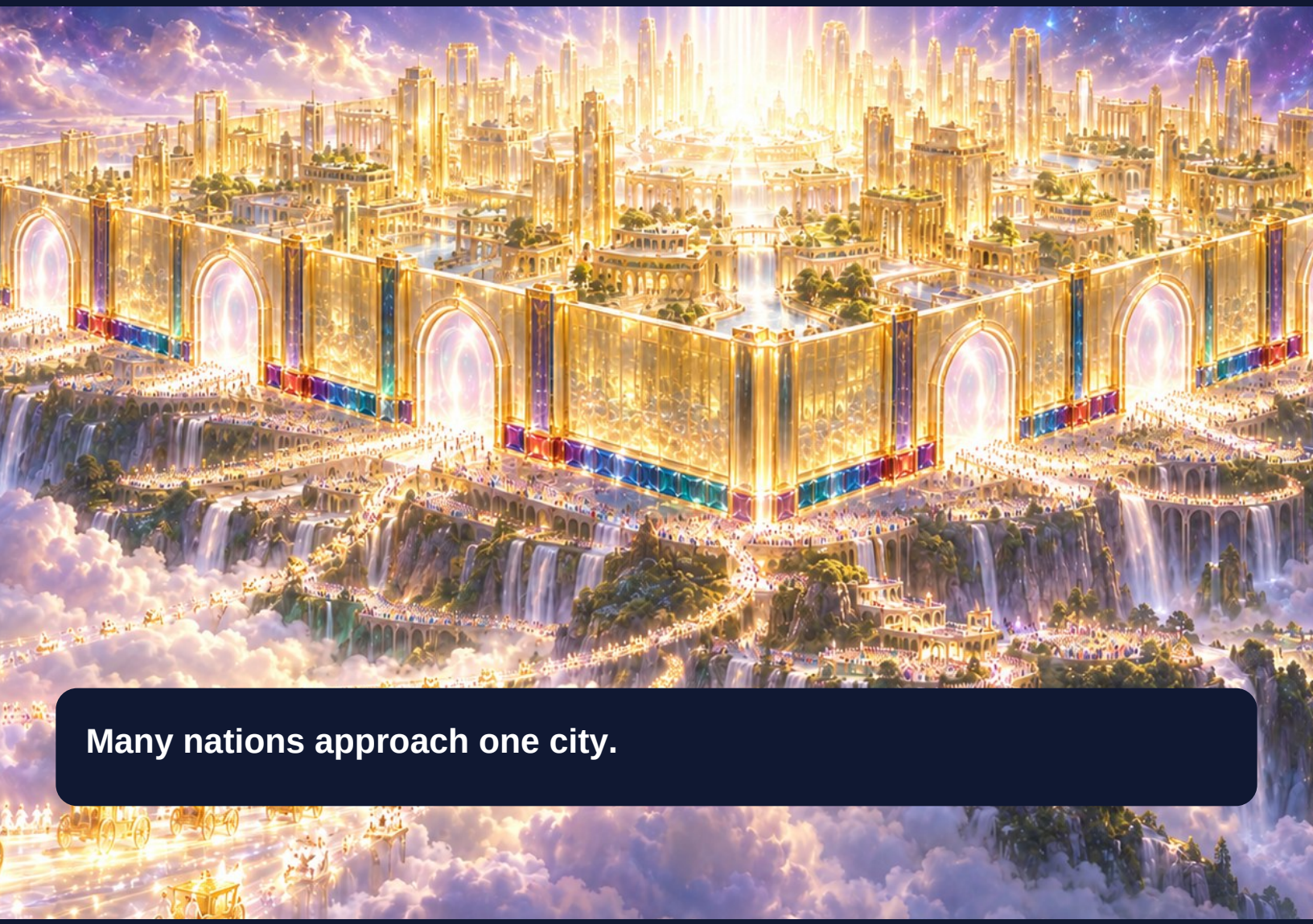
ISSUE 08 / VOLUME 2



Many nations approach one city.

THE GATES OF PROMISE

Why do people of every nationality enter a city whose gates bear Israel's names?

WATCH / NOTICE / ASK

Stay with the narrator’s question



Existing movie environment concept / final scene still to be selected

Why do people of every nationality enter a city whose gates bear Israel's names?

Return to this part of Heaven’s Diary. Describe what the narrator sees, what surprises him, and what he has not yet understood. Read the Bible before accepting the story’s explanation as a doctrine.

Read / Observe

Open the Bible together

REVELATION 21:9-27

Observe the city, gates, tribal names, apostolic foundations, and the Lamb. Ask what the vision communicates about God’s people. Do not assume every architectural detail supplies an independent doctrine about daily life in heaven.

