

THE NEW JERUSALEM AND ITS PRECIOUS STONES

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Lesson: Revelation 21:18-27

The New Jerusalem, which John saw coming down from God out of heaven, had a wall like that which was built around all ancient cities to protect them from their enemies. But this was far more beautiful than any wall that was ever built on earth. It was made of jasper stone, which is a brilliant white in color, whiter than the whitest marble; and it shone in the sunlight with a greater brightness than snow.

And above this wall John could see the buildings within the city, all made of gold, resplendent and shining. Think how beautiful that must have been! First, the bright white wall, and then, above it, and within it, the buildings, the streets, and the palaces of gold.

Nor was this all. For the twelve foundations in the wall were decorated with precious stones of various colors. The first foundation was of jasper, which, of course, was white like the wall. The second was ornamented with sapphires, which are a beautiful blue, nearly the color of the sky. The third was a chalcedony, of which we know very little, but it was probably of a bluish color. The fourth was an emerald, which is a bright green. The fifth was sardonyx, which is both red and white, in layers or stripes. And the sixth was the most beautiful of all stones—the ruby, which is red, as you know. The seventh was a yellow stone called the chrysolite; the eighth was a beryl, also yellow with a touch of green; and the topaz is mentioned as the ninth stone, this again being yellow in color. The tenth stone, a chrysoprasus, was green; the eleventh, jacinth, is yellow and red; and the amethyst is violet.

All these colors caught the light and reflected it back with a brilliance that is hard to imagine. No wonder it is said that the city had “the glory of God,” and that its “light was like a most precious stone.” The whole city, from a distance, must look like one marvelous precious stone, of a kind that is not known at all on this earth.

And further, each one of the twelve gates was of one pearl. You know what a pearl is. It is the beautiful gem that is made by an oyster. It is not angular, like the other stones, but round and smooth. It is made in layers and cannot be cut without ruining it. In this world, pearls are very small; the largest ones being made into necklaces. But just think of the pearls which John saw, so large that every gate was one pearl!

In the old city of Jerusalem, in the Holy Land, a great temple had been built by Solomon. And it was in that temple that the Tables of the Law had been placed, and there all the Jews came to worship the Lord. But in this New Jerusalem, John saw no temple. The whole city was like a temple, because everyone there worshiped the Lord, and the Lord was always there, just as He was in the temple. So it is said that the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of this city.

Further, the city “had no need of the sun, neither of the moon to shine in it, because the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.” The “glory of God” is the glory of the spiritual sun—the sun of heaven in which the Lord is. And because the Lord, who is here called the Lamb, is in the spiritual sun, the New Jerusalem gets all its light from this. There is no need for the sun or moon of *this world* to give it light. For this world’s sun and moon do not shine in the spiritual world at all. Their light is made for the eyes of our body to see. And when we lay aside our bodies, and come into the other world, then we see with our spiritual eyes, which perceive the light of the spiritual sun.

Now it is said that all those who are saved, that is, who love the Lord and who live a good life in the natural world, will come into this city. And because the Lord wants everyone who possibly can to enter into this city, He keeps the gates open all the time. They are never closed. But still, no one who is evil can enter in, because angels stand guard at each of the gates, to keep away all those who do not love the Lord and keep His Commandments. *Amen.*