

In our last couple of podcasts we started to explore the description of the bride, the wife of the Lamb, who is also described as the holy city, the New Jerusalem. Let's pick back up with a description of the measurement of the city.

EP185 Revelation 21:15-17

The Measurements

Revelation 21:15-17

And the one who is **now** speaking with me had a measuring reed of gold that he should measure the city and its gates and walls.

The city chooses to **now** lie foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are **now** equal.

He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also **now** an angel's measurement.

Let's first lay out the **Code** and some comparisons to previously revealed details in *Revelation*, then we will discuss the overall picture.

- The one who "*is now speaking*" is rendered in the *present active participle*; as such, we need to have ears to hear what the Spirit is now saying to the churches.
- The one who spoke "*had*" a measuring reed of gold to measure the city. Most translations insert the word "rod" for "reed." However, the Greek has a specific word for "rod" which is "*rhabdos*." That is not used in this passage. The Spirit intentionally utilized the word "*kalamos*," which means reed, literally the stem of a plant. We must never forget that the Spirit is always specific. Being rendered in the scarcely used and technical past tense (the *imperfect*), this speaks of the fact that the one who spoke had possessed this reed previously.
- This is likely the same "reed" that was given to John to measure the Sanctuary previously in *Revelation 11:1*, and it is probably this angel that had given the measuring "*reed*" to John and was now saying to John to measure the Sanctuary, of God, and the altar, and those who are now worshipping therein.
- Being gold, we know it is divine, as gold is **Code** representing divinity. This will be a divine measurement. And this "*reed*" is used exclusively for those who comprise the Sanctuary of God.
- Just as John, *Revelation 11:1*, was told to measure three things: the Sanctuary, the altar, and those now worshipping in it, this angel is also instructed to measure three things: the city, gates, and its walls. Each is seen as its own structure, each bearing its own significance. And since according to the **Code**, the number three is the number representing perfection, we know this will be a perfect measurement.

- “The city is four-cornered” (in Greek “tetragonos” or in English, a tetragon—a four-sided quadrilateral) The number four is significant and cannot be glossed over by substituting the word “square.” Although “square” means four-cornered, the number four is a picture which once again speaks of God’s creative works from all directions: north, south, east, and west.
- Oddly, the city dug down deep in its soul and chose to **now** lie four-cornered (rendered in the *present middle indicative*). In other words, the city has chosen to be comprised of a great multitude from every nation and all tribes and peoples, and tongues gathered from the four corners of the earth, from the north to the south to the east and the west. The city chose to follow the Lord’s commands: “As you are caused to be going into all the world, you are commanded to preach the gospel to all creation.”¹ “As you are caused to be going therefore, you are commanded to teach (make a disciple of) all the nations, **now** baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **now** teaching them to **now** observe all that I chose to have commanded you...”² Clearly, the apostles and the entirety of the city dug down deep in their soul and chose to be **Yahweh’s** witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.³
- “And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are **now** equal.” The use of 12 as a multiple is once again **Code**, picturing God’s perfect spiritual administration expressed through this multitude, indicated by the “1,000” multiplier. And with the *three* dimensions being equal (height, width, and length), we know that every aspect of this city is perfect. This city is a perfect cube, exactly as God envisioned.
- “He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also **now** an angel’s measurement.” The number **144** is clearly a prophetic number, in **Code**, that must not be ignored. The first time we encountered 144 was when we were shown the number of those who were sealed from every tribe of Israel, **144,000**. In that number we saw the completion of a **mystery**, the joining of the Jews and Gentiles in faith.⁴ Early on in the revelation we saw a different but not dissimilar image of the completion of this **mystery** with the 24-Elders who now sit on 24 thrones (12 representing Jewish believers + 12 representing Gentile believers).⁵ Multiply 12x12 together and you get 144,000.
- When we studied the number 144,000, we explored the unique list in **Revelation 7:4-8** which sets forth 144,000 sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel. This list was **Code** revealing how God has assembled a “city” of Jews and Gentiles – a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues.⁶ “These **now** are those who dig down deep in their soul and are **now** choosing to come out of the Great Tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”⁷ “For neither is

¹ **Mark 16:15**

² **Matthew 28:19-20**

³ **Acts 1:8**

⁴ See **Romans 9 and 11**

⁵ **Revelation 4:4**

⁶ See **Revelation 7:9**

⁷ **Revelation 7:14**. Note: “come out” as it is rendered in most translations is in the *present middle participle*. Therefore, it should be rendered: “... those who dig down deep in their soul and are **now** choosing to come out...”

*circumcision **now** anything, nor uncircumcision, but a **new creation**. And those who will in the **future** walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.”⁸*

Stepping back and trying to take in this image and absorb its meaning is overwhelming.

