

A Theology of Heaven

Part Nine: "The New Jerusalem"

Foundational Truths

➤ **In the eternal state, we will...**

1. Possess physical, resurrected bodies
2. Dwell in a renewed, physical creation

Principle of Continuity:

➤ *We should expect the new earth to be characterized by familiar, though uncorrupted, earthly things*

athletics art music banquets
entertainment books science
adventure travel technology

Point of Discontinuity

➤ ***No marriage in the eternal state***

- ❑ Marriage is a signpost pointing to our relationship with Christ
- ❑ One marriage in heaven – between Christ and His bride (the redeemed)

The Bride of the Lamb

Revelation 19

- In contrast to the "great harlot" – the idolatrous enemies of God
- The saints are the "bride" clothed in purity and holiness

The Bride of the Lamb

Revelation 21-22

- The wife "Jerusalem" in contrast with the harlot "Babylon" (Rev. 17:1ff)
- The "New Jerusalem" is the symbol of the community of the saints in the eternal kingdom of God

The Bride of the Lamb

Revelation 21-22

1. The Walls

- "great and high" – the absolute security and safety of God's people
- twelve gates – abundant entrance by peoples from every nation
- unity of the two covenant groups as one redeemed community

The Bride of the Lamb

Revelation 21-22

2. The Dimensions

- immense size (12,000 stadia) – vastness, perfection and splendor
- perfect cube – symbolic of the "holy of holies" (God's temple)
- walls (144 cubits) – signifies completeness

The Bride of the Lamb

Revelation 21-22

3. The Materials

- immeasurable value, absolute purity, and brilliance (reflect God's glory)

The Bride of the Lamb

Revelation 21-22

4. The Glory of God

- synonymous with God's manifest presence; it "outshines" everything
- moral connotation of purity – no evil or "darkness"

Conclusion

1. Is this a literal city? No

- antithesis of the "Babylon" metaphor
- the language is intentional hyperbole and non-realistic
- it is synonymous with the redeemed community in the eternal state, not part of it

Conclusion

2. What is the reality?

- a purified, righteous, redeemed community of countless believers from every nation, dwelling on the physical new earth in imperishable, physical, resurrected bodies, in the presence of God, reigning with the resurrected Jesus