

**Revelation 21:9-14**            The Bride's *Initial Manifestation*

Here we see 7 things...

- 1-The bride = the city = the people of God inhabiting the new heavens & earth.
- 2-The bride/New Jerusalem is in stark contrast to the harlot/Babylon.
- 3- The New Jerusalem is the work of God (coming down out of heaven).
- 4-The New Jerusalem adorned with God's glory.
- 5-The New Jerusalem is eternally secure and missing none (the walls).
- 6-The New Jerusalem is entered only thru being engrafted into the true Israel of God (the gates).
- 7-The foundation of the New Jerusalem is the apostolic witness/doctrine concerning the Lamb.

**Revelation 21:15-17**            The Bride's *Detailed Measurement*

- 1-In terms of its Size (immense; compact; precise; protected).
- 2-In terms of its Shape (a fulfillment of the holy of holies).
- 3-In terms of its Application (size & shape).

**Revelation 21:18-21**            The Bride's *Dazzling Materials*

- 1-In terms of Priestly Access (12 precious stones point to the fulfillment of the 12 stones on the high priest's breastplate).
- 2-In terms of Preciousness (purity & adornment speaks of God's preparation of a bride for His Son).

**Revelation 21:22-23; 22:4**    The Bride's *Definitive Magnificence*

- 1-In His temple presence.
- 2-In His illuminating glory.
- 3-In our beholding His face.

## **The Eternal Employments of the Righteous - Noble Service!**

**Matthew 25:21**, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord."

**Luke 19:17**, "Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities."

**Revelation 14:13**, Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

**Revelation 21:24**, And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory into it.

**Revelation 22:3, 5b**, And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him....And they shall reign forever and ever.

*Several hints that we may be able to conclude from above:*

1. Eternity will not be a place of idleness. We will still be creatures subject to time.
2. As the garden is restored and secured, it is fitting that there will be work and labor to carry out as well as worship. Think of the three "creation ordinances": wedlock, work, and worship. Wedlock is fulfilled in the Bridegroom/bride relationship - hence there is a continuity which continues. What of work and worship? If we are still creatures of time (which seems indisputable) then how will we relate to work and worship? What of the sabbath? What of our worship of our triune God through the God-man Jesus Christ? Will our worship not be "local" in that we will not be able to be in more than one place at a time, and the glorified God-man will be but visible in one place? There is much food for thought here...
3. This work is specifically spoken of as serving the Lord and reigning with the Lord.
4. This serving of the Lord appears to include an exercising of responsibility.
5. The dividing up of this responsibility appears to be based upon how we live in this world.
6. As our works shall follow us, and as our works are spoken of as the glory and honor of the nations, it appears that what we are by God's grace in this life, and what we have become by God's grace in this life, will be brought with us into eternity.
7. From this it follows that the development of our gifts in time will fit us for (further) service in eternity.
8. This appears to include all of our gifts, aptitudes and faculties, such as: intellectual, organizational, investigational, and relational being filled to their full capacity to be used for God's glory, the good of the body, and the good of self, for all of eternity.