

God's Ultimate Masterpiece – the Holy City, the Heavenly Jerusalem, the Lamb's Wife

(Rev. 21-22)

- I. Building according to the heavenly vision – not according to man's fallen concepts (Ex. 25:9, 40; 26:30; 39:42-43; Nu. 8:4; Acts 7:44; Heb. 8:5)
 - A. The building of Noah's ark (Gen. 6:12-16, 22)
 - B. The building of the tabernacle by Moses (Ex. 25:9, 40)
 - C. The building of the temple by Solomon (1 Ch. 28:9-21)
 - D. The building of the temple in Ezekiel (Ezek. 43:10-11)
 - E. The building of the church by Jesus Christ (Mt. 16:17-19; Eph. 5:25-27)
 1. Christ (God) Himself is the builder (Heb. 11:10; 12:22-27; 13:14; Zech. 6:13)
 - a. He is the foundation and chief cornerstone, precious to God and chosen by God (Is. 28:16; Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet. 2:4-6)
 - b. ZION – the city and kingdom of the great King (Ps. 48:2; Heb. 12:22)
 - c. The Jerusalem above - the mother of us all – typified by Sarah (Gal. 4:26-29)
 2. Built ONLY with gold, silver, and precious stones, NOT with wood, hay, and stubble (1 Cor. 3:11-15)
 - a. Gold – the divine nature of God the Father (2 Pet. 1:3-4)
 - b. Silver – the redemption work of Christ the Son
 - c. Precious stones – the transforming work of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 3:17-18)
 - d. Wood – fallen humanity; grass – short lived glory of man's work; straw – good for burning (1 Pet. 1:24; Ps. 103:15; 129:6; Jam. 1:10-11)

- II. The HOLY CITY, the NEW and HEAVENLY JERUSALEM – the ultimate building work of God in the universe – the WIFE of the LAMB
 - A. Adam and Eve – a GREAT MYSTERY, a figure of Christ and the church (Eph. 5:25-32; Gen. 2:21-23; Rom. 5:14b)
 - 1. Eve – not created but built out of Adam's rib
 - 2. Bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh
 - 3. The two became one flesh
 - 4. The church, the body of Christ, can only and exclusively be built out of the life of Christ
 - B. The church – the fullness of Him who fills all in all (Eph. 1:23)
 - 1. To learn Christ (Eph. 4:20-21), to gain Christ (Phil. 3:7-8), and to live Him (Phil. 3:8; 1:21a)
 - 2. To apprehend (καταλαμβάνω) <to lay hold of effectively; to grasp> with all the saints all the dimension of Christ (Eph. 3:18-19); to be filled to all the fullness of God
 - 3. To be built up as living stones into a SPIRITUAL house and a HOLY AND ROYAL PRIESTHOOD (1 Pet. 2:5, 9)
 - C. Different aspects of the Holy City, the heavenly Jerusalem (Rev. 21:10-27; 22:1-5)
 - 1. Coming down out of heaven from God - our only source of heavenly supply for the building of Zion
 - 2. Holy and having the glory of God (Heb. 12:14 <Mt. 5:8>; 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Th. 5:22-23; 3:13; 1 Pet. 1:15-16 <Lev. 19:2; 20:7>)
 - a. Holiness – only God is holy
 - b. Glory – the expression of God (1 Tim. 3:16; 4:7)
 - 3. The great and high wall with 12 gates and 12 foundations
 - a. Separation from all evil – (1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:3-6; Rev. 21:8, 27; 22:15)

- b. Construction of the wall was of Jasper (Rev. 21:18a; 4:3) – Jasper comes in different colors
 - c. 12 foundations – 12 precious stones (Rev. 21:14, 19-20); inscribed with the names of the 12 apostles of the Lamb (Eph. 2:20)
 - d. 12 gates are 12 pearls (Rev. 21:21a; Mt. 13:45-46; Rom. 5:10; Heb. 7:25; 1 Th. 5:23-24; 2 Cor. 3:17-18)
 - e. Pearl – final product of redemption – note: silver not mentioned in Revelation
- 4. The golden reed to measure the city, the gates and the wall of the city (Rev. 21:15-17; 11:1-2)
 - a. Golden signifies DIVINE, reed signifies LIFE
 - b. Only the sanctuary will be measured (the Holy of Holies and the holy place)
 - c. Only those who worship therein (the priests) will be measured
 - d. The outer court and all who “worship” will not be measured
 - 5. The City, including the street, was of pure gold, like transparent glass (Rev. 21:18b, 21b)
 - 6. The LORD God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple (Rev. 21:22; Ps. 90:1; 91:9; Acts 7:48-50; 17:24-25)
 - 7. The glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light (Rev. 21:23-24; Lk. 1:78-79; Jn. 1:1-5, 9, 14, 17b-18; 8:12; 9:5; 12:46)
 - 8. There shall be no night there (Rev. 21:25; Jn. 12:36; 1 Th. 5:5; Eph. 5:8)
- D. The throne of God and of the Lamb (Rev. 22:1-5)
 - 1. At the center of the City and at the top of the mountain
 - 2. The river of the water of life flowing out of the throne with the tree of life (Ezek. 47:12)
 - 3. No more curse
 - 4. His servants shall serve Him as priests

- III. Behold, I am coming quickly (Rev. 22:7, 12, 20)
- A. All the apostles lived in expectation of Jesus' return
 - 1. Peter (2 Pet. 3:3-10)
 - 2. James (James 5:9)
 - 3. John (Rev. 1:3; 22:7, 12, 20)
 - 4. Paul (1 Thess. 4:15-17)
 - B. The signs of the times (Matt. 16:1-3)
 - 1. The covenant with many (Dan. 9:27a)
 - 2. The red heifer (Num. 19)
 - 3. The building of the temple (2 Thess. 2:3-4)
 - 4. The offering of sacrifices (Dan. 9:27b)
 - 5. The end of democracy (Dan. 2)
 - 6. Signs in heaven (Rev. 12)
 - 7. Like the days of Noah and Lot (Luke 17:26-30)