How Big Is the Holy City?

And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. And the city is laid out as a square, and 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. Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.”

(Revelation 21:10, 15-16)

We do not measure things with furlongs or cubits any more so it is hard to understand just what size this city was. With the help of a calculator maybe you can convert these measurements into something more understandable. A furlong is sometimes defined as the measure of a field, or one furlong = 660 feet, or one furlong = 200 meters.

1) You know that a mile is 5280 feet, so figure out how many furlongs make a mile.
   Also 1000 meters equals one kilometer, so how many furlongs in a kilometer?

2) How many miles (or kilometers) was the city in length and breadth and height if one of those measurements was 12,000 furlongs?

3) Here are some distances. Which is closest to the length of the side of that city?
   a) Length of Manhattan is about 15 miles.
   b) Length of Long Island is about 100 miles.
   c) Distance from New York City to Boston is about 200 miles.
   d) Distance from Boston to Washington D.C. is about 500 miles.
   e) Distance from Boston to Miami Florida is about 1500 miles.
   f) Distance from Washington D.C. to Denver Colorado is about 1700 miles.
   g) Distance from Washington D.C. to San Francisco is about 3000 miles.
   h) Distance from Toronto to Montreal is 600 kilometers.
   i) Distance from Calgary to Winnipeg is 1350 kilometers.
   j) Distance from Capetown to Zanzibar City is 3790 kilometers.
   k) Distance from Rio de Janeiro to the Amazon Forest is 2210 kilometers.
   l) Distance from Mexico City to Nogales is 2400 kilometers.
   m) Distance from London to Capetown is 9694 kilometers.

2) Imagine how high that city was. The tallest mountain in North America is Mt. McKinley in Alaska. It is over 20,000 feet high.
   a) Would the city be half that high?
   b) Would it be higher?
   c) Would it be as high as Mt. Everest, the tallest mountain on earth at over 30,000 feet?
   d) If it were higher than Mt Everest, how many mountains as tall as Mt Everest would you have to stack on top of each other to reach the top of the city?

3) The wall of the city was measured as 144 cubits. One cubit is 18 inches or about 45 cm.
   a) Is the wall taller than you?
   b) If a story of a building is about 15 feet, how many stories tall would a building be which is as tall as that wall?
   c) Is there any building in your town which is that tall?

As you can see, this city was not on this earth, and the dimensions are spiritual, not earthly!