

KING OF THE JUNGLE

A FAR OUT FUTURE REVELATION 21

I graduated from High School in 1976. Some of you think that's ancient history. *"Pastor Sandy walked with the dinosaurs."* But stretch your imagination, and think with me what life was like in the USA in the mid-70s...

A gallon of gas cost **59 cents**... The average annual income was **\$16,000**... **Gerald Ford** was the sitting president... The movie, **"Rocky,"** not *Rocky 2 or 3 or 4 or 5*, but just plain **"Rocky"** was released... And a new company, **"Apple Computers,"** opened for business...

I know its a stretch, but with a good imagination and a history book you trace back in time further than 1976.

Conceptualize what life was like in 1776 at the American Revolution - or in 1576, as reforms swept across Europe - or in 6 BC near the birth of Jesus - or in 976 BC in the days of King David - or in 2076 BC when Abraham pitched his tent on the hills of Judea...

We have to strain, but we can envision life all along the timeline, until we reach two major impasses...

Two events obscure our understanding. They're so monumental they change the landscape. Assumptions blur. We no longer have a reliable frame of reference...

The first event is the flood of Noah.

Before the deluge the Earth had a radically different ecosystem. It had never rained. The planet was watered by a heavy dew. A vapor canopy shielded us from the radiations that trigger aging. Thus, humans lived ten times longer than they do today. There was no fear between man and animals. Try to imagine a wolf lying down with a lion... For us today to envision a pre-flood world it involves lots of guesswork and inference.

The second event that rattles our perspective is the fall of mankind... It's even tougher to imagine life before Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit - and sin threw a wrench into the gears of all that God created.

If you think our understanding is vague and hazy prior to Noah - it's more so, before the effects of sin...

Before their fateful decision, Adam and Eve lived in an unspoiled utopia. Work was no sweat. Eve was built for pain-free childbirth. Husbands and wives never argued. *How can that be? Sounds like science fiction!*

Humans conversed with animals - *at least with snakes*. They even took walks with God in the cool of the day. The wildest imagination can't assimilate it all!

Now I want you think from today - the opposite direction - into the future. Hollywood does this all the time. Futuristic movies envision life in 2076 or 2276...

You can think into the future fairly accurately - until again, you reach two impasses. Afterwards any reliable hypothesizing breaks down. Two events will have such a colossal impact we can't dream of life after them...

The first is the Millennial Reign of Christ.

We studied this last week... Jesus is coming back to Earth to repair all that sin has damaged. He'll tame the jungle and restore the planet to a garden-like paradise.

King Jesus will right all wrongs. He'll establish His kingdom - a benevolent monarchy. He'll crush crime. He'll reverse the effects of sin on nature. He'll usher in a glorious age of peace.... *You won't know the place!*

But I want you to think even further down the road. *What comes after the thousand-year reign of Christ?*

That's our subject in these last two chapters... God takes John to the brink of time... when time fades into eternity. **God will create "a new heaven and new earth."** And at the outset, we need to realize that our ability to grasp all that John describes... *is feeble at best.*

As he receives the vision there are times when John just puts down his pen. He stops writing. He's in awe. He can't believe the wonders that he's seeing. This morning we get a glimpse of Heaven... A vision that captured John's heart, and *I hope captures ours!*

Revelation 21, **"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away."** The physical universe as we know it will be no more. Some Bible teachers like to say, **"God will uncreate what He created."** He'll undo what He did.

And the immediate question comes...

Then why did He do it in the first place? What did God get out of all His creative efforts, but great grief?

The answer to that question is *“you!”* The whole point of what we call *“life”* is for God to populate eternity with people who really desire fellowship with Him.

Greek scholar, AT Robertson, points out that verse 1 teaches *the non-eternity of matter* - *a good point to make in many of today’s academic circles*. Matter had a beginning and it has an end. It was created by God.

And what God creates He can uncreate or eliminate.

Hebrews 12 tells us that everything that can be shaken will be shaken. God wants to prove the vanity of the material stuff humans have lived for and idolized.

