

The Glorious Church

The Holy City, New Jerusalem

Gold, Precious Stones, and Pearl

- **Rev 21:18** – And the building work of its wall was **jasper**; and the city was **pure gold**, like **clear glass**.
 - When we behold the **glory** of the city we are looking at **God's real image**.
 - The fact that this wall is made of jasper means that the **separation** is based upon what is seen in **God's true light**.
 - The basis of separation is the seeing of what **God requires**, the seeing of what God is after.
- **Gold** signifies that which is **of God**, that which is placed in God's new creation.
- When we received the Lord, **God imparted His life to us**. **This is the gold** which He has given us.
- God's basic work is to **reduce** us.
 - God wants to remove all that is not of Him **through the cross** so that we may become **pure gold**.
- **Precious stones** in **verse 19** signify something which the Holy Spirit has **produced** in man by much **effort** and **many years of burning**.
 - They are the product of our being **disciplined** by Him.
- **Verse 21** tells us that the twelve gates were twelve **pearls**.
 - Pearls are not formed by burning; they are the result of a **gradual formation** within a sea creature after it has been **wounded**.
 - The meaning of pearl is **life which issues from death**.
 - In order for man to obtain life before God, the life must not be something of man, but of the **death of Christ**.
- In the future, in God's presence, we will all be **transparent**, like clear glass.
 - Even today we should not **pretend** to be godly before men in order to win their praise.

The Temple and the Light of the City

- **Rev. 21:22** – And I saw no temple in it; for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.
 - In the Jerusalem of the Old Testament there was the **temple**.

- The temple was the place **set aside for God**, and it was to that place that **man had to go for fellowship with God**.
- In the New Jerusalem, there will be no temple because **God and the Lamb are the temple of the city**.
 - The fellowship between God and man in that day will be **intimate** and **direct**; it will be **face to face**.
- God and the Lamb are the temple of the city, and **the glory of God lights the city**.
- God as the light will shine **through the Lamb as the lamp**.
- The **nations** who will dwell around the New Jerusalem will “walk” by the light of the city.
 - They will not live in the city. They can only go in and come out of the city.

The River of Water of Life and the Tree of Life

- Since the **tree of life is in the city**, the New Jerusalem is the Paradise of God.
- In **Revelation 22:1** the **river of water of life is in the middle of the street of the city**.
- The tree bears twelve kinds of fruits and yields its fruit every month.
 - This means that **everything is satisfied**, and this **satisfaction is for eternity**.
- Before the New Jerusalem comes into being, we need to seek a **new experience of life** every month.
 - The particular experience we had twenty years ago is no longer fresh, nor can it be of any help to us today.
- In the New Jerusalem, wherever you find the street, you will find the river of water of life, and wherever you find the river of water of life, you will find the tree of life.
 - As we learn to follow the Lord, all our **conduct** should include the **river of water of life and the tree of life**.

Forever and Ever

- In the new heaven and new earth there will be no more curse, nor will there be any death. All of the history of sin will be over; **man will glorify God well**.
- The last clause of **Revelation 22:5** is the most important. “And they will reign forever and ever”.
 - This was the purpose of God in creation.
 - They will reign **unto eternity**, and they shall reign **forever and ever**.

(The Glorious Church – Chapter 5)