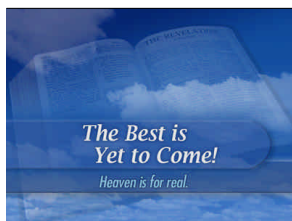


26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!



1

Heaven is For Real



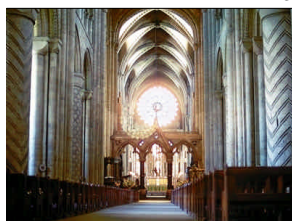
2

**(Video: 5 sec) What is heaven?
Does it even exist?
If so, where is it—and what is it like there?**



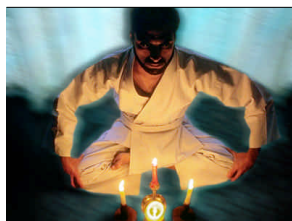
3

**Some people don't believe in heaven.
Others say there are three heavens—or even seven.
Some say you go to heaven when you die.**



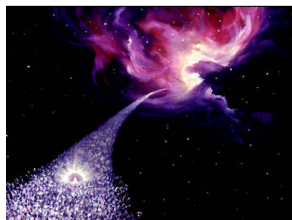
4

**Others say no, you go to a place called purgatory first, then
maybe heaven later.**



5

Some say heaven is not a real place, but just a state of mind.



6

**There are those who believe that eventually, everybody will
end up in heaven.
But others say very few people will make it there.
So much confusion!
So many opinions!**

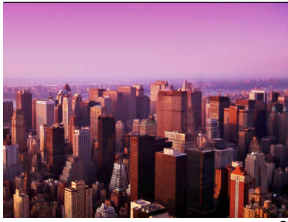


7

**Why all these different opinions about heaven?
Why all the varying opinions and theories—when the Bible
makes it crystal clear?
In fact, do you know that the Bible is full of details about
heaven?**

**God wants us to know what heaven is like so we will desire to
be there!
Heaven is not a secret place that God is keeping from us.**

26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!



8

In many large buildings, there are keys that fit each lock on each door.



9

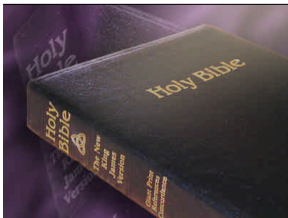
But usually the owner or superintendent of the building also has one key that fits ALL the doors. This key is called the Master Key.



10

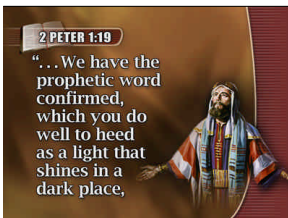
God also has a master key that unlocks the mysteries about heaven, and that master key is the Bible—our only reliable source of information. Fortunately, we don't have to depend on human theories or opinions.

We don't have to be confused about what the real truth is about heaven.



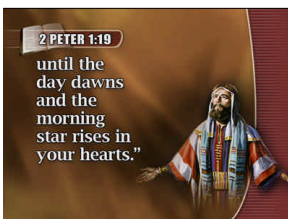
11

We have a divine master key—God's own Word. The apostle Peter wrote about this source of information.



12

(Text: 2 Peter 1:19) "...We have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place,



13

until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." 2 Peter 1:19.



14

(Video: 11 sec) It may surprise you, but God has revealed in His Word:

- Where heaven will be
- What heaven will be like
- Where its capitol will be

26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

- What people will do there
- What people will be like there
- Where the saved will live
- What the capitol city will look like



15

Now let's take God's master key—the Bible, and discover a very real future that God has prepared for His followers.



16

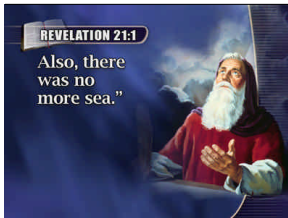
While one of Jesus' disciples, John, late in his life was exiled on the small, rocky Isle of Patmos—six miles long and three miles wide—located in the Aegean Sea, God gave him a pre-view of the future in a vision.

Afterward, John wrote what he had seen:



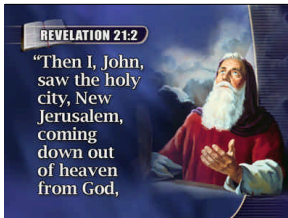
17

(Text: Revelation 21:1-2) "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.