Hebrews 12 closes, *“Our God is a consuming fire.”* And that’s how it all ends. *Global warning* does us in.

But it’s not greenhouse gases, it’s God who gases the place. 2 Peter 3:10 predicts, *“the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat...”* In Revelation 20 when the Great White Throne appears everything material flees away.

Remember Jesus’ statement in Matthew 24:35, *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”* God’s Word is forever, *but not so with the heavens and the earth*. They’re on a timer.

After Jesus reigns 1000 years the clock expires. The current universe will go out in a blaze of God’s glory.

And in Isaiah 65:17 God tells us what He’ll create in its absence, *“Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to*

mind.” Here the Hebrew word for “create” is “bara.” It’s the same term used in Genesis 1:1 at the original creation. It means “to create out of nothing.”

In the future, God doesn’t refashion the elements of His first creation into something similar, but better. He starts from scratch to bring about a world very different than its predecessor - *“a new heaven and new earth.”*

I’m sure you’ve noticed, that folks today are into recycling - *paper, metal, plastic, even motor oil* – all the trash gets recycled! For a time my wife tried recycling newspapers and milk cartons... *I had mixed feelings...*

I appreciated her noble efforts to keep the rain forests tidy, *but she sure was cluttering up my garage!*

I suppose we all should do more for the environment.

But I’m comforted to know that God isn’t all that gung-ho about recycling either. God made this Earth a no-deposit, no-return planet! It won’t be recycled!

God will design *“a new heaven and new earth”* – that may resemble the old in certain respects – but a world that’s qualitatively and substantially very, very different.

And you’ll immediately notice the contrast in worlds. In verse 1 John adds, *“Also there was no more sea...”*

Today, the oceans are 70% of the Earth’s surface. The global eco-system depends on the seas for water and weather. Without the seas life is unsustainable. The sea collects and neutralizes the earth’s pollutants.

But in the new earth the sea won’t be necessary.

For one, there'll be no pollution... And the new earth won't need to be watered. There's a river from which people drink. Trees and fruit grow along its banks...

But there's also a spiritual, mystical meaning here.

Throughout Scripture the sea is always sinister. Ancient Israelis feared the sea. It was a home for evil.

In Revelation 13 the Beast rises out the sea... In Luke 8 Jesus *"rebuked"* the sea as you would a demon... The sea is symbol for evil and darkness.

In the new creation the reminder is eliminated!

Verse 2, *"Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."*

In John 14:2 before Jesus ascended into heaven He told His disciples, *"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."* And we can assume that for the last 2000 years Jesus has been working on our mansion. The Carpenter is constructing heavenly digs.

I believe what John sees coming like a bride - this *"New Jerusalem"* - is what most of us call *"Heaven."*

Scripturally speaking, there's only *one Earth*, but there's *three Heavens*... The **first heaven** is *the blue sky* - the atmosphere. The **second heaven** is *the night sky* - or beyond our atmosphere - the *"outer space."*

But the **third heaven** is God's eternal throne. This is where our friends and loved ones who died knowing Jesus, now reside. In 2 Corinthians 12 when Paul mentions

his vision of God he uses this terminology. Paul tells us he “was caught up to the third heaven.”

Now John sees the third Heaven come to the Earth. It seems the New Jerusalem, “*the holy city,*” serves as God’s capitol. Jesus reigns from this New Jerusalem.

And when John sees this city coming down from heaven it reminds him of a bride on her wedding day.

She’s decked out in splendor - walking the aisle to her husband. No doubt, she’s the object of his desires.

This world is awe-inspiring. There are vistas around the globe that are so gorgeous they take your breath away. But Jesus created this Earth in just six days – imagine what He’s come up with after 2000 years!

Whenever I officiate a wedding, I always tell the groom to scoot over into the aisle, because he doesn’t want to miss the bridal procession. His bride will never look as pretty to him as she does on his wedding day.

I’ve met some *ugly women*, but never an *ugly bride*.

I doubt if there’s ever been a groom disappointed at the sight of his bride. All brides are beautiful.

And that’ll be our reaction to heaven... I’ve met people who genuinely worry that heaven will be a let down - that somehow heaven will disappoint them.

