

Biblical Foundations Institute

The Revelation of

THE NEW JERUSALEM

by J.S. Vaughn Th.d.

WHO OR WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS CITY OF GOD?



a little about us The New Jerusalem, Fully Explained

SEVERAL YEARS AGO two people began to be drawn away by The Spirit of God into isolation; into the secret place with God. They were both in preparation of a very special work of which neither Shane Vaughn nor Karen Kendrick had any idea of the extent.

KAREN LOST HER PHYSICAL LIFE in a tragic event and was supernaturally raised back to life to bring a message of amazing faith. Her story is found in her latest book “*A God Interruption*” and has been featured on numerous television and various media programs. Her story has literally changed lives around the world. However, she walked alone in a very extensive wilderness as God prepared her for a very special calling. Today, she has joined with her husband in founding a local ministry with a global vision for changing lives, drawing men to Christ; to Hope and to a destiny of change! Karen is noted by all who hear her of the intimacy she shares with God as she leads her listeners into amazing depths of worship and glory with her talented and anointed voice and musical abilities.

SHANE LOST EVERYTHING seven years ago as he ran from the call of God; a lifelong call for which he has never fully surrendered. God pulled him aside into isolation as He lovingly began to break the will of this young minister. While in this process many wonderful and unique revelations began to unfold to Shane Vaughn. God assured this servant of Christ that one day all of the things he had learned in secret would be revealed to the nations. One of those revelations will be revealed to you in this particular booklet. He is the author of over nine books and gospel music recording artist.

TODAY THEY BOTH, AS HUSBAND AND WIFE reside in Waveland, Ms where they have founded an inter-denominational Bible College, a multi-faceted ministry. They also serve as ministers of music at Miracle Tabernacle, the church Karen’s father has pastored for over 40 years.

First Harvest Ministries



Preparing The First Harvest
... the firstfruits unto God

Have We Misunderstood?

STREETS OF GOLD; GATES OF PEARL; Little streams of holy water flowing throughout and mansions bright, glistening against the eternal and sunless sky. THIS IS THE NEW JERUSALEM, RIGHT? A city where “*the sun never sets and the leaves never fade*”. This has indeed been our understanding for so many years in the Christian church.

The songs written about this “*beautiful city of Gold*” and the hymns which tell us of her beauty fill the pages and the volumes of Christian literature. We have envisioned from the Apostle John's writings this place of high walls and twelve foundations of precious stones resting perfectly at a fifteen hundred miles square.

However, WHAT IF we have been completely childish in our thinking on this subject and rather than truth we have delighted in Disney like caricatures.? Of course, your first response is utter contempt, I understand completely. Old habits are indeed hard to break and old thinking is nearly impossible to change, especially concerning religion. However, I have faith in both you and the Holy Spirit. It is my firm belief that He led you to this writing and now you owe it to yourself to at least peruse its pages and test it by the Word of God to see if these things be so.

Is it possible that perhaps the story is much more beautiful than originally thought when it is truly understood in it's intended portrayal? Far be it from me to take away the beauty of Heaven from you; it is actually my wish to show you even greater beauty and how that beauty applies to you personally.

In this teaching we will intend to prove to you that in fact we have misunderstood the writings of John and as a result missed out on the greater message and the greater beauty. It is our opinion after the illumination of revelation and intense study that in fact THE NEW JERUSALEM IS NOT A PLACE BUT RATHER A PEOPLE! How-

ever, we are quick to acknowledge the duality of scripture and fully understand how these verses can have dual application. We also fully acknowledge that there will be a literal city here on earth from which the Bride of Christ and Messiah will jointly reign over the nations. However, we do not believe that the writings of John concerning what he terms as “THE NEW JERUSALEM” are describing that literal city but rather a literal people.

To Whom Was John Writing?

Before we can ever attempt to understand the revelation of John the Apostle we must begin with very primary research. We must set the context of his writing into its proper setting.



In the times of this book of Revelation, the saints were a pretty defeated lot; so it seemed to the naked and faithless eye. They were being used as sport in the arenas of Rome, they were hunted down as animals and enemies of Caesar because of their unwillingness to worship him as a god.

