***The Beauty of the City  
  
RV246-01***

We are looking at "The New Jerusalem." This is segment number two in Revelation 21:9-27.

**The New Jerusalem**

In eternity, God's headquarters will be the new Jerusalem based on the new earth. John is shown the city by one of the angels who had poured out the bowl judgments. The city is the abiding place of gentile, Jew, and Christian saints from all dispensations. The holy city, the new Jerusalem, has been built by God in heaven, and has been brought down to the new earth. The city glows with the glory of God as a crystal clear gem. It radiates light beams. The city is closely associated with its most prominent body of believers, the church – the bride of Christ.

**The Wall**

The New Jerusalem is surrounded by a wall which is high and wide compared to the walls around the cities of men. The wall has 12 entrance ways, and each of them bears the name of a tribe of Israel, indicating the Jewish inhabitants there. The gateways are distributed (three to each side) of a square-shaped new Jerusalem.

**Foundation Stones**

Under the wall are 12 foundation stones bearing the names of the 12 apostles. The city has thereby indicated the presence of Christian believers. The foundations are either shaped as piers going down and being placed around the perimeter, or, more likely, they are in slabs piled one-upon-another. The new Jerusalem is a literal city made up of real materials, though very costly: transparent gold, something we don't have any experience with; and, gemstones, which we do have some understanding of. The new Jerusalem, with this costly material, indicates the highest quality which characterizes God the Almighty. There is nothing cheap about God, from salvation to rewards for Christian service.

We come to Revelation 21:15-17. Here, we deal with the size of this new Jerusalem. In verse 15, John says, "And the one who spoke with me." That is the angel who had spoken to John way back up in verse 9. This word stresses the fact that a statement has been made, and John is aware that it's an important statement.

**A Gold Measuring Rod**

The one who had spoken to John had a gold measuring rod. He had a measuring rod which was made of gold. The angel has this gold, which probably symbolizes absolute righteousness, and therefore, it is an appropriate material with which to measure such a holy place as the new Jerusalem. This ruler is ten feet long, which would be the unit of measure common among the Jews. So, he proceeds to measure the city of the New Jerusalem:

"The one who spoke with me previously had a gold measuring rod with which to measure the city, and its gates, and its wall." The measuring will show the enormous size of the New Jerusalem, and it will also demonstrate its perfect symmetry. We need an angel to measure a structure of the height of the new Jerusalem, and of its total extent. And an angel can move about freely to do this. So, the angel measures what is to be the dwelling place of the saints with its walls and its gates.

**1,500 Miles**

In verse 16, the city is laid out as a square. We're told that the base of the new Jerusalem is a square, and thus the length and width are the same distance. This city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width, and he measured the city with the rod. And he found that the city measured 12,000 "stadios." This was a measurement common in the Old Testament. A "stadium" was a measurement of 600 feet. So, we do know that, to give us some idea of what we're dealing with. The angel finds that he has 12,000 stadia, each one measuring 600 feet. What that equals is about 1,500 miles.

So, we're confronted with an enormous-sized building. It is a building which has length; it has width; and, it has height. And each of these, we're told, are equal to one another. In each direction (length, width, and height), it was 12,000 "stadium," and 12,000 "stadium" equals 1,500 miles.

**A Cube**

So, the shape of the new Jerusalem is in a cube. However, you can see by these measurements, it is possible to envision the city as a pyramid. That would also be described in the same way. But I think that the cube is more fitting because the Greeks viewed the square as a perfect shape, and a cube of equal dimensions has squares all around it.

Furthermore, God's holy of holies in the tabernacle and in the temple was a cube. The holy of holies was a perfect cube in its shape. Thus, it is fitting for the shape of the holy city to reflect that. The new Jerusalem properly has the same shape as the holy of holies. So, that's why I think it is better to think of it as a cube rather than as a pyramid made up of triangles.

The enormous size (to try to give you some perspective), would reach from Mexico to Canada, if it were laid out on the present earth. It would move from Maine to Florida. It would cover from the Atlantic Ocean to Colorado. Every street would be 1,500 miles long. That's one fifth of the diameter of the earth.

