

New Jerusalem: Father's Gift to the Bridegroom and Bride (Rev. 21-22)

M. BICKLE

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY IN RELATIONAL TERMS: NEARNESS TO GOD (21:1-8)

- A. **New Earth:** where New Jerusalem (Heb. 11:10, 16; 12:22-24) finds its permanent resting place.
I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. There was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared (Jn. 14:2-3) as a bride adorned for her husband. (Rev. 21:1-2)
- B. The marriage covenant (fulfilling Jn. 14:3; 17:24): our greatest inheritance is God living with us or 'moving in' with us in intimate face to face encounter forever (Ex. 33:11, 20-23).
I heard a loud voice..., "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be NO more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be NO more pain, for the former things have passed away." (Rev. 21:3-4)
- C. **Father's description of the city in relational terms:** His grand announcement with 7 negatives removed: no sea (21:1), death, sorrow, crying, pain (21:4), curse (22:3), nor night (21:25; 22:5).
Then He who sat on the throne (Father) said, "Behold, I make all things new." He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." 6 He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. 8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (Rev. 21:5-8)

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY AS THE HOLY OF HOLIES: EXTERNAL VIEW (21:9-22)

John elaborates on Rev. 21:1-8 describing the City as the Holy of Holies: the **Shekinah glory** as jasper (diamond-like) light fills the city (21:11, 23; 22:5) with dimensions (21:16) as a cube like the **Holy of Holies** with the high priest's jewels in the foundation (21:19-20) and the **Ark** (God's Throne, 22:3).

- A. **City's splendor and light:** as a beautiful Bride. **Shekinah glory** fills City (Temple, 2 Chr. 5-7).
Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the Lamb's wife." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. (Rev. 21:9-11)
- B. **The City's design:** gates (21:12b-14), walls (21:12a, 15-18) and foundations (21: 12, 19-20).
She had a great and high wall with 12 GATES, and 12 angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the 12 tribes of...Israel: 13 three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. 14 The WALL of the city had 12 FOUNDATIONS, and on them were the names of the 12 apostles...(Rev. 21:12-14)

- C. **City's size:** walls are 1500 miles long and high (approx. 7,000,000 feet high) and 216 feet thick (21:15-17). The cube like dimensions parallel the **Holy of Holies** (cube: 1 Kings 6:19-20).
He who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. 16 The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: 12,000 furlongs (1500 miles). Its length, breadth (width), and height are equal (cube). 17 Then he measured its wall: 144 cubits (216 feet thick)...(Rev. 21:15-17)
- D. **City's construction:** walls (21:12, 15-18), foundations (21:12, 19-20), gates (21:12-14) and street (21:21; 22:2). Jewels of the high priest (Ex. 28:17-20) picturing his nearness to God.
The CONSTRUCTION OF ITS WALL was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The FOUNDATIONS of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper...sapphire...chalcedony...emerald...sardonyx...sardius...chrysolite...beryl...topaz...chrysoprase...jacinth...amethyst. 21 The 12 GATES were 12 pearls...and the STREET of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. (Rev. 21:18-21)
- E. New Jerusalem as the Holy of Holies: Worshipping City is the eternal home of the Bride.
But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. (Rev. 21:22)

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY AS THE GARDEN OF EDEN: INTERNAL VIEW (21:23-22:5)

- A. The beauty of the interior of the city seen in its light source illumination.
The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. The nations...shall walk in its light...(Rev. 21:23-24a)
- B. Relationship to the Millennial earth (21:24-27; 22:2)
The (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. 25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). 26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. 27 But 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. 21:24-27)
- C. **Life inside the City:** garden of Eden with the River of Life (22:1); Tree of Life (22:2). A worshipping city with no temple (21:22; 22:4a). An illuminated city with no sun (21:23; 22:5). A governing city that rules (21:24,26; 22:5d). A working city that serves God (21:25b; 22:3c, 5a). A holy city without sin (21:27,8; 22:14-15). Throne of God (22:3-5).
He showed me a pure RIVER OF WATER OF LIFE, clear as crystal, proceeding from the Throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the TREE OF LIFE, which bore 12 fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 There shall be no more curse, but the THRONE OF GOD and of the LAMB shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. (Rev. 22:1-5)