

6/28/18

What About The New Jerusalem
Rev. 21:9-22:7

The Eternal State is inaugurated right after the Millennial Age, once Satan is judged for his last rebellion, the unbelievers are judged at the White Throne Judgment, then the New heaven and New earth is brought forth after the destruction of the Millennial earth through fire.

As we pointed out in our message of “The Eternal State”, once the New heaven and New earth are established, the “Eternal State”, then the New Jerusalem descends out of heaven from God. Rev. 21:1-8

* The heavenly city, the New Jerusalem is distinct from the New heaven and new earth!

1. The New heaven and earth is described as having no sea. Rev. 21:1
2. The Holy City, the New Jerusalem is described as a bride adorned for her husband. Rev. 21:2
3. The New relationship of God with man are described in perfect fellowship by the absence of sin and its effects. Rev. 21:3-4
4. The stamp of authority for the genuineness of the New eternal order is described as faithful and true. Rev. 21:5-6
5. The heirs of the New eternal order are described as overcomers. Rev. 21:7-8

Now let’s look at the heavenly city, the New Jerusalem by the three-fold description recorded.

- I. The particular details of the New Jerusalem. Rev. 21:9-21
 - II. The particular glory of the New Jerusalem. Rev. 21:22-27
 - III. The particular perfection of the New Jerusalem. Rev. 22:1-7
- I. **The particular details of the New Jerusalem. Rev. 21:9-21**
 - A. The bride is both the church and the city as Babylon her counterpart was a woman and the city. Rev. 21:9-11
 1. The identity of the city is said to be the bride, the Lamb’s wife. vs. 9
 - * This is a literal city, not symbolic, the figure of speech is called metonymy, using one phrase to substitute for another, the city for the bride, the Lamb’s wife.
 - a. One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues revealed it to John. vs. 9a
 - b. The angels said, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” vs. 9b-d
 2. The nature of the city is purity. vs. 10-11a
 - a. John said, “And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed him the great city, the holy Jerusalem.” vs. 10a-c

- b. The city descended out of heaven from God. vs. 10d
 - 1) Her origin is confirmed, descending out of heaven from God. vs. 2
 - 2) It is not clear, but some believe the city may be suspended over the New Earth. vs. 2e, 10d
- c. The city is seen, having the glory of God. vs. 11a
- 3. The beauty is one of a kind. vs. 11b
 - a. “Her light was like a most precious stone.” vs. 11b
 - b. Her semblance was “like a jasper stone.” vs. 11c
 - c. Her appearance was “clear as crystal”. vs. 11d
 - d. This is the city Abraham look for, “By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” Heb. 11:9-10
- B** The number of walls and gates of the city. vs. 12-14
 - 1. John said, “Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates.” vs. 12a
 - 2. There are “twelve angels at the gates”, guarding the respective gates. vs. 12b

- 3. The gates have “names writtenn on htem, which are the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.” vs. 12c-d
- 4. There are three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. vs. 13
 - * No one being at any disadvantage to have access. vs. 13
- 5. “The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.” vs. 14
 - * The prophets and apostles are the foundation of the church. Eph. 2:20
- C.** The measurements of the city and wall. vs. 15-17
 - 1. The same angel, “And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.” vs. 15
 - 2. “The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth.” Its measure came to twelve-thousand furlongs, approximately 1500 miles square. vs. 16
 - a. The city is a cube not a sphere.
 - b. The city is not only flat surface area but the volume will be occupied (about the size of the moon)
 - c. The Holy of Holies was a cube perhaps foreshadowing the city in heaven.
 - d. The city is larger than the city of Ezekiel during the Millennium. Ezk. 48

3. Then he measured its wall: one-hundred-forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.” vs. 17
 - a) A cubit is eighteen inches, though there are shorter and longer cubits.
 - b) That would make the walls to be 216 feet.
 - c) The walls of Babylon at the time of Nebuchadnezzar were 300 feet high, 80 feet thick and extended 35 feet below the ground.

D. The constructing material of the walls, the city and the gates. vs. 18-21

1. The construction of its wall was of jasper. vs. 18a
2. The construction of the city was pure gold, like clear glass. vs. 18b-c
3. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones, twelve to be specific. vs. 19-20
 - a. The first foundation was jasper. vs. 19b
 - b. The second sapphire. vs. 19c
 - c. The third chalcedony. vs. 19d
 - d. The fourth emerald. vs. 19e
 - e. The fifth sardonyx. vs. 20a
 - f. The sixth sardius. vs. 20b
 - g. The seventh chrysolite. vs. 20c
 - h. The eighth beryl. vs. 20d
 - i. The ninth topaz. vs. 20e
 - j. The tenth chrysoptase. vs. 20f
 - k. The eleventh jacinth. vs. 20g

- l. The twelfth amethyst. vs. 20h
 - * The breastplate of the High Priest had twelve stones of four rows, three in each, bearing the names of the twelve tribes of Israel over his heart. Ex. 28:15-21
4. “The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl.” vs. 21a-b
 - a. Pearls were Gentile gem not Jewish.
 - b. The Parable of the Pearl of great price, who sold all to purchase the field to obtain the pearl. Matt. 13:46
5. “And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.” vs. 21c-d
 - a. What is hidden and valued to be possessed on earth will be considered as common and open for all to see in the New Jerusalem.
 - b. The word street “plateia” literally means a broad way.

