Seven Reasons Why I Believe the New Jerusalem Will Be Near the Earth in the Millennium

THE NEW JERUSALEM WILL BE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO EARTHLY JERUSALEM

There are ***seven reasons*** why I believe the New Jerusalem will be *close to* and accessible to earthly Jerusalem during the Millennium, but not actually *on the earth* until after the Millennium.

I. JESUS' THRONE

Jesus' throne will be in the millennial temple[1] on earth in Jerusalem *as well as* in the heavenly New Jerusalem (Jer. 3:17; Ezek. 43:4-7; Zech. 6:12-13; Rev. 22:3). It is *one throne with two expressions*. Jesus' throne of glory will be in the holy of holies of the temple in earthly Jerusalem (Ezek. 43:6-7).

[3]The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it *[the New Jerusalem]****. (Rev. 22:3)***

[17]At 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)

[6]I heard Him speaking to me from the temple *[millennial temple]****...[7]He said, "This is the place of My throne…where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever." (Ezek. 43:6-7)***

1. Jesus' *throne of glory* (Mt. 19:28; 25:31; Rev. 4) has an expression in both the New Jerusalem and earthly Jerusalem. I suggest that it may be a vast "governmental complex" that includes the millennial temple and the throne room of the Father and Son in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 4).

   [31]"When the Son of Man comes…He will sit on the throne of His glory." (Mt. 25:31)

2. I picture the possibility of a governmental complex, with the "northern part" extending into the New Jerusalem and the "southern part" based in the temple in Jerusalem.

II. THE SIZE

The earthly Jerusalem in the Millennium is either about 10 square miles or 80 square miles, depending on whether the measurement is 4,500 cubits or 4,500 rods (Ezek. 48:15-19, 30-35; 45:6; Zech. 2).

Since the New Jerusalem will be 1,380 miles cubed (Rev. 21:16), it will be far too large to rest on the city of Jerusalem on the earth. Some commentators suggest that the unit of measure used to measure Jerusalem in Ezekiel chapter 43 was rods (10.5 feet), not cubits (about 1.5 feet). If Jerusalem is 4,500 rods by 4,500 rods (with a rod being 10.5 feet), then the city will be about 47,250 feet by 47,250 feet—about 9 miles by 9 miles, or about 81 square miles.

[16]These shall be its measurements: the north side four thousand five hundred cubits *[rods]****, the south side four thousand five hundred*** *[rods]****, the east side four thousand five hundred*** *[rods]****, and the west side four thousand five hundred*** *[rods]****. (Ezek. 48:16)***

1. I use the phrase "the millennial temple" to refer to the temple that will stand in Jerusalem in the Millennium.

III. THE LEAVES

The leaves in the New Jerusalem are for the healing of the nations (Rev. 22:2), but in the New Jerusalem there will be no need for healing, and thus no need for leaves that heal; rather, the leaves will be used to facilitate healing in the nations of the millennial earth.[2] Thus the New Jerusalem must be close enough to the earth that people with natural bodies, living on the earth, can have access to these healing leaves.

[2]…on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits…The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations *[in the Millennium].* ***(Rev. 22:2)***

IV. THE LIGHT

The nations will walk in the light of the New Jerusalem. This is not conclusive, but it suggests that the brightness of the New Jerusalem will not be far from the earth as it is now. The New Jerusalem exists at this time in the heavenly realm, and it is filled with God's glorious light (Rev. 21:11), which is not currently visible to the earth.

[24]The *[millennial]* ***nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light. (Rev. 21:24)***

V. THE KINGS

The kings on the millennial earth will come into the New Jerusalem to bring their glory and honor, which I believe would include their national resources and accomplishments (Rev. 21:24-26; 22:14).

