WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS IT?  
(Revelation 21:1-12)

I. It is a prepared place (vs. 2).
   A. It’s coming down out of heaven is symbolic of the fact that it is of divine origin.
   B. Notice Paul’s words in 2 Corinthians 5:18.
   C. To comfort His apostles in a discussion prior to His death Jesus had these words to say (John 14:1-3).
      1. He told them He was going to prepare a place for them.
      2. It is a place of many mansions.
      3. It is a place prepared by the Lord Himself.
      4. Notice He said, “I go to prepare a place for you.”
         a. This should be no surprise.
         b. It is He who framed the worlds with His voice.
         c. It is He who built the church.
   D. This is the same city for which the patriarchs of old sought (Hebrews 11:10).
   E. The city has been made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.
      1. Men, do you remember the first time you saw your wife in her wedding gown?
      2. I still do, and still remember how beautiful she was.
      3. That is the idea that the Holy Spirit is conveying to us about the beauty of that city.

II. It is a purged place (vs. 4).
   A. It is purged of death - death causes great sorrow, but it is really in our best interest.
      1. The wicked would only grow in sin and the sick would only get sicker with no relief in sight.
      2. For Christians, it is the doorway through which we must pass to gain heaven.
      3. All who live in heaven will have immortal, incorruptible, spiritual bodies that will never grow old.
      4. Death will be completely abolished (1 Corinthians 15:25-28).
   B. It is purged of sorrow.
      1. There are a lot of causes of sorrow in this life.
      2. All of these will be totally absent from heaven.
   C. It is purged of crying.
      1. No tears in heaven is a song we enjoy singing.
      2. There will be nothing there to cause us to cry.
   D. It is purged of pain.
      1. How many people do we know that have some type of constant pain.
         a. This is a result of sin entering into the world.
         b. This pain exists in our diseased or maimed bodies.
      2. In heaven, all sources of pain will be abolished and we will have
perfect spiritual bodies.

III. It is a pollution-free place (vs. 8).
A. There is a sign at Lupton posted on a pole in the pick up line that asks people to not let their cars idle because the kids can be affected by pollution.
B. Heaven will be free of greater pollution than this.
   1. The fearful are those who shrink back from taking a stand for what is right and are unable to pay the cost of discipleship.
   2. The unbelieving are those who have gone back on their belief in Jesus as the way as well as those who never obeyed the gospel.
   3. The abominable are those who are morally bankrupt.
   4. We know what murderers and fornicators are, but included in with fornication are all manner of sexual sins.
   5. Sorcerers in the original language included the use of drugs.
   6. Idolators are those who worship things both visible and invisible that take the place of the Almighty.
   7. Liars are those who practice deceit, whether verbally or by remaining silent.
C. All of these pollute our world and our lives as we strive to live for Jesus.
   1. These things seek to distract us from Christ.
   2. It is best, but difficult, to live by the words of Paul (Phillipians 4:8).

IV. It is a precious place (vs. 10-11).
A. We know the value of many of these building materials mentioned in these verses.
   1. For a house to have any of these in it as building materials would cause it to be opulent in our world.
   2. Most of us can barely afford a ring with one or two of these type metals, let alone use them to build our homes.
B. Not only that, it is precious because the glory of God fills it.
   1. Think that for all eternity, we get to live in the presence of God Almighty who has loved us so much to prepare this type place for us.
   2. The glory of God filled the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34) and the temple (1 Kings 8:11).
   3. Those priests could not stay in the temple when He entered it, but we will be with Him for all eternity.

V. It is a protected place (vs. 12).
A. Earthly cities at the time of this writing depended on the strength of their walls for protection.
   1. The higher and thicker the walls, the more protected the city was.
   2. It would take longer for invaders to conquer, thus causing some to not even try.
B. Heaven is pictured as having a great wall and twelve gates.
   1. Not only is protection afforded by the walls, each gate has an angel stationed at it.
   2. They will not let anything in that is not authorized by God.
C. There is nothing that will be able to enter heaven to bother us.