

57. The Holy City

The Word of the Lord: The New Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

57. The Holy City

- a) Describe the Holy City in detail. This city is like no other. First, it comes down from the Lord out of heaven. Second, it is so beautiful that it seems to John like a bride dressed ready for her marriage to her husband. Children have probably seen lovely wedding dresses, and they will enjoy thinking about that.
- b) An important thing about the city is that it is a safe place. It has twelve gates, so that all good people who want to can come in and live there, but the gates are guarded, and the walls are very high.
- c) The voice from heaven was the Lord sitting on the throne—remember the beginning of these stories? He says He will make all things new. That means that life will be so much better now in this city.
- d) The Lord, sitting on the throne, said to John that he should write, and He called Himself the Alpha and the Omega, which are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. He also called Himself the Beginning and the End. He made everything and will be with us forever.
- e) Note the use of “twelve.” There were twelve tribes of Israel and twelve disciples of the Lord. Now there are the twelve gates of the city. Twelve is a special number.

- f) The proportions of the city were perfect; the gates were made of pearl; the streets were made of gold.
- g) Why was there no temple? Because when we truly love the Lord, then we worship Him in our hearts, and He Himself is with us. Of course, there are churches, but the real worship is in our hearts.
- h) The city also doesn't need the sun or moon, because the Lord's glory keeps it alight.
- i) The gates are never shut. People can always come in if they want to. The Lord always welcomes them.



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The Lord Shows John the Holy City

And I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven. It was like a bride dressed for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, “See, the Tabernacle of God is with men, and He will live with them, and they shall be His people.” And He who sat on the throne said, “See, I make all things new. Write, for these words are true and faithful. I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End.”

And there came to me one of the seven angels, and he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain. Here he showed me that great city, the Holy Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. Its light was like a stone most precious, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

And the city had a great and high wall. There were twelve gates into the city, and at the gates were twelve angels. Names were written on the gates which are the names of the twelve children of Israel. On the east side were three gates, on the north were three gates, on the south were three gates, and on the west were three gates.

And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and written on them were the names of the twelve disciples of the Lord. The foundations were decorated with all kinds of precious stones.

The city was a square; the length and the breadth and the height were equal. Each gate was made of one pearl. The walls and the streets of the city were pure gold, like transparent glass.

And I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God did lighten it. And the gates were not shut at all by day, and there shall be no night there.

Revelation 21