GALATIANS 3:26-29

Paul ties inheritance to belonging to Christ. People from different backgrounds become heirs through Him. What does the passage preserve about God’s promise, and what kind of human boasting does it exclude?

EPHESIANS 2:11-22 + HEBREWS 11:8-16

Christ reconciles divided people; the faithful seek God’s city. The gate imagery belongs to the whole covenant story. It must not become a claim of ethnic superiority or a reason to despise Jewish people.

Look deeper

From the passage to Christ

THE CONNECTED PICTURE

Move from Abraham's promise to a multinational family in Christ. The tribal gates and apostolic foundations unite the covenant story around the Lamb. Do not erase Jewish identity or claim ethnic superiority.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

Revelation 21:9–27: What do the gates and foundations display? Galatians 3:26–29: How do people become Abraham's heirs? Hebrews 11:8–16: What city did the faithful seek? Ephesians 2:11–22: What happens to hostility in Christ?

EXPLAIN IT IN THREE SENTENCES

First: what the passage says in its original setting. Second: how the Adventist understanding brings the passages together. Third: how the movie illustrates that conclusion. Do not let an attractive scene substitute for the argument. Ask which connection reveals Christ’s work or character.

PHOTOTHEOLOGY / MAP THE TEXT

Trace the biblical movement

1

PROMISE

Genesis 12:1-3 / Blessing is intended to reach the nations.

↓

2

BELONGING IN CHRIST

Galatians 3:26-29 / Heirs through faith in Christ.

↓

3

THE CITY AND THE LAMB

Revelation 21:12-14, 22-27 / The covenant story reaches its goal.

Use the passages to explain each step. A solid link needs textual support; use a dotted link for an illustration or a proposal that remains uncertain.

A fair objection

Questions worth taking seriously

IS THIS REPLACING JEWISH PEOPLE?

Galatians explains inclusion in Christ; it does not license contempt for Jews. Read Romans 11:17-24, where Gentile believers are warned against arrogance. Reconciliation should produce humility toward the roots of the biblical story.

IS HEAVEN ONLY FOR OUR DENOMINATION?

Revelation 7:9-10 portrays a multinational redeemed people. Adventists invite people to follow biblical truth and join a church community; a denominational label is not a substitute for union with Christ.

IS THE CITY ONLY A SYMBOL?

Adventists affirm a real New Jerusalem and a real renewed earth where embodied, redeemed people live with God forever. Revelation uses symbolic features to communicate covenant truths; that does not make the promised home merely imaginary. Read Revelation 21:1-4, 10-27; 22:1-5. Distinguish the real promise from an artist’s exact architecture.

VISUAL STUDY / YOUR TURN

Build the picture yourself

Sketch a gate and two foundation stones. Label the gate Promise and the stones Prophets and Apostles, then place Christ at the center using Ephesians 2:19-22. Mark where the sketch is your illustration rather than Revelation’s exact description.

TEXTUAL EVIDENCE

CONNECTION OR REPLY

QUESTION TO KEEP

RETURN TO THE STORY

Use your work to answer the opening question. Name one claim you can support directly, one inference, and one detail supplied by the film’s visual staging.

For activities needing more panels or columns, continue on a separate sheet.

A PERSONAL RESPONSE

Let the truth shape your life

READ AND REFLECT

Read the first passage again. Identify what it reveals about God, what it asks of you, and how Christ supplies hope or help. Pray with one specific response in mind.

What prejudice or barrier does Christ invite you to surrender as part of His family?

MY NEXT STEP

( ) I understand. ( ) I need more study.
( ) I would appreciate a Bible study conversation.

NEXT: Issue 9 / Who Can Live in the Fire?

Participation and personal sharing are voluntary. Bring unresolved questions.

Leader companion

Guide the next conversation

75-MINUTE ROUTE

Scene and observation 10 / Bible investigation 20 / Christ-centered connection and map 15 / strongest objection 15 / visual activity 5 / response and prayer 10. Use a second meeting when the questions need it; do not force agreement to finish a schedule.

ISSUE-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE

Keep the original images distinct: Ephesians' household/temple and Revelation's city illuminate belonging without becoming an identical architectural diagram. Ask what reconciliation requires in participants' actual relationships.

SOURCE AND INVITATION

Story: Heaven's Diary transcript, 16:46–22:10. Method: Phototheology Core Method v2. Apologetics sources and editorial limitations are mapped in the accompanying source register. This is new editorial wording, not a verbatim Ivor Myers quotation. Invite a voluntary next step and preserve unresolved questions.