

Glorious City
Revelation 21:1-27

1. Looking ahead to ten years from now, in what ways will you be better off? When you think of the kingdom of heaven, what beautiful images or feelings come to mind?
2. In verses 1-5, God himself declares "I am making everything new!" What new things does John see? What is the symbolic meaning of "there was no longer any sea"?
3. "God's dwelling place is now among the people" is the core of this passage. The old must be discarded before the new can be ushered in. What results does God dwelling with men bring? (Note the list of things that will become a thing of the past in verse 4.)
4. In verses 6-8, who will inherit these blessings? Whose portion is in the lake of fire? How does this compel us to make the right choices in this age?
5. In verses 9-14, the New Jerusalem is likened to Christ's "bride." What does this imagery reveal about her relationship to Christ? The names of the twelve apostles and the twelve tribes are embedded in the city's structures. How does this illustrate the continuity and unity of this community of people?
6. In verses 15-21, what precious building material does John use to describe the immense glory of the holy city? How does this description remind us not to cling on to them on earth?
7. In verses 22-27, the Old Testament temple is no longer within the New Jerusalem. What is the significance of this?
8. All nations will walk in the light of the city, and kings will bring their glory to it. What do you think "glory to God from all nations" means in the last days? How can we live out this witness today?
9. How does this chapter enrich your understanding of "eternal life" or "heaven"? How does knowing what our ultimate destination is like bring comfort and strength to you in facing current difficulties or pain?
10. Today, before we arrive at the glorious Holy City, how can we allow the glory of God and the light of the Lamb to illuminate the "nations" and the people we come into contact with?