There will be story upon story here in the new Jerusalem. It will be rising up one floor after another, going on up for 1,500 miles. If these streets were separated one mile horizontally and one mile vertically, which would be a reasonable distance for such a large structure, there would be approximately eight million streets (eight million avenues) in the New Jerusalem. If they were separated one mile horizontally, and one mile vertically, there would be about 8 million avenues. And each level of the city would total 2,250,000 square miles. That means that each level would contain about 2 billion ordinary city blocks. Remember that we are talking about some place that, in a way, we could refer to as "real estate."

This is going to be a divine housing project, because the people who have been raised from the dead have bodies; and, bodies occupy space. Some bodies occupy only a little space; some bodies occupy more space; but, they all take up space. Therefore, even in those resurrected bodies, you will be required to have someplace where you can occupy – a space for your person. So, what we are dealing with is God constructing, as Jesus said, "I'm going to heaven to make a place for you to dwell," and what He is putting together are these lots which will be assigned to you in heaven.

The size of the new Jerusalem is so enormous that is just staggers the imagination trying to grasp that. But it does indicate something to us. The place is going to be filled. And that tells us that there was an enormous number of believers since the time of Adam. Yet, compared to all the people who will have lived during all these centuries, Jesus said that there would be few that find the road to the new Jerusalem. So, the sadness will be that so many will be left out, while, on the other hand, so many will be included.

Resurrected, glorified bodies, free of gravitational and electromagnetic forces, enable the saints to travel vertically as well as horizontally in the New Jerusalem at will. There won't be any need for elevators or anything of that sort. All the cities of the world today are but villages compared to the size of the new Jerusalem.

At this point, it is important to say once more that this is a literal place. The new Jerusalem is not a poetic expression. You would be surprised how many teachers of the Bible pass this off as a poetic expression of heaven; someplace out of reach; and, not an actual place made of materials like a huge high-rise building. But that's exactly what it is. The new Jerusalem on the new earth is going to be the greatest high-rise structure ever viewed by the eyes of man.

In verse 17, we're now given the measurements of the wall – this wall here which surrounds the new Jerusalem. The angel measures the wall, and the word for "measure" is looks the Greek word "metreo," from which we get the English word "metric." That word metric comes from the Greek bible. Here, the angel proceeds to "metreo" (to measure) the size of this structure. He devotes himself now to the particular area of the wall which surrounds the new Jerusalem.

The enclosure of the wall is measured in cubits. The Greek Bible says that it is 144 cubits. A cubit is 18 inches in length. That means that this structure of 144 cubits equals 72 yards, and that converts into 216 feet. It is 216 feet high; or, 216 feet in depth; or, perhaps in both. It doesn't make clear which it is. Of course, a wall, 216 feet high around a high rise that is 1,500 miles high is not much of a wall, but it is merely a symbol. It simply symbolizes the fact that there is protection for the people of God. They have security, and all evil is kept out. It doesn't have to be greater than that.

So, we're told that the angel measures the wall, and finds it to be 144 cubits, or 216 feet. This is according to human measurements, which the angel also uses. John takes the trouble to point out that he is speaking about measurements. There we have another one of those words for metric. This one is "metron." He says, "My measurement is in the form of what people measure, and the angel uses the same measurement." So, we're not talking about something that we can't understand. It's a human standard of measurement which is used by the angel.

All of this measurement stresses, again, the literalness of this place. The angel is using human standards of measurement. So, we treat the results literally. The size of the wall symbolizes in token the security of the believer and his protection from evil. The size, nevertheless, is decorative. It is impressive to us because the 216 feet are made in relationship to how big people are. So, it is quite a wall when it's compared to ourselves.

Verses 18 to 21 now proceed to speak to us about the materials – the construction of the wall and of the city. He begins with a word that calls our attention to the fact that we are actually dealing with building materials: "endomesis." That actually means construction. And that equals materials out of which the thing is constructed.

**A Jasper**

So, he said the construction (the manner in which something is built) is what is in mind here with this word – how something is put together. And the manner in which this wall is built indicates what it's made of. The material of the wall was a gemstone. The gemstone in the Greek is an "iaspis." And an "iaspis" is a jasper. The jasper was a translucent, dark green crystal. This is a wall of jasper that glows with the splendor of the glory of God that shines through it.

The exact identification of ancient gems is somewhat uncertain just from their names. We try to identify from the descriptions of the gems which we have from ancient writings. We know, for example, that they didn't know anything at all about diamonds. A diamond was not a gem that they were acquainted with at all in the ancient world. So, they knew certain names, and it's not entirely clear to us what that compares to in the gems that we have today. But we can come pretty close many times because we have descriptions by ancient writers, and we can say, "Aha, what they are describing – we recognize that. That's this gem with us today.