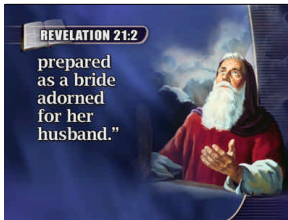
18

Also, there was no more sea.



19

Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,



20

prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."
Revelation 21:1, 2.



21

Few scenes present such happiness and beauty as that of a bride preparing for her wedding day!

26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

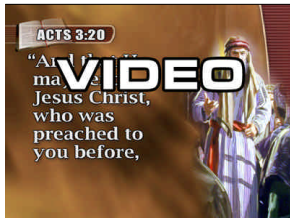


This city is not just something that only John saw and knew about—all of God’s prophets throughout the ages have known about it.

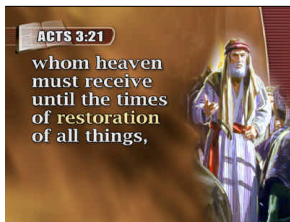
Later, we’ll come back to a very detailed description of this New Jerusalem that John saw.

God tells us that all of His holy prophets have spoken about His plan of restoration.

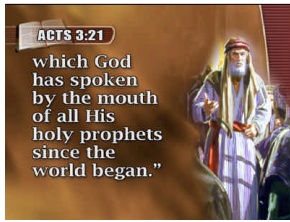
Listen:



(Video: 4 sec) “And that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,



whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things,



which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.” Acts 3:20, 21.



WHAT IS GOD GOING TO RESTORE?

God is going to restore everything Adam and Eve lost!

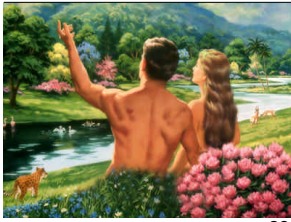
The earth came from the hands of the Creator in splendor and perfection—beautiful beyond description.

The Creator Himself had designed and decorated Adam and Eve’s home—the Garden of Eden—a paradise from pole to pole.



God had given them the dominion of the earth.

26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!



28

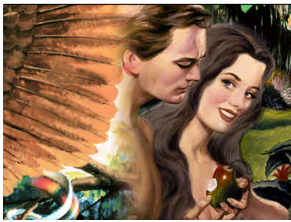
They had perfect health, love, happiness, joy, and face—to—face fellowship with God.
Everything was peace and harmony.
They would never get sick or die if they chose to obey God's instructions.

And His instructions were:



29

“Don’t eat of the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden, or you will die.”



30

But they chose to eat of the tree.
They listened to a cruel, deceiving rebel angel named Satan rather than listening to a loving, caring God.



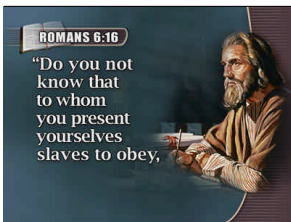
31

Afterward, for the first time in their lives, they felt guilty, ashamed, and afraid.
It was the most tragic day in the history of Planet Earth.
By their disobedience, they lost everything: their garden home, their dominion of Earth, access to the Tree of Life.

Without being able to eat of the Tree of Life, they would eventually die.

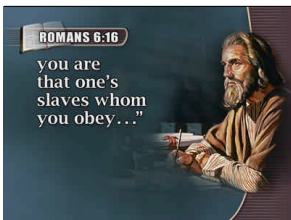
No longer masters, Adam and Eve became slaves.

Paul said,



32

(Text: Romans 6:16) “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey,



33

you are that one's slaves whom you obey?” Romans 6:16.

26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

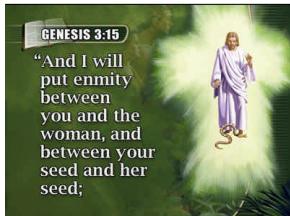
26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!



34

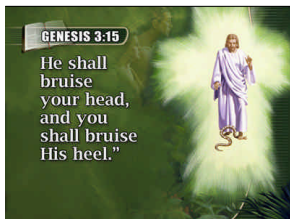
But a loving, caring God understood.
The serpent had deceived Eve, and Adam couldn't bear to be parted from her forever.
God loved them so much He couldn't leave His erring children without hope.

