

The Lamb's Book of Life and Praying for the Lost

Scripture: Revelation 21

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and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.(21:26–27)

Then John adds another detail to his description of the New Jerusalem. Throughout the never-ending **daytime** of the eternal state (**for there will be no night there**) **its gates will never be closed**. In an ancient walled city, the gates were closed at nightfall to keep invaders, marauders, criminals, and other potentially dangerous individuals from entering the city under cover of darkness. That **there will be no night** in eternity, and the **gates** of the New Jerusalem **will never** need to **be closed**, depicts the city's complete security. It will be a place of rest, safety, and refreshment, where God's people will "rest from their labors" (14:13).

The kings will not be the only ones to surrender their earthly prestige and glory when they enter heaven. The **glory and the honor of the nations** will also dissolve, as it were, into the eternal worship of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Like the twenty-four elders, all who enter heaven "will cast their crowns before the throne" of God (4:10).

All in heaven will be perfectly holy. Thus, **nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into** the New Jerusalem (see the discussions of 21:7–8 in chap. 18 of this volume and 22:15 in chap. 21). The only ones there will be those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. (For a discussion of the book of life, see 3:5; 13:8; and the comments on 20:12 in chap. 17 of this volume.)

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