

## FL102 Understanding Symbols - The New Jerusalem

Symbols represent things other than themselves. Here's one — silver represents knowledge. The Bible is a silver mine and you a likely prospector. Learn how to dig and you can become wealthy in the knowledge and wisdom of the Lord. The colorful "New Jerusalem" reveals several of God's vast treasures. I will use it to help you see how symbols reveal God's mysteries.

The Book of Revelation divides into seven large parts. Each of the 1st 6 parts subdivides into 10 Bible stories. These begin with Christ and the Church and end with the Battle of Armageddon. The 7th part subdivides into 5 Bible stories. These deal with the Millennial Kingdom. The 2nd and 3rd stories tell of "new Jerusalem."

Here are the five stories. The titles are mine. "S" represents Story.

S1: Satan and the bottomless pit	20:1-15
S2: New Jerusalem & the Lamb's Wife	21:1-14
S3: The Holy City	21:15-27
S4: The Tree of Life	22:1-12
S5: Invitation to enter	22:13-21

Re 21:16: *And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, 12,000 furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.*

### The Size of New Jerusalem

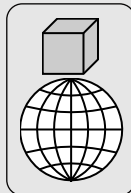
The size of this city is inconceivable. "THE INTERPRETER'S DICTIONARY OF THE BIBLE" shows one furlong equal to 660 feet: [660 x 12,000 = 7,282,000 feet]. Divide this by the number of feet in a mile — [7,920,000 ÷ 5,280] = 1,500 miles.

That's right, this city is fifteen hundred miles in length, width and height. Because all sides are equal, it has the form of a cube.

Now, the area of each face is 2,250,000 square miles. To get an idea of how large this is, the "lower 48 states" in the US is 3,370,258 sq. miles. If this city descended on these 48 states, it would occupy 66.7 percent of the country.

Let's compare one face to Israel. The present land area is 8,630 square miles. Thus, each face of the city is 260.7 times larger than the State of Israel.

Also, the sides of a cube are flat, and the face of the earth is round. Try putting this enormous cube on the earth and you have a problem. Flat and round surfaces don't merge very well. And there are more issues



John saw this city descend in S2 as the "New Jerusalem." Watching this sight would be like seeing an African Bush Elephant sit upon a Mexican Chihuahua.

It should be clear now that this city cannot be real as it's portrayed. If it descended anywhere on earth, its top would extend into outer space.

NASA defines outer space as starting 50 miles above the earth's surface. The Space Station is about 5 times higher than the earth [248 miles], and the top of the city would extend another 1,252 miles beyond the Station.

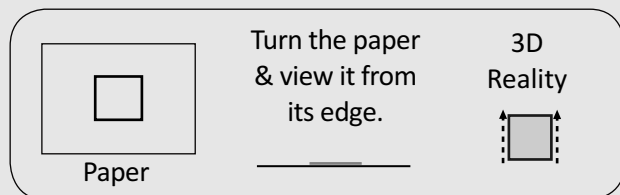
### The Six Faces

New Jerusalem is a symbol. It represents something other than itself. Our text contains even more clues. [1] The city is foursquare (lengths and widths are equal). [2] It has three dimensions. And [3], its measure 12,000 also helps identify it. Let's begin with the city's squares.

All cubes have six square sides. Squares represent vows, i.e., covenants. The word "foursquare" identifies some biblical squares. Moses' Brass Altar is foursquare. Thus, the square shape of each face of the cube represents an oath. [I don't yet know if they represent one or six oaths.]

### The Three Dimensions

A square has only two dimensions. Draw one on a piece of paper. Hold it eye-level and look at the paper in line with the surface. The square is even less than the paper's thickness because the ink is the height of the square. So then, the ink represents something that doesn't exist.



Imagine a house blueprint. The plan is no thicker than the ink on the paper, even though certain symbols and drawings call for 3 dimensions. The house doesn't become real until the building materials give the plan its 3rd dimension.

Read ML105, "Kingdoms of Heaven and of God." This lesson describes the difference between plans and products.

### New Jerusalem's Number

The measure of the city is 12,000 furlongs. If you didn't study FL204, "Introduction to Bible Numerology" you should do so now. One page has a picture that defines the numbers 1-10. A second page explains why the numbers 11-19 are opposites of numbers 1-9. The lesson also describes the applications of 10s, 100s and 1000s.

When interpreting numbers in scriptures and dreams,

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with a few exceptions [they are so few I can't think of one now] you must break each number into its parts. You may have noticed that most numbers in the scriptures are broken apart. Here's an example:

Joh. 21:11: "Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken."

That verse is from the stories that tell of Christ's appearances after His resurrection. Each appearance fulfills one of three yearly appearances required of all males in Israel [De. 16:16]. These represent three kinds of NT church services.

Notice that V11 doesn't say one "hundred fifty-three" [153]. The conjunction "and" breaks the number apart. In both Testaments, this conjunction breaks most numbers apart. Thank the LORD for this help.

If you studied FL204, you know why 11-19 are opposites of 1-9. In 12,000, therefore, the 12 means the opposite of 2. Because 2 means divide, 12 means join, the whole thing, all there is, etc.

A story in Joshua makes this point clear. After a shameful defeat by the men of city Ai, Joshua and his army set up an ambush and overcame them. One scripture describes Joshua's victory like this: "And so it was, that all that fell that day, both of men and women, were 12,000, even all the men of Ai" [Jos. 8:25].

