

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 57 (PART 2)

PICTURE OF ETERNITY

REVELATION 21:9 - 22:5 | *PART 2*



IHOP - ONE THING MINISTRIES



In the last session, we looked at Revelation 21:1–8, which is the last part of the final chronological section of the Book of Revelation, detailing the New Jerusalem on the New Earth during eternity.

Today we will look at Revelation 21:9 to 22:5, **which is the parenthetical section that describes the New Jerusalem during the Millennial Kingdom.** After building the Millennial Temple at the start of the Millennial Kingdom, Jesus will call down New Jerusalem from heaven. It will descend partially and rest above the Millennial Jerusalem (Rev. 21:10).

This passage gives us a picture of the New Jerusalem in two views:

**(1) THE EXTERNAL VIEW
OF THE CITY, WHICH IS
THE ULTIMATE HOLY OF
HOLIES (REV. 21:9-21).**

Seeing the beauty, majesty, vastness and architecture of the city will cause us to be awestruck.

**(2) THE INTERNAL VIEW
OF THE CITY, WHICH IS
THE ULTIMATE GARDEN OF
EDEN (REV. 21:22 - 22:5).**

Seeing the fullness of eternal life and the pleasures found in loving God in this city will inspire us to love Him!



Throughout history, the Holy of Holies and the Garden of Eden are the two places where God met with men. The Father has brought full and complete restoration of both through the New Jerusalem.

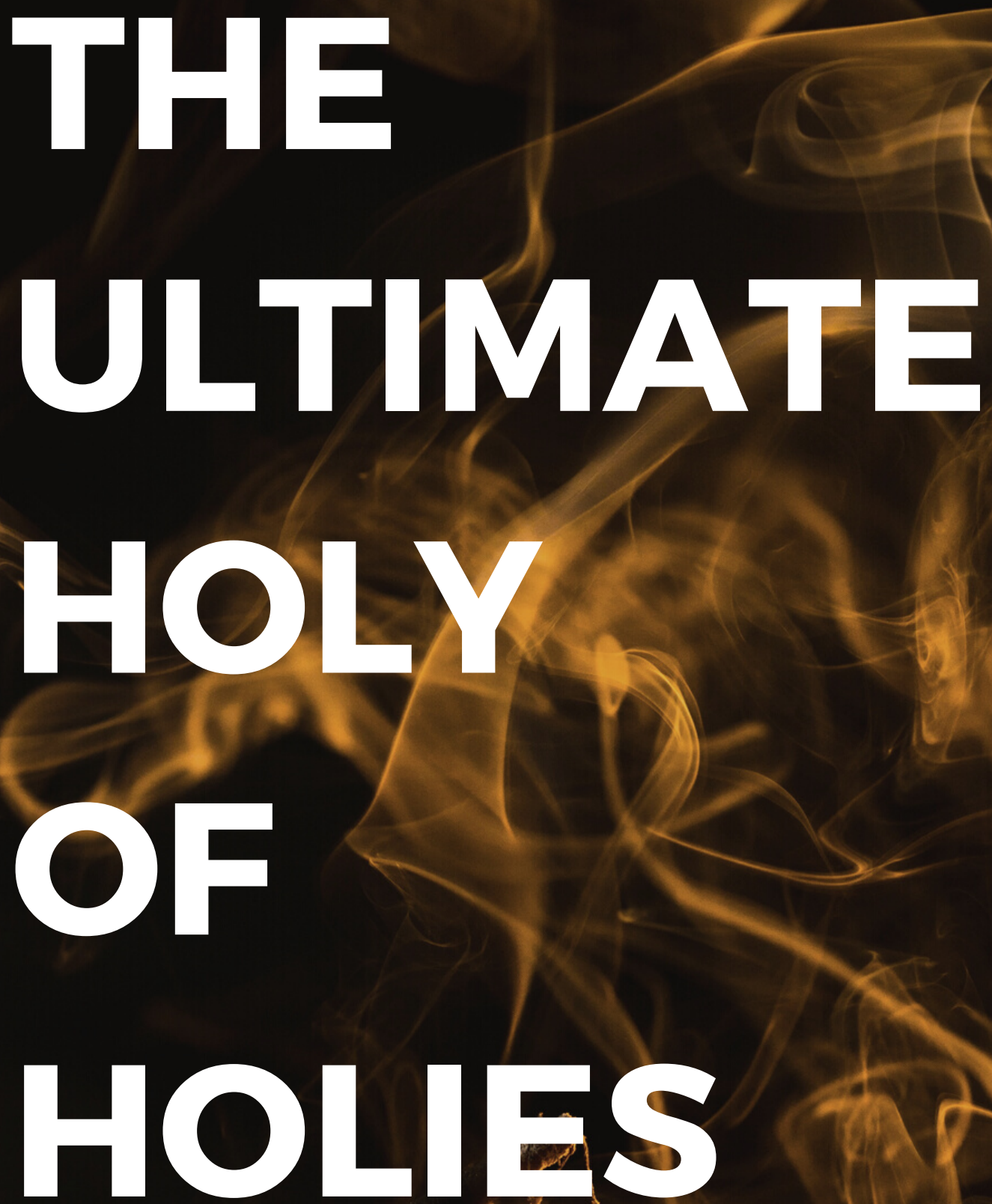
In Revelation 21:9, John was shown the New Jerusalem by one of the angels that released the seven bowls.



