

01222023 keep your eye on the prize! we all struggle with things we fear... and We FIGHT fear with FAITH...in Fact faith is the only thing that can overcome fear...for fear freezes or shrinks us... us and faith moves us or expands us...so we must learn to strengthen our faith ... We win over fear by walking in faith!...and you do that by keeping your eye on the prize!...the goal...

NLT Phil 3:14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

When we really begin to understand the barely describable beauty of heaven....and the final destination of the new earth and heaven combined and really, really realize we will see and be with God and Jesus and the Holy spirit...and be again with our loved ones....we will say like Paul...

2CO 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. (because of the difficulty of the journey) Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

- **those troubles on the way to heaven are light (well worth it and can be carried) For the destination far outweighs the trouble along the way to it....And are achieving for us glory...they will bless us...**

Why is this? the more more we know a out the destination...the more we long for it... the destination is so incredibly stunning to our senses, and the reunion with our loved ones and others, the interacting with angels so unbelievable and by far the best is literally being with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.. it becomes

hardly worth mentions the hassles, trials and troubles on the journey there....

So lets talk a little about this immeasurably more than what we can imagine destination...

NLT REV 21: 21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

5 And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true."

old order of sin and death...done....no more pain, loss, mourning, crying and no more death...so no more tears...

- In Heaven we go to live with God...in the new heaven and earth God comes to live with us...**

*******But what does this union look like...we get a description of this city which will come out of the country of Heaven**

NLT REV 21: 15 The angel who talked to me held in his hand a gold measuring stick to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. 16 When he measured it, he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. In fact, its length and width and height were each 1,400 miles. 17 Then he

measured the walls and found them to be 216 feet thick (according to the human standard used by the angel).

The city is cube shape...

- **The angel who talked with John had a measuring rod of Pure Gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. 1400 mile gold measuring tape...impressive**
- **The city was laid out like a square as long as it was wide.**
- **How large is the city? That varies slightly depending on the version of the Bible. The ESV and NIV and NLT versions say it translates to 1,400 miles, The KJV and some other versions say translate to 1,500 miles.**
- **Regardless of whether the city is 1,400 miles or 1,500 miles in length and width, **These measurements are meant to be literal since they are described as man's measurements (Rev. 21:17).****
- **The city a somewhat larger than 1/2 the size of the United States. **1) Show slide of USA****
- **The New Jerusalem is all the square footage anyone could ask for. We don't need to worry that Heaven will be crowded.**
- **The ground level of the city will be nearly two million square miles.**
- **Even more astounding than the size at the base is the height that is also at least 1,400 miles(Rev. 21:16).**
- **The top of the cube... is what would be called the sky line...that is where the sky touches and obeject...the sky touches the New Jerusalem 1400 hundred miles in the stratosphere...**
- **The walls that high brings up an interesting observation...**the highest mountain on this earth ...Mt Everest is close to 6****

miles.... Commercial planes fly ay 6-8 miles high...

- **So This goes well beyond Earth's atmosphere and into space. this would take person into the stratosphere to go to the top...**
- **So our bodies combined with our spirit bodies will have some significant capabilities we currently do not..**
- **And He also measured the wall 216 feet thick or 72 yards**

*****lets get an idea of what the size of this city would look like on our current earth... 2)Show slide of cube on top of earth..**

- **One estimate of the total number of humans that have ever lived on this planet puts the figure at around 106.5 billion.**
- **For the sake of argument, if we assume each and every one gets a place in the city, that leaves enough room for everyone to have property that consists of at least 72 acres**
- **In other words, it seems there will be more than enough room for everyone.**
- **If you are 1 mile away from the city, you would not see the top... but might if you are 10 miles away.**
- **In the total square miles of the Cube you could place 80 earths worth of land mass!**

NLT REV 21: 18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city was pure gold, as clear as glass.

- **The wall was made of Jasper which is brownish and translucent , Which is like Crystal so clear you can almost see through it. it lets light thru but you cannot see clearly through it...**

- The city was of Pure God, as pure as Glass. ... Gold is the most **soft** and **pliable** of all metals; a single **ounce** can be beaten into a **sheet covering 300 square feet**
- **Gold leaf can be beaten thin enough to become translucent again letting light through but not transparent...translucent**
- **The gold that John saw in heaven was of such quality that it appears are so translucent you can almost see through them.**
- While man pursues treasures like gold on earth, one day it will simply be no more than a source of pavement for the streets in heaven and precious stones are on the walls...

2) Show slide of the gates and foundation...

*NLT 21:12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. **On the gates** were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. ¹³ There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. ¹⁴ **The wall of the city had twelve foundations**, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*

- **The foundation of the walls are layered... for 1400 miles...**
- **Then There were twelve gates each gate was made out of a single pearl. The city street was made from pure gold Like transparent glass. Pearl - how big would an oyster have to be? and what is shining through this cities gates and wall?**

NLT ^{REV} 21: ²² I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light. ²⁴ The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory.

- **the light from God the uncreated light...Jesus the visible light...the lamp.. is so bright it lights up everything inside and outside the city...**

NLT JN 8: 12 Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

- **and kings and nations of believers will stream to it and will bring their best into it...**

*NLT 25 Its gates will never be closed at the end of day because there is no night there. 26 And all the nations will bring their glory and honor into the city. 27 Nothing evil^[f] will be allowed to enter, nor anyone who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the **Lamb's Book of Life**.*

- **The pure are the children of God**
- **His Justice will be maintained...nothing and no one evil will ever enter into the city**
- **only those who belong are allowed in....they are the ones whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life..justice is maintained**

*******Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness.**

- **From this unshakeable faith springs forth the hope that sustains each one of us..**

... Knowing about how unbelievable the destination is makes the journey so much easier...like Peter says

NLT 2 Peter 3:13 But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness. 14 And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen,

make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.

