

## The “New Jerusalem”

### as compared with the “Commonwealth Bank Share Offer” commercial in mid 1996

The portrayal of the arrival of this monstrous cubical building on the Australian landscape was a masterpiece of television production and technology, utilising the special effects that go with blue-screen shots.

It really impressed me, as both a television producer, and a building services designer, to observe the under-the-ground-floor detail that one saw from low camera angles, and the highly-populated interior in several variants of the basic theme, and the ingenious way in which the footage had been assembled into a very believable montage. The final variant of the theme televised, the one in which the bank subsequently departed from planet earth was a surprise to me, but within the context of the commercial, I suppose it was necessary. However it ruined the thoughts that were building in my mind, a comparison with the prophesied arrival of Christ's “**New Jerusalem**”, never to depart, in which the writer of The Revelation tells us that the “New Jerusalem” has not got a temple within its walls, because “*the Lord God Omnipotent [Himself] and the Lamb [Himself] are its temple*” . (Amplified Version).

Then, in pondering, and subsequently discussing my thoughts with someone else, I realised that the vast shadow cast by the bank on the countryside underneath the bank in the commercial, was not a factor that should be considered in relating this sight to the arrival of the “New Jerusalem” - I had previously pictured the radiance of God's glory shining only sideways and upwards. However, the New Jerusalem being the repository of the universe's source of light, there obviously couldn't be any shadow beneath it, no matter how clever the commercial producers had been. “*And the city has no need of the sun nor of the moon to give light to it, for the splendour and radiance (glory) of God illuminate it, and the Lamb is its lamp*”. [Amplified Version, cross reference also to Isaiah 24:23; 60:1, 19].

When one thinks of buildings on land, one's thoughts tend towards that so-called “Quarter-Acre Block” that we Australians have revered and sought after for many years. One should start with the realisation that an acre is 4840 square yards, or one six-hundred-and-fortieth of a square mile. Put another way, six hundred and forty quarter-acre allotments grouped together occupy a square mile - and that would be twenty by thirty-two traditional house blocks form very closely a square. My home sits on a block of approximately sixty-six feet by a hundred and fifty feet, and this is a bit under the quarter-acre.

From Revelation 21:16 we read “*The city lies in a square, its length being the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod - 12,000 stadia; its*

*length and width and height are the same.*" [Amplified Version]. We know that one stadium, so named because it is the distance around a Roman stadium (at the inner portion of the track), is two hundred and twenty yards of imperial measurement, or one eighth of a mile, so the dimensions of the city that John saw in vision had to be **one thousand five hundred miles square**, with an equal height.

Now if we apply simple arithmetic to such an enormous structure, the scaling factor to apply to the size of the Commonwealth Bank building pictured descending from the sky is unbelievable.

We have to start somewhere with an assumption, so if you can fault my mathematics, **PLEASE** let me know. Let us assume that the Commonwealth Bank building in the commercial was one hundred feet square. Its floor area would then be ten thousand square feet. If we divide that approximate 100 feet into 1500 miles (multiplied by 5280 feet per mile), this would make each side of the New Jerusalem a factor of 79,200 times larger than the bank's side. This would mean that the area covered by the New Jerusalem's base would be that amount squared (multiplied by itself),  $79200 \times 79200$ , or 6,272,640,000 (a bit over 6 million) - meaning that the base area covered by the New Jerusalem would be about six and a quarter million times that of the Commonwealth Bank.

If it is cubical, then the volume occupied by it would be of the order of a five hundred million million times, or more exactly 496,793,088,000,000 times more than that occupied by the bank.

These figures start to sound like those unimaginable ones that astronomers quote at us about the size of the universe, and outer space. Hmm. Aren't we talking about something of astronomical proportions?

Let's look at another aspect of it. The "New Jerusalem" is not just stone, bricks and mortar. It's not just precious stones like jasper, sapphire, emerald, onyx and the others mentioned by John. It's not just three little gates in each side - and incidentally, those gates would also have to be huge, to be able to be recognised as such, in a wall 1500 miles long and high, and yet the walls were only 144 cubits (72 yards or 216 feet) thick (and plenty of old fortresses still standing have proportionately thick walls).

No, the "New Jerusalem" is people. Let us assume that the Lord is there, being worshipped by people standing shoulder-to-shoulder on just the one floor, with a ceiling 1500 miles above. The space occupied by one average person is a bit less than two feet (say 500 millimetres) in each direction. This would mean, at that population density, 2640 people should be able to stand shoulder-to-shoulder or front-to-back in one linear mile. This would equate to just under four million people able to stand along each side (actually 3,960,000 people). If the

entire floor were covered, it would accomodate 15,681,600,000,000 people - just over fifteen and a half million million (that is "real" billions, not American billions, of) people standing shoulder-to-shoulder. I believe what we Welsh call "hwyl" - an untranslatable word more or less meaning "fervour" - would emanate from such a group singing at the tops of their voices "**Worthy is the Lamb**".

I can hear you saying "that's wrong, he didn't allow for the thickness of the walls".

True, I have exaggerated slightly, because I didn't deduct the 216 people lost in each row due to the wall thickness (432 feet for two walls), or the 216 rows we are short of, for the same reason. However, what's 216 in four million? This brings the number of people per row, and the number of rows down to 3,959,784, and in the overall adjustment, there would still be 15,679,889,326,660 people there! And that's just the **ground floor**. What about the "Dress Circle", and on up to what on the stage is referred (albeit somewhat irreverently) as "The Gods"?

Perhaps statistics don't prove much, particlarly with such huge numbers. I suggest it is more important to check if you have a ticket to go through the turnstile at the entry! After all, at the footy, no ticket, no admission! And so, one would imagine, would be the case at the Commonwealth Bank's shareholders' meeting.

In conclusion; when one looks at the gigantic intergalactic ship, described as 45 kilometres across (with a resulting floor area of 621 and a half square miles), that featured in the "blockbuster" film called "**Independence Day**", the "**New Jerusalem**" is still 53 times larger across, and although it is square rather than round, its floor area is still about 4000 times larger than the spaceship, and considerably taller!

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