First, the measurement alone is a powerful statement of exclusive ownership. In a not too dissimilar scene, John said: “And there was caused to be given to me a reed that was like a rod, **now** saying: “*You are commanded to **now** rise, and you are commanded to measure the Sanctuary of God and the altar, and those who are **now** worshiping in it. You are commanded to leave out the court which is outside the Sanctuary, and you shall not measure it, for it has been caused to be given to the nations; and they will in the **future** tread underfoot the holy city for forty-two months.*”⁹

In that image, God made a separation between the “holy place” (the “*naos*”), the area that is the exclusive territory of the priest, from the rest of the Temple. In so doing He staked-off that which was exclusively His, the wife of Christ, the priests of **Yahweh**, those who are now worshipping in the Sanctuary. He divided them from those occupying the temple at large, which is an image of the visible church within the realms of Christianity, represented by those worshipping in the outer courtyards of the Temple being served by priests who are administering their sacrifices and offerings.

In like manner, we see in this image that there is a measurement of all that belongs exclusively to God, a measurement of His precious possession.¹⁰

Second, once again, a “reed” is used for measurement. As we discovered in our study in **Revelation 11:1**, this is a powerful picture. It goes all the way back to the lampstand in the Sanctuary of God, which is designed around reeds that carry the oil through the lampstand to the burners to the wicks.

Pulling from our study in **Revelation 11:1**, Jesus is the flame, the producer of light. The Spirit is the oil, and those who are now believing are to be His “*reeds*” or His Lampstand through which the oil flows; and the wick that burns is a picture of each bondservant who bears the light. True believers are the very vessel through which it all occurs.

This is the measurement of the reed: those through whom the oil perpetually flows. This is the measurement by which humanity is divided. And this is why God choose the hollow “reed” as His measuring device, for the “reed” allows for the flow of oil, the flow of the Spirit.

Believers, individually and collectively, are intended to be the lamp through which the light of life shines. They are essentially designed to be the pass-through mechanism, so-to-speak, by which Jesus lives His life and shines His light in-and-through theirs.¹¹ The bondservants of Jesus Christ are those who become these flow-through vessels through which Jesus shines His light in the darkness.

Third, since this angel is instructed to measure with a golden reed. We know that this angel is using a divine tool, not a human tool, and not even an angelic tool, again, gold is a color symbolizing divinity. This reed will be used to measure this collective of bondservants: the city, the gates, and its walls.

⁸ **Galatians 6:15-16**

⁹ **Revelation 11:1-3**

¹⁰ See **Ephesians 1:14; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:9**

¹¹ See **1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:21** where the “temple” is the Greek word “**sanctuary**” (the “*naos*”) and not the temple at large (the “*hieron*”). See also **Galatians 2:20**.

The Measurement of the City.

*“The city chooses to **now** lie foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are **now** equal.”* The city is 4-cornered, 12,000 stadia long, wide, and high—a perfect cube deriving from a perfect creative work.

Let’s dive deeper into these numbers. In arithmetic and algebra, the cube of a number is its third power, which is the result of the number multiplied by itself twice. For example: if “n” = 3, then n^3 (n cubed) = $3 \times 3 \times 3$. This also happens to be the formula to determine the volume for a geometric cube with sides of “n” and length of “n” and height of “n.” Length x height x width = volume. Thus, in this image what we have is the wife of Christ multiplied to the third power (according to the **Code**, three is the number indicating perfection, as in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit).

This speaks of the perfect fullness or the volumetric capacity of perfection which occurs as the bondservants of Christ are joined in unity with each other and with the entirety of the Godhead, with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This picture is a fulfillment of Jesus’ prayer:

John 17:20-21

I do not **now** ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who are **now** believing in Me through their word; that they may all **now** be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may **now** be in us, so that the world may **now** believe that You sent Me.

The volumetric measurement of this cube would be $12,000 \times 12,000 \times 12,000 = 1.728^{12}$ or 1 trillion 728 billion. That’s a big number, and we cannot fix it to anything in our understanding, but it is a statement on the magnitude of the work God is doing in His bride.

In *Greek* culture, the cube was a symbol of perfection as it was deemed to be a perfectly stable structure. In that light, according to the **Code**, 12 is the number of God’s administration, it being used three times provides us a symbol of a perfect administration, and with “1,000” being symbolic of multitudes or the totality of generations (again being used three times), we can conclude that this is a perfect structure comprised of the Bondservants of Jesus Christ from all generations.

This picture communicates a powerful message. The wife of Christ, the true church, will be perfect, full, complete, stable, and fully imbued with the fullness of the Godhead.

Reaching back into the **Codex** to a similar example, the “holy place” (the “*naos*”) in the temple of God was also a cube.¹² Its length, height, and width are all 20 cubits, giving it a volumetric measurement of 8,000 cubits. According to the **Code**, then number eight is the number of new beginnings and the number of Jesus, and “1000” is symbolic of multitudes or the totality of generations. The Sanctuary of God served as a type or a picture of the **new life** that Jesus would bring to the multitudes from all generations—a life that will be completed via perfection.

