

What do we need?

Purpose and hope?

- We need purpose and hope ...
- [we are teleological creatures! – not just for survival, but for purpose]
- Hopes:
 - Looking forward to holidays
 - Getting married
 - Getting good job
 - Overcoming climate change
 - Political stability and security
 - ... right to have hope, but what is the basis?
- → the Bible gives a secure hope for the future!

What do we need?

Children's fairy story ...

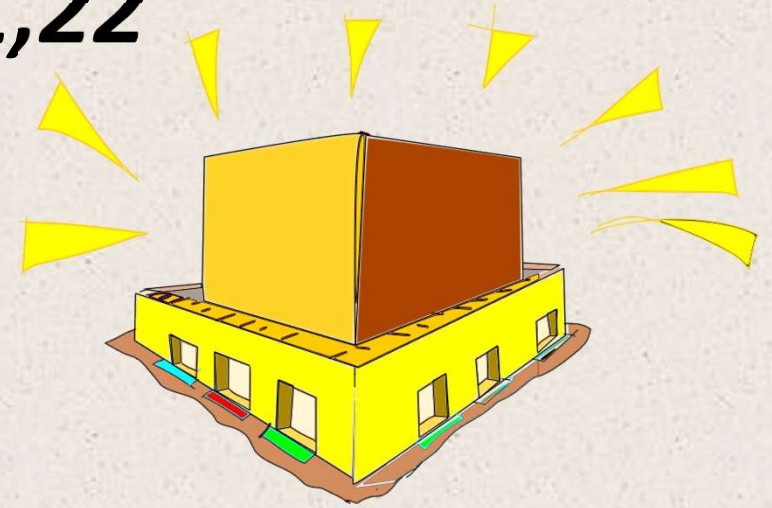
“they all lived happily ever after ...”

Here **Hope** consists of

- Absence of enemies
- Close happy relationship with people
- AND Close happy relationship with God
- For ever ...

- Here depicted as 21:2 *“the Holy City the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband”*

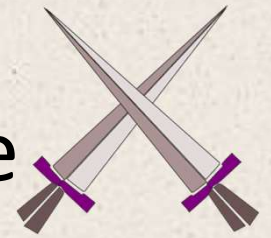
Final chapters 21,22



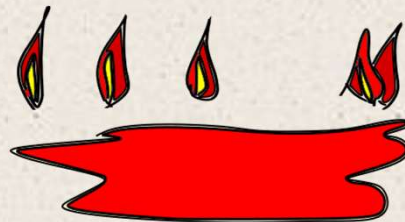
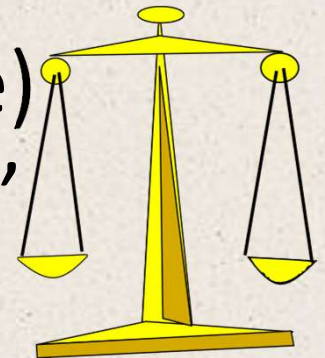
On previous times:

The rider on the white horse conquers

- enemies gruesomely defeated in battle
- lake of fire 20:10,14,21:8
- judgment (books of deeds, book of life)



And I saw “a new heaven and a new earth”
21:1,2



The book of revelation

It is a book in the Bible – for our edification, our survival and progress as Christians

It is an “**unveiling**”

– truth behind the appearance

It is in the form of a **letter**

- to ???? Churches

- letters are relevant to hearers

It is in the form of a **prophecy**

- telling them what is shortly going to happen

- behavioural implications of big picture

- horizon: from time of writing to end of the

world



The book of revelation



So far

- The seven churches
- The Lamb upon the throne
- The seven seals of world history → |
- The seven trumpets for repentance → |
- The war between the dragon and the woman (and her seed), the agents: beast and false prophet, image of the beast, harvest the final judgment → |
- Seven bowls of wrath → |
- The prostitute – Babylon – gloriously defeated
- Triumph of rider on white horse – images of end



Final chapters 21,22

21:1-8 voice and speech

21:9 -27 description of the bride/wife/city

22:1-5 river, tree, light

22:6 -21 concluding voices (angel, Lamb, Jesus, Spirit and Bride, writer, witness)

Final chapters 21,22

Let's follow John as he spells out this hope for us in this description of the city of God

➔ To provoke awe and wonder!

