

The 144,000 and New Jerusalem

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

In this verse the Lord uses literary devices called [personification](https://simple.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personification) and [simile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simile). <https://simple.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personification>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simile>

The observant Bible student will immediately be struck by the contrary nature of this great city and the great city described in Revelation 17 – Mystery Babylon, the great whore.

The two cities are [metaphors](https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/metaphor) for two distinct churches, each claiming to be Christ's true church.

<https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/metaphor>

Whereas Mystery Babylon has its origin in Rome, the city of 7 hills, ruled by the Dragon (Rev. 12:3; 13:4), New Jerusalem has its origin in Heaven, ruled by the true God.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God (verse 3).

In this verse the Lord dispels any confusion as to which church is the true church. The true church is a holy virgin (verse 2), faithful to the bridegroom, while the false church is an unfaithful harlot, fornicating with a plethora of false gods

whom she worships and serves with brazen abandon. Furthermore, she is the one who murders the true Christians, believing she is doing service to the true God (Rev. 17:6; John 16:2). She obediently follows the commands and character of her spiritual god and master, Satan (John 8:44).

And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

Having the glory of God (verses 9-11a).

This metaphor, which compares the city, holy Jerusalem, to that of the holy bride of Christ, His true church, has been established previously in Scripture:

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.....This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:25-32).

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ (2 Cor. 11:2).

This city/bride/church shines with the glory of God, as does the Woman described in Revelation 12, another metaphor for Christ's true church, as well as a synecdoche. For the one represents the many who comprise the elect bride of Christ. (cf. Rev. 12:1— 'clothed with the sun.')

The number 12 is predominant in chapter 21:

12 gates

12 angels

12 tribes

12 foundations

12 apostles

12 pearls

The number 12 is an allusion to Christ's true church consisting of its members and doctrines, both of which are pure, without the blemish of sin or error. Their purity is alluded to through use of metaphors which compare them to precious stones and street of pure gold.

[An interesting side note: verse 21 tells us the 12 gates, though 12 pearls, were also 1 pearl. The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price can be viewed likewise with a double meaning. The Pearl may be viewed as Christ, (the most popular view), but may also

be viewed as His Elect, whom He purchased with his own blood, Acts 20:28; 1Peter 1:18-19.]

12 is also a predominant number of the 144,000

144,000 is equivalent to $144 \times 1,000$.

144 has 12 as its root, thereby signifying these are they who will populate the holy city, Jerusalem, whose mystical number is 12.

The Holy City is a cube of 12,000 furlongs

This number is also found within the 144,000.

$12,000 \times 12 = 144,000$.

CONCLUSION

Our Lord has determined, from eternity, the number and names of those upon whom He willed to have mercy and compassion. Their names have always been written in the Lamb's Book of Life. They have been loved from eternity, predestined to be conformed in the image of His Son (Jeremiah 31:3; John 15:27; Romans 8:29; Rev. 1:5). This number cannot and will not be diminished nor enlarged, for the structure has been designed by a Divine Structural Engineer whose architectural plans are perfect and, as such, without need for change or improvement whatsoever.