



SERIES: October “Back to the Future”

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Monday, 10/25/2021

Scripture: Revelation 21:15-21

TITLE: The New Capital City

When I went to India, our team had the opportunity to break away to Agra to see the Taj Mahal. It’s hard to describe how incredible this facility is. It’s a massive complex consisting of a palace, two mosques, a garden, a museum. It’s hard to believe, but it was handmade. It is made of marble and red sandstone. And throughout it has these little hand-cut pieces of precious stones to decorate the structures from top to bottom. There’s no questioning its beauty.

As much as I wanted to see it and was impressed by its structure, nothing compares to what awaits us in heaven.

What do I mean by that? Let’s turn back to Revelation 21:15-21 (CSB) for the answer.

The one who spoke with me had a golden measuring rod to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city is laid out in a square; its length and width are the same. He measured the city with the rod at 12,000 *stadia*. Its length, width, and height are equal. Then he measured its wall, 144 cubits according to human measurement, which the angel used. The building material of its wall was jasper, and the city was pure gold clear as glass. The foundations of the city wall were adorned with every kind of jewel: the first foundation is jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates are twelve pearls; each individual gate was made of a single pearl. The main street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.

What a glorious description. I don’t even know if anyone can really imagine it. The angel has a golden measuring rod. This is reminiscent of the measuring of the temple in Ezekiel 40 and Revelation 11.

The measurements are 12,000 stadia or about 1500 miles. It’s roughly the distance from Los Angeles to Lincoln, NE. I went to seminary in Los Angeles, and that is a *big* city. The New Jerusalem will be 1500 miles by 1500 miles by 1500 miles high. Many theologians describe it as a cube. And in case you were wondering, John, let’s us know that angels and humans both use the same measurement standards.

The walls were made of jasper or diamond. Clear so the glory of God can shine through. The city is made of gold. The streets are gold. The walls are decorated with the finest of jewels. The gates are made from gigantic pearls. Each one from a single pearl. That is one big oyster!

This is an impressive city. I just hope the beds are made of soft material. And maybe we each get a MyPillow. Sleeping on diamonds only looks fun in cartoons.

Again, this capital city reserved for God's children is the most beautiful city filled with God's glory and traversed by His people. My grandmother used to say, "the best is good enough for me." Well, even her best doesn't compare to God's best for His children.

So here's my challenge for you today: Celebrate! Whenever I book a vacation, I have a moment of celebration. It's exciting. But friend, there is nothing more exciting than a permanent vacation with God in paradise.

So thank God. Celebrate. And celebrate with each other in the comments below.

God's best is truly the best and deserves to be celebrated. I'm going to the party. Will you join me?