### Sides - Dimensions - Numbers

Now we can summarize what our clues revealed. The city descending from heaven will fulfill a covenant God made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Recall that Abraham "looked for a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God" [Heb. 11:10].

Concerning this city, it's safe to say that the cube's 6 faces show 3 views. The upper face shows God covenant over the inhabitants; the lower face shows the base, and the vertical faces show reality.

And 12,000 reveals this reality. Abraham and his seed will reign over this earth during the Millennial Kingdom.

That, my fellow traveler, is what this New Jerusalem teaches. But there's more to the story — symbols that build upon what we have learned.

### The City Wall

Re 21:17: And he measured the wall thereof, an 100 [&] 40 [&] 4 cubits, [according to] the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

Strong's Concordance describes this wall as "formative of

a house" [G5038]; akin to G5088, a verb used to show a mother birthing a baby. So then, this wall represents people. This scripture also compares 144 cubits to the measure of a man.

Focus on the unit of measure. A cubit is the length of a man's forearm from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger — about 18". Thus, the cubit and the wall relate to a man.

Next,  $[18" \times 144] \div 12" = 216'$ . This perimeter isn't large enough to surround one home, so it isn't large enough to go around the holy city. Thus, the math confirms that this wall doesn't refer to length but to the men within the city.

There's more: If this number [144] had included the symbol for maturity [1000], the 144 in this verse would be identical to the 144,000 servants with sealed foreheads in Rev 7:3-4.

There's also an OT symbol that represents the 144,000 servants. Toward the end of his work on the house of the LORD, Solomon made a molten sea:

1Ki 7:23: And he made a molten sea, ten cubits from the one brim to the other: it was round all about, and his height was five cubits: and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about.

Those measures give the physical size of this round sea, but V26 gives its liquid capacity. The volume of water it contains [2,000 Baths] represents the spirits [water represents spirit] of 144,000 people.

Here's how: Leviticus 14:21-24 instructs Levites on how to cleanse lepers. One offering for one leper was one Log of oil. One Log cleanses one leper, so 12 logs [one Hin] cleanses 12 lepers. Six Hin equals 72 Logs and 72 logs equal one Bath. One Bath cleanses 72 lepers so two Baths cleanses 144 lepers.

Now, the capacity of the molten sea is 2,000 Baths. Let's do the math:  $2,000 \times 72 = 144,000$ . Thus, the number of spirits cleansed by these offerings is the same as the number of those singing a new song [Re 14:1-3].

Saul served as king during the Law; David served as king during Grace, and Solomon's reign represents the coming Millennial. He made the molten sea toward the end of building the temple. So, it's no wonder that God gave him symbols of future things during his earthly reign.

### The New Heaven & Earth

The Millennial will be the last Kingdom on this earth. So, the "new earth" in our next scripture will not be another Planet Earth, neither will God re-model this earth. [All nouns in this text are symbols — read the last phrase.]

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Re 21:1: *And I saw a new heaven & a new earth: for the first heaven & the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

After the great flood, God said this: “*While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease*” [Ge. 8:22]. God could not continue fulfilling this promise without the sea being part of the coming kingdom. The next verse identifies this New Heaven and Earth:

Re 21:2: *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

Heavens represent minds; the earth represents peoples, hosts of these minds. There are 3 figurative heavens: [1] carnal mind, [2] mind of Christ, and [3] mind of God.

There are two figurative earths: The first Adam and the last Adam [1Co. 15:42-47]. Jesus took on Himself the form of the 1st Adam [Php. 2:7], and after His resurrection He took on the form of the Last Adam [2Co. 3:17]. The city John saw coming from heaven represents the bride of Christ, the immortal bodies of Christ and the saints. Thus, the “new heaven and earth” is the holy city.

### The Lamb's Wife

Did you see in Re. 21:2 that God prepared the holy city as a bride adorned for her husband? And in this text, an angel shows John the bride:

Re 21:9-10: *...Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great & high mountain, & shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.*

John didn't see a woman in a wedding dress with a long white train. He saw *the holy city* called “*holy Jerusalem*,” the cube we have been discussing.

Let's do a brief review: [1] An enormous cube represents the New Jerusalem. [2] The measure the city [12,000] represents its government. [3] Its wall represents this city's inhabitants. And these three symbols represent the Lamb's wife, the Bride of Christ.

Now, there's one more major point to cover. I discussed how the city's enormous size would prevent it from sitting on the earth. Flat and round surfaces don't match. I also said that the city couldn't be real as it's portrayed.

However, I didn't explain how new Jerusalem will fit on the earth. I saved this for last; other details had to come first. New Jerusalem will easily fit on the earth because cubes are simplistic forms of spheres.

### How Cubes become Spheres

God uses objects made with straight lines to represent natural things. He uses objects made with curved lines to represent spiritual things.

However, circles and spheres are difficult to work with because the  $\pi$  [3.1416] symbol is infinite. So then, to represent spiritual things, God uses squares instead of circles and cubes instead of spheres.

Christ and His immortal saints [His Bride] will descend to all the countries on earth following the rapture and the seven vials of wrath.

John saw the city descend in one vision [Re. 21:1-2] and he saw the Bride descend in another vision [Re 21:9-10]. In Re. 21:3, John heard a voice say that the Tabernacle of God is with men. This ties new Jerusalem to the bride because she is God's tabernacle. And Re. 21:2 does the opposite, it ties the bride to the city.

This lesson has shown the fulfillment of these three and other scriptures not listed here:

Isa. 9:6-7: *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

Da. 2:34-35: *Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. ...and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.*

Re. 11:15: *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*