

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!