Illustration

Newell says, “Because of the literalness of its description. If gold does not mean gold, not pearls—pearls, not precious stones---stones, not exact measurements---real dimensions, then the Bible gives nothing accurate or reliable”. (Things To Come:574)

Application

1. Some believe that what is being described from Rev. 21:9-22:7 is a recapitulation of the Millennium by going back and describing it more fully, but if you

mark the important differences, they can not be mistaken, you would have to ignore them to hold this view that the passage is describing the Millennium.

2. Some believe and teach that the New Jerusalem of the Eternal State exists simultaneously with the Millennial reign on earth and that it is suspended over the Millennial earth, while Christ and the church dwell in the New Jerusalem, commuting back and forth to reign but really it is the Eternal State.

a. I see a chronological revelation of the termination of the Millennial Kingdom and then the New heaven and earth of the Eternal State, followed by the particular details. Rev. 20-22

c. I think that a failure to distinguish the Millennium from the Eternal state in the same Old Testament passage will contribute to the interpretation of both existing together, such as Isaiah. Is. 65:17-18, 20-25

1) This is the Eternal State, which is also mentioned by Isaiah. Is. 65:17-18, 66:22

2) The word new “kainos”, means new in quality not renovation as in the 1,000 year reign spoken by Isaiah. Is. 65:20-25

3. Consider the room capacity of a 1500 square miles cube.

a. A total of 3.375 billion cubic miles.

b. Considering a single individual occupying a building one mile long, one mile wide, and ten feet high, there could be 1.78 Trillion people occupying the New Jerusalem.

- c. 178 Billion people at 100 feet high and one mile square.
- d. This is 33 times more than the current world population of 1991 of 5.3 Billion.
- e. The present population is 6.3 Billion, we have grown one Billion in thirteen years.

These are the particular details of the New Jerusalem!

II. The particular glory of the New Jerusalem. Rev. 21:22-27

- A. There is no temple. vs. 22
 - 1. John says, “But I saw no temple in it.” vs. 22a
 - 2. The reason is given, “For the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.” vs. 22b
 - a. During the seven year tribulation, the Anti-Christ will build the temple for the Jews and he will stop the sacrifices at half way point. Matt. 24:15; Dan. 9:27
* He will enter the temple declare he is God and demand all to worship him and receive his mark or be killed. Rev. 13:16, 17; 14:9; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20
 - b. During the Millennium there will be a temple, the one described by Ezekiel. Ezk. 40-48

- c. During the “eternal State”, God Himself will be the temple, the abiding place of His people.

B. There is no sun or moon. vs. 23

1. The commentary, “The city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it.” vs. 23a
2. The reason is given once again, “For the glory of God illuminated it.” vs. 23b
3. The source of it’s glory and light is given, “The Lamb is its light.” vs. 23c
 - a. Isaiah spoke of the Eternal state and city of God, “The sun shall no longer be your light by day, Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, And your God your glory. Your sun shall no longer go down, Nor shall your moon withdraw itself; For the LORD will be your everlasting light, And the days of your mourning shall be ended. Is. 60:19-20
 - b. The Old Testament Shekinah glory is eternally present, “Having the glory of God”. vs. 11a
 - c. Jesus was and is the true light. Jn. 1:9
 - d. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” Jn. 8:12
 - e. John tells us, “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.” 1Jn. 1:5

C. There will be no rebellion or opposition. vs. 24-27

1. Nations and kings will exist in the Eternal State making visits to the New Jerusalem. vs. 24
 - * “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.” vs. 24
 - a. The nations and kings are those of the Millennium that did not follow Satan’s last rebellion at the end.
 - b. In the Millennium, though Jesus reigns with a rod of iron, those living on earth repopulate, have sin nature and free will.
 - c. Those in the Eternal State and the New Jerusalem are in their glorified bodies, no sin or sin nature will exist.
 - d. Since the New Jerusalem appears to be suspended over the New Earth and these nations and kings come and bring their glory into the Heavenly City, the inference is clear, they do not reside in the city, but on the New Earth and come to the New Jerusalem.
2. All nations, kings and people will have equal and complete access in the Eternal State and New Jerusalem. vs. 25
 - a. “Its gates shall not be shut at all by day” vs. 25a

