
The Book of Revelation: Session 29

Revelation 21:15-22:2

YouTube: “Verse by Verse Teaching | Revelation 21:9-22:2 | Gary Hamrick”
(taught on February 24, 2021 | 43:22 minutes)

Notes:

The New Jerusalem... (continued from Session 28)

9. Rev 21:16 → The city will be large (a cube, 1500 miles long, wide, and high).
10. Rev 21:18-21 → The city will be beautiful, with every kind of precious stone.
11. Rev 21:22 → The city will have no temple (no atonement is necessary, because there is no sin).

Questions:

1. Read Revelation 21:15-21. John MacArthur comments that the angel measuring the New Jerusalem “is reminiscent of the measuring of the millennial temple (Ezek 40-42) and the measuring of the Tribulation temple (Rev 11:1). The significance of all three measurements is that *they mark out what belongs to God.*” This is God’s city, and a city like no other! And this city is transparent. Why is this, thinking both literally and symbolically?

“The New Jerusalem’s walls and buildings must be clear for the city to radiate the glory of God. ... These brightly colored stones refract the shining brilliance of God’s glory into a panoply (an impressive array) of beautiful colours, ... a spectrum of dazzling colours flashing from the New Jerusalem throughout the re-created universe.”

- John MacArthur

“How like God it is to make the gates of the New Jerusalem of pearl (pearls begin as an irritant, a hardship). The saints, as they come and go, will be forever reminded as they pass through the gates of glory, that access to God’s home is only because of Calvary. ... What gigantic suffering is symbolized by those gates of pearl. ... Those pearls, hung eternally at access routes to glory, will remind us forever of One who hung upon a tree and whose answer to those who injured Him was to invite them to share His home.”

- J. B. Phillips

2. Read Revelation 21:22-27. MacArthur once again comments: God’s “blazing glory will fill the new heaven and the new earth, and there will be no need for anyone to go anywhere to worship God. *Life will be worship, and worship will be life.* Believers will be constantly in His presence; there will never be a moment when they are not in perfect, holy communion with the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb.” How can we cultivate this same life-is-worship spirit in ourselves right now? Any other Bible verses come to mind?
3. Read Revelation 22:1-2. Some might wonder why the nations need to be “healed” since they are already in the new heaven and new earth. Haven’t they been healed already? Once again, MacArthur explains: “At first glance, that seems confusing, since obviously there will be no illness or injury in heaven that would require healing. “Therapeia” (Greek for “healing”) however, does not imply illness. Perhaps a better way to translate it would be “life-giving,” “health-giving,” or “therapeutic.” The leaves of the tree can be likened to supernatural vitamins, since vitamins are taken not to treat illness, but to promote general health. Life in heaven will be fully energized, rich, and exciting.” How does this truth impact your faith today?

Want to dig deeper? Engage with these sermons by John MacArthur, taught in 1995:

- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-83>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-84>