

Four Reasons the New Jerusalem Is Not On the Millennial Earth

I. FOUR REASONS

A. ***Summary:*** I believe the New Jerusalem is close to yet not on the millennial earth. First, the ***size*** of the millennial Jerusalem is about 10 square miles (Ezek. 48:15-19, 30-35; 45:6). The New Jerusalem is 1,380 miles (Rev. 21:16). Thus, it is far too large to fit into the 10 square mile area that Ezekiel prophesied as “the Jerusalem” that is on the earth during the Millennium. Second, the kings of the millennial earth will ***come into*** the New Jerusalem to bring their glory which includes their resources and accomplishments (Rev. 21:24-26; 22:14). Third, the ***leaves*** in the New Jerusalem are for the healing of the nations on the millennial earth (Rev. 22:2). There is no need for healing leaves in the New Jerusalem. The City must be close to the earth so that people may have access to these leaves. Fourth, angels ***guard*** the entry to the New Jerusalem to keep sinners out (Rev. 21:12, 27; 22:14-15). Thus, the City must be close enough to the earth for this to matter. Angels guarded the entrance to Eden after Adam sinned (Gen. 3:22-24).

B. The ***size*** of the millennial Jerusalem is about 10 square miles or 4,500 rods x 4,500 rods (Ezek. 48:15-19, 30-35; 45:6). The New Jerusalem is 1,380 miles (Rev. 21:16) and so it is too large to fit into the 10 square mile area, that Ezekiel prophesied of Jerusalem, during the Millennium.

¹⁶These shall be its measurements: the north side 4,500 cubits [rods], the south side 4,500, the east side 4,500, and the west side 4,500. (Ezek. 48:16)

1. Most scholars believe that the unit of measure used by Ezekiel was rods not cubits. The NKJV puts cubits in italics to inform us that it was not in the original Hebrew text.

2. A rod is approximately 10.5 feet. Thus, the district around millennial Jerusalem will be approximately 25,000 square rods (not cubits) or 50 square miles. (Ezek. 48:20-21). The millennial temple area is approximately one square mile (Ezek. 45:2)

C. The kings of the millennial earth will ***come into*** the New Jerusalem to bring their glory which includes their resources and accomplishments (Rev. 21:24-26; 22:14).

²⁴The [millennial] nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the [millennial] earth bring their glory and honor into it...²⁶And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. (Rev. 21:24-26)

¹⁴Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the City. (Rev. 22:14)

D. The ***leaves*** in the New Jerusalem are for the healing of the nations on the millennial earth (Rev. 22:2). There is no need for healing leaves in the New Jerusalem, but they will need to be used to facilitate healing in the nations of the millennial earth. Thus, the New Jerusalem must be close to the earth so that people can have access to these healing leaves.

²The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the [millennial] nations. (Rev. 22:2)

- E. Angels **guard** the entry to the New Jerusalem to keep sinners out (Rev. 21:12, 27; 22:14-15). Thus, the City must be close enough to the earth for this to matter. Angels guarded the entrance to Eden after Adam sinned (Gen. 3:22-24).

¹²*She had a...high wall with 12 gates, and 12 angels at the gates... (Rev. 21:12)*

²⁷*There shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. (Rev. 21:27)*

¹⁴*Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. ¹⁵But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters... (Rev. 22:14-15)*

²²*Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever-- ²³therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden...²⁴So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden...to guard the way to the tree of life. (Gen. 3:22-24)*

II. THE NEW JERUSALEM DESCENDS TO EARTH TWICE

- A. Three times John saw the **New Jerusalem descending** to the earth (Rev. 3:12; 21:2, 10). When the New Jerusalem comes to earth, then heaven is literally on earth.

¹²*The New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. (Rev. 3:12)*

- B. The New Jerusalem will descend to the earth in two stages—first, at Jesus' second coming to begin the Millennium (Rev. 21:10) and second, after the millennial earth is cleansed with fire (2 Pet. 3:10) in order to become the new earth where the throne of the Father will be (Rev. 21:2). Stage one of the descent of the New Jerusalem in the Millennium, is partial yet substantial. Stage two of the descent of the New Jerusalem in the eternal state, is total and ultimate.

¹⁰*He...showed me the...holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God... (Rev. 21:10)*

²*I, John, saw the holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven... (Rev. 21:2)*

- C. Many Old Testament prophecies have a double fulfillment, or two stages of fulfillment. For example, the coming of **Messiah** (Jesus' first and second comings); the outpouring of the **Spirit** at Pentecost and at the end of the age; the return of **Elijah** in the ministry of John the Baptist and at the end of the age; the "**day of the Lord**" judgments on Israel by the Assyrians (721 BC) and the Babylonians (586 BC) and in the tribulation; Jerusalem **surrounded by the nations** in 70 AD and in the tribulation (Lk. 21:24; Zech. 14:1-3); the **Gog and Magog** battle before Jesus returns (Ezek. 38-39) and again at the end of the Millennium (Rev. 20:8); **fire falling on the earth** during the tribulation (Rev. 8) and after the Millennium (2 Pet. 3:10); the **little horn** coming forth in Antiochus Epiphanes (175-163 BC) and again in the Antichrist (Dan. 7:24); the **descent of the New Jerusalem** when Jesus returns (Rev. 21:10) and after the Millennium (Rev. 21:2).

