

Beautiful God, Beautiful Lives, Beautiful City (Revelation 21:9-21)

(9) Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." (10) And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, (11) having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. (12) It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed-- (13) on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. (14) And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. (15) And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. (16) The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. (17) He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. (18) The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. (19) The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, (20) the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. (21) And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

(14) "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (15) Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. (16) In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matt. 5:14-16)

(29) When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. (Ex 34:29)

(13) Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13)

(1) Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. (2) And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (3) But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. (4) Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. (Eph 5:1-4)

(14) Do all things without grumbling or disputing, (15) that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, (16) holding fast to the word of life,... (Phil 2:14-16)

(11) Moreover, the word of the LORD came to me: (12) "Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. (13) You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. (14) You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. (15) You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. (16) In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. (17) Your heart was proud because of

your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you. (18) By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries; so I brought fire out from your midst; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth in the sight of all who saw you. (19) All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have come to a dreadful end and shall be no more forever." (Eze 28:11-19)

(1) If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (2) Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (3) For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Col 3:1-4)

(10) For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. (Heb 11:10)

1. In the end some will experience God's wrath because they have not responded to God's love, grace, and mercy by turning from sin and putting their trust in Christ. Those who love God, who trust in Christ, will experience God's good presence in God's perfect place forever and ever.
2. God's people will spend forever in the new heavens and new earth, the new Jerusalem. This holy city will be beautiful, pure, perfectly prepared, radiant, clean, fragrant, ready, and a city of pure and perfect love forever. This is why the city is compared to a bride. The city reflects her inhabitants (the Church), who are the true bride of Christ (the Lamb).
3. The Holy Spirit reveals to us both the truth and the future. Are you open to God carrying you away "in the Spirit?" Do you read God's Word and seek to apply and understand it in light of your personal and present situation in life? Do you spend time with God in order that you might live faithfully in every day life?
4. The eternal city that we will live in is a gift from God to us. God is a good Father who gives the best gifts to His children. It is a perfect city, radiant, beautiful, ordered, structured, symmetrical, unified, harmonious, peaceful, joyful, happy, safe, secure, strong, loving, refreshing, gorgeous, spectacular, rare, valuable, unique, all your good dreams come true. It's even greater than you can imagine.
5. What makes the city so great is God. His glory will be seen, experienced, and known. The city will be more radiant than the most colorful jewels you have ever seen. This city will be greater than all the great cities this world has ever known combined. The best activities, culture, work, wealth, relationships, art, recreation, sports, food, transportation, etc.
6. This city will be perfectly safe. No crime, no risk, no theft, no death, no killing, no conflict, no hate, no blood shed, and only life. The city is clean, perfectly proportionate, healthy, God's best. The city's foundation is perfect and unshakable. If you put your trust and hope in God you can be protected and secure, unshakable, and unharmable. This city will have unity between all of God's people, both Old Testament/Covenant saints and New Testament/Covenant saints.
7. This is a big city to hold all of God's people, those who died before Christ came, during the time of Christ, and since Christ's death and resurrection. All who have put their faith in Christ and all who have not reached the age/state of accountability.
8. The city will have gates made of pearls and streets of gold. A precious place, a pure place, God's place, your place, your forever home.
9. God made us to walk with Him and others, to be loving and holy, to be fruitful and faithful, to be ordered, structured, symmetrical, and unified. God delights in beauty, goodness, and truth. This can be reflected in our personal lives, families, church, community, workplaces, and beyond. Begin with the end in mind (the New Jerusalem) and work back to today. Start growing today by God's grace and the power of His Spirit.