

THE NEW JERUSALEM REVELATION 21-22

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SIGNIFICANCE

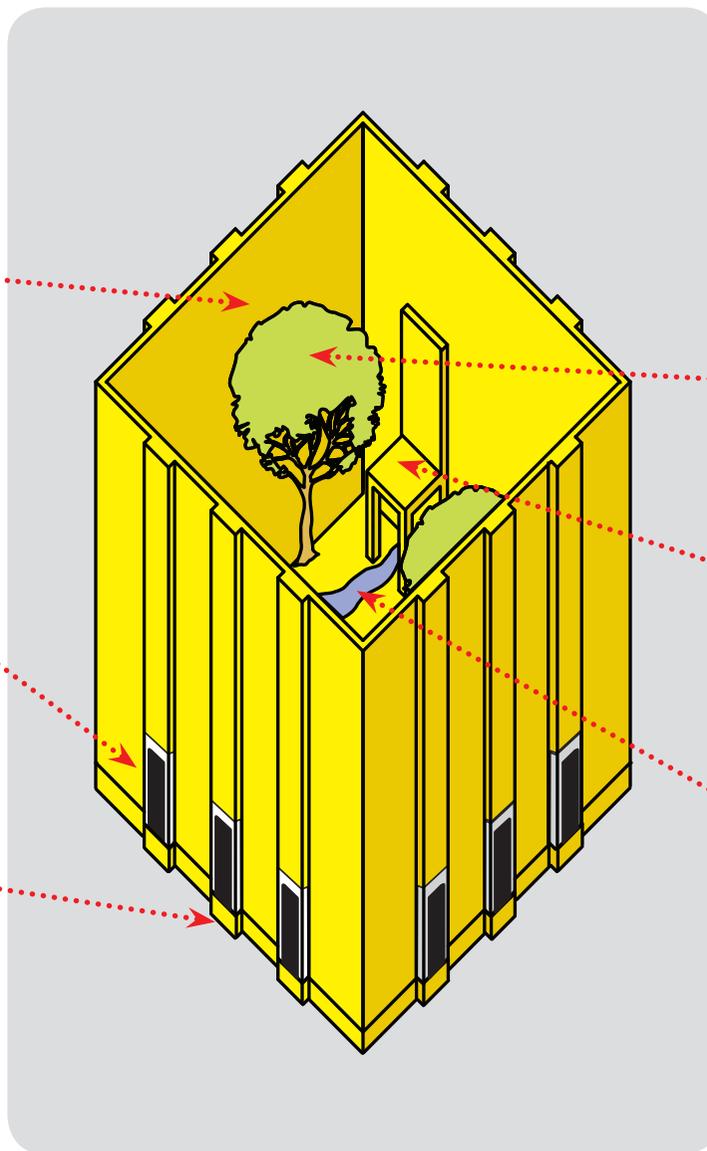
- A great, high wall (2200 km in all directions and 65m thick) = there will be an impenetrable barrier between believers and unbelievers [see 21:27]
 - Made of pure gold and the walls of pure jasper
 - A perfect square, like Ezekiel's vision of God's city [Ezekiel 48:30-35]
 - A perfect cube like the Most Holy Place of the tabernacle and the temple, representing the presence of God [Exodus 26; 1Kings 6:20]
 - As big as the known world of the first century, i.e. from Palestine to Spain
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- 12 gates with the names of the tribes of Israel representing the old covenant people of God
 - Fulfilment of Ezekiel's vision [see Ezekiel 48:30-35]
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- 12 foundations with the names of the apostles representing the new covenant people of God
 - Foundations made of 12 precious stones like the breastplate of the high priest [Exodus 28:17-20]
 - Fulfilment of Isaiah's vision of Zion, with walls, foundations and battlements made of precious stones [see Isaiah 54:11-12]

SYMBOL

WALLS
21:12-18

GATES
21:12-13, 21, 25-27

FOUNDATIONS
21:14, 19-20



SYMBOL

TEMPLE
21:22

LIGHT
21:23-24; 22:5

TREE
22:2

THRONE
22:3-4

RIVER
22:1-2

CURSE
22:3

SIGNIFICANCE

- God and Jesus meet face-to-face with their people
 - There is no need for a temple
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- No need for the sun or the moon for the glory of God gives the city light and the Lamb is its lamp
 - Light = glory and life - the nations will be drawn toward it [see Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-20, John 1:4, 9; 8:12; 12:35, 46]
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- The tree of life stands on either side of the river representing eternal life for believers [see Genesis 3:22, Ezekiel 47:12]
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- The throne of God / the Lamb will be in the city and his servants will serve them
 - God's people will now see his face and live, be marked as his chosen people and will reign over the new creation with Christ [see Daniel 7:27; Matthew 5:8; Revelation 7:3; 20:4]
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- The river of life flows from the throne down the middle of the city, representing the gift of eternal life [see Genesis 2:10; Psalm 36:8; Psalm 46:4; John 4:10; Ezekiel 47:12, Zechariah 14:8]
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- No longer will there be any curse in the city from the fall [see Genesis 3]