

The New and Heavenly Jerusalem – the Ultimate Fulfillment of God’s Plan

(Rev. 21 – 22; Heb. 11:9-10, 16)

- I. The holy city – having the glory of God** (Rev. 21:2, 10-11)
 - A. Holiness – the nature of the triune God
 1. “Be holy for I am holy” (Lev. 11:44-45; 1 Pet. 1:16)
 2. Pursue holiness – be partakers of His holiness (Heb. 12:10, 14)
 3. Preparing for the Lord’s coming: in holy conduct and godliness (2 Pet. 3:11)
 4. A holy priesthood and a holy nation (1 Pet. 2:5, 9)
 - B. Glory – the expression of the triune God
 1. The appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD in Ezekiel Chapter 1
 2. Christ, the brightness of God’s glory (Heb. 1:3)
 3. The incarnated Word – we beheld His glory (Jn. 1:14; 1 Tim. 3:16)
 4. The transformation of the believers – from glory to glory (2 Cor. 3:18)
 5. The church must be glorious (Eph. 5:27) – just like the “end product”, the New Jerusalem

- II. The New Jerusalem descends out of heaven from God** (Rev. 21:2, 5, 10)
 - A. God’s goal with man: the New Jerusalem
 1. Reconciled to God, made perfect as one, a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17-20; Jn. 17:20-23; Gal. 6:15)
 2. Jerusalem: God’s resting place forever, the city of peace and of unity with God and man (Ps. 132:13-18; 133)

- B. How God will obtain the New Jerusalem
1. Not of this creation (Acts 7:48-49; Heb. 8:2; 9:11, 24; 2 Sam. 6:6-9; 1 Cor. 2:14)
 2. Not built through the flesh or human strength and ability (Ps. 147:10-11; 1 Cor. 2:1-4) – otherwise it will not stand (Heb. 12:26-27; Rev. 17:16)
 3. It must be built entirely by the Spirit and God's power (Zech. 4:6; 1 Cor. 2:13-14; Col. 1:15-17; Jn. 16:13-15; 15:5; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; 1 Pet. 4:10-11; Rev. 21:5-6; Ps. 127:1; Heb. 11:10, 16; 4:12; Mt. 16:18)
 4. All materials come from the triune God: gold (Rev. 3:17), pearls (Heb. 7:25), precious stones (2 Cor. 3:18)
 5. The renewing of our soul through the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 1:10; 2:16; Eph. 4:23-24; Rom. 12:2; Col. 1:17)
- C. The way and obstacles to being renewed
1. Our interaction with the world makes us old, dead and unclean (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:17-19)
 2. Just having a religion also makes us old, dead and unclean: dead letter (2 Cor. 3:6), dead works (Heb. 9:14), outward conduct (Mt. 23:25-28)
 3. Separated, sanctified from the world and its food (Jn. 14:30; 17:14, 16; 1 Cor. 7:29-31; Mt. 16:25-26; Dan. 1:8; Ps. 141:4; Mt. 13:19-22)
 4. The need for a strong, healthy inner man and a pure, soft heart to gain Christ (Eph. 3:16-18; Lk. 1:80; Mt. 5:3, 8; Ezek. 36:26-27; 1 Thess. 5:19; Eph. 4:30)
 5. Being constantly well nourished with the Word (Mt. 4:4; Rev. 6:9; Lev. 11:3) and not spiritually malnourished (Rev. 12:6; Heb. 5:13-14)
 6. A daily cleansing and sanctifying washing of the water in the Word (Eph. 5:26-27; Jn. 13:8)

7. Learning to walk in the Spirit: heavenly and no longer earthly, spiritual and no longer soulish or carnal (Rev. 1:10; 4:2; 17:3; 21:10; Gal. 5:16; 1 Cor. 3:1-3; 15:45-49; Col. 3:1-3)
8. Ever new experiences of Christ: New Jerusalem, new heaven, new earth, new song (Rev. 21:1-2, 5; 14:3; Eph. 5:27; Phil. 3:7-8, 12-14; Mt. 5:3)
- D. With prayer and supplication (Eph. 6:18; Jam. 5:16-18; Ps. 34:16; Is. 56:7)
- E. Making all things according to the heavenly pattern (Heb. 8:5; Jn. 5:19-20)
- F. Only heavenly material endures (Heb. 12:28-29) and merits a reward (1 Cor. 3:12-15)

