



-- **Big idea: There is no better investment on earth than the church of Jesus Christ.**

-- In Christ, God is making something unimaginably glorious of the least of these on earth in and through the **CHURCH**

-- **v. 9 – This invitation to view the New Jerusalem is intentionally similar to (but the opposite of) the invitation to observe Babylon in v. 17:1.**

-- The bride of Christ (the **NEW JERUSALEM** is the glorious counterpart to the Babylon the prostitute (the **WORLD**

-- This New Jerusalem is a picture of what the church will become in the New Heavens and New Earth.

For the church, eternal life in Christ will be...

1.) SPECTACULAR (v. 9-11, 23)

-- In eternity, we will shine with the transcendent glory of God (Revelation 4:2-6, Exodus 34:29-30)

-- In eternity, the luster of God's glory will saturate every part of the church with unblemished and unfading light.

2.) **SAFE** (v. 12, 15-17, 25-27)

- In the ancient world, massive walls were the chief means by which a city was kept safe (Rev. 11:1-2).
- No walls in any city on earth remotely compare to the walls described in today's text.
- The freedom from anxiety and fear that so often escapes us today will be the everyday atmosphere of life that is to come.

3.) **SET APART** _____ (v. 12-23)

a.) The Number **TWELVE**

- Twelve is a set-apart number because it is the biblical number for God's people.
- There are so many 12's in today's text the New Jerusalem is a stylized description of the church in eternity.

b.) The High Priest's **BREASTPLATE**

-- The chosen people of God, represented by 12 precious stones in the breastplate, are now the inhabitants of the New Heavens and New Earth.

c.) The HOLY OF HOLIES

-- There will be no specific location for the holy of holies in eternity, because every part of the new cosmos will be perfectly filled with God's holy presence (1 Kings 6:19-20).

-- There are two **CUBES** in Scripture: The holy of holies and the New Jerusalem.

-- To say that the New Jerusalem becomes the holy of holies is to say that we will not simply have entered the holy of holies, but that we will have **BECOME** the holy of holies.

-- The holiness we will be given in Christ for all eternity is the ultimate and everlasting gift of love from Christ, the husband, to His bride, the church (Ephesians 5:25-28).

-- **Application: Invest in the church.**

-- In the end, the church, will prove to be infinitely more **VALUABLE** than all the most celebrated things this world has ever made.