

When We Move to Our Heavenly Home

Part Three

Your First View of the Outside of the Holy City

THE PLACE OF THE HOLY CITY

You will journey with the LORD through the skies, through outer space, and into the realm of God's heaven. Very soon, you will see the Holy City come into view – the place of God's home since it was created on the first day of creation. We know that because the LORD says,

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1).

On the first day, the LORD God created His physical home before He created ours. Paul says,

“For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.” (Colossians 1:16).

Creation only took six days, and all of the heavens were created on the first day. Nothing has been created since those six days were completed.

THE SIZE OF THE HOLY CITY

Let's set the scene for what you will see as the Holy City begins to come into view on your journey to your first stop at the throne of the Almighty God. First, you will see the glow of the city.

It will not take long for you to see the Holy City after you enter the realm of heaven. It is the largest city ever built, and the LORD God built it for His own home and the home of God the Father. You will see it in the distance because the gold glow of the city reaches about fifteen hundred miles wide, long, and high. The golden glow will make it look like a perfect cube, equal in length, width, and height (Revelation 21:16). To understand the size of the city, let's start in downtown Houston, Texas. Traveling north from the center of Houston, fifteen hundred miles will take you into Canada, just fifty miles past the northern border of the United States. It is that long, that wide, and that tall.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE HOLY CITY

As you journey closer with the Lord, you will see that

“The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone”
(Revelation 21:19–20).

Each layer is engraved with the name of one of the *“twelve apostles”* (Revelation 21:14).

THE WALLS OF THE HOLY CITY

Moving closer, you will see the city's wall is seventy-two yards high, or two hundred and sixteen feet.

*“The material of the wall was jasper;
and the city was pure gold, like clear glass”* (Revelation 21:17–18).

Jasper is a stone that you can see through, reflecting the color of the golden streets and structures within the walls of the Holy City.

THE GATES OF THE HOLY CITY

Coming closer, you will notice that each side of the city has three entry gates. Each gate has a door made of a single pearl (Revelation 21:21). The *“gates will never be closed...”* (Revelation 21:25). Each gate will have an angel standing by it, and each gate will have the name of one of the *“twelve tribes of the sons of Israel”* engraved on it (Revelation 21:12). Your first gate of entry will be the one in the middle of the eastern wall; the name of Judah is on that gate. Why this gate? The descendants of Judah became the royal tribe. King David was from that tribe, and so was the earthly birth of our LORD Jesus. In the Old Testament, the tribe of Judah is always placed on the eastern side of the camp and always in the middle. His gate will lead directly to the throne of God the Father.

Your First View of the Inside of the Holy City

THE STREET OF THE HOLY CITY

Entering through the gate, you will see your first view of the inside of the Holy City. You will notice that

“the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass” (Revelation 21:21).

The city is made of gold, and also the streets. The golden streets are so polished that they look like clear glass.

THE RIVER OF THE HOLY CITY

The street is very wide, and it has a river running along in the middle of the street. It is called the *“river of the water of life,”* and its waters are *“clear as crystal”* (Revelation 22:1–2).

THE TREE OF THE HOLY CITY

Running along on each side of the bank of the *“river of the water of life,”* you will see the

“tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month;

and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations” (Revelation 22:2).

You have heard about this tree of life many times in your life. Each time you faithfully sat in your chair and read your Bible, you read about this tree of life in the Garden of Eden in the second chapter of Genesis. This river with the tree on each side of the banks runs from the gate where you will enter directly to the throne of God in the exact middle of the Holy City.

THE THRONE OF THE HOLY CITY

I have already mentioned that the Holy City is about fifteen hundred miles long and wide. That means that the street and river running from the gate to the throne of God is about seven hundred and fifty miles long. The LORD Jesus will be right with you all the way to the throne. On the way, you will see so many sights in that city. Intersecting streets and houses galore, all glowing in one of your favorite colors that you use when you paint - gold.

Very soon on your journey, you will see the throne come into view. For the first time, you will see God the Father on His Throne. He will be glowing like a polished jasper stone, reflecting all the colors of the most precious stone in the Scripture, brilliant and transparent. It will be your first glimpse of the magnificent glory of God. The emerald-colored rainbow *“encircling the throne”* will surely catch your eye (Revelation 4:4). In front of His throne, a beautiful golden altar sits (Revelation 8:3). Around God’s throne, you will see twenty-four thrones and a man sitting on each throne, in a white robe, just like yours, and each man will have a wreath of gold on his head, a victor’s crown, just like the one you are about to receive (Revelation 4:4). He will also have a harp in his hand and a bowl of incense.

You will not be afraid of all that you see and hear at the throne. Out and around the throne, lightning will flash, thunder will peal, and you will hear the mighty sound of voices (Revelation 4:5). These are the voices of the thousands and thousands of angels, almost without number, standing around and behind the throne of the Father saying to Him and Jesus,

“To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.” (Revelation 5:13).

Just in front of the throne will be seven beautiful burning lamps. Four special heavenly creatures are there too, but the most beautiful thing you have ever heard will be these creatures saying continuously,

*“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY,
WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME” (Revelation 4:8).*

When the creatures say these words, the twenty-four men who are sitting on the thrones will fall on the crystal floor and bow before the eternal God the Father and the LORD God - Jesus, Who is the lamb of God, holding their crowns out in front of them, and you will hear them say,

*“Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power;
for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created” (Revelation 4:11).*