



Revelation 21—part 5
Verses 9-21
From sermon 5.26.19

Read *Revelation 21:9-21*

Questions, Answers, and Review from Sunday's sermon: John begins to describe the details of heaven's new capital. We know we've lost some details (stones) to translation over time, but the beauty is not lost. The size is unimaginable. While there are some Old and New Testament connections in the details, there is not much that can be added or explained. It is what it is.

In reading this, what infamous city are we led to compare and contrast with New Jerusalem? Babylon. See also *Genesis 10:8-10a*, *Revelation 17:3-6*, & *Revelation 18:2*

What are some of the main differences between the two cities? Different architects—one man/devil. The other God Himself. one dark, inhabited by evil, and divided. New Jerusalem only perpetual light, nothing unholy or impure, and there only unity, oneness, and healing.

Numbers have been important throughout the book. What number reoccurs over and over again in chapter 21 (and 22)? 12

List some of the items that were given in 12's.

- Gates
- Angels
- Tribes of Israel & Apostles of Christ
- 12 x 1000 for city measurement and 12 x 12 for thickness of city walls
- 12 Stones
- 12 Pearls compose the Gates

Heaven's gates and her foundations contain the names of Israel's 12 sons and Jesus' 12 Apostles. What is amazing about their names being inscribed forever in heaven? Various answers. They were far from perfect. They were sinners and had their failings...some colossal. God's grace is amazing in overcoming man's imperfections. He imputes grace and uses all things for His purpose and glory.

See *1 Corinthians 1:26-31* & *2 Timothy 1:9*

What is the 12th Gate Controversy? We are certain about the names inscribed on the foundations of 11 gates = the 11 faithful Apostles. But, although Judas Iscariot was one of the 12, his name is certainly not on that 12th foundation. The controversy is over whose name will be there.

What did Charley mention as the most likely option and why? The Apostle Paul. God used him the most powerful and influential way, after his conversion. He starts all the new churches we read about in the New Testament and writes most of the New Testament.

Read *1 Corinthians 9:1-2*, *2 Corinthians 11:5*, & *Philippians 3:4-9*

What significance was considered in the gates being made of pearl? The pearl is not a stone, as the others listed in heaven's décor. Nor is it a mineral, as the gold. A pearl is the byproduct of an animal—the oyster. It's created through a wound, turmoil, and healing. They remind us of Christ's great wounds and turmoil that secured our salvation by paying the price for our sin.