacle and the later Temple were, in fact, to be Earthly representations of God's Heavenly Throne Room, how Israelites could approach Him and, most importantly, God's plan to provide the eventual, perfect sacrifice in His Son, Who could finally remove every barrier between sinful Man and His loving Creator, God Almighty; it pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ and His Sacrificial Work of Redeeming Man as the Lamb of God Who would, finally, take away the sin of the World and the need for an artificially constructed temporary and incomplete pathway to God.

There will be no Temple in New Jerusalem because God, Himself will be our Temple, He in us and we in Him; we will worship Him in Spirit and in Truth, in constant, never-ending perfect and complete fellowship and oneness forever.

***Verse 23:*** *'And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.'*

From this verse, it is mistakenly taught that there will be no more sun or moon or day and night but it doesn't say that at all; it simply and pointedly says, in New Jerusalem there will be no NEED of the light of the sun or moon; the Glory of God will shine and lighten throughout but that does not mean that day and night will cease. In chapter 20 we read, of the punishment of the Antichrist and False Prophet: *'And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever.'* Rev 20:10

Clearly, day and night will continue to mark time forever. There is no reason to believe that God will ever cease marking time or cease the cycle of day and night on the New Earth as well as on the countless billions of planets orbiting the countless trillions of stars throughout God's infinite Universe.

God does not speak in meaningless platitudes; every Word, of His, has meaning and purpose. If He had meant to say, simply, that Satan, the Antichrist and False Prophet would be tormented forever... He'd have said so but He purposely said, to us, ***day and night forever.***

From another verse in Revelation, others erroneously teach that time will cease, that Eternity will somehow become a never-ending timeless foreverness. Again, not so.

In Revelation 10:6 we read: *'And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, <sup>6</sup> And sware by him that liveth forever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that*

*therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, **that there should be time no longer:***'

From that, they mistakenly deduce that time will cease to exist. It doesn't mean that, at all. The angel is simply stating that there will be no more delay as God begins His final judgments upon the rebellious World; He has delayed and delayed for more than 6000 years as Satan and rebellious mankind has seemingly sinned and rebelled with impunity... no more delay, no more time offered. In fact, in the very next chapter, of the death and resurrection of the 2 Witnesses, John writes: '*And **after three days and an half** the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.*' Rev 11:11  
Too often, people do not allow God's Word to interpret other passages in His Word.

A basic truth in proper interpretation, study and exegeses is that Scripture interprets Scripture; whenever possible, we must read and understand it literally and take it '*at face value.*'

Again, in Verse 25 of this chapter, we read: '*And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.*' Again, it states that 'day' will still exist but in New Jerusalem, there will be no night, no time of darkness, because the Glory of God will constantly illuminate the entire, huge city. Down off God's high mountain, away from New Jerusalem, New Earth will continue to turn... day and night forever.

*'he that winneth souls is wise... And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament (the Heavens); and they that turn many to righteousness (shall shine) as the stars forever and ever.'* Prov 11:30/Dan 12:2

The clear implication is: '*they (shall shine) as the stars (do) forever and ever.*'

*'He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.'* Psalm 147:4

He has named every one of His countless trillions of stars in the Universe which implies a familiarity and affection for those parts of His Creation not tainted by sin.

*'To him that made great lights: for his mercy endureth for ever: <sup>8</sup> The sun to rule by day: for his mercy endureth for ever: <sup>9</sup> The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy endureth for ever.'* Psalm 136:7

Here, day and night, the sun, moon and stars: all are associated with God's timeless and never-ending mercy, the natural outgrowth of His Eternal Love.

God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ and God's Elect all inhabit New Jerusalem which, itself, has no need for the sun or moon for light because God's Glory will forever be its light which will negate any darkness associated with night but that in no way implies that the sun, moon, stars, day or night will cease to exist; they are all integral parts of God's Creation which will eternally bring Him honor and glory forever.

The revolution of moons around planets revolving around stars, linked in ever revolving galaxies held in perfect equilibrium throughout His vast Universe is God's unimaginably perfect and intricate time clock; every second of every day of every century of every eon, all held in absolute perfect harmony, is God's most awe-inspiring, glory and honor inspiring, of all His Creation.

**Verse 24:** '*And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.*'

Remember... New Jerusalem will be our Eternal home but not the home of everyone. There will be nations of peoples throughout the Earth and expanding throughout the Universe. This verse says that Earthbound people, their various kings, do regularly bring the best of their nations into New Jerusalem to give honor and glory to the King of kings.

We cannot imagine all that God has planned for those who love Him but we are commanded to try:

*'Set your mind on the things above, not on things of the Earth.'* Col 3:2