Why did God appoint the same angel in one of the Bowl judgements to speak to John about New Jerusalem? **This is because the judgement and glory aspect of God are two sides of the same coin.** It is through the judgement of God that He removes every wickedness and evil, and brings forth His perfect plan for humanity.

In the context of the individual, judgement is removing everything that hinders love. In the context of the city, judgement is removing everything that hinders New Jerusalem from coming down to the earth.

The New Jerusalem is called the Bride, the Lamb's wife. This is the highest title, the most sacred and intimate title that the city can get.



THE ULTIMATE HOLY OF HOLIES



Revelation 21:11–21 describes the external view of the city, which is the ultimate Holy of Holies.

Verse 11 describes the glory of New Jerusalem. The city has the glory of God, and her light was like that of a jasper stone.

Jasper is a diamond-like stone that shines with beautiful brilliant light. In Revelation 4:3, the Father is described as being like a jasper stone in appearance.

**IF THE CITY IS THE BRIDE
AND THE BRIDE IS THE
CITY, IT MEANS THAT
WHEN WE BECOME THE
MATURE BRIDE, WE WILL
LOOK LIKE THE FATHER!**

Wow!

Verses 12–21 give us the design, structure, beauty and size of the New Jerusalem. The design of the city is like that of the Holy of Holies in the Temple of Solomon, in the form of a cube (1 Kings 6:19–20).

Verses 12–13 tell us that the city is built with great and high walls having a total of 12 gates. Each of the gates is guarded by an angel.

In the context of cities, walls usually speak of protection. But for the case of the New Jerusalem, there is no external threat from enemies. The great and high walls represent the eternal security God gives to His people.



The walls are great because of their architectural feat. They are made of jasper, and they emit the glory of God (Rev. 21:18)!

There are 12 gates, three on each side of the walls, and the names of the 12 tribes of Israel are written on the gates. The walls of the city had 12 foundations, and the names of the 12 apostles were written on them (Rev. 21:14).

Having the names of the 12 tribes of Israel and 12 apostles written is a statement of God's faithfulness. He puts their names down because of the covenant He has made, which will last forever.



The size of New Jerusalem is huge (Rev. 21:16). The length, breadth and height of the city are equal, each measuring 1380 miles. Can you imagine how high this city will extend above the earth when the Kármán line (where the earth ends and outer space begins) is only around 62 miles above the earth's surface?

