

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-27

“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.’ ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. ¹² It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. ¹³ There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. ¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. ¹⁵ The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall. ¹⁶ The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. ¹⁷ And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements. ¹⁸ The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. ¹⁹ The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; ²⁰ the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst. ²¹ And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. ²² I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵ In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; ²⁶ and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; ²⁷ and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”

To read Pastor Matt’s weekly blog on his weekend message, click here:

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COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

OPEN:

1. Which do you prefer, a staycation or vacation?
2. What's the most beautiful scenic area you've seen in California? In the U.S.? In the world?

DIG:

1. Where have we seen the angel before that is mentioned in verse 9? Compare the two scenes this angel reveals to John.
2. Whose names are written on the gates? Whose names are written on the twelve foundation stones? What does this indicate?
3. What's the major difference between ancient Jerusalem and new Jerusalem?
5. Because of the glory of God, what is there no longer a need for in the new Jerusalem?
6. Who was the New Covenant made with?

REFLECT:

1. The Book of Revelation is filled with incredible imagery. The latest is the New Jerusalem—a city beyond our wildest dreams. More beautiful and breathtaking than anything we've ever seen or even imagined. The home of a redeemed Israel, and the destination of believers from the nations who bring their glory into it. Diamond walls, pearly gates, radiant jewels and streets of gold. Take a moment to discuss and dream what this will be like to us.
2. John reminds us of what we are hoping for—why we don't give up or give in. Jesus wins, and this is what winning looks like. What distractions of this world are in your life, deterring you from living a life Jesus wants for you? What helps you to maintain your focus on Jesus?

5 MARKS FOCUS: GENEROUS LIVING

Generosity is a tangible way to show love to someone. Our lives are so busy that we can overlook the opportunities to be generous to people in our lives. Be aware of people in need and actively seek out a way you can help them. It could be a family member, friend, co-worker, neighbor, or even a complete stranger. Demonstrate the love of Jesus to someone this week.