

Revelation 21:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.

Analysis

The measuring rod of gold indicates the precision and value of New Jerusalem's dimensions. Measuring symbolizes God's ownership and sovereignty—He defines the city's extent and inhabitants. Gold represents purity and divine glory. The angel's measurement demonstrates that the new creation has definite, ordained form according to God's design. Reformed theology sees this as God's meticulous preparation of eternal dwelling for the elect. Unlike earthly cities with random growth, this city reflects perfect divine planning. Every measurement reveals intentional design.

Historical Context

Ancient cities were measured for taxation, building, or conquest purposes. Ezekiel's temple vision (Ezekiel 40-42) featured extensive measuring, establishing precedent for this imagery. The golden rod contrasts common reed measuring sticks, emphasizing the city's incomparable value. First-century readers would recognize measuring as establishing possession and purpose.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the precise measurement of the holy city assure you that God has prepared your eternal dwelling with perfect care?
2. What does the golden measuring rod reveal about the value and purity of what God has prepared for His people?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ό	λαλῶν	μετ'	ἐμοῦ	εἰχεν	κάλαμον	χρυσοῦν	
And	G3588	he that talked	with	me	had	reed	a golden	
G2532		G2980	G3326	G1700	G2192	G2563	G5552	
ἵνα	μετρήσῃ	τὴν	πόλιν	καὶ	τοὺς	πυλῶνας	αὐτῆς	καὶ
to	measure	G3588	the city	And	G3588	the gates	thereof	And
G2443		G3354	G4172	G2532		G4440	G846	G2532
τὸ	τεῖχος	αὐτῆς						
G3588	the wall	thereof						
	G5038	G846						