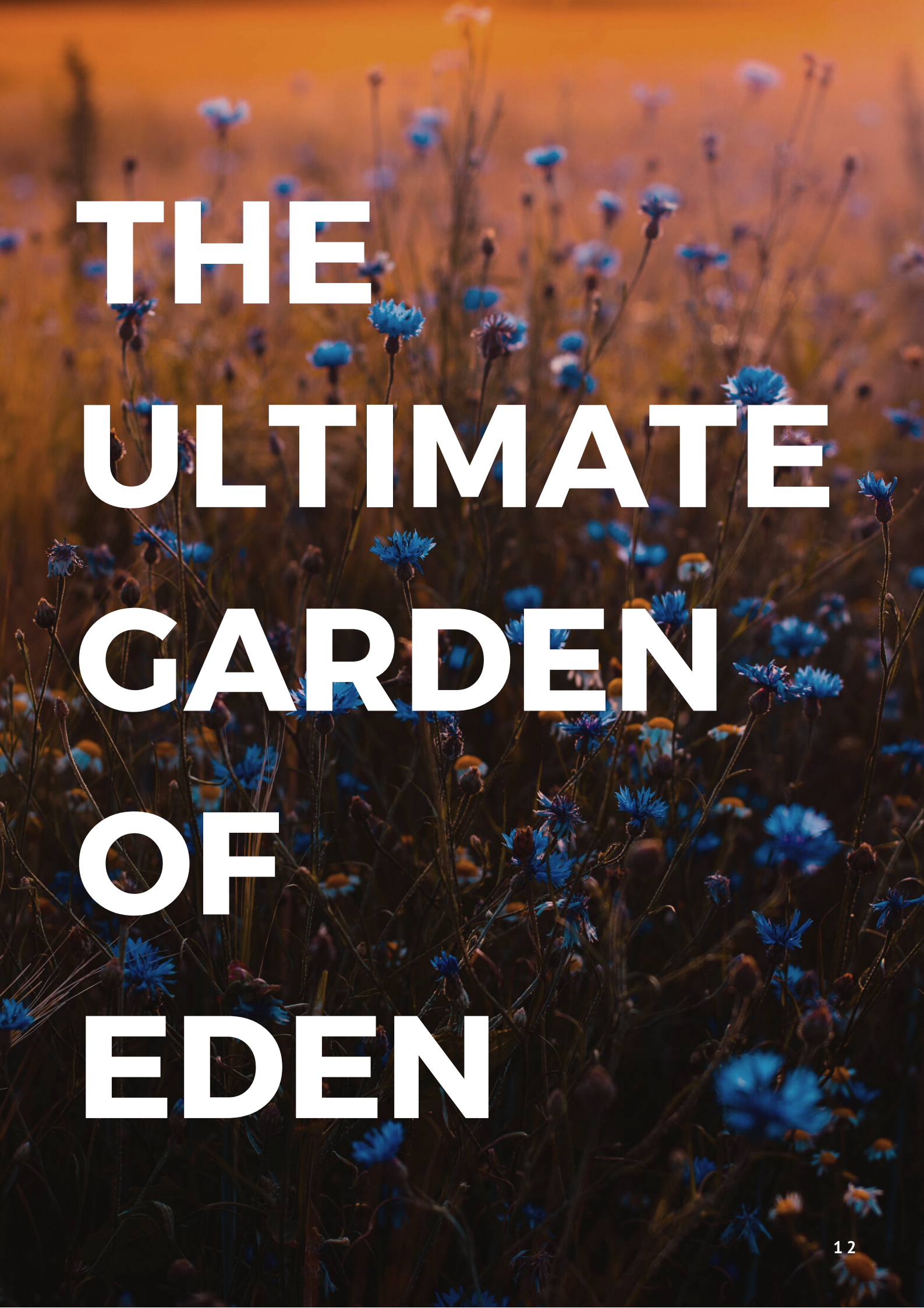
Verse 19 tells us that the foundations of the walls were adorned with 12 precious stones, which reveal the beauty of the city. Each stone represents an aspect of God. This reminds us of the breastplate of the high priest in Exodus 28:15-30, which also carries 12 stones. The 12 stones represent the 12 tribes of Israel.





Once a year, the high priest enters the Holy of Holies to minister to God and fellowship with Him face to face.

THE MAJOR FUNCTION OF THE CITY IS TO BRING US INTO DEEP INTIMACY AND FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.



