

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

"Jerusalem the Golden"

Revelation 22:1-5

### WHERE ARE WE?

1. The cataclysmic events of Scripture concerning the new heavens and new earth have taken place (Rev. 21:1; 2 Pet. 3:10-13).

2. Chronologically, therefore, the Tribulation Period is over (Rev. 6-18), the Lord has been revealed from heaven (Rev. 19:1-21), the Millennial Reign of Messiah has passed with its final judgment (Rev. 20:1-15). Eternity has come at last!

3. What about Jerusalem? During the Millennium, Messiah reigned with His saints upon the old earth (Rev. 20:4-6). It is a time of the Lord's iron rule of compelled order (Ps. 72:9; Isa. 49:23; Isa. 60; Micah 7:16, 17). Christ and His saints are a "camp" (παρεμβολήν parembolen) above the old Jerusalem. (20:9). Satan mounts his final rebellion against Christ, τηρ camp, and the earthly city of Jerusalem.

4. All the above having been, the flow of events moves into eternity. The new heavens and the new earth have succeeded the old. Now the New Jerusalem comes out of heaven from God to be planted upon eternal foundations as the center of attraction on the new earth.

5. The description of the New Jerusalem given is absolutely magnificent (Rev. 21:1-27). From whatever consideration of the City, it is a marvelous expression of the character of Almighty God. Review what is recorded about its effulgence (vv. 11, 23, 25), its size (vv. 15, 16), its walls (vv. 12, 17, 18), its foundations (vv. 14, 19, 20), its gates (vv. 12, 13, 21). All is total perfection. All praise to the Lord.

6. Now give attention to some outstanding points. Surely everything moves your heart with anticipation to be there. That makes this study relevant indeed!

### 1. The LITERALITY of the City

#### Appears to be:

- 1) Because no symbols are adequate  
cf. literality of High Priest breastplate (Ex. 28:15-21)
- 2) Because expectation for such a city  
cf. Jn 14:1-3; Heb. 11:10, 16
- 3) Because provision for resurrected bodies  
cf. Lk 24:38; 2 Cor. 5:4, 8; 12:1-4; Phil. 1:23
- 4) Because of similar passages  
cf. Ezekiel 40:48; Zech. 14

#### a. Its River v. 1

Accepting the literality of the City, this must be also. It corresponds to all that is expected in the eternal City (Psa. 36:7-9; 46:4). The river is pure (TR) and clear (brilliant) and continues to proceed (present tense εκπορευόμενοι ekporeuomenoi). Look at other unusual rivers (Gen. 3:9ff; Ezek. 47:1-12). God the Father (21:3), God the Son (22:1) are noted, hence God the Holy Spirit might be seen with the River (cf. Jn 7:37).

#### b. Its Tree v. 2

One street is mentioned. Apparently the river flows through the broad street which intersects the City. On either bank of the river was a (no article) tree of life. This may suggest a row of trees on the river bank. Scripture states the tree continued to bear fruit (present tense) one sort every month. Obviously the word "month" (μήνην men) explains to people "in time" that

there will be variants to the fruit throughout eternity. God's omnipotent power to create variety was no problem at creation (Gen. 1:29) and will not be in eternity. The leaves of the tree are stated to have therapeutic qualities for the nations. Since there will be no pain nor death (21:3), the "healing" is a reference to preservation from any ill. It is a matter of preservation of what God has already gained. How He does this is His sovereign right.

Note: It is not directly stated in the Bible that food will be required in the New Jerusalem. However, think about these matters: 1) We do not have all the facts about "life – water" (21:6) and "life – fruits" (22:2). Yet an infinite God will not be hindered in His purpose to provide the finest for His own (cf. 2:7; 22:14). 2) We do know the Lord ate after His resurrection (Lk 24:41-43). 3) In the O.T. angels have eaten with men (Gen. 18:6-8).

#### c. Its Throne v. 3

Different thrones are mentioned in the Bible: 1) Throne of Father where Christ sits on the right hand (Heb. 1:3). 2) Throne of Triune God in total glory (Rev. 4, 5). 3) Throne of Judgment (Rev. 6-14). 4) Great White Throne (Rev. 20:11-15) for Christ rejecters. 5) The eternal throne of God expressive of endless perpetuity. Note the Lamb is included (22:3). Redemption is an eternal consideration!

### 2. The ACTIVITY of the City vv. 3-5

#### a. Negatively

1) No more curse (v. 3). The term used is strong. It is not simply a ban, but something execrable damnable. The use of "all" (πάντων pan) adds strength to the negative i.e. nothing of this sort remains in the New Jerusalem (cf. Gen. 3:19).

2) No more darkness (v. 4). This is explicated by "no night there," "no need for a lamp (candle), "no light of sun" (cf. Gen. 2:14-19). In place is the Lord God Who keeps giving light (present tense φωτίζει photizei).

#### b. Positively

1) Service indeed even in the New Jerusalem. Those who are there (believers) are eternal bond slaves (δούλοι doulou). There is no idleness, weakness, nor flagging of energy there. Idea of worship is intrinsic in the verb (present tense λατρεύουσιν latreuousin). What honor, dignity and enjoyment for eternity!

2) Sight In the City, unending opportunity will be given to see (ὄραω horao) the Lord. This was withheld from Moses (Ex. 33:20, 23), but promised by our Lord (Mt. 5:8) and to be enjoyed (1 John 3:2). That face once marred by horrible hatred will be the adoring view of saints eternally (Ps. 16:11)!

3) Sealed The ever precious Name of the Lord will be "upon" (ἐπί επι) the foreheads of the residents of the City. What an identity (cf. 13:16)! Think of it – His forever and so indicated. Therefore, the believer's name's written (perfect tense) in the Book of Life (21:17). Here the Name of God is on the believer's forehead.

4) Sway The eternal set up is here contrasted with the millennial reign of Christ. The Millennium was limited in time, but here is a reign (rule) forever (εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰῶνων eis tous aionas ton aionon)

Conclusion So what does all this mean for you, for me? Just this. If I profess and possess a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as my Saviour from sin, I have the New Jerusalem as my ultimate goal and residence forever. Failure to believe on Jesus Christ, means I will have my part in the Lake of Fire which is the second death (21:8). I urge you to believe and be sure of the New Jerusalem.