- b. The explanation is “there shall be no night there.” vs. 25b
 - 1) There is no sun or moon. vs. 23
 - 2) They were created to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and **seasons**, and for days and years.” Gen. 1:14
- 3. The purpose of their existence and coming to God is stated, “And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.” vs. 26
 - a. This has already been stated. vs. 24
 - b. Both words are the same in verse 24, 25, all that man will glory in and honor will be God.
- 4. The only one entering the city of the New Jerusalem are the glorified saints. vs. 27
 - a. “But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie.” vs. 27a-b
 - b. “But only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.” vs. 27c
 - 1) The church, which reigned with Christ during the Millennium.
 - 2) The tribulation saints martyred for their faith and those who survived.
 - 3) The nation of Israel, the reconciled wife of Yahweh, fulfilling all the promises of the Old and New Covenant.

- 4) Also those saved in the Millennium who didn’t follow Satan’s last rebellion.
- c. The author to the Hebrews declares, “For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.” Heb. 13:14

Illustration

The sun is like a vast hydrogen bomb burning slowly. Every second, 4 million tons of hydrogen are destroyed in explosions which start somewhere near the core, where the temperature is 12 million degrees Centigrade.

More energy than man has used since the down of civilization is radiated by this normal star in a second. The earth’s entire oil, coal and wood reserves would fuel the sun’s energy output to the earth alone for only a few days.

Tongues of hydrogen flame lap from the sun’s surface with the force of 1000 million hydrogen bombs. They are forced up by the enormous thermonuclear explosion at the core of the sun where 564 million tons of hydrogen fuse to form helium. Material at the core of the sun is so hot that a pinhead of it would give off enough heat to kill a man 1 million miles away. #6182

* Can you imagine the glory of God who made the sun? As the glory of God existed in the Garden prior to the fall, so it will exist in the Eternal state, to its glorious radiance and Shekiniah glory!

Application

1. Temples are either to house a deity or give a sense of the presence of a deity.
 - a. God met the High Priest in the Holy of Holies and spoke to him from the mercy-seat, as His Shekinah glory appeared between the cherubim. Ex. 25:22; Lev. 16:2
 - b. Solomon, at the dedication of the temple said, “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot **contain** You. How much less this temple which I have built!” 1Kings 8:27
2. The sun and the moon are presently necessary, without them we could not exist.
 - a. God created the sun and moon to distinguish the day from the night, for signs and the seasons and for the measure of time.
 - * Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so.” Gen. 1:14-15
 - b. The sun is necessary for live and gives off energy, the process of plants and other organisms synthesize from carbon dioxide and water using light as an energy source and through photosynthesis release oxygen as a byproduct.

- c. The moon is a reflector of the sun and is necessary for the tides of the sea.
 - d. Both are spaced out perfectly from the earth so that the earth neither will burn up or freeze.
3. The promise of a perfect world without sin, death, evil or rebellion is only an ideal till the Eternal State.
 - a. Today we see a permissiveness regarding sin and sinful life-styles.
 - b. Today we see people being murdered senselessly for mere pleasure or boredom.
 - c. Today everyone is encouraged to rebel against the rules and authority.
 - d. None of these things will be present in the New Jerusalem.

The particular glory of the New Jerusalem will be literally Divine!

III. The particular perfection of the New Jerusalem. Rev. 22:1-7

- A. There will be a river of Life. vs. 1
 1. John said, “And he showed me a pure river of life, clear as crystal. vs. 1a-b
 - a. The river is pure “karthros” free from every admixture or uncleanness.
 - b. The river has water of life “zoe” means one who possess vitality of life, this is it’s basic understanding.
 - b. Since this is the Eternal State and looks back to the original creation prior to the

fall, it is describing that absolute fullness of life belonging to God imparted to the believer.

2. John says, “proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. vs. 1c
 - a. Ezekiel’s river in the Millennium comes from the temple. Ezk. 47:1
 - b. Zechariah’s river in the Millennium comes from Jerusalem to heal dead sea and flow to Mediterranean. Zech. 14:4-8

B. There will be the tree of life. vs. 2

1. John said, “In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, the tree of life.” vs. 2-c
 - a. The tree of life is in the middle of the street “plateia” the broad way and both sides of the river.
 - b. The vision of Ezekiel climaxes with the description of the river that flows out of the sanctuary, flowing to the Mediterranean Sea and healing the dead Sea and trees along the banks bearing fruit every month for food and the leaves for medicine. Ezk. 47:1-12
2. John tells us two things about the tree of life. vs. 2d-f
 - a. The tree of life “bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month.” vs. 2d-e

1) This fruit without any doubt is related and connected to the eternal state of the believer’s life.