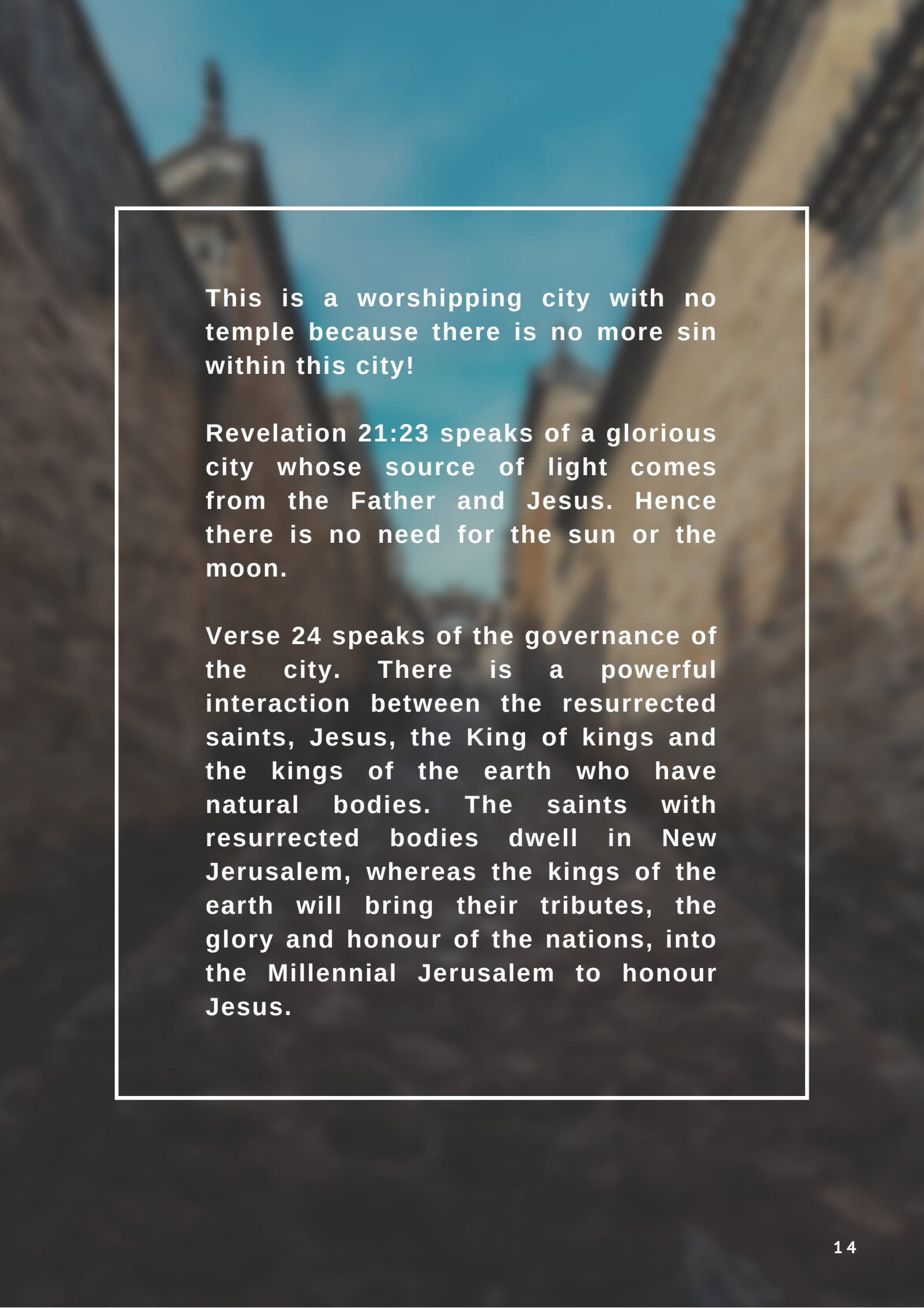
THE ULTIMATE GARDEN OF EDEN



Revelation 21:22 – 22:5 gives us an internal view of the city, the ultimate Garden of Eden.

Revelation 21:22 is about a worshipping city with no temple. Though there is work, the focal point of New Jerusalem is worship. To understand why there is no temple, we have to understand its function.

God's temple exists because there is sin. Sinful man cannot encounter the Holy God face to face. God dwells in the Holy of Holies, and only the high priest who is properly sanctified and whose sins are atoned for can meet Him in the Holy of Holies once a year.



This is a worshipping city with no temple because there is no more sin within this city!

Revelation 21:23 speaks of a glorious city whose source of light comes from the Father and Jesus. Hence there is no need for the sun or the moon.

