



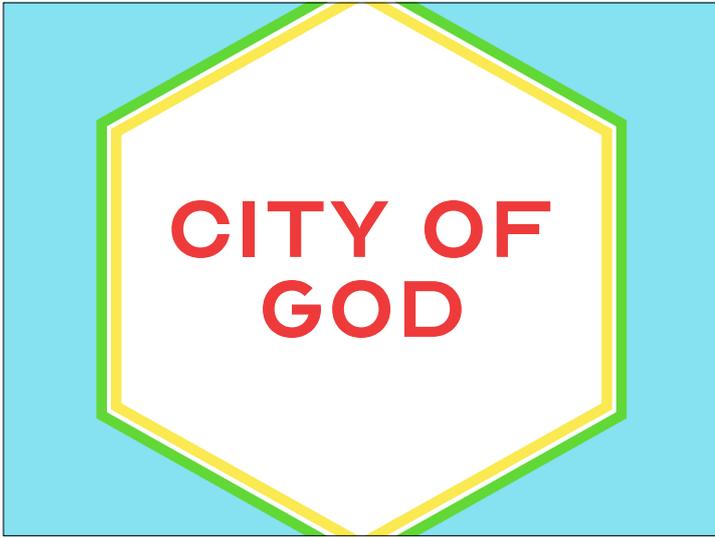
What we're starting with is Kingdom Vision.

It's both



Two weeks ago, I started this series looking at Genesis 2, and God's original paradise. And in that we saw that in that original paradise, God's vision for his kingdom saw mankind as having a purpose and responsibility, and intimate and precious relationship with God, where we were deliberately designed, and created for community and connections.

Last week, Ben looked ahead to Genesis 12, where we see God's vision of his kingdom is one where our Just God is in control, and that his plan is for the kingdom to be for everyone.



And this week, we now fast forward to the book of Revelation 21, where we see this final picture of God's kingdom.

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Revelation 21:2-4

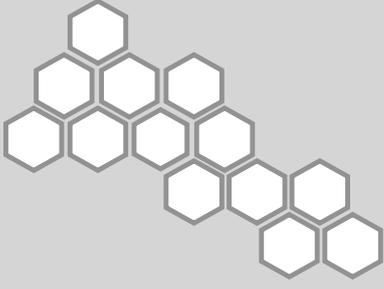
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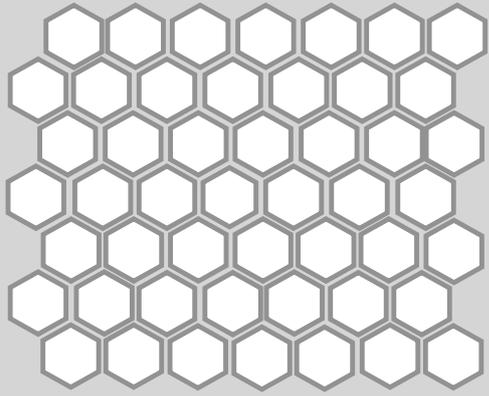
It's this beautiful picture, and one that's talked about a lot about when we think about heaven, or the end of things. Where there is no more mourning, or death, and great comfort from God.

What's a city



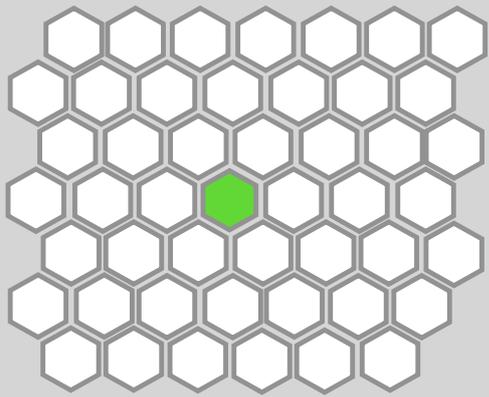
What's a city





LARGE HABITATION OF PEOPLE

Because a city, at its most a gathering of people ... of greater size, population, and importance than towns or villages. It's a large human settlement.



GENESIS 2

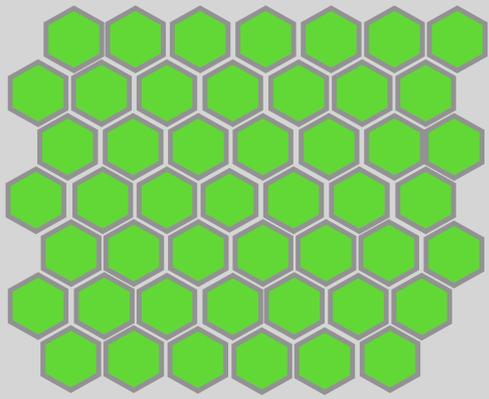
Genesis 1

Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Genesis 9

7 As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it.”

And actually the inclination for the population of the world is to gather. By Genesis 4, “Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son Enoch.”



