

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

REVELATION 21:9-14, 22-27

LESSON: THE NEW JERUSALEM—November 13, 2016

INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 21:1-8 John first sees all things made new. There is a new heaven and a new earth. Gone the first Heaven, gone the first earth, and gone the sea. The holy city, the New Jerusalem, descended out of heaven from God and with a loud voice from heaven, declares, "*God will dwell with His people and He will be their God and they will be His people.*" God is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. He will wipe away all tears; death, sorrow, crying, and pain will be no more for all things are made new. He will provide freely the fountain of the water of life to them that thirsts. He tells John to write all this down; it is done; each word is dependable and accurate; you can depend on it! All Overcomers/ conquerors will inherit all this! But for the rest, will inherit the Lake of Fire and brimstone which is called the Second death!"

LESSON: I. AN OVERALL VIEW OF THE CITY Revelation 21:9-14

21:9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

This is the last vision God gives John, and it is the most glorious of visions. One of the Seven Angels who had carried the bowls or vials filled with the seven final disasters spoke to John, saying, "*Come here, I'll show you the Bride, the Lamb's Wife.*" It is gracious of God to allow one of the angels who are commissioned to pour out the most horrendous plagues earth has ever known the privilege of inviting John to a special view of the bride, the Lamb's wife. Rev. 21:2 says "*And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*" Therefore the "*holy city, New Jerusalem*" must be the Bride, the Lamb's Wife (the believers whom Christ died for). And Christ is surely the Bridegroom for the New Jerusalem!

21:10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,— The angel took John away in the Spirit to an enormous, high mountain and showed him the great city, Holy Jerusalem descending out of Heaven from God, having the bright glory of God. John had a majestic vantage point in the spirit on a great and high mountain, seeing all of her beauty and glory.

21:11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;—The glory of God Himself shines all throughout the city having a sparkling sheen where there is no need for the sun nor any other heavenly body to give the city light. Her light was like a costly stone. It even shined like the green of Jasper, but it is as clear as crystal. The glory of God glitters off the city as though the buildings were crystal clear.

21:12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:— The city had a great majestic high wall which indicates that all will be secure within the city. And it will be separate

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in holiness from all that is unlike it. Twelve gates where an Angel will stand at each gate, and on the gates there will be inscribed the names of the Twelve Tribes of the sons of Israel. Three things are said...

1. The gates have the names of the twelve tribes of Israel upon them. Joseph, Benjamin Dan. Reuben, Judah Levi. Simeon, Issachar, Zebulun, Gad, Asher, and Naphtali. They symbolize that the only way to come to God is **through the Messiah of the twelve tribes of the Jews**—the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, the entrance into the Heavenly Jerusalem is only through the Messiah of the Jewish nation. No person can enter the heavenly city unless he comes through the gates of salvation provided by God.
2. The gates are guarded by twelve angels. This symbolizes that the entrance to the city is protected. No person is allowed to enter the city unless they come through the salvation that God gave through Israel; through His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

21:13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

3. In each direction—east, north, south, and west there are three gates totaling twelve gates altogether (Ez.48:30-35). This symbolizes that everyone on earth is invited to enter the city. The only requirement is that they come through the Messiah, the Savior of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ.

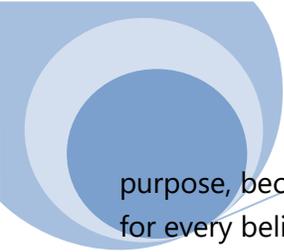
21:14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. The wall was set on twelve foundations, and the names of the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb – Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Matthias will be remembered throughout eternity as they are inscribed on the foundations. These are the original twelve minus Judas Iscariot.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON: Chapter 21:15-21

The Angel speaking to John had a gold measuring stick to measure the City, its gates, and its walls. The City was laid out in a perfect square. He measured the City with the measuring stick: twelve thousand stadia (*an instrument for measuring distances or heights by means of angles*). Its length, width, and height are all equal. Using the standard measure, the Angel measured the thickness of its wall: 144 cubits. The wall was jasper, the color of Glory, and the City was pure gold, translucent as glass. The foundations of the City walls were garnished with every precious gem/stone imaginable. The first foundation jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprasus, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each and every gate was of one single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold as translucent glass.

II. UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE CITY Revelation 21:22-27

21:22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. There would be no such Temple as was in the Old Testament times; a physical structure where the priests would come once a year. There would be no need for such a Temple, and it would not serve as the same <http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>



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purpose, because the Lord God Almighty—and the Lamb are the Temple. His presence will be everywhere for every believer to worship and communicate with.

21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. The City doesn't need sun or moon for light, for God's Glory is its light and the Lamb its lamp!

21:24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. The nations that are saved will walk in the light of God's glory, and the kings of the earth will bring into it their glory and honor of praise. Whatever picture we surmise, it will give tribute to God and Christ for giving so great a salvation.

21:25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. The city's gates will never be shut. The day will always continue because there won't be any night. And it looks like there is no need for sleep or rest, for we will have perfect bodies with perfect strength. And the Holy Spirit will fill us to the fullest, giving us a perfect knowledge and consciousness of God's presence.

21:26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. They'll bring the glory and honor of the nations into the City.

21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life. Nothing dirty or defiled will get into the City, and no one who defiles or deceives. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will get in.

SUMMARY:

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls/vials (cf. Re 15:7; 16:1) carries John to a great and high mountain to show him "*the bride, the Lamb's wife*". This is none other than the great city, the New Jerusalem, which is seen "*descending out of heaven from God*." It is a city having the glory of God, and the bulk of the chapter goes on to describe its prominent features. A great and high wall surrounds the city with twelve gates, twelve angels, and the names of the twelve tribes of Israel are written—3 gates on the east, 3 gates on the north, 3 gates on the south, and 3 gates on the west. The wall has twelve foundations, each made of precious stones of various colors, upon which are the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb (**21:9-14**).

The glory of the holy city is described further by noting that there is no temple, for God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. There is no need for the sun or moon, for the glory of God and the Lamb illuminate the city. Its gates are never shut, there is no night there, and the nations of the saved along with the kings of the earth bring their honor and glory into it. Only those written in the Lamb's book of life enter this glorious city, ensuring that it remains free from any abomination and defilement (**21:22-27**).