To the contrary, heaven will exceed your most daring dreams. Heaven will dwarf all your expectations.

Don’t ever think you’ll miss certain aspects of Earth.

You'll not get homesick. Heaven is infinitely greater than now. The eternal city will satisfy our every desire!

Abraham saw the *metropolises of Mesopotamia, the mighty walls of Jericho, the mysterious monuments of Egypt*, yet all this world offered left him unimpressed...

Hebrews 11:10 tells us, "he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

Abraham and company refused to settle down and make this Earth their home. They longed for eternity - God's city! He was labeled, "a stranger, and a pilgrim."

Hebrews 11:16 says of Abraham and his heirs, "they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them." Abraham was a man of faith and all people of faith have longed for a better world - a country called Heaven. *And here John sees that city!*

That's when he hears a loud voice, verse 3, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God." You've heard of the streets of gold and pearly gates – but heaven's chief feature is God! God Himself is its #1 attraction.

Later in John's description we find no Temple in Heaven... no place to gather with God and His people.

Here's why... in Heaven God's presence and glory permeate every corner. We enjoy unbroken fellowship with God. It's Jesus that'll make Heaven so *heavenly!*

And here's the quality of life you'll find in Heaven now, and in the New Jerusalem when it descends...

Verse 4, "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." In the Kingdom, death will be rare, but still exist. Here, death is finally abolished.

No more undertakers and gravediggers! There'll be no cemeteries in the new earth!
Death will be dead!

I heard of a tombstone engraved with just six words, "I told you I was sick!" *No one heeded the warning...*

There's a gravestone in Richmond, Virginia under which the body of Margaret Daniels is buried. It reads, "She always said her feet were killing her, but nobody believed her." Sin created a fallen world that makes us vulnerable to sickness, and pain, and ultimately death.

But here in Revelation 21 sin is no more. Now sin's symptoms can be treated. *Grief goes! Tears dry.* Psalm 30:5 proves true, "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning." Here the morning breaks!

We teach our toddlers the sound a cow makes is "Moo, moo" - or that a cat says, "meow" - or that a pig goes, "oink, oink" - *but what is the human sound?*

When a human comes into the world what's the first sound he or she makes? It's "waaaa!" *We cry.* And to a degree we keep crying throughout the sorrows of our lives. But one day Jesus will dry all tears. He puts an end to death and sorrow. *There's no crying in Heaven.*

“Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” The Greek word means “*new*” – not in the sense of *time*, but of *kind* or *quality*.

In heaven there’s a newness, a freshness to all of life! Every thing in Heaven has that *new car smell*.

I’ve never owned a car fresh off the assembly line, but I’ve been in a few. And the combination of lubricants, and sealants, and paint, and conditioners combined to produce a distinctive new car odor.

I read recently where the toxicity of the odors in a new car can pose a health hazard. I console myself by thinking it’s healthier to drive a beater. But in Heaven the new car smell has no side effects. Everything smells new. After a million years, it’ll still smell new!

One of today’s disappointments are the diminishing returns on everything earthly. Over time even spine-tingling thrills lose their luster. Life becomes mundane.

Did you know some Hawaiians move... People will say, “*I’m from Hawaii...*” - and I wonder why did you ever leave? They get tired of Hawaii. Can you believe it! Bored with Paradise? *How fickle can people be!*

There’ll be nothing boring or mundane in Heaven.

Everything will have that new car smell. When you do it, whatever it is, it’ll feel as if it’s the very first time.

I remember my first time shaving... It was a big deal!

My dad set me up with my own can of cream and a razor. He gave me some general instructions. *This was big stuff!* It was fun! I shaved twice a day the first week. But it didn’t take long for shaving to become old hat...

If we have to shave in heaven - *and I'm not sure we will, but if we do* - every time we pull out the razor it'll be just as thrilling, and fun, as it was the very first time!

Everything in heaven feels brand new all the time! There's the new car scent. God makes all things new.

“**And He said to me, “Write...”**” Apparently, John had stopped writing. He was so in awe over the wonders he saw he laid down his pen. He forgot the task at hand.

