

Building According to God's Pattern – the Holy City, the New Jerusalem

(Rev. 21-22; Ex. 25:9, 40; Acts 7:44; Heb. 8:5)

The New Jerusalem descends out of heaven from God (SH)

(Rev 21:2, 10)

- I. We should be heavenly as Christ
 - A. Bearing the image of the heavenly Man (1 Cor 15:47-49; Col. 1:15)
 - B. Transformed into the same image by the Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45; 2 Cor 3:18)
- II. Follow the examples of the apostles
 - A. Heavenly calling (Phil 3:14; Heb 3:1)
 - B. Heavenly vision (Acts 26:19)
 - C. Heavenly tabernacle (Acts 7:48-49; Heb. 8:1-2; 9:11, 24)
- III. Write on us the name of the city of our God (Rev. 3:12)
 - A. Mind set on things above (Col. 3:1-2)
 - B. Mind transformed (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:22-24)
 - C. Wisdom from above (James 3:14-18)
- IV. Eating the living bread from heaven
 - A. Eating the bread from heaven (Ps. 78:23-25)
 - B. Christ is the living bread (John 6:51, 63)
 - C. Desiring the pure milk of the word (1 Pet. 2:1-2)
- V. Possessing a heavenly hope
 - A. Abraham waiting for the city (Heb. 11:10)
 - B. Desiring a heavenly city (Heb. 11:16)
 - C. The heavenly Jerusalem (Heb. 12:22)

The New Jerusalem – the Lamb's Wife (SS)

(Rev. 21:2, 9)

- I. A great mystery – Christ and the church (Eph. 5:32)
 - A. Adam & Eve – a figure (type) of Christ as the Bridegroom and the church as His bride (Rom. 5:14b; 1 Cor. 15:45-49)
 1. Adam was the first man made of dust, earthly; Christ was the second man from heaven, heavenly
 2. Adam became a living soul; Christ the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit
 3. Adam was put to a deep sleep; Christ was crucified on the cross
 4. God took a rib out of Adam's side to build Eve; Jesus was pierced on the side and out flowed blood and water (signifying redemption and life), for our salvation and new birth
 - B. Marriage in the Bible is a union between a man and a woman
 1. Adam and Eve being joined together became one flesh
 2. The believers being joined to Christ become one spirit with Him (1 Cor. 6:17)
 - a. Being regenerated (born again) in our human spirit by the Holy Spirit (Jn. 3:3-6; 1 Pet. 1:3, 23-25; 1 Jn. 3:9; Tit. 3:4-7)
 - b. Being baptized into Christ – united with Him in His death and resurrection (Rom. 6:5)
 - c. The reality of being one with Him (Jn. 14:18-23; 15:1-5)
 3. Marriage is holy and honorable before God (Heb. 13:4)
 - a. What God has joined together, let not man separate (Mt. 19:3-9)
 - b. God hates divorce (Mal. 2:16)
 - c. Fornicators and adulterers God will judge

- II. The relation between Christ and His church (Eph. 5:22-32; Isa. 54:5)
 - A. Christ is appointed by God to be HEAD over all things to the church (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18-20)
 - 1. Christ (as her husband) loves the church and gave Himself up for her (Jn. 15:13)
 - 2. Sanctifying and cleansing the church with the washing of the water by the word to nourish and cherish her
 - 3. His goal: to present her to Himself a glorious church
 - a. Not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing
 - b. The church should be HOLY and without blemish
 - B. The church as His wife should love the Lord by keeping His word, being fully subject to Christ (Jn. 14:15)
 - 1. Being undefiled, pure, holy, and righteous (2 Cor. 11:2; Phil. 2:15; 1 Thess. 5:23)
 - 2. Following the Lamb wherever He goes (Rev. 14:4b; 1 Pet. 2:21-25)
 - 3. Submitting to Christ in everything (Eph. 5:24)
 - 4. Resulting in transformation from glory to glory (2 Cor. 3:18)

Having the Glory of God (MW)

(Rev. 21:11)

- I. The glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle (Ex. 40:34-35)
 - A. The glory of the LORD filled the house of God (1 Kings 8:10-11; 2 Chron. 5:14)
 - 1. The glory of God illuminated the city (Rev. 21:23; Is. 60:19-22)
 - 2. Reaction to seeing His glory:
 - a. Humbling ourselves (2 Chron. 7:3; Is. 2:10-12, 17-19, 21-22; 40:4-5)
 - b. Fear of the Lord (Lev. 9:24; Num. 16:42-45)