2) The body of the believer is a glorified one.

b. “The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.” vs. 2f

1) Since it is the Eternal State, there can be no disease or death, as in the Millennium

* “Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their **leaves** will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their **leaves** for medicine.” Ezk. 47:12

2) The only thing it can be for is for the perpetuation of the eternal state and benefit for the nations, kings and people who are all subject to God without any thought or attempt of rebellion, as overcomers. Rev. 2:7

C. There will be only blessings. vs. 3-4

1. This is the affirmation of the positive in verse two but from the negative, “And there shall be no more curse”. vs. 3a

- * The curse brought in sin, death, sorrow, and pain, etc.
- 2. The authority of God will be reigning supremely. vs. 3b
 - a. “But the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it.” vs. 3b
 - b. “And His servants shall serve Him,” those coming out of the thousand year reign. vs. 3c
- 3. The fellowship that was intended from the beginning will finally exist. vs. 4
 - a. “They shall see His face.” vs. 4a
 - 1) Moses could not see God’s face. Ex 33:20-23
 - 2) Jesus said the pure in heart shall see God. Matt. 5:8
 - 3) The book of Hebrews says that without holiness no man shall see God. Heb. 12:14
 - b. “And His name shall be on their foreheads.” vs. 4b
 - 1) This is the mark of ownership.
 - 2) The 144,000 Jews had God’s mark on their foreheads. Rev. 7:1-8, 14:1
 - 3) The following the Anti-christ. Rev. 13:16
- D. There will be perpetual day. vs. 5
 - 1. This is the summary statement, “There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor

- light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light.” vs. 5a-c
- 2. This re-enforces the Eternal State, “And they shall reign forever and ever.” vs. 5d
- 3. The witnesses of faith all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.” Heb. 11:13-16
- E. There will be an accountability for all these words. vs. 6-7
 - 1. The record is God’s divine revelation and prophetic looking to a future fulfillment. vs. 6a-b
 - * “Then he said to me, “These words are faithful and true.” vs. 6a-b
 - a. All that read the record can count on allthis happening!
 - b. It is both genuine and reliable!
 - 2. The record was communicated through a chain of command. vs. 6c

- a. “And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel” with the revelation.
- b. “To show His servants the things which must shortly take place.”
 - 1) The God to the angel and the angel to John!
 - 2) Through John to every person who reads, servants is in the plural.
 - * The chain of command, God, Jesus, angel and John. Rev. 1:1
 - 3) These things will shortly or suddenly take place!
 - * The book opens with this same statement! Rev 1:1c
- 3. The record is to warn and prepare the hearer to believe and obey. vs. 7
 - a. “Behold, I am coming quickly!” it means suddenly. vs. 7a-b
 - * This is stated three times in this last chapter. Rev. 22:7, 12, 20
 - b. “Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.” vs. 7c
 - 1) This is the sixth beatitude in the book of Revelation!
 - 2) The book opens with the same promise to him who reads, hears and keeps the word because the time is near. Rev. 1:3

There is only one way for us to respond to all the things described about the heavenly city the new Jerusalem in the eternal state, “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! “For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?” For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.” Rom. 11:33-36

Application

1. The Genesis river went out from Eden into four heads, one of them skirted the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold and the gold of that land is good, Bdelium and the onyx stone are there. Gen 2:10-12
 - * How interesting that the Genesis account before the fall mentions the gold and precious stones, like the Eternal State of the New Jerusalem, coming full-circle.
2. Some interesting observations about the tree of life.
 - a. “The **tree** of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the **tree** of the knowledge of good and evil.” Gen. 2:9b-c
 - * The choice of living eternally with God without sin was available from the beginning!
 - b. God said, “But of the **tree** of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day

Illustration

that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Gen. 2:17

- c. God guarded the tree of life by a Cherub with a flaming sword. Gen. 3:24
- d. The tree of life will be in the middle of the street and on either side of the river in the New Jerusalem. Rev. 22:2

3. Paul understood the blessing of the eternal state, as he described it to the Corinthians. 1Cor. 15:24-28

* “Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. **The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.** For “He has put all things under His feet.” But when He says “all things are put under Him,” it is evident that He who put all things under Him is accepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, **then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him** who put all things under Him, that **God may be all in all.**”

* The Father, Son and the Holy Spirit will be there but under a different relation, that we don’t exactly know according to Paul.

4. The benefit of the book of Revelation is by believing it and obeying it.

* Peter said the day of The Lord would come as a thief in the night and includes the time period extended to the new heaven and new earth after the Millennium. 2Pet. 3:10-13

* “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a

great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

The particular perfection of the New Jerusalem are no exaggeration!

Conclusion

This is the Heavenly City, the New Jerusalem that will exist in the Eternal State, described by:

- I.** The particular details of the New Jerusalem!
- II.** The particular glory of the New Jerusalem!
- III.** The particular perfection of the New Jerusalem!