

# POWER HOUR

5/11/2025

Lesson Text:  
Revelation 21:9-14, 22-27

Background Scripture:  
Hebrews 11:8-16; 12:22-29

Devotional Reading:  
1 John 1:5-7

“THE HOLY NEW JERUSALEM”

NLT TRANSLATION

**Golden Text:** 22 I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light. *Revelation 21:22-23 NLT*

**Time:** about A.D. 96

**Place:** from Patmos

## Revelation 21:9-14 NLT

*9 Then one of the seven angels who held the seven bowls containing the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come with me! I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” 10 So he took me in the Spirit[b] to a great, high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. 11 It shone with the glory of God and sparkled like a precious stone—like jasper as clear as crystal. 12 The city wall was broad and high, with twelve gates guarded by twelve angels. And the names of the twelve tribes of Israel were written on the gates. 13 There were three gates on each side—east, north, south, and west. 14 The wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were written the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*

## Revelation 21:22-27 NLT

*22 I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light. 24 The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory. 25 Its gates will*

***never be closed at the end of day because there is no night there. 26 And all the nations will bring their glory and honor into the city. 27 Nothing evil[f] will be allowed to enter, nor anyone who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.***

## **INTRODUCTION**

Have you ever driven by a multi-million dollar home? As grand as such homes appear, they pale in comparison with our greater home in heaven. This week we will get a glimpse of that heavenly home.

“Having the glory of God” is the chief distinguishing feature of this city. God's glory is the manifestation of the fullness of His attributes. At times it has broken forth in brilliant display, as in the pillar of cloud and fire (Exodus 16:10), as well as His presence in the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34-35) and temple (I Kings 8:10-11). It was seen in Jesus Christ (John 1:14), and though veiled, it blazed forth in His transfiguration (2 Peter 1:16-18).

- **1. What the New Jerusalem will have (Rev. 21:9-14).** In verse 2, John recorded that he saw the New Jerusalem “coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” Our lesson teaches more about our eternal home. An angel showed John “that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God” (vs. 10). God's glory, or His resplendence, will be in the city because God Himself will be there. It will be illuminated by a beautiful light. John compared the light of the city to the precious stone jasper. Jasper today is opaque, but this jasper will be transparent like crystal. John probably used the closest term available to describe the beauty of the light. The city will be surrounded by an impressive wall (vs. 12). The wall will be “great and high, and [have] twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel.” At each of the twelve gates—three gates on each side of the city (vs. 13)—will be an angel guarding the entrance into the city. Finally, the city will have a solid

foundation. There will be twelve foundation stone, or layers. The name of an apostle will be on each layer.

- **2. What the New Jerusalem will not have (Rev. 21:22-27).** After describing what the city will have, John then identified what it will not have. First, strikingly, there will be no temple. Our eternal home will not need a place of worship because “the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.” We will worship our Lord directly and personally.
- Second, there will be no sun or moon. The city will not need a light source, for the glory of God and of the Lamb will serve that purpose. God's glory will be all the light we need. This divine light will provide illumination for the saved and the believing kings of the earth.
- Third, there will be no night. Our eternal home will never experience night because the Lord, the Light, will always be there. Since there will be no night, the gates will never be closed.
- Finally, there will be no unbelievers. All unbelievers will have been judged and cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15). Only those whose names “are written in the Lamb's book of life” (vs. 27) will dwell there with the sovereign Lord, who makes all this possible.

## POINTS TO PONDER

- We are ultimately citizens of the heavenly city to come, not whatever earthly city we currently inhabit (Rev. 21:9-10; cf. Phil. 3:20).
- The most beautiful things on earth can only begin to compare with the transcendent beauty we will experience in heaven (Rev. 21:10).
- Christianity is firmly rooted in historical events; people who lived thousands of years ago will still be considered foundational to the faith at the end of time (vss. 11-14). The most important thing in heaven is God's presence (vss. 22-23).
- Wealth is meant to serve God's glory (vss. 24-26).
- Sanctification is necessary to enter God's heavenly presence (Rev. 21:27; cf. Heb. 12:14).

## CONCLUSION

The Bible makes it very clear that the New Jerusalem has been prepared for those who belong to Him-believers. The righteous will enter the New Jerusalem for a wonderful eternal existence. You may wonder who will live on the new earth. The Bible does not specifically deal with this. However, 2 Peter 3:13 states that righteousness will dwell on the new earth. Revelation 21:24 says that "the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it [the New Jerusalem]: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it."

John saw things that were difficult to describe, but he was told to write them down for our benefit. The symbolism we find throughout the book of Revelation indicates that it is beyond our comprehension. The new earth will experience the peace it has found elusive throughout its long, violent history.

## QUESTION(S)

1. Who showed John the heavenly city?
2. What duties did this guide have earlier? What figure of speech is used to describe the heavenly city?
3. The New Jerusalem displays God's glory. How else has He displayed His glory before this?
4. How many gates will the city have? For whom are they named?
5. For whom are the foundation stones of the city named?
6. Why will there be no temple in the New Jerusalem?
7. How will light for the heavenly city be provided?
8. What spiritual truth is symbolized by the open gates of the holy city?
9. Why is God so insistent that liars cannot enter the holy city?
10. What is the prerequisite for entering the New Jerusalem?

## ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is *"The River of Life"*

Lesson Text: **Revelation 22:1-9**

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