

COMMUNION MEDITATION

"New Jerusalem"

Rev. 21:2

Introduction

1. Jerusalem is the center of the world! Indeed, by virtue of Christ's relation to it, of the entire universe! It is the focus of all that God designs for men and nations. "O Jerusalem"--what a phrase (cf. Psa. 87: 2; 78:68; 132:13,14).

2. The division of the human race into three groups: Jews, Gentiles, and Church (I Cor. 10:32), make it necessary to study this city in relation to each group. It is just here that the significance of the phrase in our text is enhanced (Rev. 21:2). To get a handle on the truth, mark the characteristics of the city, the new one:

1. It is LITERAL.

By no means is it possible to ignore what is plain in the Word of God--the absolute reality of the city in question. It is not a dream or fantasy, but a genuine city. Here are some reasons for believing this:

a. Its description.

The stones mentioned in the city (21:19-21) are just as real as they were in the breastplate of the highpriest (Ex. 28:15-21). They probably indicate the permanent glory of God in the display of His ineffable nature, but they are real!

b. Its expectation.

Nothing could be clearer than that Abraham expected to enter a real city (Heb. 11:10). This was not a state of mind, but a place to go!

c. Its inspiration.

By all accounts, other portions of the "inspired Word of God" are literal. If this is not, then the others must likewise be rejected (cf. Ezek. 40-48).

2. It is INHABITED.

a. By God.

God's throne is there (21:5) and His glory (21:11) hence His very person must be (21:3).

b. By Israel.

Abraham looked for the city, so will be there (Heb. 11:10). But O.T. saints are pictured as coming also (Heb. 12:22-23) under the phrase "spirits of just men made perfect." The names of the tribes are there (Rev. 21:12).

c. By church

In a very peculiar fashion, the city is related to the Body of Christ, the church (Eph. 1:22,23; Rev. 21:9,10).

NOTE: Gentiles as a group are included in the city either as O.T. proselytes or N.T. saints.

3. It is ASSOCIATED.

a. With millenium.

There has been considerable concern as to the time relationships between Rev. 21:1-8 and 21:9-22:7. Some have felt that the former is eternal and the latter millennial. It is certain that the city will hover over the earth at one point and this probably is the millennium (21:9,10).

b. With eternity.

The same Greek verb "descend" is used here (21:2) as later (21:9,10). After the great divine conflagration takes place (I Pet. 3:10), then the city will be a part of the new earth (21:1).

Conclusion. There are good things to come for those who truly believe on Jesus' precious blood. Will you be included? If not, through faith establish a relationship with God today through Christ. Amen.