So, we have a lot of description, for example, of the jasper, and we have a pretty clear idea of what that is. It was a dark green, translucent stone. In fact, this is one of the stones which was on the breastplate of the high priest. Exodus 28:20 tells us that one of those gemstones was the jasper. When the high priest came before God, he had a breastplate, and it was square. It was a perfect square. There were 12 gemstones, one for each tribe of Israel. And one of those was the jasper. So, there was a connection there already with God. The entire wall surrounding the new Jerusalem is made of this gemstone jasper.

Now, I don't know where they're going to dig up this sort of thing from the ground. I suspect that it's going to be some very big creative work of God, obviously. We find Jasper in small quantities, but here God is going to make a valuable gemstone in the quantity that can create a wall that's 216 feet high, and probably 216 feet thick. And it surrounds the city that is 1,500 miles on each side. And it's all going to be made of this valuable stone.

This building can probably be called a mansion. I repeat again that what God has designed for you as your heavenly and eternal abiding place is not going to be cheap. People often are cheap, but God never is. The material of the wall was jasper and the city was gold like clear glass.

**Gold**

The city is made itself of a type of gold that we're not acquainted with now. It is a gold which is clear. It is so pure that it has a clear quality as glass. The whole city is as transparent as glass, yet it is made of gold. The feature of transparency seems to suggest to us that the city is designed to constantly transmit the glory of the God who dwells it. A little later, we shall find that there is no need for any artificial light in this city because God's glory will be shining and providing all the light that is needed. So, there'll be no night there.

In contrast to the new Jerusalem, Solomon's temple was only covered with gold. We have this pointed out to us in 1 Kings 6:20. Solomon's temple in the ancient world was an outstanding example of expense and beauty: "And the inner sanctuary was 20 cubits in length; 20 cubits in width; and, 20 cubits in height." That is the holy of holies. That's where the ark of the covenant was to be found with all the special items that were in there. That's where the two cherubim angels sat on top of that cover of the lid of the ark, which was the mercy seat. There, once a year, the high priest came in to bring the offering of a perfect male animal (a male lamb) in order to symbolically create forgiveness for the people of God for one more year. When the high priest walked in there, he had, of course, been prepared himself, by cleansing ceremonially, or he would have dropped dead. When he walked in, only his eyes saw that room – that perfect cube filled with the enormous glory light – the Shekinah glory of God.

So, inside this inner sanctuary (the holy of holies), we're told that Solomon overlaid it with pure gold. He also overlaid the altar with cedar. So, Solomon overlaid the inside of the house with pure gold, and he drew chains of gold across the front of the inner sanctuary, and he overloaded it with gold. And he overlaid the whole house with gold until all the house was finished. Also the whole altar, which was by the inner sanctuary, he overlaid with gold.

This was an astounding sight to see this temple that Solomon built, and to see that inside and outside it was covered with a veneer of gold. You can see why the Romans, in 70 A.D, when they set the city on fire, and finally decided to put the Jews out of business once and for all, were delighted to be able to rush in, and the intense heat that was generated from the burning city simply melted down the temple itself (the gold), and they hauled it away by the cartloads. Therefore, centuries later, after their return from the Babylonian captivity, the temple that they built was not as magnificent as Solomon's, which the Babylonians had destroyed, and had carried the gold away from. So, what the Romans got was really leftover. It wasn't as magnificent as the first temple of Solomon. That second temple, which the Romans destroyed, nevertheless itself had an enormous amount of gold upon it.

So, this whole city of New Jerusalem is actually made of a transparent gold. That is the construction material. And it is infinitely superior to the Old Testament temple area. God's New Jerusalem made of gold is a more fitting representation of the kingly majesty of God. And the beauty that is conveyed by a gold city, surrounded by a dark green jasper wall, reflecting through it the glory of God, must be an impressive sight.

This is where Berean Christian Academy secures its school colors: green; and, gold. We are imitating; we are reflecting; and, we are taking a preview in our colors of the new Jerusalem. Our school colors, green and gold, come from this appearance of the new Jerusalem. It is a gold city surrounded by this green wall.