III. The Bride, the Lamb's wife – fully one with Christ

- A. God's great love toward us, His people (Eph. 5:2, 25; Is. 62:4-5; 54:5; Jer. 31:3; Mal. 1:2)
- B. Joined to the Lord – one spirit with Him (Rev. 22:17; 1 Cor. 6:17, Song of Songs 1:4)
 1. The bride is formed out of Christ (Gen. 2:23)
 2. For Christ's satisfaction (Jer. 2:2; Ps. 45:11)
 3. A new man – Christ is all and in all (Rev. 21:3; 2 Cor. 6:16)
- C. Keep our first love (Rev. 2:4-5)
 1. Doing the first works – voluntarily and out of love
 2. Having dove's eyes – eyes only for Him
 3. Seeking the Lord at all times (Song of Songs 3:1-2; 5:6)
 4. Loving everything the Lord is – knowing Him intimately
- D. Prepared for the wedding (Rev. 21:2; 19:7)
 1. The wedding garment, fine linen - the righteous acts of the saints (Rev. 19:8; Ps. 45:13; Mt. 22:11-12)
 2. Priestly adornment – clothed with salvation (Is. 61:10; Ps. 132:16)
 3. Buy oil – being filled daily with the Spirit (Mt. 25:1-13)

IV. A great and high wall (Rev. 21:12)

- A. For protection, separation and a glorious expression
 - 1. God's holiness must be protected (Hag. 2:11-13)
 - 2. Satan wants to defile God's testimony (Rev. 2-3; 1 Cor. 5:1)
 - 3. Satan is fighting against the building of the wall (Neh. 3:33-38, 4, 6)
- B. No one comes unless the Father draws him (Jn. 6:44)
 - 1. Regarding the holiness of God more highly than love toward man (1 Pet. 1:15-16)
 - 2. We need discernment (Lk. 6:12-13; Mk. 5:19)
- C. By no means shall anything common (unholy and unclean) enter the city, nor anything that causes an abomination or a lie (Rev. 21:27; 22:15; Is. 52:1; Ezek. 44:9)
 - 1. In Zion, we must all learn to walk by the Spirit (Acts 2:4; Jn. 16:13; Gal. 5:16-18; Rom. 8:14)
 - 2. There is no room for the flesh and the soulish man (1 Cor. 3:3; 5:1; Gal. 5:20, 24, Rom. 6:6, Lk. 9:23)
 - 3. No natural or common conduct among the saints (Eph. 5:3)
- D. Everyone in Zion is a part of the wall (Neh. 4)
- E. Only those written in the Lamb's Book of Life
- F. The work of our transformation and perfection
 - 1. The foundations of the wall (Rev. 21:19)
 - 2. The dimensions of the wall: 144 cubits
 - 3. The construction is of jasper (Rev. 21:18)
- G. The watchmen on the wall (Is. 62:6-7) – watch and pray (Mt. 26:41; Eph. 6:18; 1 Pet. 5:8)
- H. A wall against the worst enemy, death (Mt. 16:18)

V. Twelve gates, which are twelve pearls

(Rev. 21:12-13, 21, 25-26)

- A. Three gates on each side: the triune God is the only entrance into the city
 - 1. The Father alone is the One who draws (Jn. 6:44)
 - 2. Christ is the door (Jn. 10:7)
 - 3. Access is by one Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
- B. The gates are guarded
 - 1. In the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:24)
 - 2. The gates in the temple in Ezekiel (Ezek. 40:12-13)
 - 3. The gate is narrow (Mt. 7:13-14)
- C. Each gate is of one pearl
 - 1. The Lord is seeking pearls (Mt. 13:45-46)
 - 2. The formation of pearls – they are hidden in the oyster (Song of Songs 2:14)
 - 3. Saved to the uttermost (Heb. 7:25)
 - 4. Transformed from glory to glory (2 Cor. 3:18)

VI. The foundations – all kinds of precious stones

(Rev. 21:14, 19-20)

- A. On the foundations are the names of the twelve apostles (Rev. 21:14; Mt. 10:2-4; Mk. 3:18; Lk. 6:14; Acts 1:13, 26)
 - 1. Peter, Andrew, James (the son of Zebedee), John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (the son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, Simon, Matthias
 - 2. They are living, sanctified and transformed stones
- B. Many gifts – one Spirit (1 Cor. 12)
 - 1. There are many ministries and gifts
 - 2. We are many members of **one** body
 - 3. Every member has its function (Rom. 12:4-5)
 - 4. According to the measure of Christ's gift (Eph. 4:7)
 - 5. The members are one and work together for the building up (1 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 4:16)