At the gates of the garden, God promised Adam and Eve that one day His Son, the Seed of the Woman, would come and die for them so they could be restored to the Family of God and have eternal life.



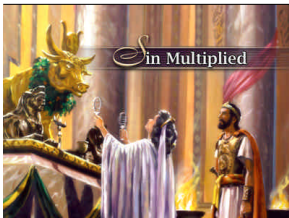
35

(Text: Genesis 3:15) "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed;



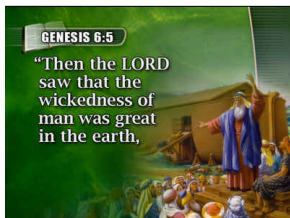
36

He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."
Genesis 3:15.



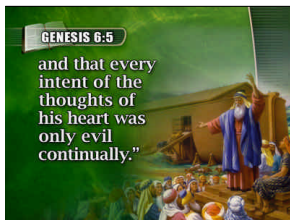
37

As generations passed and men multiplied on earth, sin also multiplied.
Mankind had almost forgotten God and His promise.
People became vile and immoral and



38

(Text: Genesis 6:5) "the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth,



39

and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Genesis 6:5.



40

It finally became necessary for God to destroy the wicked by the Great Flood in order to preserve life on the earth.
Only eight people survived!
After the Great Flood, it wasn't many generations before people became corrupt again.

26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

In order to preserve a holy people on earth,



41

God called Abraham and his family out of the idolatrous and corrupt Ur of the Chaldees.

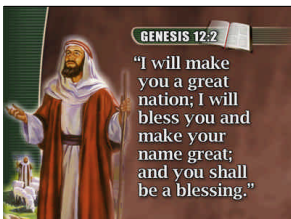
His family would doubtless have become wicked also had they stayed in that city.

The Lord said to Abraham,



42

(Text: Genesis 12:1-2) "...Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you.



43

I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing." Genesis 12:1, 2.



44

Abraham was willing to leave the luxury of his Chaldean home, not knowing where he was going, because he had a glimpse of what God had in store for him



45

(Text: Hebrews 11:9-10) "By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country,



46

dwelling in tents, with Isaac, Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;



47

For he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:9, 10.

God promised to give to Abraham and his children all that Adam and Eve lost.

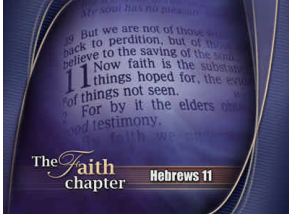
26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!



48

The prophets of all ages believed and looked forward to the restoration of all things.



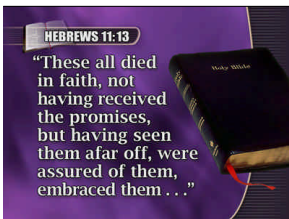
49

God lists some of the Bible's Hall of Faith in Hebrews, chapter 11.

Abraham, Enoch, Noah, Abel, Isaac, Rahab, David, and Samuel are just a few of the great people of faith who believed in God's promise to restore what Adam and Eve

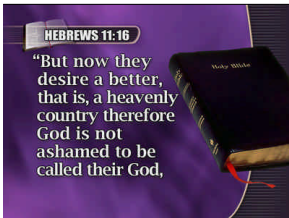
lost.

Notice what the Bible says about these heroes:



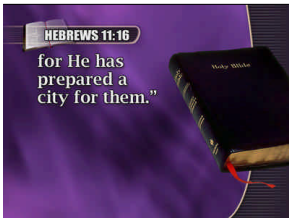
50

(Text: Hebrews 11:13, 16) "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, were assured of them, embraced them..."



51

But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God,



52

for He has prepared a city for them." Hebrews 11:13, 16.



53

Isaiah, the greatest of all the messianic prophets, gives us a thrilling description in the Old Testament of the restoration God has prepared, and in the New Testament, John the Revelator gives many thrilling prophecies concerning the restoration of all things.

Let's take a look at the things God revealed to Isaiah:

26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!



54

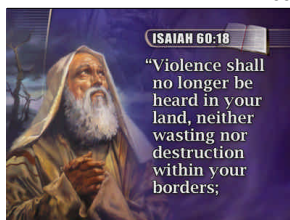
(Text: Isaiah 65:17) “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth:



55

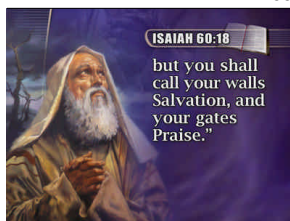
and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.” Isaiah 65:17.