¹² See **1 Kings 6:20**

The Stadia.

The Romans and the Greeks both measured by “stadia,” but their measurements varied slightly. In Greek, one stadia equaled approximately 600 Greek feet (six being the number of man). The length of a Greek stadia varied but is estimated at 0.308 meters or 12 inches. The Greek stadia therefore is roughly 180-192 meters, about 590-630 feet. In miles this translates to approximately 0.11 to 0.12 miles per stadia. If we were to use 0.12, then 12,000 stadia can be translated into 144 miles ($12,000/0.12 = 144$). Yes, 144.

Now, there is obviously quite a bit of approximation, but if it were a correct measurement, 144 miles should not be surprising. 144 is the number which defines the city.

The Measurement of the Gates.

Oddly, we are given the measurements of the city and the measurements of the walls, but the Spirit did not decide to include the measurements of the gates. The angel was instructed to measure it, but for some reason it was not recorded for our benefit. We will get some more info on the gates in **Revelation 21:21, 25** and **Revelation 22:14**, but nothing regarding its measurements. What we do know is that the gates are the entry place by which people gain access to Jesus.

The Measurement of the Walls.

*“He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also **now** an angel's measurement.”*

The measurements of the wall, the 144 cubits (**12x12**), even **now** is a measurement that is understood both in the realm of man and in the realm of the angelic. Viewed through the **Code**, this means that **Yahweh Adonai**, the Alpha and Omega who is sovereign over all of creation, has determined the collection (or the perfect spiritual administration) of both Jews and Gentiles in this great city, and the angles have done their part in assisting those who have been marked for salvation gathering together those from both the gentiles and the Jews. It being the same measurement, both human and angelic, we can be sure that no person who is intended to be part of the city is or will be left behind by an inaccurate measurement.

By telling us that it is a human measurement and angelic, it is doubtful that the image is speaking of size so much as it is content. Technically, a cubit is believed to be approximately 18 inches or 1.5 feet. This would make the walls approximately 216 feet. Without doubt, this would be a high wall, but that is not the point.

The point is 12x12 (3x4) x (3x4) or 144, the picture of Jews and Gentiles in this perfect (number 3) spiritual administration (number 12) that extends across all creation (number 4) to the ends of the earth, from the north to the south to the east and the west.

And there are **two** sets of twelve combined in this multiplication and unification. According to the **Code**, two is the number of both witness and division. This speaks of this perfect spiritual administration of humanity, encompassing the four corners of the world, displaying the witness of Jesus Christ via the light that is unique to the Jewish believers and the light that is unique to the Gentile believers.

This picture was captured for us in the two witnesses of **Revelation 11:3-13**, and in the book of **Zechariah** where the prophet saw the branches of two olive trees, the two anointed (or oiled) ones who are standing before the **Adon** (the **Adonai**) of all the earth, from which oil flowed into the lampstand in

the Sanctuary of God, which had seven lamps.¹³ Then, when we are first introduced to Jesus in **Revelation 1:12, 20**, He is standing amongst the seven lamps, the seven churches, those that are purposed to bring the light of Jesus to the darkened world.

As far as the angelic measurement being a human measurement, this detail captures the idea that **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of Heaven's Armies), the Master of both the good and the bad angels, uses the angelic to construct the wall. As are told, the angels are *"His ministers or servants, a flame of fire. "Are they not **now** all ministering spirits, caused **now** to being sent for those who are **now** being, **now** heirs, of salvation."*¹⁴ This is a phenomenal statement that blows the doors off the typical understanding of the demonic.

All of them, all the angels, both good and bad, are ministering spirits. This means the demons are necessary and have a necessary role in ensuring each bondservant's place in the wall. As flames of fire, they help us see clearly all the areas in which we live in delusion, in darkness and not light, and have not yet been transformed by God. They help us get in touch with our abject neediness for God in all things, all the time. And our sin is the tool they most utilize to convince us of our neediness for God in all things, a tool which burns deeply.

The City, Gates and Walls

Combined, the city, its gates and its walls provide us with a picture of all those who even **now** are found to be believing and overcoming. This structure speaks of community, fellowship, and connectedness (the city), exclusivity but also access (the gates), and **safety, stability, and security** (its walls).

The collective witness of Jews and Gentiles who comprise the wife of Christ are defined by all these attributes. And being rendered in the *present* tense, this is how the One who is the **"Alpha and the Omega"** has seen it every moment of now from before the foundations of the earth. It is a picture of perfection declaring the marvel of His created works expressed in and through His bride.¹⁵

We are going to stop here, even though this podcast is shorter than usual. Our next section deals with the materials of the city, and from a conceptual continuity, it would be hard to break it up without losing focus and possibly diluting the message. It ought to be read and studied as one part.

I am glad you "tuned in" and have been "ready to listen."

¹³ See **Zechariah 4**

¹⁴ See **Hebrews 1:7, 14**

¹⁵ See **Ephesians 1:3-14**