**Foundation Stones**

In verses 19-20, he proceeds to discuss the foundation stones. He says, "And the foundation stones of the city were adorned." These foundation stones were under the wall. We are told that the wall previously was built on 12 of these foundation stones. These stones are unlike usual foundations, which are underground. These are above ground so that they are fully visible. Again, the question is: are they in piers, or are they in slabs? I think that it is better to view the foundation stones as a series of slabs, one built upon another, because the beauty is the color of these foundation stones, which again are gemstones. And the beauty is much more visible in the form of a rainbow color-against-color rather than individual pairs. So, I'm inclined to think that this will probably be in the form of slabs.

In any case, the wall is built on 12 foundations. These are above the ground, and so are visible. They could be either way, but they would have more harmonious blending of colors if they were slabs. And we're told that this these foundation stones are adorned. The Greek word is "kosmeo," from which we get the English word "cosmetics" – to beautify. Cosmetics is an attempt for people to beautify themselves. This is what God is doing to His wall, which will then beautify the temple upon the holy city of the new Jerusalem, upon which the city itself, as well as the wall, is structured.

**Beauty**

The foundation slabs under the whole perimeter of the wall are made beautiful by God Himself. How does He do this? He does this by bringing every kind of precious stone. Here again, we have the indication that God is going to use gemstones which we have in small quantity.

When the Jews were under great threat and persecution in Nazi Germany during World War II, one of the ways that they tried to protect themselves was to carry their wealth with them. The only way they could do that in a way that was secretive was to have that wealth in something that had intrinsic value. And what they did was secure gemstones. After a while, the Nazis caught on to this, and were constantly trying to drill people and to force them to tell where they had hidden the gemstones that they knew they were carrying with them.

Well, this is what we are dealing with here. We're dealing with something that has great value. But these little gemstones have lots of value to us today. People who like to prepare for their future sometimes buy gemstones as an investment. But those are dinky little things. Can you think of a gemstone which is 1,500 hundreds miles square? How thick? We don't know. Even if it's even if it's a small amount in thickness – what a concept, that God puts precious gemstones as the foundation of His wall and of the city.

**The Names of the Apostles**

We previously found that each of these foundation stones had the name of an apostle, which again connects the church with the new Jerusalem.

So, the gemstones (viewing them from top to bottom) – the wall is made of jasper. Then comes the first layer, and we're told the first foundation stone was jasper. So, the wall is made of jasper, and it is laid on the first foundation slab, which itself is jasper. This is a translucent rock crystal, and it is dark green in color.

**Sapphire**

The second is Sapphire. The sapphire is transparent, and it is almost as hard as a diamond, and it is deep blue in color.

**Chalcedony**

The third is chalcedony. Chalcedony is a translucent variety of quartz. It's usually a milky, bluish white in color. So, here you have a kind of a very brilliant white stone foundation.

**Emerald**

The fourth level of the foundation is emerald. This is transparent to light, so it has a brilliant appearance, and it is light green in color.

**Sardonyx**

The fifth level is the sardonyx. This is a layered stone of red and white: the red "sard" mineral; and, the white "onyx" mineral. In the ancient world they used to use this particular gem for making cameos.

**Sardius**

The sixth level is the sardius. This was a gem which was used for engravings in the ancient world, and it is blood-red in color.

**Chrysolite**

The seventh is chrysolite. This is a transparent stone, and it is golden or yellowish green in color.

**Beryl**

The eighth, we're told, is beryl. This is a very hard silicate, and it is transparent. It is sea-green or aquamarine in color.

**Topaz**

The ninth is a topaz, another translucent stone. This one is light yellowish green in color.

**Chrysoprase**

The tent was the chrysoprase, which is a translucent stone, apple-green in color.

**Jacinth**

The 11th was a jacinth, an opaque stone, bluish purple in color.

**Amethyst**

Finally the lowest level, the twelfth level of the foundation slabs, is the amethyst, which is a clear, crystallized quartz, purple violet in color.

When you put all these colors, one on top of another, as in the form of a rainbow, you have a magnificent appearance of a city of clear gold surrounded by a dark green jasper wall, which sits upon a foundation of 12 layers of precious gems of every color and hue. So, the whole new Jerusalem, in addition to its colors, also glows with a glory light of God, and this is beyond description. John saw it; he looked at it; and he recorded it piece-by-piece. You can you can almost feel him struggling to try to find words to convey the awesome sight that he's looking at. The visual splendor of the new Jerusalem creates an emotion of awe and worship for God our father.