GOD'S INTENTION

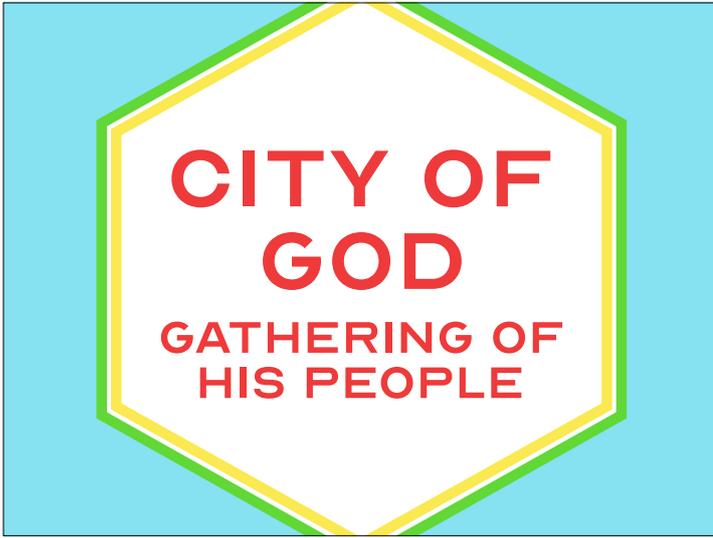
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And this week, we now fast forward to the book of Revelation 21, where we see this final picture of God's kingdom.



An earthly example of a holy City.



MAN's City v God's City
Earthly Kingship, v Heavenly Kingship
Earthly Authority, even given by God,
is still subject to Man's sinfulness



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An earthly example of a holy City.



For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Hebrews 11:10,15-16

Hebrews 11:10,15 — And he's talking about Abraham — the one who had that first commission.

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This idea of architect and builder — again, when we think about that, we're thinking of buildings, and infrastructure... we need to remember, what really makes a city, is the people. An empty abandoned city, is not really a city. A city is only alive with the people.

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Hebrews 11:10,15-16



**ARCHITECT
BUILDER**

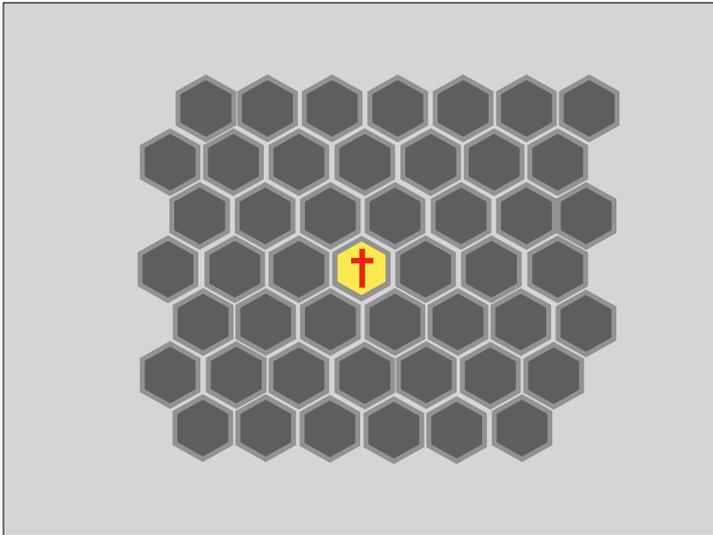
Architect and Builder,
Designed and Deliberate
Purpose
If the city is the people, not the
buildings, then what God is
architecting, and what he is building is
people — he is building his citizens.

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Hebrews 12:22-24

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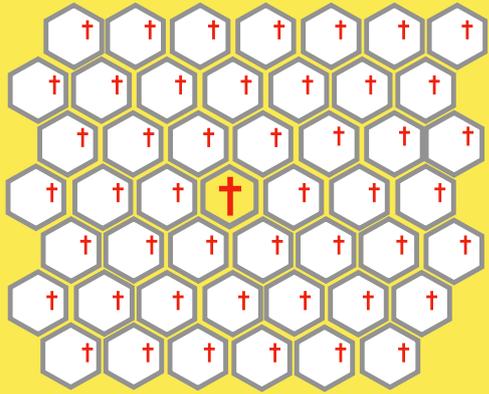
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CHRIST THE FOUNDATION

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"Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Revelation 21