There was no prosperity gospel being preached in Johns church because the saints of his day were ridiculed and mocked and spat upon and at times one does wonder how they held on to faith in such tumultuous times. This was one of the darkest days of the church with a Messiah that had promised to come quickly and it

seemed as if this little ragtag church had been sold a bill of goods that was based on false promises rather than facts.

One has to read no further than *Fox's Book of Martyrs* to find the horrible and fearful days that had gripped the church. What they needed now was a vision of hope. They needed to see into their future rather than their present. This little and scattered church needed to see a big victory, they needed to see a savior coming in glory and majesty. It was in this setting of defeat that Yashua (Jesus) chose to give John a vision, a peek into the future and the coming Lords Day; which is known throughout scripture as the seventh day millennium reign of Jesus Christ,; the celestial Sabbath rest still promised to the whole world when "*the wicked shall cease from troubling and the weary shall be at rest.*"

We know that God does nothing without revealing it first unto His prophets, so therefore He allows John a peek into what He is going to do during The Lords Day, the coming Sabbath day when Yahshua along with His bride shall reign from the city of David. Needless to say, the vision of THAT DAY, the coming golden age of which all the Old Covenant prophets spoke about and longed for is much more glorious and resplendent than they day John and the church were living in.

At the present time, some sixty years after Christ resurrected, His church was on the verge of what seemed to be extinction and thus the following vision of the book of Revelation is given to show the believers "*the back of the book*" or "*the end of the story*" and from these symbols flow forth the blessed hope of the church that we shall soon discover.

From these pages penned by the hands of a trembling and elderly Apostle will flow forth a total different description of a glorious church, a New church, a church victorious over Babylon and all of her tormentors; indeed this is the vision that is about to come forth while "*in the spirit.*"

The vision is little understood because it is not written in plain language for the average reader. Rather, it is written in what seems to be strange code and symbols, why did God choose the method of symbology rather than the plainness of text?



The Mysterious Symbols

Many students find much greater understanding of John's vision when they come to realize that this book was written in symbols and signs. As a matter of fact the angel of Yahweh symbolizes the majority of this book as recorded in the primordial verse of the book;

Rev 1:1 - *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and SIGNIFIED it by his angel unto his servant John*

Please take special note of the word "Signified" in the above verse; when studied in its original Greek language it means "to give a sign". Therefore, the angel of Yahweh would give John many signs or symbols of very spiritual and deep things; almost impossible for the

Symbols in Revelation

- Symbols from OT (Lion of Judah, Song of Moses, Tree of Life, Lamb of God)
- Symbols from NT (Word of God, Son of Man, Bride of Christ)
- Symbols unexplained (Scarlet beast, 7 thunders, mark of the beast)
- Identified Symbols (7 Lamps = 7 churches, dragon = Satan)
- Symbols depict real people, things, situations and events.



human mind to comprehend.

However, why did God choose to use such symbolism? We only have to begin reading the first chapter and the symbols began to come pouring at us. We see Yahshua (Jesus) standing before a large candlestick with seven stars in His hands, these are all symbols of deeper truth, a deeper message which can only be understood when the symbols used to describe these truths are understood. But again, Why? Is GOD SIMPLY PLAYING WITH OUR MINDS? Is this some sick game of scriptural trivia? Hardly so! God is all knowing, He knows the end before the beginning ever begins. So, with this *all seeing eye* He knew that this book was a book being written to all of the future church ages that would span over two thousand years of time. Since this book was to be a book of inspiration and hope for the church during many and various persecutions of the future, IT SIMPLY COULD NOT BE WRITTEN IN COMMON LANGUAGE, only the use of symbols would stand the test of time. Primarily because languages changes over time. Many words fall into disuse and many new words come into use.

A perfect example would be the relatively new term “google it” a phrase unheard in my childhood and no one would have known how to respond to such a term. The word “hell” had total different meanings in old English than it does in modern English. Many words have simply disappeared from use altogether. One can simply listen to the Queen of England speak and you will recognize the sound of a language of another time and place. However, the same is not true with symbols, their meanings never change! If you wrote a book in strictly symbols, it would be understood a thousand years from now because the symbols are a structured part of our mind-set and thus a safe



way to communicate past the obstacles of outdated language and the passing of time.