21:9 an angel of wrath is re-commissioned as “city guide”

21:10 “in the Spirit”, (to see

1:4 to risen Christ,

4:2 the throne,

17:3 the prostitute

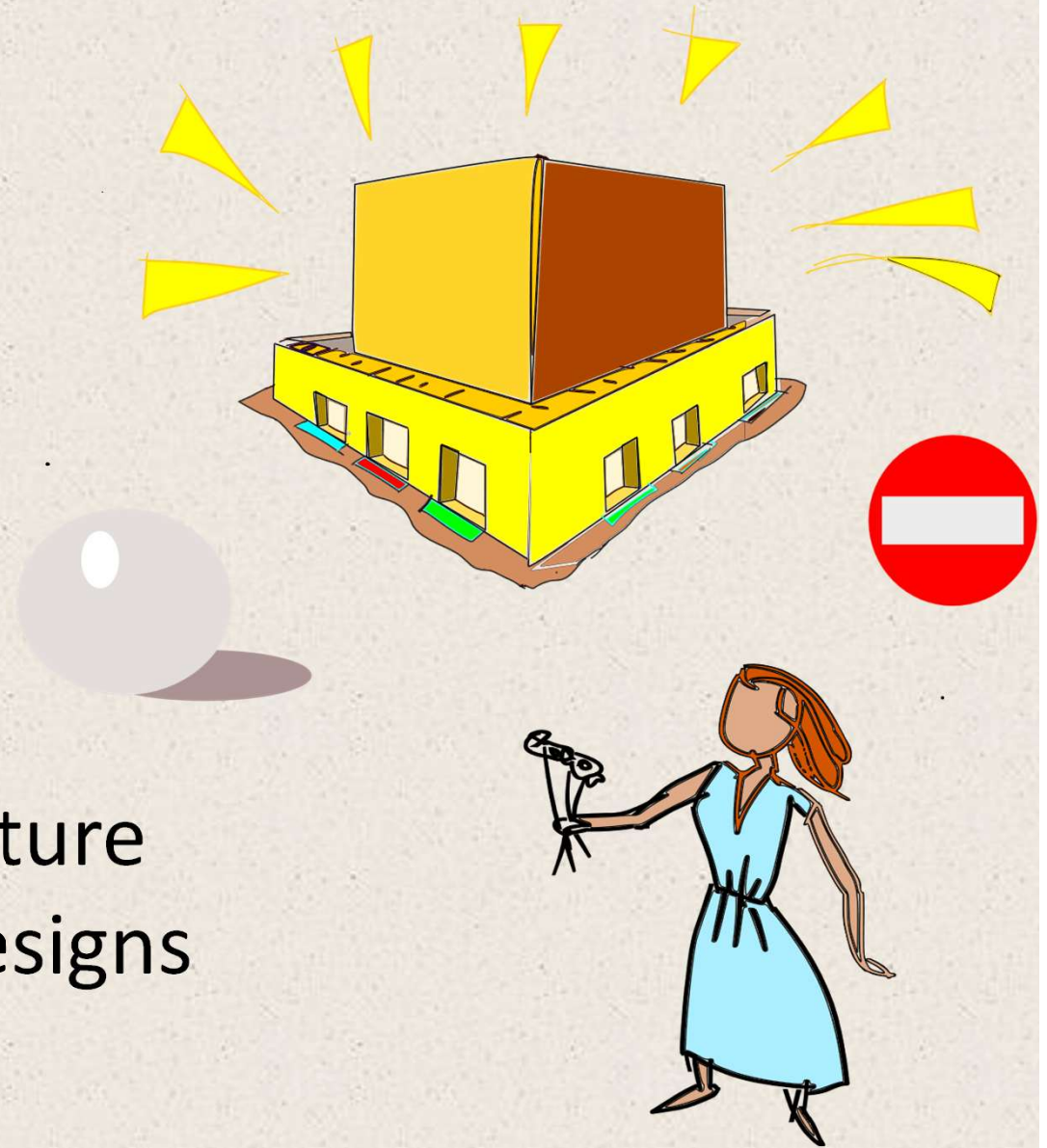
21:10 the bride)

➔ Something very special!