And again:



56

(Text: Isaiah 60:18) “Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, Neither wasting nor destruction within your borders;



57

But you shall call your walls Salvation, And your gates Praise.” Isaiah 60:18.



58

(Video: 20 sec) Just think—NO violence there!

Just peace and harmony!

Isn't that WONDERFUL to think about?

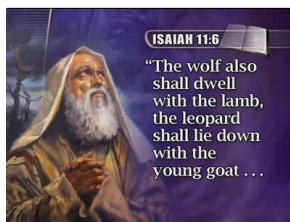
No need there to find weapons to defend and protect ourselves.

No rapists or thieves!

And won't it be wonderful to walk those streets of gold and not worry about being attacked or robbed?

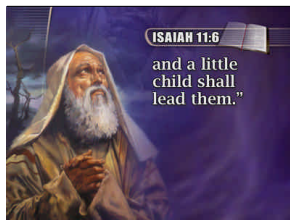
But that isn't all that the prophet can tell us.

Listen:



59

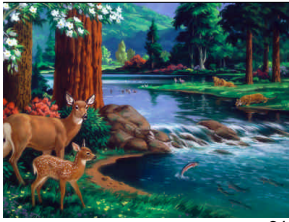
(Text: Isaiah 11:6) “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat ...



60

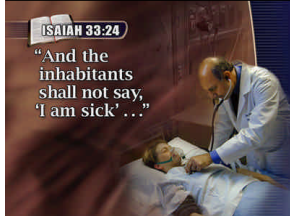
and a little child shall lead them.” Isaiah 11:6.

26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!



61

Now listen to what else the Bible has to say about Planet Earth when it is finally restored to its original beauty:



62

(Text: Isaiah 33:24) “And the inhabitant will not say, ‘I am sick’.” Isaiah 33:24.

No heart attacks, no cancer, no allergies—just perfect health for eternity!

Isn't that great news? Imagine!

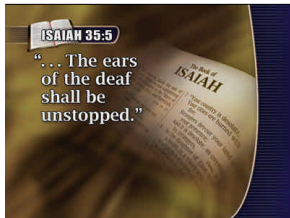


63

(Text: Isaiah 35:5) “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened.” Isaiah 35:5.

No doubt the first thing the formerly blind will want to see will be the face of Jesus!

Oh, what a glorious day that will be for those who were blind!



64

(Text: Isaiah 35:5) “The ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.” Isaiah 35:5.



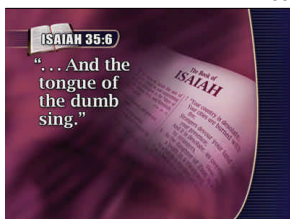
65

(Text: Isaiah 35:6) “Then the lame shall leap as a deer.” Isaiah 35:6.

No more wheelchairs!

No more crutches!

Everyone will have perfect bodies.



66

(Text: Isaiah 35:6) “And the tongue of the dumb sing.” Isaiah 35:6.

Not only will they talk, but they will sing!

What a happy day that will be!

But there is even more wonderful, wonderful news!



67

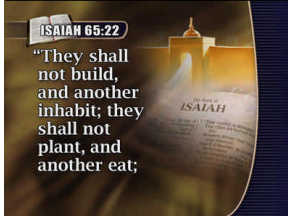
(Text: Isaiah 35:1) “The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.” Isaiah 35:1.

What a beautiful place the new earth will be!

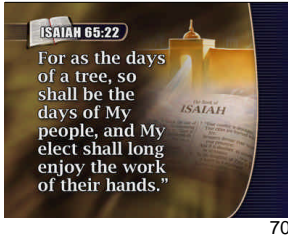
26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!



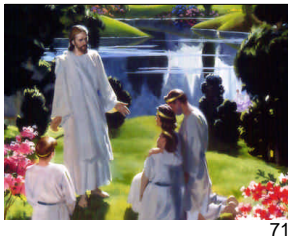
(Text: Isaiah 65:21-22) “They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.



They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat;



for as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.” Isaiah 65:21, 22.