[24]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…[26]And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. (Rev. 21:24-26)***

[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. [15]But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters. (Rev. 22:14-15)

VI. THE ANGELS

Angels seem to stand "guard" at the gates of the New Jerusalem to make sure that no one enters who does not have right of entry and the right to the tree of life (Rev. 21:12, 27; 22:14-15). If this is so, the New Jerusalem must be close enough to the earth for this to matter. The angels who guard the gates of the New Jerusalem are a parallel to the angels who guarded the entrance to Eden and the tree of life after Adam and Eve sinned (Gen. 3:22-24).

[12]She had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates. (Rev. 21:12)

[27]There shall by no means enter it *[New Jerusalem]* ***anything that defiles…but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. (Rev. 21:27)***

[22]"And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"…[24]So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. (Gen. 3:22-24)

---

2. I use the phrase "the millennial earth" to refer to the earth during the time of the Millennium.

VII. THE SAINTS REIGNING

The saints will live in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 22:4), but they will reign on earth (Rev. 5:10). This is not conclusive proof, but it suggests that the saints will live in the New Jerusalem, which will not be far from the earth that they will reign on.

[3]…the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it** [New Jerusalem]**, and His servants** [saints] **shall serve Him. [4]They shall see His face…[5]And they shall reign forever and ever. (Rev. 22:3-5)

[10]And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth. (Rev. 5:10)

VIII. THE NEW JERUSALEM DESCENDS TO EARTH TWICE

A. In my opinion, the New Jerusalem will descend to earth, both at the *beginning* of the Millennium (Rev. 21:10) and at the *end* (Rev. 21:2), when the earth has been cleansed with fire (2 Pet. 3:10).

[2]I, John, saw the holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God…
[10]He…showed me the…holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God… (Rev. 21:2, 10)

B. I agree with scholars who see Revelation 17:1-19:10 and 21:9-22:5 as parenthetical sections (in which end-time events are not described as they unfold in chronological sequence). These two parenthetical sections parallel each other—in each section, John received a vision from *one of the angels who had the seven bowls,* and in each section an angel showed John a "woman"—first the harlot Babylon (17:1-3) and then the Bride (21:9-10).

[1]Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls…talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you…the great harlot…" [3]So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. (Rev. 17:1-3)

[9]Then 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." [10]He carried me away…to a great and high mountain, and showed me…the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven. (Rev. 21:9-10)

C. I agree with scholars who see Revelation 21:1-8 as describing events that occur in chronological order ***after*** the Millennium and the final judgment (Rev. 20:1-15) and see Revelation 21:9-22:5 as referring to events ***during*** the Millennium. Thus, they conclude that the descent of the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21:2 occurs ***after*** the Millennium (Rev. 20) and the descent of the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21:10 happens at the ***beginning*** of the Millennium. By understanding the structure of the book of Revelation in this way, we see two descents of the New Jerusalem. It seems that the New Jerusalem will descend the first time, coming close to earthly Jerusalem; then, after the earth is "cleansed with fire" at the end of the Millennium (2 Pet. 3:10), the New Jerusalem will descend further, to rest upon the new earth that will have no sea (Rev. 21:1-2). The New Jerusalem will rest directly upon the new earth. It will not need to fit in the parameters that Ezekiel identified as the size of earthly Jerusalem in the Millennium (Ezek. 48:16) since we assume that there will be many changes in the new earth, including it having no sea (Rev. 21:1).

D. In Revelation 21:1-8, the New Jerusalem (v. 2) and the Father's throne (v. 3) will be on the new earth ***after*** the Millennium. I agree with scholars who see Revelation 21:9-22:5 as referring to the New Jerusalem ***during*** the Millennium. They reach this conclusion because the nature of some of the things that the people do (21:24-26) at that time is out of character with the eternal state. In Revelation 21:9-22:5, John described the eternal and temporal together—the eternal state of the resurrected saints living in the New Jerusalem is pictured alongside the kings of the earth bringing the glory of the nations into the New Jerusalem from the millennial earth.

[24]And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its *[New Jerusalem's]* ***light, and the kings of the*** *[millennial]* ***earth bring their glory and honor into it*** *[New Jerusalem]***.**
(Rev. 21:24)