21:9 -27 description of the bride/wife

City

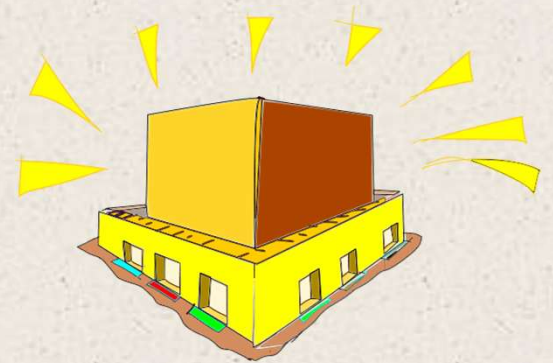
- Walls
- Gates
- Foundations
- Size
- Temple (absence of)
- Traffic
- → theological architecture
- // grandest of grand designs



21:9 -27 description of the bride/wife

Does the Bible ever do this anywhere else?

- *the tabernacle*
- *Zion the city (Psalm 122)*
- *the temple as built by Solomon*
- *the eschatological= future temple of prophecy*
- *the eschatological=future city idealised*

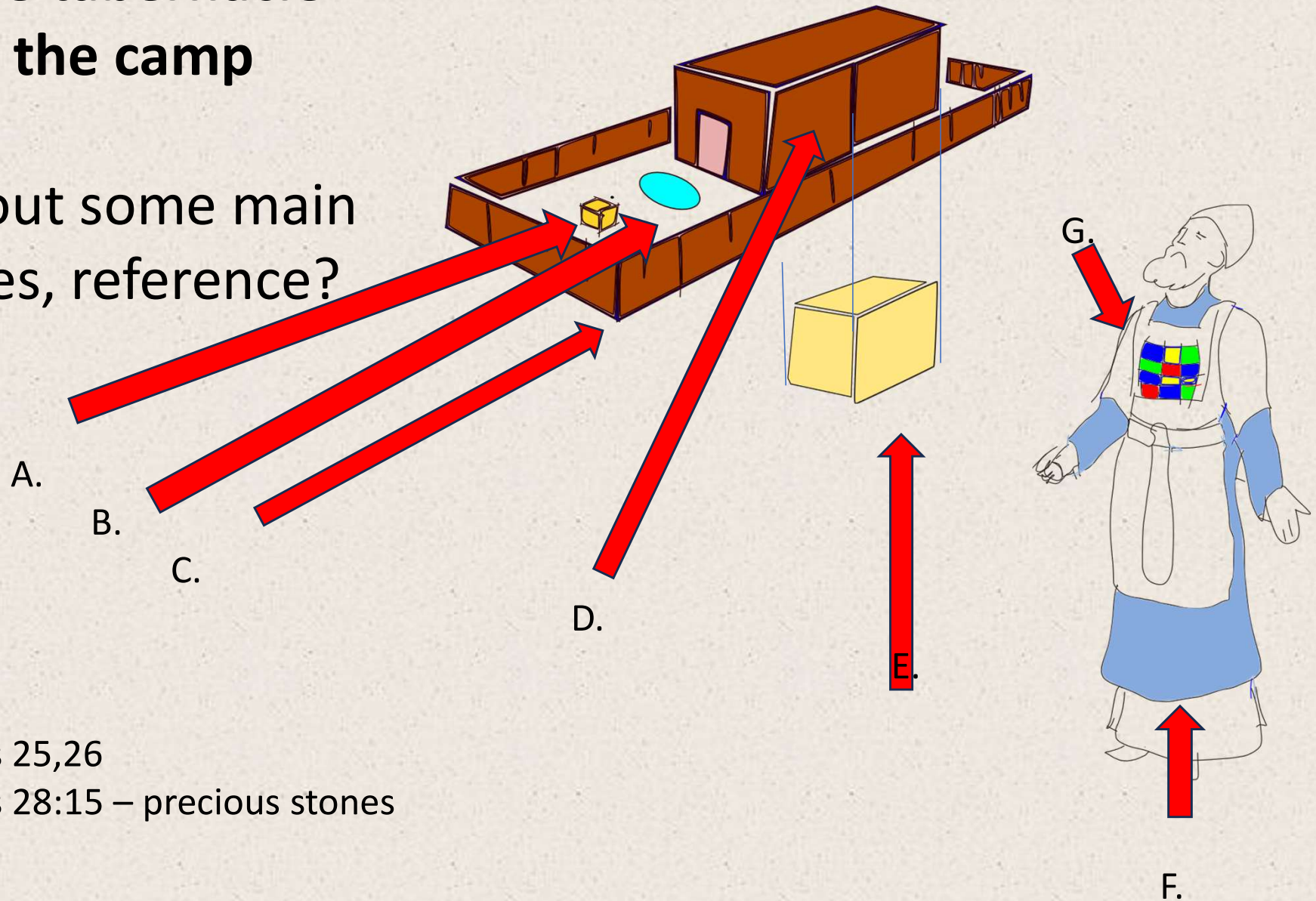


21:9 -27 description of the bride/wife

Theological architecture

A#1 the tabernacle within the camp

Point out some main
features, reference?



Exodus 25,26

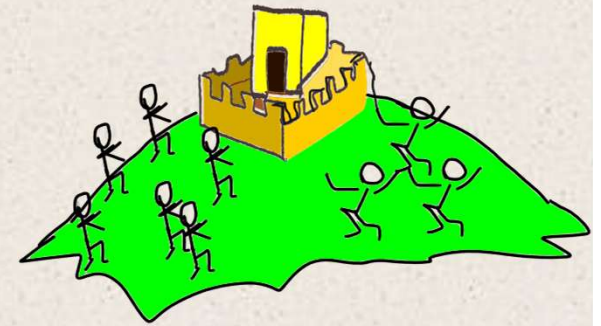
Exodus 28:15 – precious stones

21:9 -27 description of the bride/wife

Theological architecture

A#2 Solomon's temple within the city

- It is the LORD's house
- On top of the mountain
- It contains the most holy place [cubic] – gold covered, guarded by Cherubim
- It has courtyards of restricted access
- It is in a special holy part of the Holy City
- → Isaiah's vision 2:1-5
 - High mountain
 - International pilgrimage
 - International co-operation and peace
 - → the LORD's word rules (v.3)



21:9 -27 description of the bride/wife