- D. I understand that the events in Revelation 21:9-22:5 refer to the Millennium because the nature of what is described includes the eternal and temporal realms being together. We see the eternal state of the resurrected saints in the New Jerusalem along with millennial conditions.
- E. By understanding the structure of Revelation 21-22, we see two descents of the New Jerusalem. The same angel showed John the Bride (Rev. 21:9-10) and the Harlot Babylon (Rev. 17:1-3). They are parallel visions that are both *in parenthetical sections* in which an angel explains details and events to John that do not occur on earth in chronological order.
- ⁹Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls...talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." ¹⁰He carried me away...to a great and high mountain, and showed me...the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven... (Rev. 21:9-10)*
- ¹Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot..." ³So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast... (Rev. 17:1-3)*
- F. Revelation 21:9-22:5 is a parenthetical section; thus its events do not occur until *after* the events in Revelation 21:1-8. In other words, the descent of the New Jerusalem to the new earth in Revelation 21:2 is the last event of the last chronology in John's account (Rev. 19:11-21:8).
- G. This angelic explanation shows the victory of the Bride and describes the New Jerusalem's relationship to the millennial earth (Rev. 21:9-22:5). Here, God shows how fully He will vindicate and reward the saints for standing true throughout the Great Tribulation. In other words, it will be worth it. This angelic explanation gives us great hope and stability.
- H. The Lord will reign forever on Zion during the Millennium and on the new earth. Jerusalem will continue forever (Ps. 37:29; 78:68-69; 104:5; 105:10-11; 125:1-2; 1 Kgs. 8:13; 9:1-3; 2 Kgs. 21:7; 1 Chr. 15:2; 23:25; 28:8; 2 Chr. 7:16; 20:7; 30:8; 33:4, 7; Isa. 60:20-21; Ezek. 37:25)

III. JESUS' THRONE OF GLORY

- A. At Jesus' second coming, He will establish His throne of glory on earth in Jerusalem.
- ³¹When the Son of Man comes in His glory...then He will sit on the Throne of His glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them... (Mt. 25:31-32)*
- ¹⁷At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. (Jer. 3:17)*
- B. Jesus' throne of glory will be connected to the holy of holies in the millennial Temple.
- ⁴The glory of the LORD came into the temple [millennial Temple]...⁶I heard Him [Jesus] speaking...from the Temple [holy of holies]... He said, "This is the place of My throne and the place of...My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of Israel...forever." (Ezek. 43:4-7)*

- C. Jesus' throne is in the earthly millennial Jerusalem and the heavenly New Jerusalem.
³*The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it [New Jerusalem]. (Rev. 22:3)*
- D. Does Jesus have one throne or two? Is it on the millennial earth or in the New Jerusalem? Yes! His throne of glory is both on earth and in heaven. **It is one throne with two expressions.** Jesus' one throne will be expressed in both Jerusalems. The contact point, or **place of dynamic convergence**, between the heavenly and earthly realms is the union of the two Jerusalems.
- E. I suggest that the New Jerusalem will descend to a place above millennial Jerusalem on Mt. Zion creating a vast "governmental complex" joined by what I refer to as a "corridor of glory" with the "far north end" of it extending into the New Jerusalem and the "far south end" of it based in the millennial Temple. This governmental center of heaven and earth will be Jesus' throne of glory (Mt. 19:28; 25:31). This is seen when taking into account all the specific details of the prophetic Scriptures. It is not clearly revealed as such, but is understood by implication.
- F. The New Jerusalem will descend to the millennial Jerusalem connecting the two Jerusalems. Jesus' throne and the saints' home is in the New Jerusalem. Resurrected saints will live in the New Jerusalem, yet will rule on the earth with Jesus.
²*In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. (Jn. 14:2)*
- G. There are at least 12 characteristics of millennial Jerusalem and the New Jerusalem that overlap. There will be a dynamic convergence of different expressions of glory between the two cities. To converge means to come together from different directions (heavenly and earthly dimensions) to an intersecting point to achieve union. Each dimension has distinction, yet with a significant merging or overlapping to form one unified reality.
- H. For example, Jesus' Throne includes a dynamic convergence of two **mountain-houses** with **two Jerusalems** (with 12 gates), two **holy of holies** (house of prayer temples), two **gardens** like Eden with two **rivers** of life and two **trees** of life (with fruits every month), and the two **highways** with the **whirlwind** (funnels of glory), the **cloud of glory**, shining **fire**, and **smoke** (manifest glory).
- I. The New Jerusalem descending to earth will create a new situation in which the spiritual and natural realm will operate together dynamically. This will cause an open heaven over the earth as the veil is lifted. A tidal wave of glory will spread to all nations from millennial Jerusalem.
¹⁴*The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD... (Hab. 2:14)*
- J. In Bethel, only 12 miles north of Jerusalem, Jacob saw a place in which a supernatural ladder extended from earth to the gate of heaven. He saw angels ascend and descend between the heavenly and earthly realms. Jacob's ladder pictures how the two realms connect at Jerusalem.
¹²*He dreamed...a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it...¹⁷He said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!" (Gen. 28:12-16)*

- K. In Genesis 2-3, God walked with Adam in face to face fellowship as the spiritual and natural realms operated together. A veil was created between these two realms when Adam sinned. This city will be the first city in history to combine the supernatural dimensions of heaven with the natural conditions of earth under God's favor.