This is the very reason that the zodiac has lasted throughout so many centuries because it is an art of strictly symbols. Everyone knows what *Virgo*, a virgin represents. Every society and civilization when searching through their historical records, there is always evidence of their use of the zodiac because the symbols are exactly the same.

Much of the mystery of this book is vanquished when we get a clear understanding of these age enduring symbols that God is using to speak to His church in these last days. Here is a list of some of the most common symbols used in the book of Revelation.

S ymbol	M eaning
Candlestick	Church of the Living God
Stars	Angels, Messengers, Pastors
Sword	War, Destruction, Death
Sea	Mass of wicked humanity, depravity of flesh
White Horses	Victory & Triumph
Babylon	False Religious systems
Number 12	Divine Government
Number 144	12 multiplied by 12
The Lords Day	The 1,000 year Millennium reign of Yahshua
City	Groups of People
Mountains	World Governments
Lamb	Yahshua, Jesus Christ as servant
Lion	Yahshua, Jesus Christ as king

As you continue your study into this subject, it is paramount that you keep in mind that very little in this book is to be taken literally as it is a “signified” or symbolized book; otherwise many erroneous conclusions will be drawn up by the carnal mind.



Is the New Jerusalem to be Seen as literal?

This is a question that we will attempt to answer by looking at other descriptions in the book of Revelation. First let us look at a few things that will be inside of this New Jerusalem and let's check to see if it pass "*The literal test*" or rather does it pass "*The allegorical, symbolical test*".

We will first look at THE TREE OF LIFE that will be located inside of the New Jerusalem.

Rev 2:7 - He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God

We are told that this is a "tree of eternal life" and yet Jesus says that He alone has eternal life, the He alone is the source of eternal life. Are we to now believe that there is a literal tree that we will all gather around and eat the literal fruits of eternal life from? I hope that your answer is a resounding, No! A tree cannot give us eternal life; However, a tree is a source from which fruit comes. Therefore, this tree is telling us and symbolizing the true source of eternal life will be in this city and we all know who that source is; the very son of God. Therefore, we can without any stretch of the imagination correctly say that this symbol does not pass "*The Literal Test*" and therefore we look at the meaning behind this sign.

Using the same logic will you be willing to truthfully apply these same rules of interpretation when we get to the chapter that is speaking to us about THE NEW JERUSALEM; scholastic integrity demands that we do so.

Understanding Natural Jerusalem

Exactly, what is so special about this piece of natural real estate that has been the cause of centuries of wars and in the our present day the cause of much tension and chaos? More importantly why has Yahweh shown so much interest in this city? Have you ever stopped and studied how Jerusalem came to be? This is imperative before we can understand the meaning of the New Jerusalem we must first understand the nuances of the natural Jerusalem.

This was not always the city of David nor the capital of Gods holy nation, Israel. At one time in the annals of history it was simply a high mountain fortress inhabited by the Jebusites. The name of the city was JEBUS at that time. The inhabitants of this great fortress were the last enemies to be conquered by David and their defeat seemed so absolutely impossible that they made fun of David and told him that they could let the blind and the lame of the city defend it and David couldn't conquer it; Study the story for yourself in II Sam 5:6-13. However, God had promised David "ALL THIS LAND" and up until this time that promise was unfulfilled.

Many times in your life, the promises of God require you to overcome the obstacles needed to be removed before these promises can find a resting place in your life. This was the last thing that tormented David was this unconquered mountain. Most of the time, the very last thing that's waiting to be conquered is the very thing that has hindered your destiny.

So, David made up his mind to conquer this high mountain and establish it as the City of David. As they say, the rest is history! To this date, it is still known as The City of David; it was indeed his greatest challenge and his greatest victory. So, therefore the name was changed to represent the struggle was over because the name Jerusalem mean the city of peace. As you study this subject keep in

mind that those who reach the pinnacle of The New Jerusalem will like David, represent conquerors. This is a city to be obtained, it is the symbol of victory and triumph.