3. The glorious church (full of the glory of God),
holy and without blemish (Eph. 5:27)
- II. The church as a light for the nations (Rev. 21:23-24;
Matt. 5:14)
 - A. Jasper – the light of the One on the throne; God made
visible and seen face-to-face, fully transparent and
revealed to us (Rev. 4:3)
 - B. Glory, holiness, righteousness, beauty, majesty of God
in the Church must be visible in this age on the earth
(Eph 3:10, 21)
 - C. Whose glory is shining out of the church? A man's or
God's?
 1. Do we think we can gain people by explaining and
convincing? Using our own reasoning and the world's
basic principles? (1 Cor. 2:1-5; Col. 2:4, 8)
 2. God has chosen the foolish to put to shame the wise,
but we try to use our own wisdom and tactics in the
church (1 Cor. 1:26-31)
 3. He will worship God and report that God is truly
among you (1 Cor. 14:24-25)
- III. New Jerusalem as the dwelling place of God on earth
(Rev. 21:3-5, 22-23; 22:1-5)
 - A. Restoration of the heavens, earth, all creation – God's plan
(Rev. 21:1; 22:3)
 1. Renewal of all things through Christ (Rev. 21:5;
Col. 1:20)
 2. The church is the foretaste and part of the new
creation (2 Cor. 5:17; Col. 1:15, 18)
 3. Preserving and restoring the nations in the new earth;
today preserving and bringing salvation, freedom,
restoration, light
 - B. No temple in the New Jerusalem – the Lord God Almighty
and the Lamb are its temple. (Rev. 21:22; 1 King 6:19-20)

1. New Jerusalem as the holy of holies – God and His saints in perfect fellowship and communion
2. Significance of the cubic shape
 - a. Holy of Holies of the tabernacle – 10x10x10 cubits (Ex. 26:16, 18, 20, 22)
 - b. Holy of Holies of the temples – 20x20x20 cubits (1 Kings 6:20; Ezek. 41:4)
 - c. Dimensions of the New Jerusalem – 12K x 12K x 12K furlongs (Rev. 21:16)

The Foundation with Many Precious Stones (MH)

(Rev. 21:14-15, 19-20)

- I. Foundation of the wall of the city (Rev. 21:14-15, 18-20)
 - A. Twelve foundations with the names of twelve apostles of the Lamb
 - B. Measured by a gold reed
 - C. With many precious stones
 - D. Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:4-5; Heb. 11:10)
 - E. Solid and cannot be shaken (Heb. 12:28-29)
- II. We need to be transformed to meet the standard of this city
 - A. The word of God is the foundation and standard (Rev. 21:15)
 - B. Loving the word of God (1 Pet. 2:1-2)
 - C. Following the examples of the Lord (1 Pet. 2:21-25)
 - D. Following the examples of the apostles (1 Cor. 4:16, 11:1; Phil. 3:12-17; 1 Thes. 5:12-22; 2 Thes. 3:6-15)
 1. Pray for the saints – having saints always in our heart (Phil. 1:3-4, 7)
 2. Standfast in the truth (1 Cor. 16:13-14)
 3. Put on the whole armor of God and be an ambassador of Christ (Eph. 6:11-20)

4. Do all things through Christ who strengthens us
(Phi. 4:11-13)

III. Be an example for the others (1 Thes. 1:6-8; 1 Tim. 4:12)

The Golden Reed – God's Standard of Measurement (JY)

(Rev. 21:15-17)

