

## The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Houses of Light Church • Octubre 12-13, 2019 • Pastor Netz Gómez

### THE GLORY OF THE NEW JERUSALEM OUR ETERNAL HOME

#### Revelation 21:9-10

***“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.” <sup>10</sup> 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.”***

#### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. After speaking of the glorious consolation that God will bring upon His people in a face-to-face relationship with them (**Rev. 21:1-8**), now John is led by one of seven angels who had the seven bowls of wrath to show him The heavenly city, the New Jerusalem. This chapter only increases in glory.

#### II. THE NEW JERUSALEM DESCENDS THE EARTH ON TWO DIFFERENT STAGES

- A. We must understand the outline of **Rev. 21-22** and its relationship with the two descents of the New Jerusalem. This passage has two sections: **Rev. 21:1-8** and **Rev. 21:9-22:5**.
- B. **Rev. 21:1-8** describes our ultimate eternal inheritance in the New Jerusalem in terms of our closeness to God. The resurrected saints relate face to face with God and will be satisfied and comforted by Him. This section describes the dynamic quality of spiritual life in the New Jerusalem during the millennium and the New Earth (**Rev. 21:1**).
- C. **Rev 21:2** reveals the fact of the New Jerusalem that descends to the New Earth that has no sea. This happens in the chronological progression of Revelation immediately after the events of the Great White Throne in **Rev. 20:11-15**. **Rev. 21:2** does not develop the ideas that the descent of Jerusalem has two phases, just like the OT that speaks of the reality of the coming of Jesus as the Messiah without pointing out that his coming would be in two phases.
- D. The fundamental reality of the New Jerusalem is God with people on earth (**Rev. 21:3** and **6**). The splendor of the New Jerusalem described in **Rev. 21:9-22:5** is seen from two points of view: how the city looks on the outside (**Rev. 21:9-22**) and how it looks on the inside (**Rev. 21:23-22:5**).
- E. The New Jerusalem seen in **Rev. 21: 9-22:5** gives details of the City in which the saints will live forever, it is a parenthetical section and should not be understood as events that take place in chronological sequence after the creation of the New Earth (**Rev. 21:1-2**). **Rev. 21:9-22:5** refers to the Millennium because the nature of the things mentioned do not match the eternal state as mentioned in **vs.24-27**.
- F. **Rev 21:9-22** describes the eternal and the temporal together. The eternal state of the resurrected saints in the New Jerusalem is represented during the Millennium in this

passage. The occupants of this city possess eternal inheritance, in eternal relationship with God living with them.

- G. **General description:** The glorious splendor of the city (**Rev. 21:9-11**); its doors and foundations (**Rev. 21:12-14**); Its design and size. The city is 2,220 km in length, height and width (**Rev. 21: 12b-14**). A stadium is a Greek measure that equals approximately 182 meters. The walls are around 65 meters thick (**21:15-17**) and are made with precious stones. Its doors and street are described in **Rev. 21:2** as seen from a distance.
- H. **The New Jerusalem as the Most Holy Place (21:9-21): Outside Vision.** The city is described as a cube (**21:16**) as the Most Holy Place in Solomon's temple (**1 Kings 6:19-20**) with the precious stones in the foundations of the City (**21:19-20**) this speaks of communion with God as represented in the ministry of the high priest in the Most Holy Place (**Ex. 28:17-20; 39:10; Rev. 21:18-20**);
- I. **The New Jerusalem as the ultimate Garden of Eden (21:22-22:5) Interior View.** The beauty of the interior of the city (**Rev. 21:22-27**); The source of light and illumination of the City (**Rev. 21:23-24**), its relationship with the Millennial Earth (**Rev. 21:24-27; 22:2**) and life within the City is like the garden from Eden with a communion with God face to face (**22:1-5**). The River of Life (**Rev. 22:1**) and the Tree of Life (**22:2**) also points to Eden.

