

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

Revelation 21:9-14, 22-27
Sunday, November 13, 2016
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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Who is the wife of the Lamb? Who is the Lamb? What does their relationship mean to you?

The Bride of Christ, the Church, all those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ, Who died a sacrificial death on the cross as the Lamb of God so God could justly and mercifully forgive sinners, cleanse them from sin, and grant them eternal life.

As a follower of Jesus Christ, I am a member of the Church and united with God in Christ, similar to the loving relationship between a husband and wife.

2. What is the Holy City, Jerusalem?

The Holy is the Church, that God is preparing to be the wife of His Son.

3. What precious jewel did John compare to the brilliance of the Holy City? Since John did not tell us, what might the stone's qualities represent?

Jasper. Jasper is most often red and includes other colors. In the Holy City, jasper retains its color, but is clear and not opaque. The stone's qualities may represent the purity of believers in Jesus Christ from every nation who are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb and are in the Church, the Holy City.

4. What did the Holy City's walls and gates represent since the gates were never shut?

The gates represented the twelve tribes of Israel or the Old Testament, including the teachings about Jesus the Messiah who was to fulfill Old Testament prophecy. Those

who come into the Holy City (the Church) come in through believing the Bible is true, including the Old Testament. The foundations of the city's walls represented the twelve Apostles, whose teachings and writings became the New Testament and supported the walls of the Church that define the difference between what is true and false about God. Therefore, the Bible teaches the truth of God and the facts about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The walls surround the truth of God and define what the truth of God is: the words of the Bible are the true Word of God written and the Bible teaches about the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us. The gates were never shut because all believers in Jesus Christ are welcome and encouraged to come into the Holy City, the Church, at any time to honor and praise God. The gates need never be shut because there is no danger from evil or godless people on the new earth.

5. What are some of the benefits of the Holy City coming down from heaven to the new earth?

As followers of Jesus Christ, God will dwell with and in us and we can dwell with and in God. We will be able to see and experience God in ways beyond what is currently possible. We will be at complete peace with God and others, and nothing will ever be able to interfere with our loving and peaceful relationships with God and others.

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