Verse 24 speaks of the governance of the city. There is a powerful interaction between the resurrected saints, Jesus, the King of kings and the kings of the earth who have natural bodies. The saints with resurrected bodies dwell in New Jerusalem, whereas the kings of the earth will bring their tributes, the glory and honour of the nations, into the Millennial Jerusalem to honour Jesus.



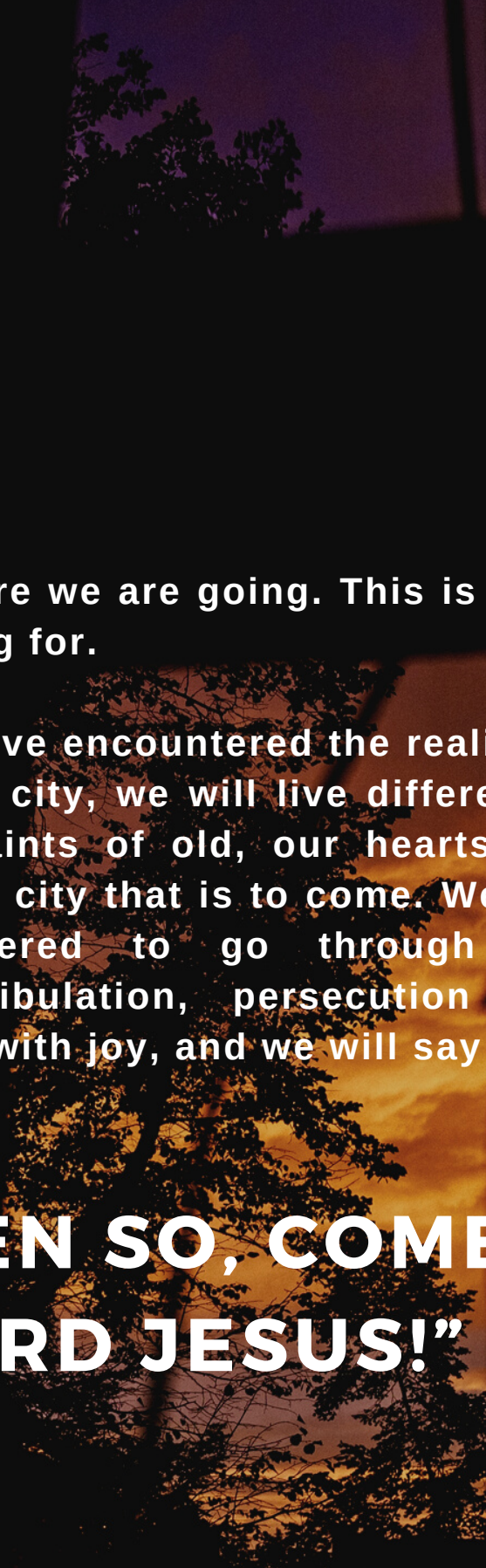
Revelation 21:25 tells us that the gates of the city shall not be shut. This is because it is a safe city. Verse 27 again emphasises that New Jerusalem will be a city with no sin because of the Lamb who has paid the price.

Revelation 22:1–5 is a picture of life in the eternal city, the ultimate Garden of Eden. **The complete fullness of eternal life is found in abundance in this city!**

**WE WILL DRINK FROM THE PURE
WATERS OF THE RIVER OF LIFE, EAT
FROM THE FRUIT OF THE TREES OF
LIFE, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE
WILL KNOW THE FATHER INTIMATELY
BECAUSE WE WILL SEE HIM FACE TO
FACE. IT IS THROUGH THAT DEEP
INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP OF KNOWING
THE FATHER AND JESUS THAT WE
HAVE THE FULLNESS OF ETERNAL LIFE.**

- JOHN 17:3 -

**There will be no more curse, only
blessings, and we will serve the Father
in love with great joy (Rev. 22:3, Isa.
65:18-19; 66:10). We will be full of zeal,
passion, energy and vitality, and we will
partner and reign together with God
forever and ever!**



This is where we are going. This is what we are living for.

When we have encountered the reality of this eternal city, we will live differently. Like the saints of old, our hearts will long for the city that is to come. We will be empowered to go through the greatest tribulation, persecution and martyrdom with joy, and we will say...

**“EVEN SO, COME,
LORD JESUS!”**



IHOP - ONE THING MINISTRIES

www.onethingministries.net