Theological architecture

A#2 the future temple - as rebuilt after the exile

Ezekiel 40:1-5

Ezekiel 43:10-12

→ a OT vision with pattern/perfection, for future

→ convicts people of their sin

→ part of the fulfilment of ALL God's promises

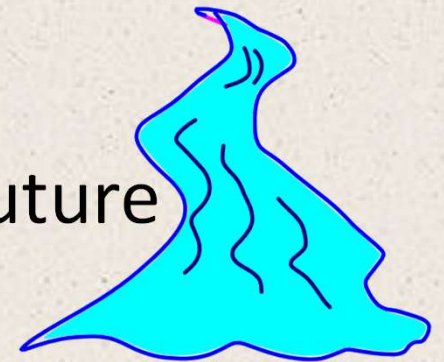
i.e. life from the dead 47:1 – healing river

place for God's people (land allocated 47,48)

city with gates 48:30, expansive size ~ 1.3 miles

the presence of the LORD 48:35

N.B. Jesus was very “pro-temple” “... destroy this temple and I will build it again in three days” John 2:19



21:9 -27 description of the bride/wife

N.B. location of site?

- [viewable from] a high mountain
- come [to earth] from heaven, from God

it has glory

it has a wall with 12 gates + angels

- 3 + 3 + 3 + 3

- the gates have 12 foundations

- names of 12 tribes (v.12), names of 12

apostles (v. 14) → *one people OT and NT,
Jew and Gentile*



21:9 -27 description of the bride/wife

Measurements:

Q: what geometrical form?

A: a cube v.15,16 $(12k * 12k * 12k) = 1400 \text{ miles}$,

enclosing much of the known world

Walls 144 thick (= 65m)

- Q: what units of measurement

Constructed of precious stones

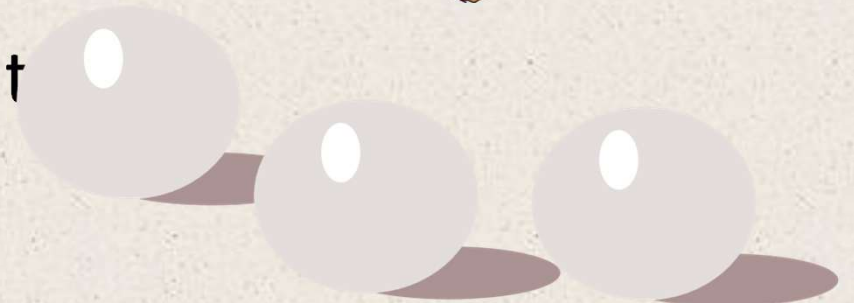
- Q: like what?