### III. THE NEW JERUSALEM: INITIALLY WILL BE ABOVE THE JERUSALEM OF THE MILLENNIUM EARTHLY

- A. The New Jerusalem will descend to the earth during the Millennium and will be a city that extends far above the earth. This is seen by taking into account all the specific details of the prophetic Scriptures. It is not clearly revealed as such, but it is understood as implication.
- B. There are at least five reasons why we know that the New Jerusalem is different from the Jerusalem that is on earth during the Millennium. The New Jerusalem is near the earth, but not yet resting on it.
  - 1. The kings of the earth come to the New Jerusalem during the Millennium to bring their glory and honor (**Rev. 21:24**).
  - 2. The leaves of the tree that is in the New Jerusalem are for the healing of the nations (**Rev. 22:2**).
  - 3. The angels at the city gates prevent sinners from entering (**Rev. 21:12, 22:14-15; Gen. 3:22-24**).
  - 4. The New Jerusalem enlightens the saved nations in the millennium earth; not unsaved the nations (**Rev. 21:24; 20:7-9**).
  - 5. The size of the Millennium Jerusalem is approximately 10 square miles (**Ez. 48: 30-35; 45:6; 48:15-9**) while the New Jerusalem measures 1,380 miles (**Rev. 21:16**).

### IV. DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW JERUSALEM (Rev. 21:9-10)

**v.9 "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.."**

- A. One of the seven angels who had poured the seven bowls of wrath (**Rev. 17:1**) had shown John the sentence on the harlot and now another angel served as a guide to show him the New Jerusalem. This fact puts these two cities in a very marked contrast. It is impossible to inhabit both Babylon and the new Jerusalem.

**v.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"**

- A. The angel led John to a high point ("a large and high mountain"), from which he could see the New Jerusalem (literally, "City of Peace") descending "from the sky of God" (**Rev. 21:2 ; Ez. 40:2; Rev 19:2-8; Rev 16:19; 17:1**).
- B. The Holy City that descends from God from heaven must be understood as a real event within the vision that John had not as something allegorical or symbolic, we know this because the measures, materials and details are described as something literal.

## **V. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE CITY (21:11-22)**

- A. **The design of the City:** All the details of this city express and reflect the beauty of God Himself in such fullness as it is not detailed in any other part of Scripture and is worthy of careful consideration. The City is described, also as a mountain:

***Psal. 48:1-12; "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised In the city of our God, In His holy mountain 2 Beautiful in elevation, The joy of the whole earth... 12 Count her towers; 13 Mark well her bulwarks; Consider her palaces; That you may tell it to the generation following."***

***Is. 2:2 "Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the Lord's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it.."***

- B. **The ornaments of the City:** the City has eight of the precious stones (21: 19-20) that the high priest wore in his breastplate when he entered the Most Holy Place, which represents the closeness to God (**Ex. 28: 17-20; 39:10**).
- C. **The construction of the City:** The City has doors, walls and foundations (**Rev. 21: 12-22: 2**). The gates are evenly distributed over 2,220 kilometers on each side of the city.

## **VI. INTERNAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE CITY (21:23-27)**

- A. John gives us an internal view of the City as the definitive "Garden of Eden." He describes the beauty of the City (**21:22-27**) and life in it; there are five aspects that stand out:

**1. It is a city of worship but without a temple:**

Rev. 21:22 "But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple."

2. It is a city illuminated but without the need for sun:

Rev. 21:23 "The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the [m]glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light."

Rev. 22:5 "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."

3. It is a governmental City with the Throne of God:

Ap. 21:24 y 26 "And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it... 26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it."

4. It is a city of servants who work:

Ap. 22:3-5 "And 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... 5 And they shall reign forever and ever"

5. It is a holy city with nothing unclean:

Rev. 21:27 "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. 22:14-15 "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, and whoever loves and practices a lie."

## VII. REVELATION NOW

- A. These truths strengthen us to resist temptation and suffer persecution, acting as an "anchor" in the age to come. The truths found in **Rev. 21-22** were those that kept Abraham faithful, while he waited to inherit the promise of the City whose architect and builder was God (**Heb. 11:8-10**). Living with Jesus forever in the New Jerusalem is worth it, whatever the cost. Those who are in the Harlot's religion and who eventually take the "mark of the beast" will live forever in the "Lake of Fire" for having followed the leadership of the Antichrist.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. How do you think this city expresses the beauty of God and His desire to be with His people forever?
2. How much yearning awakens in you to know the glory of this city that will be our eternal home? Explain
3. Does the reality of the heavenly city provoke a desire in you to live a holy life? Explains how