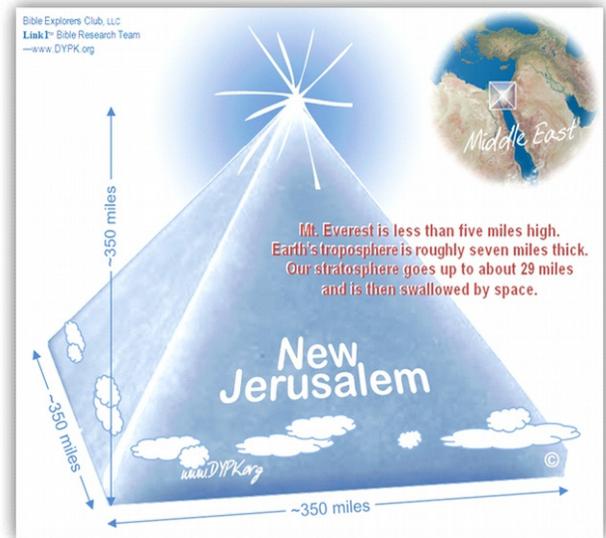


TC's Thoughts for Discussion

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At John 14:2,3 are these words of Jesus: "...I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also." Revelation 21 describes the place he went to prepare for us:

- > "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [and be] their God...And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God...And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred [and] forty [and] four cubits, [according to] the measure of a man, that is, of the angel." —Revelation 21:2,3,9,10,16,17



Twelve thousand furlongs would translate to roughly 1,400 miles (2250 kilometers), using today's measures. That'd be the distance from Havana, Cuba to Toronto, Canada or from Charlotte, North Carolina to Albuquerque, New Mexico. And the walls of that majestic city are about 216 feet (66 meters) thick! At least two credible schools of thought concerning those measurements have emerged during our research:

Many scholars contend that each of the four sides of the city is 1,400 miles long. If they're right, the city is also 1,400 miles tall. How tall would that be? Approximately 35% of Earth's 3,949 mile (6,355 kilometer) radius. Its 12-layered foundation would be 1,960,000 square miles (3,155,600 square kilometers).

Other credible scholars insist the angel of Revelation 21 measured the entire circumference of the city. That would yield an approximate length of ~350 miles (~560 kilometers) for each side and a ~122,500 square mile (~197,225 square kilometer) foundational footprint. The height of that structure would reach ~350 miles (~560 kilometers). How high is that? Mt. Everest is less than five miles high. Earth's troposphere is roughly seven miles thick. Our stratosphere goes up to ~29 miles and is then overtaken by space. Although, the scriptures are unclear regarding which school of thought is the right one, this second scenario makes more sense to us.

WHO'LL GET TO ENTER that awesome place? Revelation 22:14,15 answers that question, very clearly: "Blessed [are] they that DO his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without [are] dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie."

Hmmm...Sounds to me like even those who've ever gotten "truly 'saved'" but practice certain sinful LIFESTYLES will be very angry about the inevitable lock-out! Who'll they be angry with? Their preachers who sugar-coated Christ's salvation message, giving them a false sense of security! Does this startling news burst your bubble? Then, how would YOU paraphrase those critical words of Christ? For some really great help in understanding this, invest some time at www.DYPK.org/salvation. Then, if we still have your attention, grab 2-3 friends and invest some group time at www.DYPK.org/rapture—paying special attention to the section on Jesus' parable of the Ten Virgins, five wise and five foolish. (The take-home message there, too, is very different from what you've likely been taught...)

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.

I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.

Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches.

"In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Mark Twain



WHEN will those who're qualified get to go in and occupy that awesome place with many rooms? That'll happen precisely 3½ days after the two murdered Witnesses come back to life [Revelation 11:3-15]. That's when Jesus will arrive on a symbolic white horse [Revelation 19:11], at the 7th Vial, the 7th Seal and the 7th Trump – i.e.: the last Trump. Again, it's likely that you've been taught that the rider of that *first* symbolic white horse is Jesus. Unfortunately, the rider of THAT white horse is the grand imposter! Per 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, he will SUCCESSFULLY masquerade as Christ, deceiving almost everyone on Earth...including millions of sincere, but misinformed believers in Christ. How could that happen?

First, Jesus will not appear until after there's a Great Falling Away. Unbelievers can't "fall away!" Second, if you're among the millions who've bought into a very different sequence of end-time events, you're pre-conditioned for inclusion with those who are to "fall away." Blaming your preacher or your denomination's Bible "experts" won't help you. You'll bear the ultimate weight of your own decision to believe the enormously popular "feel-good" stories, after having been exposed to the clearly-stated, but not-so-attractive scriptural truth. Sincerity doesn't count! "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." —James 2:19

> "Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and **FEW there be that find it.**" —Jesus, at Matthew 7:14

Got a question? Got a comment? Got a scriptural rebuttal? Those are always welcome. So please feel free to submit them to us at www.DYPK.org/contact. Visit the "BLOG INDEX" page at www.DYPK.org for multiple other topics.

—T. C. Newsome 

PS: Post a comment or question or just read what others are saying: www.DYPK.org/apps/blog.

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