- **those troubles on the way to heaven are light (well worth it and can be carried) for the destination far outweighs the trouble along the way to it....**
- **The descriptions of the new Jerusalem provide a laundry list of the very things which mankind longs for –**
 - **fellowship with God, and those who have gone before us**
 - **the presence of justice,**
 - **the achievement of everlasting life,**
 - **the exquisite beauty, and the absence of fear, crying, and pain**
 - **continuing to grow**
 - **By every account, the new Jerusalem is the paradise of which mankind has dreamed since the fall of man.**
 - **Now is there anyone struggling on the journey that would like prayer to stay on track?**

end

*2PE 3: 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the **home** of righteousness.*

- **Home is a place of refreshing....it is familiar....it is comfortable... so our new home is going to be similar...but unbelievably better...the ultimate Win...**

However we cannot begin to grasp the greatness of our future permanent home... Keep your eye on the prize...This week our future home... the destination our new home...

Our present problem is that we often spend so much time dealing with the problems on the way there and often know so little of the destination...that it all seems like a big hassle ...sometimes to much of a hassle....

2CO 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. (because of the difficulty of the journey) Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

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End

¹⁸ *So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

- **You see the hassle of getting to Germany is totally mitigated because the joy of being in the presence of my daughter and family far outweighs the problems entailed in getting there.....not to mention the beauty and history of that country...**
- **Same with Heaven... and not only that ...Jesus keeps track of the journey and reimburses us for all the costs...**
- **Now is there anyone struggling on the journey that would like prayer to stay on track?**

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- **The total land area of the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, is 3,717,796 sq miles.**
- **At 5,000 miles away standing in Tokyo of Japan, it would appear more than 130 times larger than the moon⁴.**
- **To appear the size of the moon, you would have to be 160,427 miles away.**

1JN 3:1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Conclusion... it is motivating Knowing about how unbelievable the destination is makes the journey so much easier...^{2CO 4:16}

Therefore we do not lose heart. (because of the difficulty of the journey) Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

- 1) Jasper - Jasper is known as the Egyptian Pebble and is brownish yellow color
- 2) Sapphire- Blue Transparent Variety of Corundum
- 3) Chalcedony - Variety of Quartz Usually having a Whitish Color and a Luster of Wax.
- 4) Emerald - Rich Green Color
- 5) Sardonyx - Sard and White in alternating colors
- 6) Carnelian - Deep Red Color
- 7) Chrysolite - yellow to green color
- 8) Beryl - green or bluish green color, but also yellow, pink, and white.
- 9) Topaz - yellowish and pellucid, also colorless, and of greenish, bluish, or brownish shades.
- 10) Chrysoprase - An Apple Green Color
- 11) acinth - A red variety of zircon

12) Amethyst - a purple or bluish violet color

- **If the cube was set down on the United States with one side touching the West Coast would Stretch east to the Appalachian Mountains and would touch to the north Canada and to the touch the border of Mexico.**
- **He measured the City with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length and as wide and high as it was long.**
- **A Stadia -. 607 to 630 feet long...12000 x 625 equals about 1400-1500 miles A very similar length is the modern *furlong*, or eighth of a mile, 660 ft.**

Eph 3:20 Now to him who is able to do **immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine**, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

- *so we fight on!* **2 Timothy 4:7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
- **He fought the good fight**...we all have a fight that is good for us....what a good fight? **the fight you don't lose however long it takes!!** your still standing at the end!
- **I have finished the race**...we all have a race marked out for us.. it takes absolutely no skill to start anything...the key is finishing... we might come in crawling...we might

have even taken a few detours or stops along the way...but finishing is the only way to winning the race!

- **I have kept the faith...He kept his faith in Jesus sovereignty the whole time...the whole race...the whole fight..**
- so the most important thing to keep with us the whole race and in the good fight is faith...
 - Refusing to quit is an act of faith...Pushing on is an act of faith...making a change is an act of Faith...
 - Faith has the power to Cast aside preconceived ideas we have about the way things must be. By Remembering, the prize awaiting us is so grand that it is beyond your imagining
 - **the fight of faith ends in victory..and to the victor go the spoils!**

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- and when the journey is put into perspective the journey there will seem less arduous.... it seems to me that most sermons focus on the journey...I think we also need to focus on the destination....
- those troubles on the way to heaven are light (well worth it and can be carried) for the destination far outweighs the trouble along the way to it....
- and are achieving for us glory...they will bless us...

2CO 4:18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary,

This cloud of but what is unseen is eternal.

- You see the hassle of getting to heaven is totally negated because the joy of being in the presence of God, family friends home!
- this experience totally outweighs the problems entailed in getting there..... **and not only that ...Jesus keeps track of the journey and reimburses us for all the costs...**

- The cube shape of the New Jerusalem reminds us of the cube shape of the Most Holy Place in the Temple (1 Kings 6:20), the three dimensions perhaps suggestive of the three persons of the Trinity. God will live in the city, and it is his presence that will be its greatest feature.

1 Kings 6:19 He prepared the inner sanctuary within the temple to set the ark of the covenant of the Lord there. 20 The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty wide and twenty high. He overlaid the inside with pure gold, and he also overlaid the altar of cedar.