→ the agenda of heaven is built-in to the city

Streets paved with? gold

- Q: like what?

→ the building materials echo heaven (e.g. Alec Clifton Taylor – 6 English Towns)



21:9 -27 description of the bride/wife

v.22

Q:What was absent?

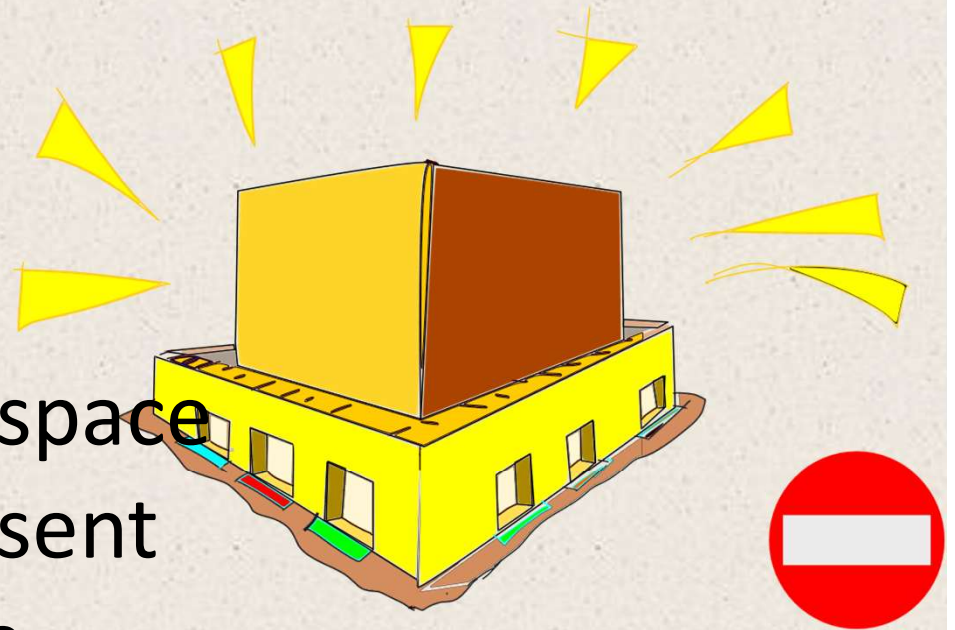
A: the temple

- The temple is the subset of space where God is particularly present

→ *The city itself is temple-like*

→ *Unlike us: outside Eden. There is no place where God is absent, nor particularly present*

→ *Unlike our environment: he fills the environment with his glorious presence*



21:9 -27 description of the bride/wife

v.24-27

Q:What about traffic?

