

Pastor's Pen

Streets of Gold!

"And the street of the city was pure Gold, like transparent glass." (Rev. 21:21)

Have you ever wondered why the streets in the new Jerusalem will be made of Gold? Some Christians have such a distorted view of what heaven will be like. If you asked five people what will heaven be like, you might get five different answers. I found these responses to the question, What do you think heaven will be like?

- A garden with lots of flowers and hot, warm and cool pools to swim in. Birds and fish and animals too. Nothing ever gets sick, hurt or old. You don't have to sleep or eat, no work and no money.
 - I personally believe heaven will eventually get boring and turn into almost like a personal hell with a way out.
 - Heaven is where I will live with all the dogs that I ever had as pets
 - A place where I will do all the things that I enjoy here on Earth
- The world's view of heaven is nothing like that described in the Bible.

After Christ's return to Earth and the 1000-year reign, God will create a new Heaven and Earth. The Bible does not give us a detailed account of what everything will look like on the new Earth, but we do know that the new Jerusalem will be there. nearly 1,400 miles long, and it is as wide and as high as it is long—the New Jerusalem being in equal in length, width, and depth (Revelation 21:15–17), and the streets will be paved in Gold. Do you know what else was cubed and covered in Gold? The Holy of Holies. In 2 Chronicles, we are given the precise dimensions of the Holy of Holies, ***"And he made the room of the Holy of Holies: its length across the width of the house was twenty cubits, and its width was twenty cubits; and he covered it with fine gold, amounting to 600 talents."*** (2 Chron.3:8)

When God dwelt in the Holy of Holies, it was covered with Gold and was cubed. In the New Jerusalem, we will dwell with God, and the streets in the cubed city will be made of Gold. Gold represents God's power, dignity, and glory.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

Holy of Holies! (Source-Got Questions)

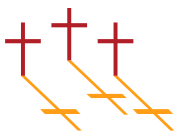
The room known as the Holy of Holies was the innermost and most sacred area of the ancient tabernacle of Moses and temple of Jerusalem. The Holy of Holies was constructed as a perfect cube. It contained only the Ark of the Covenant, the symbol of Israel's special relationship with God. The Holy of Holies was accessible only to the Israelite high priest. Once a year, on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, the high priest was permitted to enter the small, windowless enclosure to burn incense and sprinkle the blood of a sacrificial animal on the mercy seat of the Ark. By doing so, the high priest atoned for his own sins and those of the people. The Holy of Holies was separated from the rest of the tabernacle/temple by the veil, a huge, heavy drape made of fine linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn and embroidered with gold cherubim.

God said that He would appear in the Holy of Holies (Leviticus 16:2); hence, the need for the veil. There exists a barrier between man and God. The holiness of God could not be accessed by anyone but the high priest, and then only once a year. God's ***"eyes are too pure to look on evil"*** (Habakkuk 1:13), and He can tolerate no sin. The veil and the elaborate rituals undertaken by the priest were a reminder that man could not carelessly or irreverently enter God's awesome presence. Before the high priest entered the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement, he had to wash himself, put on special clothing, bring burning incense to let the smoke cover his eyes from a direct view of God, and bring sacrificial blood with him to make atonement for sins (Exodus 28; Hebrews 9:7). The significance of the Holy of Holies to Christians is found in the events surrounding the crucifixion of Christ. When Jesus died, an amazing thing happened: ***"When Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom"*** (Matthew 27:50-51a). The veil was not torn in half by any man. It was a supernatural event done by the power of God to make a very specific point: because of the death of Christ on the cross, man was no longer separated from God. The Old Testament temple system was made obsolete as the New Covenant was ratified. No longer would we have to depend on priests to perform once-a-year sacrifices on our behalf. Christ's body was "torn" on the cross, just as the veil was torn in the temple, and now we have access to God through Jesus: ***"we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body"*** (Hebrews 10:19-20).

The once-for-all-time sacrifice of Christ did away with the necessity of yearly sacrifices, which could never take away sins (Hebrews 10:11). Those sacrifices were merely a foreshadowing of the perfect sacrifice to come, that of the holy Lamb of God, slain for the sins of the world (John 1:29). The Holy of Holies, the very presence of God, is now open to all who come to Christ in faith. Where, before, there was an imposing barrier guarded by cherubim, God has opened a way by the shed blood of His Son.

Quote of the Week

"Depend on it, my hearer, you never will go to heaven unless you are prepared to worship Jesus Christ as God."
- Charles Spurgeon



Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:00AM

Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM Men's Book Study
Fridays | 6AM Men's Book Study
Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA
Thursdays | 10AM Ladies Bible Study

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
Please see website for locations

Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team and need to sign up, please contact the team leader at the appropriate email address on the back of this bulletin.

Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study; AWANA & Surge!

Service Times

Sunday School 9:00AM
Children's Church 10:30AM
Sunday Services 10:30AM

Giving from service on 03/02/2025

General Offering	\$8,046.03
Building Fund	\$2,750.00
Uganda	\$165.00
Benevolence	\$250.00
G3	\$60.00
Total	\$11,271.03
Attendance	236

G3 so far \$376.00 Goal is \$2,000

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Security-security@ghbcva.org



GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH

GO GATHER GROW GO

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Grace Harvest Bible Church

March 9, 2025

Welcome