The Eternal State
PART II
Revelation 21:9-17


ITS CITY (21:9-22:5).

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (9-17).

• ITS TITLE (9): The tour is given by one of the seven angels with the seven bowls (15:7). What a contrast to the earlier tour of the great prostitute Babylon (17:1)! The Holy City, the New Jerusalem, is called the bride (2) and now the WIFE THE LAMB since the marriage supper of the Lamb (19:7).

• ITS LOCATION (10): From a mountain great and high (Ezek. 40:2; Matt. 4:8), John was invited to view the Holy City (10x; Isa. 52:2) coming down out of heaven. It is being prepared today in heaven by Christ (John 14:2-3).
  Just as the ARK OF THE LORD went before them to find a place to rest (Num. 10:33), and Peter and John were sent ahead to prepare the Passover meal (Mk. 14:12), Jesus our forerunner (Heb. 6:20) and carpenter (Mk. 6:3) goes ahead to prepare our place of eternal rest.

• ITS BRILLIANCE (11): God brought light (GK = phooster – phosphorus) from His glory (Isa. 60:1; Ezek. 43:5) into a dark world (Gen. 1:3; 2 Cor. 4:6). As Jesus was the light of the world (John 8:12) so too are we (Matt. 5:14; Phil. 2:15).

• ITS WALL AND GATES (12-13): Walls were for security and gates were for control – egress and ingress (26-27; Neh. 1:3; Psa. 122:2, 7). The 12 gates had 12 angels as gatekeepers (1 Chron. 9:22; Neh. 7:1). Each gate stood for one of the twelve tribes of Israel.

• ITS FOUNDATIONS (14): These stood for permanence unlike a tent (Heb. 11:9-10). These represent the 12 apostles (1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:20) united together with the OT saints (together – Heb. 11:10, 39).

• ITS SIZE (15-17). John was to measure the city with a REED which was just over 10 feet long. Others had done the same (Neh. 2:13; Ezek. 40:3, 5; Zech. 2:1-2) including John who measured the millennial temple (Rev. 11:1-2).
  By this, God was claiming the city as His own (like Adam naming the animals).
  Like the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle (15x15x15ft) and temple (30x30x30ft), the Holy City is 12,000 stadia (12,000 x about 600’=1363 miles L,W,H) – a perfect symmetrical cube (some say pyramid). Its size is staggering for MANY ROOMS (John 14:3).
  The wall was 216’ thick perhaps surrounding the Holy City on earth.