

# Revelation 21:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

## Analysis

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The city's cubic shape (length, breadth, height equal at 12,000 furlongs/stadia) echoes the Holy of Holies' cubic form (1 Kings 6:20), but magnified to contain the entire redeemed community. The number 12,000 ( $12 \times 1,000$ ) symbolizes completeness—12 tribes, 12 apostles, multiplied by 1,000 (fullness). Reformed theology sees the cube as representing perfect holiness—the entire city is now God's dwelling, not confined to a temple's inner sanctum. The enormous dimensions (about 1,400 miles) emphasize abundant space for all the redeemed. God's dwelling with humanity is now unrestricted and comprehensive.

## Historical Context

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The Holy of Holies was the innermost sanctum where God's presence dwelt, accessible only to the high priest once yearly. Its cubic shape symbolized perfection and divine presence. This vision declares that the new creation is entirely holy—all believers have unrestricted access to God's presence. The measurements' symbolic nature (not literal architecture) communicated spiritual realities.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does the cubic shape (like the Holy of Holies) illustrate that all believers now have direct access to God's presence?
2. What does the enormous size teach about God's abundant provision for all the redeemed—is there any shortage in His kingdom?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἡ πόλιν τετράγωνος κεῖται καὶ τὸ μῆκος  
**And** G3588 **the city** foursquare **lieth** **And** G3588 **The length**  
G2532 G4172 G5068 G2749 G2532 G3372

αὐτῆς τοσοῦτόν ἐστιν ὅσον καὶ τὸ πλάτος καὶ  
**of it** **as large** **are** **as** **And** G3588 **the breadth** **And**  
G846 G5118 G2076 G3745 G2532 G4114 G2532

ἐμέτρησεν τὴν πόλιν τῷ καλάμῳ ἐπὶ σταδίων δώδεκα  
**he measured** G3588 **the city** G3588 **with the reed** G1909 **furlongs** G4712 **twelve**  
G3354 G4172 G2563 G1427

χιλιάδων τὸ μῆκος καὶ τὸ πλάτος καὶ τὸ ὕψος  
**thousand** G3588 **The length** **And** G3588 **the breadth** **And** G3588 **the height**  
G5505 G3372 G2532 G4114 G2532 G5311

αὐτῆς ἵσα ἐστιν  
**of it** **equal** **are**  
G846 G2470 G2076