A: nothing impure will enter

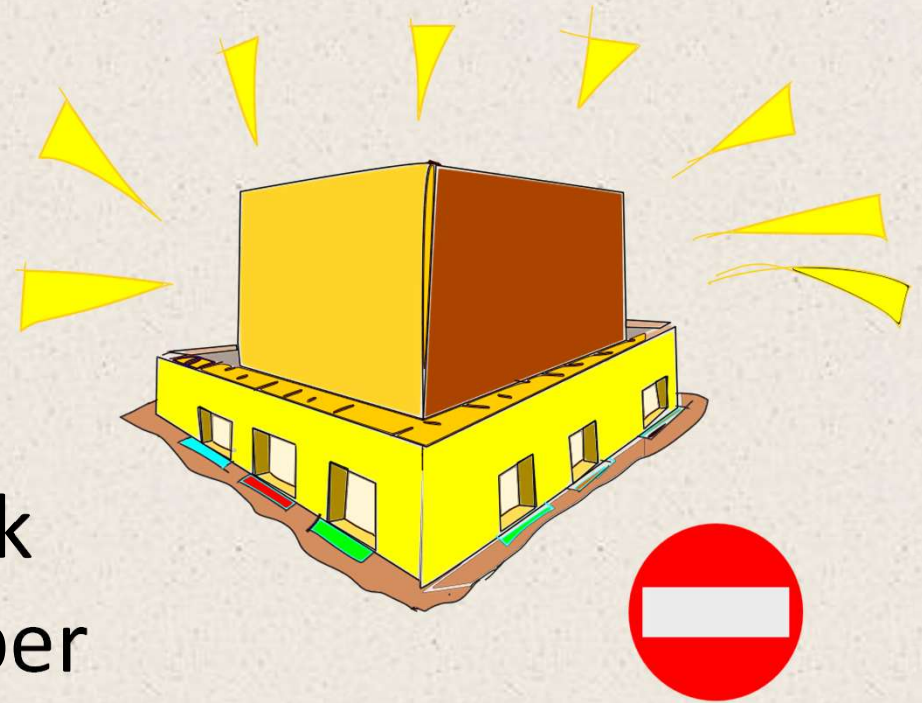
→ Are you washed?

→ Are you in the Lamb's book

→ "I want to be in that number
when the saints go marching in!"

→ "swing low sweet chariot ...

I don't know but I've been told ..."



21:9 -27 description of the bride/wife

v.24-27

Q:What about traffic?

A: “the nations walk by its light ..”

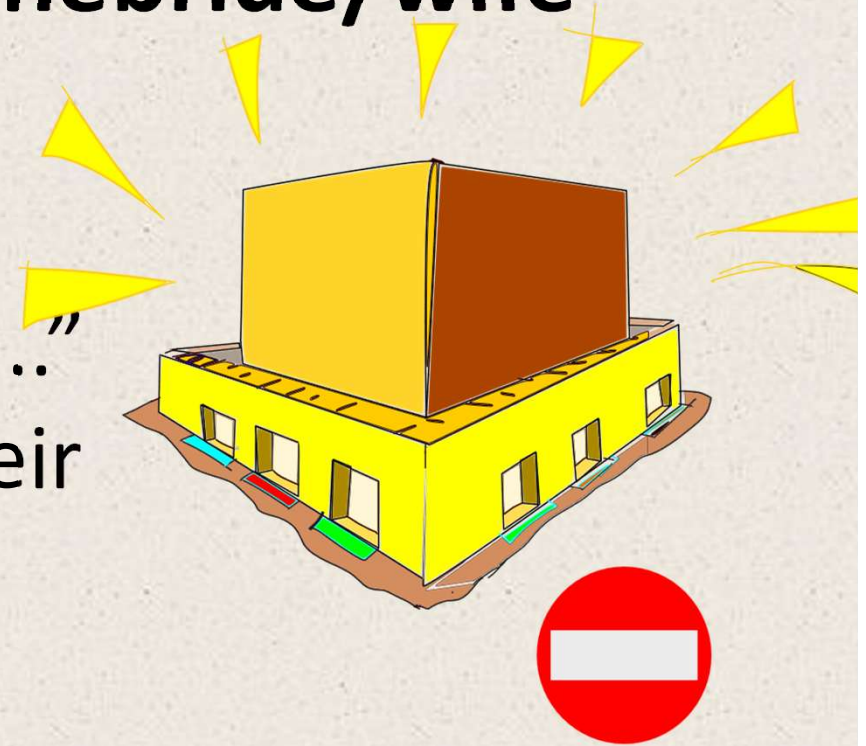
“the kings of the earth bring their glory and splendour”

i.e. multi-cultural (on earth) →

suspicion, prejudice, racism, division

- in the city: → variety, creativity, glory, honour of the nations

- *E.g. Bach’s music, German efficiency, Italian cookery, Welsh hymns, English ... gardening*



21:9 -27 description of the bride/wife

It is a place of holy community

= human interaction, connection, action

→ We should value humanness ... something eternally valuable

→ We should value holiness, the essential quality of the future

→ We should look forward to this fulfilment of what it is to walk by faith ... then by sight

→ humanness without frustration, sin, impurity

→ Life in the full glorious presence of God

- As bride, as sons and daughters, as servants
- With him forever