6. We are all nothing – it is God who gives the increase (1 Cor. 3:6-7; Col. 1:18; 2:19)
7. We need all the saints to apprehend the fullness of Christ (Eph. 3:18-19)
- C. What the twelve apostles had in common
 1. They were with Jesus and knew Him personally (Acts 2:21-22, Jn. 6:68-69)
 2. They gave up everything, followed Jesus and were faithful unto death (Mt. 19:27-28; 20:22-23)
 3. They learned to live by the Spirit (Jn. 6:63, Gal. 5:16-17)
- D. Distinctions among the apostles (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:12-20)
 1. There are epistles written by James (the Lord's brother, not an apostle), John, Jude, Peter and Paul
 2. Many apostles are rarely mentioned in the Bible
 - a. Andrew: Simon's brother, recognizes that Jesus is the Messiah before Peter does (Mk. 13:3; Jn. 1:40-44; 6:8; 12:22)
 - b. Philip: Lord, show us the Father (Jn. 1:43-48; 6:57; 12:21-22; 14:8-9)
 - c. Thomas: a twin, wanted himself to touch the Lord after His resurrection (Jn. 11:16; 14:5; 20:24-28)
 - d. Simon: a zealot (Lk. 6:15)
 - e. Matthew (Levi): How he was called to be a disciple is described (Mt. 9:9-10; Mk. 2:14-15; Lk. 5:27-29) and he wrote a gospel
 - f. Thaddaeus (called Judas by Luke and John): asks the Lord how to receive revelation from Him (Lk. 6:16; Jn. 14:22)
 - g. Bartholomew: is likely Nathanael in the gospel of John – an Israelite in whom is no deceit (Jn. 1:45-51; 21:2)
 - h. No further mention in the Scripture: James, son of Alphaeus

VII. The dimensions of the city – built according to God’s measuring rod – the gold reed (Rev. 21:15-17)

- A. Measured with a gold reed – according to the divine standard (Heb. 11:10; 1 Cor. 2:14-15; Eph. 5:10; Phil. 1:9-11; 1 Thess. 5:21; Ps. 139:23-24)
- B. The city is square – all sides of the city are equal
 - 1. The balanced nature of Christ (Eph. 3:18-19; Jn. 1:17)
 - 2. The four living creatures: lion, ox, man, eagle (Rev. 4:7; Ezek. 1:10-12) – Christ in the gospels
 - 3. A spirit of power, of love and of a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7)
- C. The city measures twelve thousand furlongs (2 Cor. 6:11)
- D. The wall measures 144 cubits (Lk. 20:36)

VIII. God is its temple (Rev. 21:22) and they shall serve Him as priests (Rev. 22:3)

- A. God is our dwelling place (Ps. 90:1; Col. 3:3; 1 Jn. 4:16)
- B. God’s presence in the Most Holy Place (Ex. 40:34; 2 Chr. 7:1; Ezek. 43:5)
- C. His servants shall serve Him as priests (Rev. 22:3)
 - 1. A special treasure (possession) and a kingdom of priests (Ex. 19:5-6; Mt. 13:44-46; Rev. 1:5-6; 5:9-10)
 - 2. The law for the priests (3rd book of Moses = Leviticus)
 - 3. The ordinances for the priests in the millennial kingdom (Ezek. 44)
 - 4. Two olive trees – the kingdom and the priesthood (Zech. 4:3, 11-14)
 - 5. A priest on the throne (Zech. 6:13)
 - 6. Rebuking of the unfaithful priests (Malachi)
 - 7. The building up of the church: a holy priesthood (Mt. 16:16-18; 1 Pet. 2:4-5, 9-10)
 - 8. Christ, the great High Priest, in the midst of the golden lampstands (Rev. 1-3)

9. The priestly service in eternity (Rev. 22:3)

IX. The throne of God and of the Lamb (Rev. 22:1-3)

A. The river proceeds from the throne of God and of the Lamb (Rev. 22:1, 17; Ps. 46:5)

1. The river is clear as crystal – the full supply of the Holy Spirit
2. Drink much every day, do not run dry

B. The tree of life on either side of the river (Rev. 22:14, 19)

1. Yielding twelve fruits every month – the full supply of God's life
2. The leaves are for the healing of the nations

C. Supplying all things for the priestly service

X. "Behold, I am coming quickly!" – Amen, come, Lord Jesus!
(Rev. 22:7, 12, 20)