

Key Word or Phrase:

**"NEW JERUSALEM"**

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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 Albuquerque, New Mexico to Charlotte, North Carolina. 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 my 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 about 29 miles and is swallowed by space. Although, the scriptures are unclear regarding which school of thought is the right one, this second scenario makes more sense to me.

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." Hmm...Sounds to me like even those who've ever gotten "truly 'saved'" but practice certain sinful LIFESTYLES will be surprised by the upcoming lock-out! (Remember the five foolish virgins at Matthew 25?) Oh! So you've been taught something different? How would YOU paraphrase those critical words of Christ?

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 7<sup>th</sup> Vial, the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal and the 7<sup>th</sup> Trump – i.e.: the last Trump. The rider of that *first* symbolic white horse will arrive at 6<sup>th</sup> Vial, the 6<sup>th</sup> Seal and the 6<sup>th</sup> Trump. Unfortunately, he is the grand imposter. Per 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, he will SUCCESSFULLY masquerade as Christ, deceiving almost everyone on Earth...including sincere, but misinformed believers in Christ. How could that happen?

First, 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

Got a question? Got a comment? Got a scriptural rebuttal? Those are always welcome. Visit the "BLOG INDEX" page at [www.DYPK.org](http://www.DYPK.org) for multiple other topics.

—Scribe *pro tem*, an informed layman