

Revelation 21:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

Analysis

The wall's measurement (144 cubits, about 216 feet) uses another multiple of 12 (12×12), symbolizing perfection and completion. The 'measure of a man, that is, of the angel' clarifies that though an angel measures, the standard is human-understandable. Reformed theology sees the wall representing security—the city needs no defensive fortification since enemies are absent, yet God's protection is complete. The specific measurement demonstrates that every detail of the new creation is ordained and perfect. Nothing is random or approximate.

Historical Context

Ancient city walls provided primary defense against enemies. Massive walls indicated security and strength. The relatively modest wall height (compared to the city's enormous dimensions) suggests symbolic rather than defensive purpose. The measurement's precision recalled Ezekiel's temple measurements, establishing continuity between prophetic vision and fulfillment.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the wall's measurement assure you of complete security in the new creation—no threat can penetrate God's protection?
2. What does the human-accessible measurement (not divine or angelic only) teach about the new creation being comprehensible to redeemed humans?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐμέτρησεν τὸ τεῖχος αὐτῆς ἑκατὸν τεσσαράκοντα

And he measured the wall thereof an hundred and forty

G2532 G3354 G3588 G5038 G846 G1540 G5062

τεσσάρων πηχῶν μέτρον ἀνθρώπου ὅ ἐστιν

and four cubits according to the measure of a man that is

G5064 G4083 G3358 G444 G3739 G2076

ἀγγέλου

of the angel

G32

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