Jesus tells him, “**Write, for these words are true and faithful. And He said to me, “It is done!”**” It reminds us of the words of Jesus on the cross, “**It is finished.**” The heavy lifting was done at Calvary, but now all that was paid for becomes a reality. All the tuition that went into mankind's *education*, finally yields eternal *graduation*.

Jesus says, “**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.**” Alpha is the “**A**” or first letter in the Greek “*alpha*-bet.” Omega is the “**Z**” - the last letter.

All of life begins and ends with Jesus. He's not just *the reason for one season* - He's what life is all about!

And Jesus promises, “**I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.**” Five days without water and these bodies die. Likewise, the soul needs spiritual water. **And Jesus is the thirst quencher.**

He gives refreshment - not stingily or reluctantly - but freely to all who thirst. Jesus gives a drink to anyone who will *admit their lack* and *confess their need*.

If you have a parched soul, come to Jesus!

Verse 7 continues, “**He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.**” We overcome by faith! In 1 John 5:5 this same John writes, “Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

The world we live in is full of hardship and hassles.

Disappointments breed doubt and cynicism. He who overcomes perseveres by faith! He holds on to God’s love and truth! He walks by faith and not by sight!

Yet those who don’t overcome - who succumb to sin, and doubt, and compromise - are left out of this city. In verse 8 John lists those you’ll find in the lake of fire...

“**But the cowardly...**” And notice cowardice is not a weakness - it’s a sin. There’s no excuse for cowardice - not when Jesus promises to make us overcomers!

Some of you have gotten content living your life in the middle of the road. You’ve got one foot in the world and one foot with Jesus. You’re straddling the line. **The only thing you find in the middle of the road are dead skunks and yellow streaks.** We need courageous faith.

“**But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable...**” It means an act *repulsive* to God. I researched this, and made a list of all that the Law called an “**abomination...**”

Disregarding God’s distinctions between clean and unclean was an abomination... Giving God an offering from ill-gotten gain was referred to as “**abominable...**”

Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13 describe homosexual practices as an abomination to God... Deuteronomy 22:5 puts cross-dressing into this same category...

Idolatry was an abomination... As was offering to God a blemished sacrifice - *less than your best*. Which means if you’ve ever been guilty of giving God the leftovers of

your time and money (*I have*), be careful about pointing a finger at other forms of *“abominable.”*

Make sure you take care of your *abominable* before you start worrying about somebody else’s *abominable*.

The list goes on, *“murderers, sexually immoral.”* This includes recreational sex, pornography, friends with benefits, shacking up, adultery - anything outside of heterosexual marriage - *not just homosexuality*.

His list also includes *“sorcerers.”* The Greek word is *“pharmakeus”* from which we get our term, *“pharmacy.”* Pushing or partaking of illicit drugs is *“abominable.”*

As are *“idolaters, and all liars...”* God loves truth, why would he want to spend eternity with a habitual liar?

Everyone on this list *“shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”* Actually, the residents of the lake of fire sound a lot like the past lives of people in this room.

Realize there’ll be folks who in heaven who lied, and did drugs, and were homosexuals, and acted cowardly, and slept around... **but they repented!** They were willing to live differently - *not perfectly, but differently*.

Rather pursue *their way*, their goal was *God’s ideal*.

Those who get excluded from Heaven, and assigned to the lake of fire, are **the unrepentant**... Folks who never cared about God, nor were unwilling to change.

Verse 9, *“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you*

the bride, the Lamb's wife." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God."

This is such a spectacular sight, an angel repositions John on a high mountain to give him a panoramic view.

John sees a city - *or is it a bride?... It's adorned like a bride, but it's called a city.* It's like when Tony Bennet sings "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," or Frank Sinatra croons, "New York, New York." They sing of the city as if it were a woman. As if it *feels and calls.*

This is how this angel speaks of the heavenly city.

Realize, Heaven is a "*great city*" - a hustling, bustling city. Here on Earth we sometimes begrudge city life.