Thus, when John the Apostle is writing to encourage his fledgling flock of Nazarenes, he is about to tell them about a place fit for conquering kings; the New Jerusalem. This city is often referred to as Mt. Zion because this is the conquerors mountain. The only ones you will see in this city or this group of people will be those who have overcome every temptation of the flesh and kept not only the faith of Christ but also the commandments of God. This group of people as represented by THE SYMBOL OF THIS CITY will have plowed their way through the hazards of hell, while living in this lifetime and refused to bow down to the lies of Satan and have pressed through to complete victory; to be counted among this new group of conquerors.

In the Bible, people were always “going up” to Jerusalem. You begin your journey at Mt. Calvary but you will spend your walk with God always “going up” to Mt. Zion, the New Jerusalem.

Paul's Perspective On The New Jerusalem

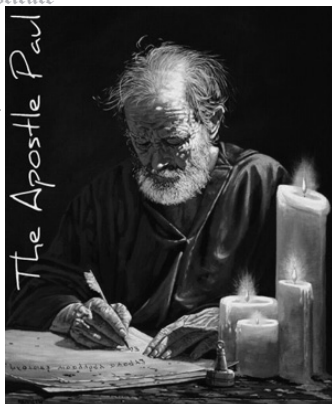
Now, let's take a peek into the writings of the Apostle of Reconciliation himself and see if we can find how he interpreted the New Jerusalem. Before doing so, let me ask you a question. If Jerusalem is the capital of Israel would there be any harm in referring to the New Jerusalem as the new Israel? Think about that for a moment.

Now, I must take a moment to clear up a horrible misunderstanding concerning the Jews and Gentiles. So many of us raised in Christianity before finding The Way of Truth thought of ourselves as Gentiles who had been saved by grace. However, we failed to realize that should no longer identify ourselves as Gentiles because

in fact we are not Gentiles any longer.

I Cor 12:2 - Ye know that YE WERE GENTILES, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.

Did you notice the past tense of this statement? He went on to say in that same setting that NOW you have become *“fellow citizens with the household of faith and the commonwealth of the holy nation Israel”*



Under the Old Covenant there was only one way to join the nation or the household of faith; through circumcision. Nothing has changed, today circumcision is still required of all believers; the only difference being that this ceremony is now performed by a greater physician with a more precise set of scissors.

There is still a cutting away of the flesh, the sin nature and this is performed by the Holy Spirit rather than the hands of men. However, once this circumcision has begun then you are “grafted into” the nation of Israel and thus this make you an Israelite and more specifically a Jew. Paul tell us that someone is a Jew when they have been circumcised inwardly. So, therefore you must refrain from seeing yourself as a Gentile any longer, you are now part of a new nation, the new Israel or the New Jerusalem.

This is not the same as Replacement Theology, that satanically inspired doctrine teaches that God is through with natural Israel and has now replaced her with the church. Nothing could be further from the truth. We did not replace the nation of Israel but rather we joined them as prophesied by the prophet Ezekial when he saw the two sticks becoming one stick or one nation.

With this in mind we can now journey into Pauls writings about New Israel or New Jerusalem. In the letter to the Galatians, specifi-

cally in Chapter 4:25-31; Paul begins speaking about a people of a New Covenant. He then describes how the New Covenant is a more spiritual covenant than fleshly and how that those who are in the New Covenant make up a city called “Jerusalem above” or “Heavenly Jerusalem or spiritual Jerusalem.” He then continues to tell us that we are a free people who make up the church; free from the control of the flesh and the law of sin and death. He then continues to explain how this New Jerusalem is represented by a woman, as “*The mother of us all*”

Please take special note of how Paul pictures the church; as the New Jerusalem. Coincidence? Hardly! Now, let’s continue into the mind of Paul and see if he continues to substantiate our claims that this is not a literal city but rather a metaphorical city with an even greater meaning for the Bride of Christ.

As a student of scripture I would highly recommend you turn to the 12th Chapter of the book of Hebrews. Beginning in verse twenty-two we find even further proof of WHO this New Jerusalem is.

But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels

Paul is writing to the church about their present condition as members of this new Israel, an Israel to be composed of all twelve tribes. He tells them and us that we have left our Gentile status and we’ve arrived at a completely new destination. We are now citizens of the city of God. He refers to it as Mt. Zion, the conquerors mountain and then he further explains this new place of our spiritual existence as the heavenly Jerusalem or the new Jerusalem. Whereas the natural Jerusalem is of an old order, the new Jerusalem is of a new and vibrant spiritual order.

