I. DESIGNED TO BEHOLD BEAUTY

A. God has intentionally designed and wired humans to be naturally drawn, desire, appreciate, delight and be fascinated with beauty. Whether it's a breathtaking sunset, magnificent mountains, a field clothed with natural flowers, beautiful music, architecture, or the face of someone we love.

B. Beauty has an amazing ability to capture our attention, stir our emotions, and awaken a sense of wonder inside of us.

C. Neuroscientists have discovered that when we experience something beautiful, regions of the brain associated with reward and pleasure become active. In other words, beauty is not merely something we see; it is something we are capable of deeply enjoying.

D. We were created with a longing for beauty, but nothing in this present world can compare to the breathtaking and unimaginable beauty that awaits us in eternity,

II. THE BEAUTIFUL GOD

A. The Bible describes God as infinitely beautiful, not merely in outward appearance, but in His holiness, glory, majesty, splendor, perfection, and the excellence of His character.

B. One of the most remarkable truths in scripture is that God is not only the Creator of everything beautiful; He Himself is the source and perfection of all beauty.

C. God reminds Job of His clothing in Job 40:10:

1. ***Can you adorn yourself with majesty and splendor, and array yourself with glory and <u>beauty</u>?***

D. The Psalmists spoke about God's beauty:

1. ***Out of Zion, <u>the perfection of beauty,</u> God will shine forth.-Ps 50:2***

2. ***And <u>let the beauty of the LORD our God</u> be upon us,-Ps 90:17***

E. The prophet Isaiah described the beautiful entrance of Jesus back to the earth:

1. ***In that day the <u>Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful</u> and glorious;-Is 4:2***

F. If this fallen world still displays such extraordinary beauty that can move our heart to awe, imagine the breathtaking beauty and glory that awaits us with the new heavens and new earth, where the curse of sin will be removed and the fullness of God's glory will illuminate everything!

III. TODAY'S STUDY

A. In today's study, John invites us into his breathtaking vision of the New Jerusalem, where he seeks to describe the extraordinary beauty and glory of God's eternal city.

IV. REVELATION 21:9-21

1. ***9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. 12 Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.14 Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. 16 The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand [k]furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. 17 Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. 18 The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the***

first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald.

V. VRS 9

1. ***9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."***

B. The same angels who introduced the judgment of the Harlot Babylon in Revelation 17 now reveal the glorious Bride, the New Jerusalem. This striking parallel appears to present a deliberate contrast between Satan's counterfeit city and worldly bride, with the New Jerusalem, representing the redeemed Bride of Christ.

VI. THE BRIDEGROOM GOD

A. Verse 9 gives us an insight to the relationship of the church with Jesus in the eternal state. John is shown the Bride, the Lambs wife(Jesus)

B. The bible reveals the glorious consummation of God's eternal purpose,which is to redeem a family for Himself and prepare a Bride for His Son, a people who will dwell in intimate fellowship with Christ, share in His eternal inheritance, and reign with Him forever.

C. Jesus didn't die on the cross so He can just have servants and workers who obey Him, but a Bride who knows His heart, is equally yoked with Him, loves Him wholeheartedly, and shares in His eternal glory.

1. ***"For your Maker is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth."-Is 54:5***

2. ***For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you; and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So shall your God rejoice over you.-Is 62:5***

D. John the Baptist, Jesus' forerunner understood the burning desire of Jesus as a passionate Bridegroom King.

1. ***"He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of***

the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled."-Jn 3:29

E. I believe that as we draw closer to the return of Jesus, the Holy Spirit will increasingly awaken the Church to her identity as the Bride of Christ. He is preparing a Bride whose heart is captivated by love for her Bridegroom, and desire nothing more than to dwell with Him forever.

1. ***And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"-Rev 22:17***

VII. VRS 10-11

1. ***[10] And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, [11] having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.***

B. In Revelation 4 John the apostle was taken up to see the beauty realm of God where God sits and rules, and now in Revelation 21 He sees that same beauty realm descending out of heaven and coming to the earth.

C. In this verse, John describes the New Jerusalem using imagery that echoes his earlier vision of God's throne in Revelation 4.

D. Precious stones and brilliant colors, including jasper, crystal-like radiance, and emerald, appear in both descriptions, revealing a striking connection between the beauty of God's eternal dwelling place and the splendor of His divine glory.

1. *The beauty and splendor of New Jerusalem is a reflection of God who inhabits it.*

VIII. VRS 12-13

1. ***[12] Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: [13] three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.***

B. The high wall speaks of the eternal safety from evil that will never be present again. The twelve gates with the twelve tribes written on them declare that God has never forgotten His promises to Israel, while the gates facing every direction testify that His redemptive purposes embrace people from every nation.

IX. VRS 14

1. ***[14] Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.***

B. The twelve foundations of the New Jerusalem symbolize the unshakable stability and eternal permanence of God's holy city. Inscribed upon them are the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, whose testimony to Jesus Christ laid the foundation for the Church.

X. VRS 16-17 MEASUREMENT OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

1. ***[16] When he measured it, he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. In fact, its length and width and height were each 1,400 miles. [17] Then he measured the walls and found them to be 216 feet thick (according to the human standard used by the angel).***

B. John then sees an angel measure the New Jerusalem including its length, depth, height and walls. Its shape is like a perfect square where its length, breath, and height are all the same measurement of about 1400 miles.

XI. VRS 18

1. ***[18] The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.***

2. ***[21] The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city were pure gold, like transparent glass.***

B. John describes the eternal city as a transparent diamond where God's glory and light breaks through.

C. <u>This is our final destination, and the place Jesus is preparing for us.(John 14:1-4)</u>