The New Jerusalem

A sense of its scale · Michael Kendrick



Conceptual illustration · Revelation 21:9–27; 22:1–5 (KJV).
The dimensions are described in the discussion that follows.

A home filled with His presence

John's final vision gives us more than a distant glow. He sees a holy city coming down from God, radiant with His glory. Its extraordinary dimensions invite us to pause and consider the greatness of the home He prepares for His people.

> *"And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth … The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal."*
>
> — REVELATION 21:16 · KJV

12,000 stadia · approximately 1,380 miles long, wide and high

Using a stadion of about 607 feet, the measurement is roughly 1,380 miles in each direction. Ancient unit conversions vary; the number here is an approximation used in this study. These are the dimensions of the New Jerusalem, not a measurement of all heaven or the whole new creation.

The equal dimensions are depicted here as a cube. This study reads that form alongside the Holy of Holies, whose length, width and height were equal (1 Kings 6:20). The connection is an interpretation: God's presence, once associated with the inner sanctuary, now fills the life of His redeemed people.

The greatest promise is His presence

The city's scale and beauty awaken wonder, but the heart of the vision is relationship: "they shall see his face" (Revelation 22:4). No curse, no night, and no final separation from the One who gives life. His servants worship, serve and reign with Him for ever (Revelation 22:3–5).

As you look at the image, ask: What changes in my life today if my future is life with God? Let the picture lead you back to His Word, and let His promise strengthen your faithfulness now.

Within her walls

Twelve gates of pearl

“every several gate was of one pearl.”

— REVELATION 21:21 · KJV

A wall of jasper

John records 144 cubits — about 216 feet using an 18-inch cubit. The verse does not specify whether this is its height or thickness.

— REVELATION 21:17–18

Pure gold, clear as glass

“the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.”

— REVELATION 21:21 · KJV

God and the Lamb are its temple

“for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.”

— REVELATION 21:22 · KJV

Divine light; no night

The city has no need of sun or moon to shine in it, because God’s glory illuminates it and the Lamb is its light. This does not require the conclusion that all created luminaries cease to exist.

— REVELATION 21:23–25

The river and the tree of life

“a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal” proceeds from the throne of God and the Lamb; the tree of life bears its fruit beside it.

— REVELATION 22:1–2 · KJV

Read the full setting: Revelation 21:9–27 and 22:1–5.

Read *The Seed Enthroned* at theseedwartrilogy.com/seed-enthroned/.

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