Now, consider with me his use of words; the city of the living God. What is a city? It is a dwelling place for certain people. This city that

you are I are now members of is the actual city wherein Yahweh dwells. We all most certainly know where He dwells today; within the church, made up of living stones and individuals rather than brick and mortar. So, this group of people, these newly circumcised Israelites, former Gentiles, you and I are called MT. ZION, we are called THE CITY OF GOD and we are called THE NEW JERUSALEM.

How interesting to say the least. When you get to the book of Revelation you are going to read about a vision given to John whereas those exact same euphemisms are used to describe what he is seeing in his vision.

As we continue to verse twenty-three we find even more Pauline evidence concerning his understanding of what and more specifically who the New Jerusalem is.

To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect

Interestingly enough in the verse preceding this one Paul is speaking of the city of God and the New Jerusalem in reference to the church. He continues the same verbiage here when he follows up with more descriptions of this glorious lady. He calls her the general assembly of the firstborn. We all know who the “firstborn from the dead” was and is; Yahshua. Therefore, the church of the firstborn is the people of the name, the called out assembly that is being trained in the womb of the church to reign with Christ during His celestial golden, kingdom age.

He continues to express exactly who this holy church is made up of. Men who were justified at Calvary and now their minds or spirits are being perfected and also this could very well be a recognition of those Old Covenant saints who were considered just but they were awaiting salvation at Calvary and in this church they are counted among us

The Tale of Two Cities

That Great City

Now, we begin our ascent into the book of Revelation where we will endeavor to bring all of the



things we have learned about the New Jerusalem in all the other verses into alignment with what John was seeing in his vision upon the isle of Patmos when he was escorted spiritually into a vision of the future Lords Day, more commonly known as The Millennium Reign.

We immediately see again another use of symbology in the use of the word, Cities. In Johns vision he sees two very different types of cities or peoples. Those who make up the false systems of the world, the ones who so carnally minded control the governments of the world and they are know today as “the powers that be.” This city is known as the unholy city or rather “That Great City” the city of Babylon.

Rev 18:10 - ***Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: “Woe! Woe to you, great city, you mighty city of Babylon! In one hour your doom has come!”***

This beloved Pastor, John the Revelator is living in the same world

that you and I are living in, ruled by Babylon. The sheep that he tended to were slaves to that Babylonian system as they endeavored to serve faithfully their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. However, as soon as he was carried away into a vision of the coming Lords Day He saw something very different. He did not see the present situation of Babylon on control while the Bride suffered her persecution. Rather, he saw the absolute destruction of this system of demons. It is THIS MESSAGE that John's vision is meant to reveal to this queenly bride who is in exile in Satan's government while awaiting the triumphant return of her bridegroom.

Until this vision, Babylon is in control but now he sees her destruction and a few chapters later he begins to see the reign and the rule of another city. This other city that he sees coming down from God out of the air is not like Babylon that he just viewed in heavenly vision, this city likened to a woman also is not considered "THAT GREAT CITY." She is not bedecked in the tinklets of Hollywood or the tapestries of Rome. Blinking lights and cheap gold is not her calling card; she is different, she is very different.

That Holy City

She is more respectfully called; THAT HOLY CITY. Unlike that Great City she doesn't get caught up in the world affairs; she doesn't fight her own battles but rather she trust in her bridegroom. While the inhabitants of That Great City trust in money and schemes she lives separated unto her God. Now, in heavenly vision John sees the



turning of the tide in world affairs. He now sees this little bride who was wounded by the Anti-Christ descending to scale her throne as the Queen of the Millennium. In the following scriptures John will

begin to describe through the use of symbology what he is seeing in this Holy City, this holy Bride, this perfected and matured church of the living God who has proven to be an overcomer in this life.

The Brides Beautiful & Heavenly Description

While John is in rapturous vision an angel offers to show him what the entire vision was about anyhow and the culmination of the entire vision. All the other chapters and symbols were leading up to this moment, for John to deliver a message, a vision of hope to the Bride of Christ.

