

**Revelation**  
**Chapter 21:9-27**

**“The Place He’s Prepared”**

**\*All scripture references are from the NASU unless otherwise noted\***

Calvary Chapel Fellowship of Enid  
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September 2017

**Teaching:** Last week we began looking at the only truly “magical kingdom” ... a place the Bible refers to as the New Jerusalem. In the **first several verses of chapter 21** God gives us a glimpse into its population and activities ... and this morning He gives us just a bit more on the structure of it ... but, as you’ll see, He once again gives us just enough to whet our appetites ...

We’re going to begin this morning, as we did last week, by going back to the Old Testament ... this week, looking at one of the most heart wrenching passages in the scriptures ...

**Gen 3:22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" — 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.**

Man sinned ... rebelled against God and cast himself into a fallen state of separation from God.

And God ... not wanting that state to be eternal ... cast man out of the Garden of Eden. And to make sure he wouldn’t be able to reenter and partake of the Tree of Life and live forever in that fallen state ... posted an armed, angel guard at the gate ... at least until man’s fallen state was dealt with.

Now ... flash forward ... to the promise of the coming answer ...

**John 14:1 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.**

And that really provides us with a bridge to the **final two chapters of the Bible ... Revelation chapters 21 and 22**. The reunion of man with his God and the re-establishment of access to the Tree of Life ... not in the Garden of Eden ... but in

Heaven.

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**Verse 9:** If you can remember back to **chapter 16** and that final series of judgments called the Bowl Judgments ... this is one of the angels that poured out the Lord's final wrath upon the world that rejected Him.

**Q. And what does he show John?** – The Bride of Christ ... and, of course, we know that the Bride of Christ is the church ... you and me, but in this passage, we are not only referred to as the Bride, but for the first last and only time, we are referred to here as The Wife of the Lamb.

**Q. Why now?** – Because back in **chapter 19** ... we got married!

**Q. Remember the Wedding Feast and all that?** –

And this angel is about to show John the New Jerusalem ... that which the groom has prepared as a dwelling place for His wife.

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**Verses 10-11:** So there it is ... the New Jerusalem ... not Heaven for it comes down out of Heaven and yet it apparently provides us access to Heaven ... to the throne of God.

And it's described by John as looking like crystal clear jasper.

The problem is that there's no such thing as clear jasper ... much less one that has a crystal-like look to it.

**Q. So what is this then?** – Not sure but many scholars believe it to be diamond with some red hues to it.

And you gotta get that picture ... we're talking about the outside walls. Not brick, not stone, not vinyl siding, but solid diamond.

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**Verses 12-14:**

**Q. Don't you bet that Apostle John walked and walked ... all the way around this structure until he found the foundation stone with his name on it?** – Hey, that's me!

**Q. Now ... if you're a thinker, you may have already thought this question to yourself ... why are there gates and why is there an angel posted at each one?** –

I don't know, but I do know that it would make NO sense for these angles to be gate operators because we're about to learn that these gates are never shut anyway.

**Q. So they're not functioning as guardians ... evil's been destroyed anyway ... so what would they guard against?**

**Q. What if they're like information angels? Heavenly concierges?** –

**Q. Need directions to Pluto?** – No problem.

**Q. Wanna know Moses' apartment number?** – Just asked one of these angels.

I don't know what they do, but I'm all for going there to find out!

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**Verses 15-17:**

So this huge, brilliant, radiant cube! And the shape makes sense ...

**Q. Remember the Holy of Holies in both the Tabernacle and later ... in the Temple?**  
– It was ... according to **Exodus 26 & 1st Kings 6** ... a cube!

**Q. Extra points if you can remember how big it was?** – 15 feet by 15 feet!

But this time the cube is roughly the size of our moon. Fifteen hundred miles high, fifteen hundred miles long and fifteen hundred miles wide with external walls that are over 200 feet thick.

And if you think about it ... the dimensions give us the rough shape of an apartment building ... an apartment building that's 33,750,000,000 cubic miles in size. Just a quaint little cottage!

By the way ... if you're a natural skeptic like I am ... and you thought the bit about angelic measurements being the same as human measurements to be a bit hoakie ... the NIV gives us a more readable translation of this ...

**Rev 21:17 ... He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, by man's measurement, which the angel was using. NIV**

The angel used human measurements so we could understand.

Dr. Henry Morris has done some calculations on these accommodations and uses the estimation of 100 billion people who will have lived (past, present and future), by the time of Christ's return.

Then he says, very generously, that perhaps 20% of that population will eventually dwell in the New Jerusalem ... so that puts 20 billion people in this Heavenly structure.

And using that graciously optimistic estimate ... it would still allow each resident about 75 square miles!

For perspective ... here's the size of your apartment... superimposed on Enid ...

And let me remind you that we're not talking about all of Heaven or whatever else there is ... this 75 square miles is just your apartment. This is your personal condo ... your cottage.

Imagine what your yard will be like!

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**Verses 18-21:** I'm sure that each of these stones was specifically selected by the divine architect and has deep and profound meaning, but what that is ... no one really knows. We're just gonna have to wait and see.

Despite that, as I said, God has given us just enough information to whet our appetites ... to stimulate our imaginations.

So think again with me about what **verse 17** says ... the walls are over 200 feet thick ... and don't forget it's made out of this diamond with a red hue to it. So when the giant pearl ... that is a gate is opened ... we'll be walking through 200 feet of diamond wall ... all lit up and reflecting the glory of God.

**Q. And where do you get a pearl that's the size of a divine gate?** –

**Q. Maybe we're gonna have divine oysters at the Wedding Feast?**

And the foundation stones! You gotta picture it ...