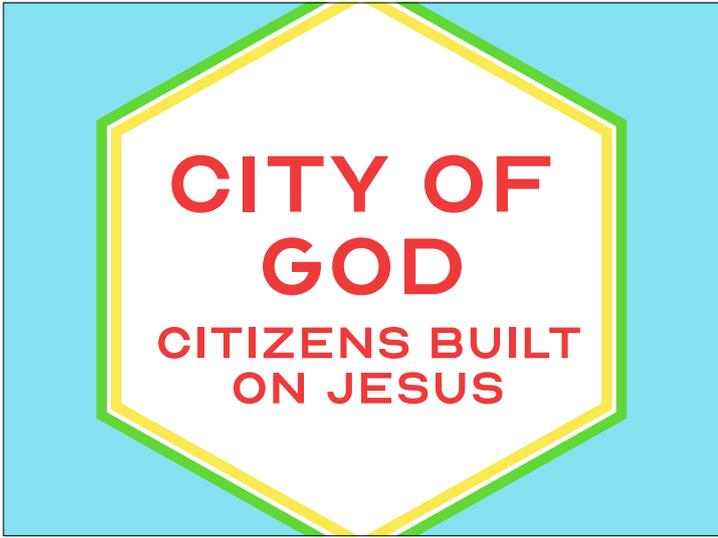
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>5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

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And this week, we now fast forward to the book of Revelation 21, where we see this final picture of God's kingdom.

The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long.

Revelation 21

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. 11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. 13 There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. 14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

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Just like the temple and just like the tabernacle..

this is the holy of holies, but now

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honour of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

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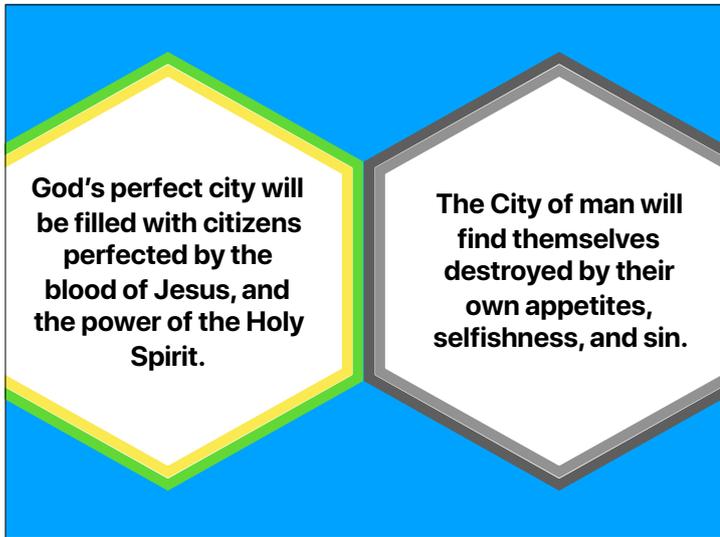


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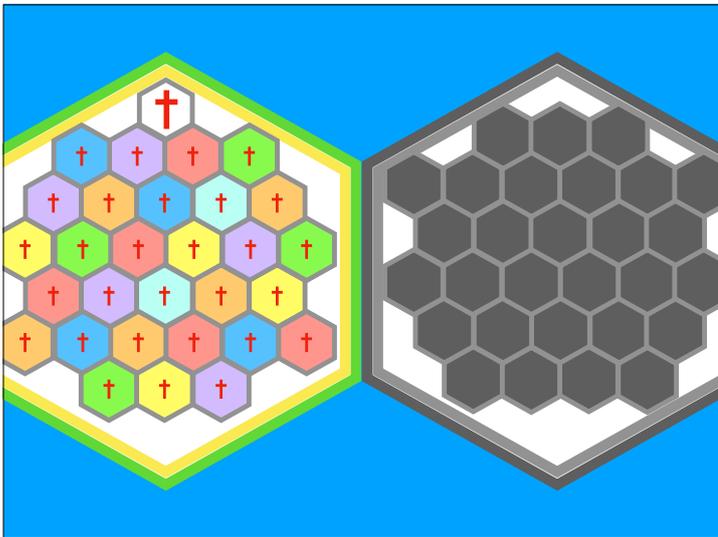
City of God
Jerusalem
Bride

City of Man
Babylon
Prostitute



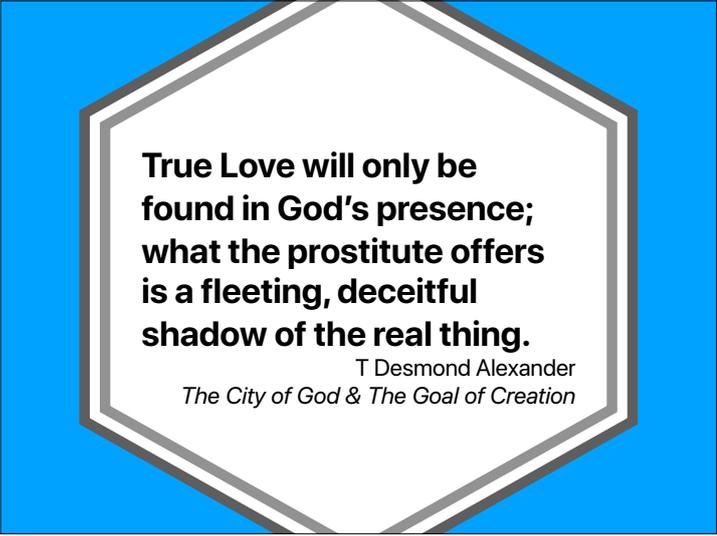
God's perfect city will be filled with citizens perfected by the blood of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