Rev 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*

Before we go any further into this vision and before we arrive at the streets of gold those beloved gates of pearl; can you please re-read the above verse and tell yourself exactly what this is a vision of? The angel is about to show John none other than a glorious church, He is about to show John exactly what the verse says; The Bride! Not a literal city for us to all long for and write songs about. This is not a description of what the kingdom of God will look like but rather what the finished product called THE BRIDE will look like after she has been perfected in the church ages.

And now John begins to describe with symbols and signs what he is seeing as the bride descends.

Rev 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,*

First, John was carried away unto a great and high mountain; what could this mountain be? One must study no further than the book of Daniel to find out that the government of Christ upon the earth will be a “mountain that fills the whole earth.” This will be an earth encompassing one-world government that will bring all other governments under its control. This all happens during The Lords Day, the sabbath promised to the whole world, the Millennium Reign of Jesus Christ. So, this is where the angel takes John; into the future day of the Lord and the government of Christ and His bride.

Notice, she is descending “*from God out of Heaven*”. Now, this presents an opportunity for those who promote a pre-tribulation rapture to begin dancing for joy as they try to use this as out of context, proof-text to enhance their unbiblical argument. They say “*See, she is coming out of Heaven and therefore this proves that she was raptured to Heaven before the tribulation.* However, their joyful glee ends the moment we study the meaning of the word, *Heaven*.

It is a mistake to think of the celestial world each time you see the word Heaven. The particular word normally has nothing to do with all things celestial. Rather, it has to do with the visible sky, the air, the atmosphere of the naked eye. We know this how? By studying the greek word *OURANOS*. Upon your research you will find no reference to the place called heaven. Therefore, we can safely conclude that John is witnessing the church descend out of the atmosphere. The next logical question is “*Why is she up there*” if as we teach, the dead are sleeping and this is the resurrected church, why is she descending rather than ascending?

The answer is found in I Thess 4:17 -
After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever



John sees the Bride descending immedi-

ately after she ascends to meet the Lord for the first time in the air - this is the wedding! She was called up to meet Him in the air before the whole watching world as a display of His grace and once this moment has ended it will then be time for Him and her to begin their descent to the Mt. of Olives where together they will usher in the Lords Day, the Sabbath day that the whole earth has groaned for, the manifestation of the sons of God will be on this day.

The Had Bridal Glory

Rev 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***

Here is one of the most compelling scriptures to prove our postulation. What John was seeing; she “*had the glory of God*” this bride was the glory of her husband. When Paul was addressing ladies in their need to cover themselves He says “*For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man*”

The woman, the Holy City that John is envisioning is indeed the glory of her husband. She has a meek and a quiet spirit, she has proven her fidelity while living in the captivity of Lucifer’s government. This glory that is in the Bride was promised by the Apostle Paul to be a trademark of the true Brides identity. The “glory of God is His character and His nature - she has both!

Rom 8:18 - ***For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with THE GLORY WHICH SHALL BE REVEALED IN US.***

John also noticed her light. What a light that emanates from her core; from her center. One mustn’t search very far through Holy Writ to find exactly what this symbol of light represents. This light is her love for not only the faith of Christ but also the command-

ments of Yahweh. The true bride will be identified for both her appreciation of His grace and also her adoration for His eternal law.

Prov 6:23 - *For the commandment is a lamp; and THE LAW IS LIGHT; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life*

John is seeing a bride who not only had grace but also law, not only faith but also works; a completely matured and perfected bride. This corresponds perfectly with a scriptural description of the 144,000.

Rev 12:17 - *And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

Do you see the parallel? The Dragon, Lucifer was angry with this Bride because those who are in her womb, all of us who are growing unto maturity; we are commandment keepers and we have the faith of Christ. This bride is a commandment keeping bride and therefore this is the light coming from her that John is describing in his vision; oh the wonder of it!



She is Separated by Her Walls

One of the next things that John wishes to express to all of us in Gods little flock that would be reading this vision in the distant

future is the fact that the Bride is separated from the world and that in that future Lords Day none of the evil ones will be allowed inside of her government. She will rule with protection and she all liars will be outside of her territory. Her walls are high and strong; she was never defeated and hell never prevails against her because her

walls are her salvation. Walls are built to keep people out and ironically John spends considerable time addressing those who would be locked out of the city of God, thus showing us the reason he is telling us about the walls surrounding the Bride.