It certainly sounds as if heaven is a real place with real people doing real things, doesn't it?
In fact, we will have our own names, and people will know us!



(Text: Isaiah 66:22) “For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, says the Lord,



so shall your descendants and your name remain.” Isaiah 66:22.



(Text: Isaiah 66:23) “And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another and from one Sabbath to another,



all flesh shall come to worship before me, says the Lord.”
Isaiah 66:23.

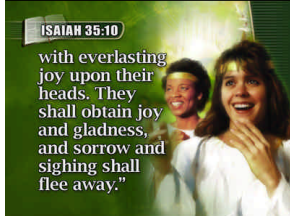
The new earth will be a happy place—a joyful place—for God and His people.

26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!



76

(Text: Isaiah 35:10) "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing,



77

with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Isaiah 35:10.



78

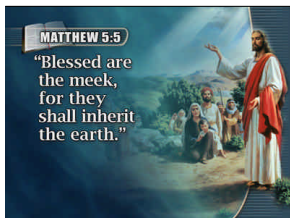
Doesn't that sound exciting? It will be a wonderful, joyful celebration as the saved come each Sabbath to the Holy City to praise and sing and have fellowship.



79

Jesus said He is building us each a mansion. We'll enjoy that, but Isaiah said we too will build houses! Well, it seems that perhaps we will have a country home that we ourselves will build; Then each weekend we will go to the capitol and use our mansion in the city.

It may surprise you that this Earth is to be the future home of the saved, but it should not, for Jesus said,



80

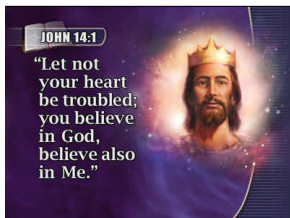
(Text: Matthew 5:5) "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5.

God is going to restore Planet Earth to its original perfection, and what a glorious New Earth that will be!



81

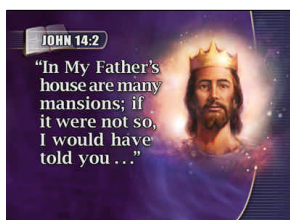
Perhaps you will remember some of the wonderful promises Jesus gave to His disciples and followers of all ages just before He returned to heaven:



82

(Text: John 14:1-3) "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me.

26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!



83

In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you...



84

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself;



85

that where I am, there you may be also." John 14:1-3. The model prayer that Jesus taught His disciples says,



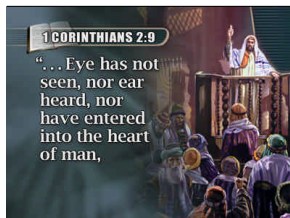
86

(Text: Matthew 6:10) "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10. Here we see that Jesus asks us to pray for the restoration of all things.



87

Now, let's consider in more detail the magnificent city John saw in vision on the Isle of Patmos. It seems as if the prophet had a hard time finding words to express the grandeur of the Holy City. You might be thinking about the text in the Bible that says,



88

(Text: 1 Corinthians 2:9) "...Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man,



89

the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 1 Corinthians 2: 9. But wait a minute! Most people fail to read the next verse that says,



90

(Text: 1 Corinthians 2:10) "But God has revealed them unto us through His Spirit." You see, God has revealed these things by the Holy Spirit to the prophets, who wrote them down for us. And no doubt, the half has not been told!

26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!



91

Friends, that's the way it was with John and Isaiah and all the prophets.

It's all true—and the half has not been told!

When John unfolds the details of the Holy City, it seems just too fabulous to be true.

But we have God's Word for it!

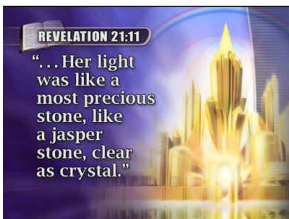


92

John said he saw a new heaven and a new earth, and that there was no more sea.

Then he saw the Holy City descending out of heaven.

He then tells us all about the city:

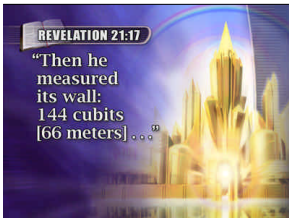


93

REVELATION 21:11

"... Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal."

(Text: Revelation 21:11) "The light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal." Revelation 21:11.