Start at one corner and you've got over 300 miles of pure jasper and then one huge pearl for a gate. Then you've got another 300 miles of sapphire followed by another huge pearl and then 300 miles of emerald and then you come to the other corner. And it's like that on all four sides. And on top of these precious foundations stones ... 1,500 miles of pure diamond wall ... all the way around!

**Q. Anybody wanna go to Heaven?** –

And it speaks of gold ... lots and lots of gold. Gold that's used as construction material on the inside and street building material on the outside ...

**Q. But ... whoever heard of gold as transparent as glass?** – Actually it is a fact that the purer gold is ... the more transparent it becomes.

It's said that the gold that King Tutankhamen was buried with ... is nearly as valuable as all the rest of the world's gold combined. Not because of quantity, but because of quality. They say that much of the gold he was buried with is so pure that a thin slice of it is nearly transparent.

But for that gold to be transparent requires that it be sliced very thin.

**Q. So you wonder ... just how pure is God's gold?**

And no matter what these specific stones are ... clearly God is making a point about values. And it's striking how dramatically different the value systems are between earth and Heaven.

Gold is used for asphalt and diamonds are Heaven's drywall. A great reminder that the most precious things on this earth will mean nothing in eternity.

But as cool as all this is ... I'm still amazed at how little God tells us. This description of the New Jerusalem ... is extremely limited.

Think about it ... if you have an opportunity to see a mansion ... a chance to go into the home of a really wealthy person ...

When I was growing up, we had a family friend whose house had 7 bathrooms ... a total of 47 rooms and an indoor pool that was larger than our city pool. There was a waterproof sofa in the shower.

But if you have an opportunity to see a really spectacular structure ... you don't go home and say ... "You should have seen the fence around the yard! Those posts were sunk in concrete 3 feet deep! And the stucco was amazing."

No you don't talk about the fence and the walls. You say ... "The toilets seats were padded and electrically heated and it had a 9 car garage!"

But really all God gives us is the fence and the foundation ... that's it.

**Q. So ... can you imagine what this tour's gonna be like?** – I know we'll be there with glorified minds, but I think even our glorified minds are gonna be blown.

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**Verses 22-23:** There won't be any "going to church" ... it's all one giant church.

**Q. And by the way ... what makes a church a church?**

**Q. Is it the steeple or the pews or the pastor?** – No ... the church is the assembled people of God. A gathering of those who would worship Him.

And that's what will make all of The New Jerusalem ... and Heaven itself ... one giant church. God's people assembled together in oneness and in worship of Him.

And He will glow to such an extent that no other light is needed. And don't forget that we too will have taken on His glow. All 20 billion of us and all this is going on inside a pure gold and diamond structure.

Bring sunglasses!

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Verses 24-27: First ...

**Q. What's the deal with this glory of the kings and nations here?** – Well, as always ... keep the context.

What the glories of earth are coming into here ... isn't Heaven or even the New Jerusalem ... these earthly glories are coming into the light of God.

And as we talked about with value systems ... the light of God really puts things in their place ... especially earthly things like the glory of kings.

And there's no night because there's no fatigue.

Huge gates made of a single pearl and they're never closed. But again ... the fact that there are gates tells me that there is some coming and going.

**Q. Wanna try out your new flying ability and just zip off to some far away universe for the weekend?** – Out the Topaz gate ... get directions from the angel and you're off! What an incredible vision!

You know as we've labored our way through **many passages and chapters and books of the Bible** ... this is the part that we've all longed for.

As you make your way through **Leviticus** and as you work your way through **Job**. Even as you struggle through the **Book of Hebrews** ... this is the culmination. It's been the goal all along.

And that's our God. He always saves the best for last. And that's more than just a catchy phrase ... it's a very important point of discernment. It can help us grasp what's from God and distinguish it from that which is from Satan.

Because whereas God always saves the best for last ... Satan is just the opposite. Satan makes promises of instant benefit and satisfaction.

When he tempted Jesus in **Matthew chapter 4** it says that he ... **took ... [Jesus] to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; 9 and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."**

And Satan hasn't changed. He still comes and takes you someplace ... in your heart or in your mind and he shows you something that you don't have. Then he tries to convince you that if you had that thing ... your life would be so much better. And he always loads the cost at the rear of the deal.

But the Lord doesn't operate that way. We have 65 books of instruction and counsel and commandment all before we get to the promise of **Revelation**.

Satan whispers ... “You can have this or you can do that ... oh ya and did I mention that all it’s gonna cost you is a little compromise?”

But the Lord says “This is gonna cost you dearly and I want you to carefully count the cost, but if you choose to follow Me ... here’s the result.”

So it’s important that we listen for the difference. One voice you bow to ... and, as Jesus did in the desert, to the other you say ...

**Matt 4:10 "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"**

And discernment aside ... the other thing that this tells us is that as good as your life might be right now ... as much as you might enjoy your family and friends and ministry and even your job ... as good as any of that might be for you ... you aint seen nothin’ yet!

He always saves the best for last. All that we’ve ever really longed for is yet to come.

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**Conclusion:** Here we have an earthly apartment complex ... the result of man’s sin.

But in **Revelation 21** we have a divine apartment complex ... the result of God’s grace.

Much better, but still ... take note that this eternal dwelling place is referred to exclusively as a “City”, “The Great City”, “The Holy City”, “The City of Jerusalem”.

In the Greek the word is polis (pol'-is) and it means a community or collection of people.

In God’s perfect Kingdom and plan you won’t be off in a corner by yourself somewhere. You’ll be with your brothers and sisters because that’s how God created us.

**Q. Why’s that important?** – Because it highlights for us again ... the heart of our Father. He wants us to be a community ... a collection of people.

People are in your life to stay. They’re not going away. So we may as well make the most of this community ... this collection of people. It’s practice for eternity ... and this morning ... it’s preparation for Communion.