

THE BEGINNING OF YOUR INHERITANCE

Calculating the Size and Worth of Your Mansion — Eight Furlongs Equals a Mile

N. Sebastian Desent, Ph.D., Th.D., D.D.; Pastor of Historic Baptist Church

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

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

16 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.

Revelation 21:10-16

1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

John 14:1-3

New Jerusalem is 12,000 furlongs cubed. In miles, that is 1,500 miles cubed. From Boston to Miami is about 1,500 miles (1,510 using mapquest). Imagine a city that spans from Boston to Miami – that is immense. Then imagine the height of it being 1,500 miles! Commercial airliners cruising altitude is 30,000 to 40,000 feet. Compare that with the height of God's city being 7,920,000 feet high – that's 200 times the cruising altitude of a Boeing 747.

Now, when calculating the mansion size that Jesus prepared for his children (John 14:1-6), we will have to speculate. But using some general sizes we can get an idea in our minds as to the area of what we can expect our mansions to have. (I think God would have us consider this as he gave the cities size.)

First, taking height, imagine your level has 99 foot ceilings. That would account for roughly 80,000 levels. And, considering 10 billion people have their home in heaven (greatly exaggerated, I think), each level could house 125,000 persons. A city that has a land area of 2,250,000 square miles (1,500 X 1,500) allows 18 square miles per person.

Imagine then, your *average* mansion being 4 miles wide, 4 miles deep, and 100 feet high! That is not a bad piece of holy ground on which to spend eternity.

Considering there are 640 acres per square miles, your dwelling place would be over 10,000 acres.

What is the value of 10,000 acres of prime real estate in the U.S.? Well, President Obama's Hawaiian estate cost about \$35 million in 2012. With 1.5 acres of "beachfront" property in Kailua, the "Beverly Hills of Hawaii," on Oahu; and a building of about 8,500 square feet with five bedrooms; one would consider this a "prime mansion." No argument here. I wouldn't mind bring my family to that place.

However, even after paying the 35 million dollars, this little "mansion" will still need maintenance and repairs, cleaning, insurance, security, utilities, taxes (maybe?) and upgrades from time to time. As beautiful as that home is, being an earthly building it will degrade over time. It is subject to entropy. Now, I hope the president enjoys his dwelling place – it is the least we can do for his service. But that home is still a responsibility that requires effort to keep it in prime condition.

Most of us cannot afford a place like the president's. But our heavenly inheritance *just starts* with a mansion built by the Saviour. These dwelling places prepared for us by Jesus Christ will need no maintenance – they will endure for eternity. They are all paid for. They come with beautiful, holy scenery (walls of jasper, pure gold, precious stones, pearls, etc. – read Revelation chapter 21). There are no taxes, no insurance required, and nothing that defiles can enter in. No thieves can break in and steal. No liars are allowed. There is no light bill (Revelation 21:23). The value of this heavenly property is worth far more than that transitory presidential Oahu property. That island (and all others) will not last (Revelation 6:14; 16:20; 21:1).

If we use that Hawaiian mansion as a cost guide of \$23 million per acre, our heavenly mansion (comparing "apples to apples") could *easily* be worth \$230,000,000,000 in today's money. 230 trillion dollars is almost beyond comprehension. In 2008, the United Nations estimated the total wealth of the United States at 118 trillion dollars. This includes all possessions, savings, investments, and income potential of all the people. That means, trading the entire United States for your mansion would be a bad deal! A very weak example would be like trading a brand new Cadillac which never breaks down, and will never need maintenance, cleaning, fuel, or insurance; for an old beat-up car with only a few miles life left in it: one that requires constant maintenance, and operation costs.

This heavenly mansion's worth does not even include the other rewards God's children will receive. This inheritance will also include the crowns the servants of the Lord receive. These crowns are representative of their service to the Lord. They are made of gold, silver, and precious stones, typifying godliness, gospel preaching, and discipleship (Matthew 28:18-20). Being faithful over very little in this life brings us true riches (Luke 16:11). And we will use these crowns as Jesus has made us kings and priests unto God (Revelation 1: 5, 6), and we will rule and reign with him for eternity.

Lastly, we should understand all this true wealth is not worth the value of a soul. Jesus said this:

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Mark 8:36

A man's soul is worth more than all creation. The Saviour taught this. He came and died for us, rising from the dead on the third day, so we could have eternal life. This is why we work to win souls. This is why we live in this world. This is why we have what we have and do what we do.

Friends, the rewards of our inheritance are beyond earthly comparison. I have attempted to just give a little comparison, but it falls way short. But if you are not truly born again, you have none of it. Get salvation settled through faith in Jesus Christ. Please do not delay. You could be truly wealthy today.