94

REVELATION 21:17

"Then he measured its wall: 144 cubits [66 meters] ..."

(Text: Revelation 21:17) It had a high wall—144 cubits, or 66 meters high (verse 17).

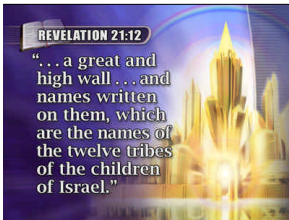


95

REVELATION 21:21

"The twelve gates were twelve pearls ..."

(Text: Revelation 21:21, 12) There were 12 gates made of pearl.



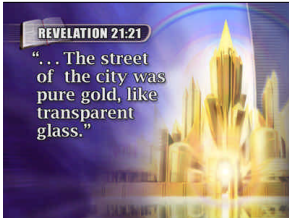
96

REVELATION 21:12

"... a great and high wall ... and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel."

So there are pearly gates!

And, on these gates are written the names of the 12 tribes of the children of Israel (verse 21, 12).



97

REVELATION 21:21

"... The street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass."

(Text: Revelation 21:21) The streets and the city were pure gold, transparent as glass (verses 18 and 21).

26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME



99



00



101



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104



05



15

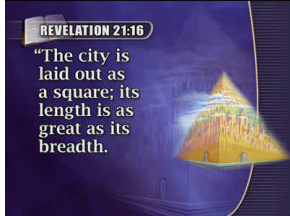
26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!



106

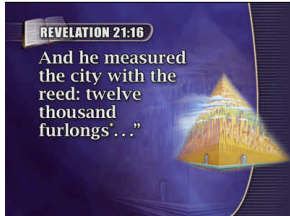
nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things are passed away.” Revelation 21:4.

Perhaps you are wondering how big the Holy City is. John gives exact details as to the size of this city:



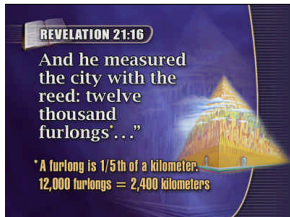
107

(Text: Revelation 21:16) “And the city is laid out as a square,



108

and he [that is, the angel] measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs.”



109

[A furlong is one-eighth of an English mile—thus 12,000 furlongs would be about 2400 kilometers around].

Revelation 21:16.

Ancient cities were measured by the distance around the outside walls.

**So the city would be approximately 375 miles on each side
And perhaps you are wondering if this city will be large enough for the saved.**



110

Tokyo has nearly 35 million people living in the city.



111

Greater New York City houses over 20 million people.



112

Seoul and Mexico City also have nearly 20 million each.

26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!



113

One mathematician has estimated that the New Jerusalem, however, could house two billion people!
In other words, there will be room for everyone who wants to be there.
But what will keep us busy in such a wonderful place?



114

No crime, no sickness, no hunger or disease—just peace and harmony forever!
It sounds as if we will do a lot of things:



115

Build our country dream home, plant our own vineyards.
Jesus, the Creator, will be there to open to us the mysteries of Creation.

We will never quit learning new things.
We will be able to travel any time we wish.
We will have time to be with our friends and loved ones.



116

And each weekend we will spend at our city home, praising God and singing with the angels and Jesus—our special time to fellowship with our Lord.



117

Well, you may ask, “How can we be certain that we can be there?”
The answer is simple—yet some people try to make it so complex.
The Bible, our master key, says:



118

(Text: Galatians 3:29) “And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”
Galatians 3:29.



119

In other words, if you accept Jesus as your Saviour and Lord, then you are Abraham’s seed and an heir of the same promise made to him.

26 – THE BEST IS YET TO COME!



120

As we study the Bible, it is interesting to notice that the first three chapters tell how God created the world and the paradise home for Adam and Eve. But Adam and Eve lost it all.



121

The last three chapters of the Bible give us a preview of God's plan to restore what Adam and Eve lost—a beautiful tomorrow where our fondest dreams will come true!



122

Friend, are you homesick for that beautiful tomorrow—for heaven?
Don't you want to be there?
God gives you the invitation:



123

(Text: Revelation 22:17) "The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come'."
Revelation 22:17.

[Suggested Appeal:]

Don't put it off!

You can be a part of God's fabulous tomorrow.

Invite Him into your heart and heaven will be your home!