Cities become an incubator for all that's bad in the world - *crime, poverty, congestion, noise, pollution.* We romanticize moving to the more pristine countryside.

But apparently, God likes the city. Cities bring people together. They spawn *culture and creativity.* New ideas bubble up in the city. It's a greenhouse for change.

There's always excitement brewing in city streets.

And this is what Heaven is like. Don't think of heaven as a bank of puffy cumulous clouds. For all eternity we'll live in a city that never, ever sleeps... You and I weren't created for the isolation of the country. God designed us for *community* - for the buzz of city-life.

As we'll see, there're aspects of the New Jerusalem that are more like a garden. Heaven is a city with lots of green space. But the garden is in the midst of a city.

John sees this holy city descending out of heaven. What happens to it after its descent, he doesn't say...

Does it sit and hover between Heaven and Earth - and become a celestial satellite of the New Earth?

Does it lock into a parallel orbit with this New Earth?... Does the new Earth even have an orbit?...

We know this Earth doesn't revolve around the sun. Verse 23 tells us the city has no sun... *"the Lamb is its light."* In eternity everything revolves around Jesus!

One of the certainties we glean from this description is the beauty and color of this city... Verse 11, *"Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal."* It's like a gemstone. Imagine a huge, glimmering diamond floating down out of the heavens!

"Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates..." You've heard of *the Great Wall of China*, there's a *Great Wall in Heaven*. It's a wall with gates and with foundations.

John is speaking of a future city as if it were an ancient one. He's limited to features familiar to he and his readers. I'm not suggesting this city doesn't have walls and foundations. But they could be far more sophisticated than even we today can conceptualize.

In verse 13, on the gates, there were *"names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west."* It's fitting the twelve

gates bear the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. The Hebrews were the gate through which all the world entered God's family. All God's covenants were first offered to Israel!

Verse 14, "Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb." At His first coming Jesus chose twelve apostles. Other apostles came later. There may even be apostles today. But the original twelve who walked with Jesus have special authority.

They're in a unique category... and here's proof...

One footnote, there're *twelve foundations*, thus, *twelve apostles*. Obviously, somebody replaced Judas. Was it Matthias, or Paul? One day we'll find out...

Verse 15, "And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.

The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal..." "Twelve thousand furlongs" is the equivalent of about 1500 miles. Imagine a city with base dimensions of 1500 miles square. It's a huge city!

If the upper right-hand corner was in Boston, then the other three corners would land in Miami, Phoenix, and Calgary, Canada. The New Jerusalem would cover about three-quarters the area of the United States.

This is a city roughly 2.25 million square miles!

The most mind-boggling dimension though, is the height of the city! It's also 1500 miles high! Realize that today, the Earth's atmosphere extends only 600 miles.

That means if the New Jerusalem sat on the Old Earth it would extend 900 miles into outer space. More of it would be above the atmosphere than below. The size of the Lamb's city is a tad smaller than the moon.

Imagine too, a city with three-dimensional living space. It's 3D living. Its inhabitants occupy - not just the ground floor, or the base - but the entire structure.

That would increase the living space to 3 billion square miles - plenty of room for all the redeemed!

In fact, commentator Henry Morris crunched some numbers... He guesses that 100 billion humans have lived throughout history... And of the 100 billion perhaps 20% get saved... If each person got an equal plot in the New Jerusalem we'd all have 75 acres.

Obviously, there won't be a real estate shortfall in Heaven. There's plenty of room for *"whosoever wills."*

We know the city's dimensions, *what we don't know is its shape.* Some Bible teachers believe the New Jerusalem is in the shape of **a dome**, or **a sphere**.

Others believe it's in the shape of **a cube**. The Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle was a cube - 15'x15'x15'.

A more provocative suggestion is **a pyramid** shape. Ancient pyramids were all associated with death and the afterlife. It could be that the idea of a pyramid was a heavenly memory left over in the mind of fallen men.

*There's lots of theories, but today you've come to the right place! I can tell you in what shape the New Jerusalem will actually appear? It'll be in **good shape!***

Verse 17, “Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits (at 18” per cubit, that’s 216 feet), according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.” Whether this is 216 feet *high* or *thick* is unclear.