In this vision John assures us all that when THAT DAY comes, we will be eternally secure. Every long mile of this journey will have been worth it as we rest in our eternal sabbath when the sound of war and violence is no longer heard. Never again will we be bludgeoned by evil enemy forces who inhabit the high places.

Sadly, many people believe they have salvation now when in fact they have “the hope of salvation” but in that day - hope will be our reality. Isaiah prophecies about these same walls that John is seeing; both prophets see the same walls around new Israel or New Jerusalem.

Isa 60:18 - ***No longer will violence be heard in your land, nor ruin or destruction within your borders, but you will call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise***

Twelve Gates into The City

Rev 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***

John will now describe the only provided way into this Holy City. There is only one legal entrance and no one can come into her by attack or by destruction; they can only come in at the gate. Jesus, the tree of life Himself said that He was the way into the Holy City and that “no man can come unto the Father except by Him.” Then upon His departure from earth, Christ announces that He is going to build this New Israel or New Jerusalem upon a strong foundation of The Apostles teachings.

Eph 2:20 - *And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone*

There was a legally authorized entrance into the church of God made when Christ deputized His personal Apostles to go forth and teach men everywhere, not to pray the sinners prayer, but rather to make obedience disciples of all men and teach them all that I have commanded. This is exactly what these Apostles did and any church that teaches contrary to their teachings are not members of this church that John is envisioning because as you are about to see; these Apostles; their teachings are the only legal entrance into the Holy Bride of Christ which is built upon the Apostles doctrine.

The Number 12

Please note that you will now begin to see the reoccurrence of a certain number in the remaining description of this city and that number is none other than the number of Divine Government, THE NUMBER TWELVE. God uses numbers! God likes numbers! Why? I cannot answer but He has this thing about numbers. Before we can fully understand the number Twelve and Gods infatuation with it we must first understand the number Six, which is actually the broken twelve.

Six is a very carnal, fleshly and adversarial number. This number six is known as THE NUMBER OF MAN. Obviously man was created on the sixth day and therefore the man of sin is always identified with the number six. We first see the number six in the first adversary of Israel, Goliath. We should note that he had six fingers and six toes. As time goes along we see yet again the number six in defiance to Yahweh in the image of Nebuchanezzar. This false god was built at the measurements of sixty by six thus bringing the number six to the next power. Goliath had six finger and toes and now the King

builds a false God with six and six. Finally, we see the ultimate enemy of Israel, Gods true church identified with three sixes; 666. All of these instances of six have something in common, a rebellious stance towards the laws of God and the person of Yahweh.

However, when that number six is conquered in our lives by meeting number seven at the cross then something begins to change. Seven is Gods number of perfection and when the Holy Spirit begins working in our lives and we yield to His working then we begin coming under heavenly government. We begin to love authority and submission to family government and human government as it typifies heavenly government. Our natures begin to change into something less adversarial and less selfish as we go through the change. It is then that God conquers our sex nature and stamps it with His nature; the number twelve!

We must understand this number and why God chose to use it in separating the tribes of Israel into Twelve. Also, the reason Christ chose Twelve disciples; this is an orderly and structured number. There is a reason there are signs of the zodiak because before Satan perverted it, this constellation was a perfect display of heavenly government and order.

Thus the reason you will begin to see the mention of TWELVE in this Holy City, the Bride of Christ, because she has been conquered by the Nazarene. We see now that there are Twelve gates; typifying the message of salvation as given to us by the Apostles.

Twelve Angels

Standing at these entrances to Gods Holy City we find twelve angels. The word “angel” in this verse does not necessarily mean heavenly angels’ Rather, the word means “MESSENGER” and we know that the Apostles were Messengers sent forth. They preached a message.

Here we find them standing at the entrance of the church sounding forth their message and their message makes up the essence of the gates.

The Names Written On The Gates

What a great mystery this has been in the minds of the church for all of these years; these names written upon the gates of the New Jerusalem. However, the gossamer cloth of confusion begins to fall away from our understanding when we understand exactly what or rather who Israel is. No, it is not the church without natural Israel as we have been taught. We have not replaced the natural Jew but rather we have joined the natural Jew and therefore formed one Olive Tree out of both the rooted tree and the wild tree.