You will notice that the seven prismatic colors of the rainbow are all present in the foundation. If you take a glass prism, and shoot the sunlight to it, and then test it on a white background, the prism will break up the white light into all of its basic elements (the basic prismatic colors), which are violet; indigo; blue; green; yellow; orange; and, red. And they proceed in that order.

So, we may learn in heaven that each of these colors represents an attribute of our magnificent God. We're not told in Scripture why each of these colors and these particular gems are used. The colorful foundation of these gems reveal, again, certainly that God is a lover of beauty. This is clearly seen by the way He uses colors on plants and birds in nature. It is not wrong to make your house beautiful. It is a godly act. It is an imitation of God to make the place that you live as attractively beautiful as you can. That is the kind of a place that God is preparing for all of us.

**Numbers in the Bible**

For a moment, it might be interesting to point out something about the numbers. You notice the number 12 popping up. In the Bible, numbers do have some significance. For example:

1. The number one speaks of unity, as in this concept of the divine essence of a one-God.
2. Number 2 speaks of a union, as in the union in marriage of a husband and wife.
3. Three speaks of a Trinity, as in the Godhead: Father; Son; and, Holy Spirit.
4. Four refers to earthly things, as four points of the compass.
5. Five speaks of divisions into categories as five wise virgins and five foolish virgins.
6. Six speaks of man, as in six days of labor, and the antichrist with three sixes.
7. Seven is the number that we are most acquainted with. It is the number of perfection, as in seven days that completes a week; and, seven millennia of human history which completes the plan of God. And man, at six, is one short of perfection.

**The Number 12**

Then, the number 12 is the one that interests. The number 12 keeps popping up in terms of governmental and civic association: authority in government; and, authority in civic matters. You have 24 thrones around the altar in heaven of the elders who are in authority there. You have 144,000 Jewish evangelists (a multiple of 12) who are in the tribulation with great authority spiritually. You have, of course, 12 gates here in the new Jerusalem. You have 12 angels; 12 tribes; 12 apostles; and, 12 foundations, all of these connected with governmental activity.

**The Gates are Pearls**

In verse 21, John speaks of the gates. And if your mind has not been blown up to now, it will be now. The 12 gates are 12 pearls. The word "pearl" in the Greek Bible is the word "margarites." We get the English name Margarette from "margarites." Anytime you know a Margarette, she's a pearl. Well, we're told here in the Bible that each one of these gates and is a pearl. And it says it in the Greek in such a way as to indicate each one individually. Each gate is one huge pearl formed into a door. Each pearly gate opens onto streets of transparent gold.

What a sight that must be! You come through a pearly gate, and you come onto a street of transparent gold. The pearly gates made, of course, symbolize the church of Jesus Christ, which, in Matthew 13:45-46 (in the series of parables related to the present age), referred to the pearl of great price, which is the church. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls. And upon finding one pearl of great value (or great price), he went and sold all that he had, and bought it. This pearl of great price is the church – during this present age.

As you know, the pearl comes from the irritation of a grain of sand in an oyster which causes suffering to that oyster. The oyster, in order to protect itself and remove the suffering, secretes a fluid which covers the grain of sand. And it keeps secreting this fluid, putting layer-upon-layer to cover that irritation point. The suffering is ended, and the result is a pearl of beauty, and of great value.

**The Pearl of Great Price**

In like manner, we may certainly see that Jesus Christ, through His suffering on the cross, from the era of sin of mankind, created an atonement covering for that sin which brought salvation to the believer, who then became a pearl of great price: the church; the body; or, the bride of Christ.

So, perhaps the pearly gates have a reference to that.

**Streets of Gold**

Furthermore, in Revelation 21:21, we're told, are pure gold, and they are like transparent glass. God's redeemed in the new Jerusalem will walk on streets of crystal clear gold. The costly gems and the gold used in the construction of the new Jerusalem indicate the infinite value of citizenship in the new Jerusalem – the citizenship as a child of God.

This particular passage of Scripture is referring to the streets of gold in the new Jerusalem, which, of course, is heaven. This verse is where the line comes from in The Marine Corps Hymn: "If the Army or the Navy ever glance on heaven shores, they will find the streets are guarded by United States Marines." Of course, that is perhaps true. We're not sure about that. But the streets are going to be gold, and they are going to be plenty pure gold. And if there are any Marines guarding it, it will only be as an honor guard.