“The construction of its wall was of jasper (the word means “speckled stone”); and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.” This gold is so pure it’s transparent.

“The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones...” And note the colors: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire (a blue), the third chalcedony (or aqua), the fourth emerald (a bright green), the fifth sardonyx (a brownish red), the sixth sardius (a deep, blood red), the seventh chrysolite (or greenish-yellow), the eighth beryl (or yellow), the ninth topaz (or reddish-gold), the tenth chrysoprase (an apple green), the eleventh jacinth (or a burnt orange), and the twelfth amethyst (or purple).

The actual identity of some of these stones is uncertain. The ancients used different names for the same stones so an exact identification is difficult.

Which makes it hard to prove my theory – but I believe these twelve stones were the same stones that appeared in the breastplate of the Jewish High Priest.

For all eternity they’ll remind us of Jesus’ priestly ministry. He stood in our place and interceded for us.

One thing is sure, the heavenly city is a kaleidoscope of sparkle and color that will stimulate our senses!

Verse 21, “The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl.” The pearl is the only gem that’s not a mineral. It starts as a spec of sand in the belly of an oyster. It begins as an irritation.

Secretions from the oyster crystallizes around the spec of sand, and the process forms a beautiful pearl.

This makes it fitting that *“the twelve gates”* or *entrance ways* into the New Jerusalem are pearls.

This is what God has done with the irritations of this life! We enter His family through pain and heartache.

It’s through the sufferings of Jesus, that God makes a way for us to be forgiven. Through our suffering and irritations God matures in us a strong, gem-like faith.

For all eternity, each time we pass through the pearly gates we’ll thank God for the irritations of this life.

“And the street of the city...” Notice it’s not *“streets”* (plural), but *“street”* (singular). Unlike other cities, there’s not a maze of arteries in this city.

There're no spaghetti junctions in the New Jerusalem. There’s only *one way to God... one street!*

And John tells us it’s made of *“pure gold, like transparent glass.”* Apparently, a supernatural mineral.

On Earth, gold is highly valued, but in heaven they use it as asphalt. Imagine, what they call a treasure?

Verse 22, *“But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.”* This is odd...

In the former Jerusalem, the Jewish Temple was the city’s chief attraction. It towered over the city’s skyline.

It was the one place on Earth where you were sure to meet God. You *worshipped - offered sacrifices - took vows - celebrated feast days - performed rituals* - all at the Temple. The Jewish Temple was the epitome of religion. And this is exactly why it no longer exists!

The absence of a Temple, means God has put an end to religion. Hey, God is against religion. He tolerated Jewish religion for a time to teach us lessons.

But in the end religion does more harm than good.

People focus on the Law, not love. They get fixated on dos and don'ts - *on rules, rather than the Ruler.*

God desires a love-relationship with His people, not religious obligation. This is why there's *no Temple*. In the end all that really matters is the Lord and the Lamb!

Verse 23, **“The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it.**

The Lamb is its light.” Keep in mind our sun is not your basic wood-burning stove. It has a diameter of 864,000 miles. The sun is 108 times the size of Earth.

It gives off heat and light through thermonuclear explosions that are constantly occurring on it's surface. Its inner temperature is a balmy 35 million degrees F.

Yet, the presence and glory of God will produce the same results. The radiance and brilliance of Jesus Christ will give off light, and warmth, and growth!

“And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.” And it'll all get laid at Jesus' feet.

“Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). Nighttime and darkness are also symbols for sin. It’s rare for a crime to be committed in broad daylight. Evil loves the cover of darkness.

But neither night or dark exist in the New Jerusalem.

And this good news for kids... *no more bedtime!* Apparently, we’ll have bodies that won’t require sleep.

Verse 26, “And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie...” This eternal city will be *abomination-proof*.

It’s stain-free. It’ll never be soiled by sin again.

All it’s citizens will “*have been there, done that.*” *And no more!* The New Jerusalem will be inhabited by “*only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.*”

So is your name written in this Book of Life? It is, if you’re trust in the Lamb of God to take away your sin!