- I. God's standard of measurement is perfect (Matt. 5:48)
 - A. The word of God is perfect (Deut. 32:4; Ps. 18:30, 32; 19:7; Rom. 12:2)
 - B. No private interpretation and not presumptuous (2 Pet. 1:20-21; Ps. 19:13; Deut. 12:8)
 - C. Spirit of wisdom and revelation and the enlightenment of our eyes (Eph. 1:17-18)
 - D. He's the architect and builder (Heb. 11:10)
 - E. According to the pattern of the tabernacle and temple (Ex. 25:8-9, 40; 26:30; 27:8; Acts 7:44; Heb. 3:1-6; 8:5; 1 Chron. 28:11-19; Acts 7:48-51)
- II. The gold reed for measurement
 - A. Gold - God's divine nature (Rev. 3:18; 2 Pet. 1:3-4)
 - B. Reed - living and growing out of water, transformation, not complacent (Phil. 3:12; Rev. 3:2, 17)
 - C. The word of God is the standard (Eph. 2:20; Matt. 5-7; Rev. 2-3)
 1. Not doctrine and teaching, but the Spirit and life (2 Cor. 3:6)
 2. Living and powerful (Heb. 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
 3. Dwelling into your heart (Col. 3:16; John 14:26)
 4. Discern while reading and listening like the Bereans (Acts 17:10-11)
 - D. Christ is the measurement (Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet. 2:4-10; Heb. 2:10)
 1. A square: balanced as shown in the 4 gospels (Rev. 4:7)
 2. The number 12 – eternal completion

- III. The goal to be made perfect as He is perfect (Matt. 5:48; Eph. 4:13; Col. 1:28; 4:12; Heb. 12:23)
 - A. Doers of His word (James 1:22; 2 Pet. 2:4-10)
 - B. Practice the priesthood (1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:5-6; 5:9-10; 22:5; Leviticus)
 - C. Corrected, tested and judged (Heb. 12:25-29; Matt. 7:1-5; 1 Cor. 3:12-15; 1 Pet. 4:17; Rom. 14:10, 12; 2 Cor. 5:9-11)

The Great and High Wall (GC)

(Rev. 21:12, 17-18)

- I. A very prominent and essential structure of the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:12)
- II. For protection against the attacks of the enemy
 - A. We are in a spiritual warfare (Mt. 16:18; Eph. 6:12-13)
 - B. The devil is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8)
 - C. Satan will always fight against the building of this wall (Neh. 4:1-8, 15-18)
 - D. Watchmen on the wall (Is. 62:6-7)
 - 1. To watch and pray (Eph. 6:18; 1 Pet. 5:8)
 - 2. To warn others of impending danger (Neh. 14:8)
 - 3. Deny our soul life (Mt. 16:22-23)
 - 4. The need to have discernment and not be ignorant of the enemy's devices (2 Cor. 2:11)
- III. Separation from all kinds of defilement of the flesh and of the spirit (2 Cor. 6:16-17; 7:1; Rev. 1:27)
 - A. From the world (1 Joh. 2:14; Rev. 2:13)
 - B. From the flesh and self (1 Cor. 5:1; Mt. 16:24)
 - C. Religion (Hag. 2:11-13)
 - D. From oldness (Rev. 21:5; Mt. 9:17)
 - E. From death (Rev. 3:1)
 - F. Learning to live and walk by the Spirit

- IV. For expressing the beauty and glory of God
 - A. The Wall is made of Jasper - The Appearance of God (Rev. 4:3)
 - B. The foundations are the 12 apostles and 12 precious stones
 - C. Everyone whose name is written in the Lamb's book of Life is part of this wall
 - D. The need of all the saints to be fully transformed to express the glory of God
 - 1. Not remaining the same (1 Cor 3:1; Heb. 5:12)
 - 2. By the renewing of our mind (Rom. 12:2)
 - 3. Being saved to the uttermost – the salvation of our soul (Heb. 7:25; 1 Pet. 1:9)
 - 4. Change into His image from glory to glory (2 Cor 3:18)
- V. The need to cooperate with the Lord (Phil. 2:12; 2 Pet. 1:5-6)

The 12 Gates were 12 Pearls (EK)

(Rev. 21:12-13, 21)

- I. Entering the gates is joyful (Ps. 100)
- II. The Lord's desire is for us to enter in (Col. 1:12-14)
- III. The Lord Himself is our way in
 - A. He is the way / the door (John 14:6; 10:9)
 - B. He is the path of life (Ps. 16:11)
 - C. Enter if we do His will (Rev. 22:14)
- IV. Pearl material, a symbol of our transformation
 - A. Formation of a pearl
 - B. A daily transformation (2 Cor 3:18; Phil. 3:20-21)
 - C. Perfecting us through sufferings (Heb 2:10; 1 Thess. 5:23)