A New City Bible Background: Revelation 21:9-27 Printed Text: Revelation 21:9-21 KJV/NLT Devotional Reading: Revelation 10:1-11

Aim for Change (Page 573):

- 1. **EXPLORE** the possibility of living in a new place
- 2. IMAGINE the richness and serenity of living in the New Jerusalem
- 3. CELEBRATE God's provision of a new city for believers throughout eternity

In Focus (Page 573):

Christians, the bride of Christ, can look forward to a wonderful home prepared by our Lord. How does thinking about the Christian's heavenly home affect your daily outlook? – John 14:1-3

The People, Places, and Times (Page 576):

New Jerusalem – was predicted before the exile ended – *Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; 2 Peter 3:12-14* Without reading the scriptures, how would you envision the New Jerusalem?

Background (Pages 576):

• What is the significance of the bride and her relationship to the New Jerusalem? Do you believe what God has prepared for you? – *1 Corinthians 2:9-13*

In Depth (Pages 576-577)

1. Beautiful Bride (Revelation 21:9-11)

- a. What are the implications of the New Jerusalem, which is the bride and the church descending out of heaven?
- b. How secure is your marriage? 2 Corinthians 4:7-15; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 17:1-3

2. Beautiful Foundations (Revelation 21:12-17)

- a. Why does the City of God need walls? To defend from attack? To exclude people from God's presence? *1 Kings 6; Ezekiel 41*
 - i. The number 12 is used to represent God's power and authority, a perfect number, human government
 - ii. Twelve is mentioned 187 times in the Bible Tribes: *Ezekiel 48:30-34*; Apostles: *Matthew 10:1*; Memorial stones: *Exodus 28:21*; Unleavened loaves in the Tabernacle: *Leviticus 24:5-6*

3. Beautiful Walls (Revelation 21:18-21)

- a. What is the purpose of sections of Scripture like this if they are figurative and not literal descriptions of heaven?
 - i. Mimic rainbow Genesis 9:11-17
 - ii. High priest breastplate *Exodus 28:17-20*

Search the Scriptures (Page 577):

- How is John shown to be carried away to his vision of the New Jerusalem? *Revelation 21:10*
- Have you ever been carried away by the Spirit, then went and testified to someone about it?

Discuss the Meaning (Page 577):

What is the purpose of scripture? What does this passage tell us about God? – Acts 14:22; 2 Timothy 3:12-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21