There are a few things, then, as we look at this magnificent city, that you should remember. I stress this because so often these things are denied.

**The New Jerusalem is a Literal City**

First, the new Jerusalem is a literal city. It is not poetry. It is not some mystic concept of heaven. It is a place made of materials. You can put no other sense upon words like "gold" and "pearls" and "gemstones" and all of these measurements. It doesn't make any sense unless it's a real place. And if it is symbolic, there isn't anybody in all the world that can give you the meaning of the symbols, because the Bible doesn't explain that to us. This city is as literal in all of its gems as was the gemstone on the breastplate of the high priest.

Abraham was looking for this city. Abraham came from Ur of the Chaldees, a sophisticated, civilized place of the ancient world, and he left it behind, and he looked for a city, we're told, that was made by God. This is the city. All that the Bible records is meant to be interpreted literally, or it has no message. Abraham went from a literal city, and he looked for another literal city.

Old Babylon has to be replaced by a literal city which is the new Jerusalem; and the old earth by another literal earth, the new earth. Everything is literal that we read here in these final pictures. The reality of God was confirmed to us by the fact that a real God-man came to this earth to be our Savior.

Furthermore, Christians are to be raised in the literal bodies in which they lived, and in which they died, just as Jesus Christ was. All of this is for real.

**The Home of God**

Second thing about the new Jerusalem is to keep in mind its object and its destiny. Its object is to be the eternal home of the Godhead. It is to be the capital city of the new creation earth. The new Jerusalem is to be filled with the glory of God, and it is to be the place of the people of God forever. Their bodies require room for residence. That room, Jesus has said, He is preparing for us in the new Jerusalem. Yes, you will have a lot. You will be on a street. You will be at one of these levels, whatever it is, and you will have your own place of residence. How you will be related as family groups, I don't know. You will certainly know one another, but the Bible does not give us any information about that.

**The Capital of the World**

The third thing is the relation of the new Jerusalem to the new earth. The new Jerusalem floats above the earth during the millennium as a satellite. The new Jerusalem is what God has already now created in heaven. During the millennium, the earthly Jerusalem is the world capital. During eternity, the new Jerusalem will be the capital of all the world. On the new earth, there will be no resistance to God as there was during the time of the earthly Jerusalem.

**The Blessedness of the Inhabitants of the New Jerusalem**

A fourth thing to remember is the blessedness of the inhabitants of the new Jerusalem. It is a great joy to be in the new Jerusalem, a place of infinite beauty and of divine glory. The saints there are going to see Jesus Christ, and we will speak with Him. God will extend comfort, and He will enable us to have forgetfulness toward all the sorrows of this life. Believers will be like Christ, and therefore, they will be fit only to live in a holy place such as the new Jerusalem. The name of Christ will be on our foreheads, and there'll be no question as to whom we belong. It is probably the place where believers who die now go. Believers who have departed from us are probably an advance party who are already residing in the new Jerusalem.

We were reminded in Sunday school this morning of something that has hit the news with quite a shock, and that is that the bubonic plague is hitting India, and the whole governmental structure is on guard, and increasingly in panic. The bubonic plague is what wiped out most of the populations of Europe in the Middle Ages, and it was not stopped until the great fire of the city of London. The reason is that bubonic plague is carried by rats which are infected with it. And fleas get on rats, and they pick up the infection, and they get inject it when they bite people. So, now the bubonic plague is spreading in India.

The problem is that rats in India are gods. They're viewed as sacred animals, along with others. This is a teaching of Hinduism. So, you cannot, as a good Hindu, kill the rats. The government cannot give an order for people to start killing the rats of India. And the rats multiply. They have magnificent temples with marble floors, and you can see pictures of these places, and the rats are running all over. If some housewife finds a rat in her house, she doesn't head for the rat killer. Instead, she tries to shew him out and get him out, but she wouldn't think of killing him. He might be her uncle from a previous life, or probably her father-in-law from a previous life. But you can't kill this little god. And the rats in India now eat enough food to feed the whole country for three months. America has sent scads and scads (boatloads and shiploads) of food to India, and most of it is eaten by the rats. So, the people starve and die.

Can you not thank God that you have been called to live in the new Jerusalem instead of New Delhi?

Dr. John E. Danish, 1993

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