When we understand this then we can see that this New Jerusalem is only the embodiment of those who make up the Nation of Israel, all twelve tribes. Now, there is much truth that we have not known in Gods church concerning these twelve tribes. However, you will need to order our booklet; *The Lost Tribes* to better understand the full meaning of why John is seeing the names of the twelve tribes. For the sake of space I will try to simplify it all by reminding you that Jesus told His Apostles that they would each one rule over one of the twelve tribes and thus this is what John is seeing in vision. The church of Jesus Christ will be made up ONLY of the twelve tribes and this is further proof that John is seeing the church in this vision. Again, I would highly recommend our booklet; *The Lost Tribes* for a better understanding of this particular part of John's vision.

The Foundation of The City

Rev 21:14 - *And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb*

If the walls, the security of this beloved bride is her salvation that she has finally received at her resurrection then what is that salvation founded upon or based upon? Here, John looks at the foundation of her salvation and sees what he has been seeing the entire time; her foundation is the teachings and the doctrines of the Apostles of the Lamb. This is indeed an Apostolic church; a church based on the Apostles authority and teachings. Notice, there is not separate foundations but rather each Apostle is part of the foundation.

Measuring The Lady; her fitting

Rev 21:15 - *And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.*

John, the beloved has reached a point in his vision of the Bride of utmost importance. Here, John makes it quite plain that all the suffering has not been without purpose. The purpose of the suffering and the pain was to bring this lady unto “the full stature of Christ”. This must be the mark which she is measured against. She must have grown from a six to a twelve; from rebellion to obedience; from selfish to selfless; from the way of get to the way of give.

She must have matured from a dirt standard and a flesh standard to the gold standard; the standard of the man, Christ Jesus. An angel comes to John with a golden reed. Why? Because, anything less

than “*gold tried in the fire*” will be less than a perfect measurement.

Although salvation is a free gift of grace; the obtaining of this measurement for brideship will cost you everything. This place beyond “Called” is a place known as “Chosen” and the journey from one to another is not without price. In this part of the vision this betrothed bride is actually at her fitting for her bridal gown. This is the time of the probationary judgement immediately after the resurrection where each of the chosen will stand before Christ to be granted their respective realms of authority in the golden kingdom upon earth.

Rev 21:16 - *And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.*

This lady has just passed a pivotal test in the above verse. She measures up to a perfect balance; foursquare! She is not out of balance, she is not a church of just grace or just law. She is not a church of just faith or just works. Her length is equal to her breadth; she had preached and adhered to a full gospel; lacking in no area.

May I draw your immediate attention to the exact measurement of the church? How many furlongs did she measure up to? I do believe the number would be Twelve! Do you see it? She measures up from six to twelve. She is a balanced church of faith and commandment keeping; not one without the other.

Rev 21:17 - *And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel*

For the sake of teaching and learning allow me to ask you again; what is the product of twelve multiplied to it's highest power? Is your answer 144? Then please note in the above verse that this

bride while being measured is perfectly identified as once again the 144,000! Absolutely, read the verse! Her perfect measurement is 144; meaning she is twelve all the way around. This measurement is according to the judgement or the measurement of a man. However, we would be remiss to think that this is the measurement of just any man for it is not. Rather, this is the measurement of a man who is also an angel or a messenger.

Who did Paul say that we must equal up to? The man, the God-Man Christ Jesus. So, why would He be referred to as an angel in the book of Revelation? Quite simply because that's exactly what He was - the Messenger of The Covenant.

Mal 3:1 - *Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts*

So, the bride has measured up to the Messenger of her Covenant; the man, Christ Jesus - Yahshua.

Rev 21:18 - *And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.*

As John's vision of hope continues he re-emphasizes how that this church has reached a golden standard. He says that she was in fact pure gold and so perfect that the bride is transparent with no hidden sin, no hidden agenda and no malcontent of the heart. There isn't one shred of hypocrisy in her because you can see straight through her ; her character has been perfected like Christ, she looks just like her husband and she is counted worthy to reign with Him.

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