The City of man will find themselves destroyed by their own appetites, selfishness, and sin.



a city made of people trying to find satisfaction in something else. filling their lives, selling their souls, and their bodies, and their money, and their time, for anything that might satisfy them...

But citizenship in God's holy kingdom belongs to those who are sanctified by Jesus. And by doing so you're called to live in a different way.

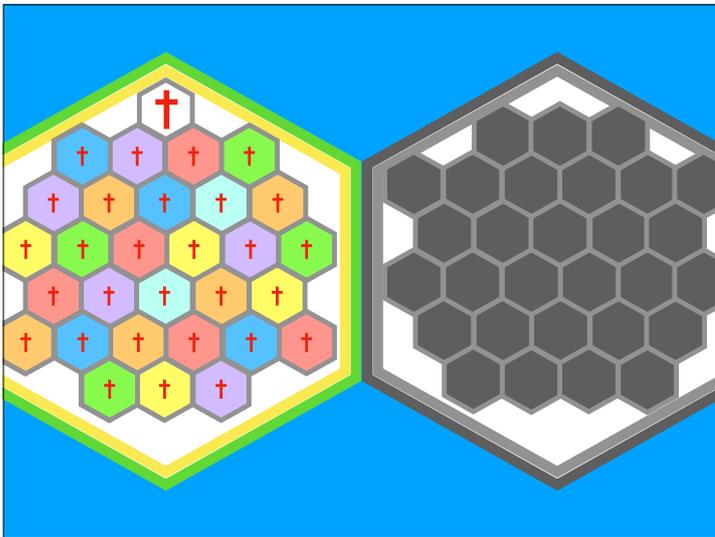


**True Love will only be
found in God's presence;
what the prostitute offers
is a fleeting, deceitful
shadow of the real thing.**

T Desmond Alexander
The City of God & The Goal of Creation

True Love will only be found in God's presence; what the prostitute offers is a fleeting, deceitful shadow of the real thing.

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Creation



In this world, there's going to be this temptation, this sinking into just letting the selfishness, cynicism, judgemental, hateful attitude overtake us.

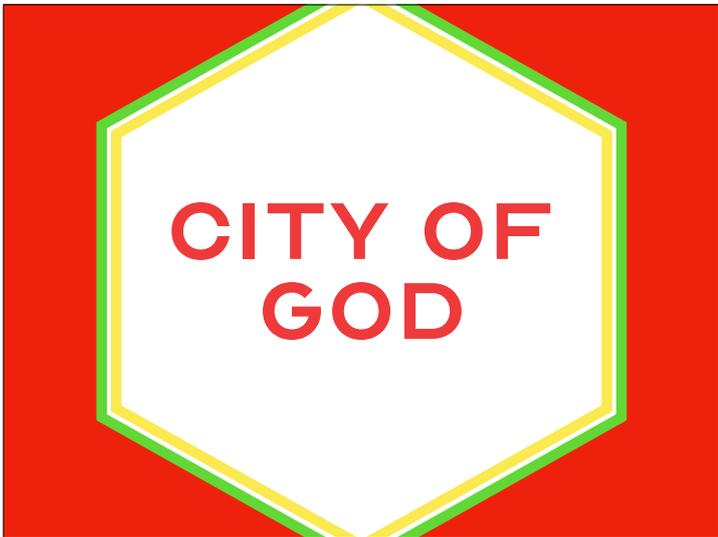
It'll numb us to the fact that we need God, it'll dull us to the dangers of sin, it'll make us want only what pleases us, at the cost of everything else. Like prostitution, it's the sense of the physical, without the depth of commitment, understanding and love.

But the conviction for us is that we are citizens of heaven, the city of God, who are still dwelling in the city of man, the earthly babylon.

**Will you live as citizens
of this world's godless
Babylon
or
as citizens of God's
future New Jerusalem?**

True Love will only be found in God's presence; what the prostitute offers is a fleeting, deceitful shadow of the real thing.

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What God has intended from the begging

What he desires for us — to be his living city, architected and built by him, and personal and intimate as his holy bride, we are challenged to see how we represent Christ here and now.

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- 1. Yearn for deeper sanctification**
 - 2. Activate your heavenly citizenship and live differently**
 - 3. Proclaim the victory of Christ, for the growth of his city**

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