

46. The Description of the New Jerusalem – Part 2

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain how special the New Jerusalem will be. There is much more to learn about this city. In this topic, we will continue to learn more about this wonderful city that Christ is presently preparing for us and who will be there in that city.

In Revelation 21:19-21, we read, “The foundations of the wall of the city *were* adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation *was* 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 chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates *were* twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city *was* pure gold, like transparent glass.” These verses teach more about the foundations and the gates of the New Jerusalem.

The previous verses said that the foundations of the wall of the New Jerusalem will have the names of the twelve apostles on them. These verses explain that the foundation stones will be made from very precious and beautiful stones. The twelve stones mentioned in these verses are all very beautiful stones of various bright colors. They are also very precious stones and have great value today. In the world, the rareness of a stone is part of what helps to give it greater value. However, in the New Jerusalem, there will be no worldly values. These stones will be precious because of their beauty and the fact that they will reflect the glory of God.

Most of these stones were originally used in the breastplate of the High Priest of Israel. In Exodus 28:2, we read, “And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.” Then, Exodus 28:17-20 adds, “And you shall put settings of stones in it, four rows of stones: *The first row shall be* a sardius, a topaz, and an emerald; *this shall be* the first row; the second row *shall be* a turquoise, a sapphire, and a diamond; the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; and the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper. They shall be set in gold settings.” God said that the purpose of these stones, worn by the High Priest, was for glory and for beauty. The New Jerusalem will certainly reflect the glory and the beauty of the Lord throughout eternity.

These verses also say that the twelve gates will be made of twelve pearls. We saw in the previous topic that the walls of the New Jerusalem will be nearly one thousand four hundred miles high. That means that each gate will be about the same height as the wall so these pearl gates will be close to one thousand four hundred miles in height. The first part of verse 25 says, “Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).” This verse makes it clear that the gates will not be shut. Instead, they will be for beauty and will reflect the glory of God. The street of the city will be of pure gold. However, this gold is not like the gold of this present world but will be transparent like glass. This means that even the street will reflect the glory of God. This description of the foundation, the walls, the gates, and the street of the city make it clear that the New Jerusalem will be a very beautiful place that will reveal the glory of God for all eternity.

Revelation 21:22-24 says, “But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb

are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb *is* its light. 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.” Christ described the purpose of the earthly temple in the city of Jerusalem when He said, in Mark 11:17, “Then He taught, saying to them, Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’” This statement by Christ combined two verses from the books of Isaiah and Jeremiah. Isaiah 56:7 says, “Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices *will be* accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.” Then, Jeremiah 7:11 says, “‘Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen *it*,’ says the LORD.” That temple was a house of prayer.

However, we see that there will be no need for a temple building to be a house of prayer in the New Jerusalem. There will be a temple in the New Jerusalem, but it will not be a building. Revelation 21:22 tells us that the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. Then, verse 23 explains why there will be no temple when that verse says, “The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb *is* its light.” The New Jerusalem will not need the sun, moon, stars, or any other light, because the glory of God will fill the New Jerusalem with Light. The verse then explains that this means that the Lamb is its light. 1 John 1:5 says, “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.” The New Jerusalem will be filled with the light of the glory of God, and the Lord will dwell with us so there will be no need for a temple building because the glory of the Lord fills the entire city. God will dwell among us.

The word translated “nations” is the word “ethnos” from which we get our word ethnic. The most common translation of this word in the New Testament is “Gentiles” and then nation or nations. Here, we see that it speaks about the nations who are saved. This means that the New Jerusalem will include all of the saved from every nation or people. However, in eternity we will have a new identity so we will be called by our new name. In 1 Peter 2:9, we read, “But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” In eternity, our new identity will be that we are the people of God, and we will all have the privilege of walking in His light.

When Christ rules on earth prior to the final judgments and eternity, Psalm 72:1 says, “Give the king Your judgments, O God, and Your righteousness to the king’s Son.” Psalm 72:11 adds, “Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him.” Then, Psalm 72:17-19 concludes the Psalm by saying, “His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun. And *men* shall be blessed in Him; all nations shall call Him blessed. Blessed *be* the LORD God, the God of Israel, who only does wondrous things! And blessed *be* His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled *with* His glory. Amen and Amen.” Verse 17 points out that when Christ rules for a thousand years, all nations will be blessed in Him. This points out that fact that all kings and people who come to Christ, in that time, will continue to walk in the light of Christ when there is no more sun. They will bring the glory and honor they give to Christ into the

eternal kingdom of Christ, because He will rule forever and ever.

Revelation 21:25-27 says, “Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.” In these verses, we see that the gates of the New Jerusalem will not be shut. Throughout most of the history of the earth, cities built walls with gates to protect them from their enemies. These gates were usually shut at night to provide protection when the people could not see their enemies. However, in 1 Corinthians 15:25-26, we read, “For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death.” Then, Revelation 21:1-4 says that, in the New Jerusalem, there will be no death because the former things have passed away. Since there are no enemies, there will be no need for the gates of the New Jerusalem to be closed. Instead, the gates will reflect the glory of God because the kings and nations who have trusted in the Lord will all bring their glory into the city.

Then, we go on to read what will not enter into the New Jerusalem. We see that nothing that defiles or causes an abomination or a lie will be brought into the New Jerusalem. Revelation 20:15 says, “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” Then, Revelation 21:8 adds, “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” All who followed Satan whether fallen angels or people will have been cast into the lake which burns with fire and brimstone from which there is no escape. As a result, nothing that defiles can enter the new heaven, the new earth or the New Jerusalem.

Then, we are reminded who will be in the New Jerusalem. We see that all those and “only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life” will be there. Revelation 22:19 says, “and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.” Here, we see that those who deny part, or all, of the Word of God will not have their names written in the Book of Life. In contrast, Revelation 3:5 says, “He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.” Then, Matthew 10:32 adds, “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.”

We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain to others that all who confess Jesus as Lord and believe in their hearts that He has risen from the dead can be assured that their names are written in the Book of Life. In addition, they are promised that Christ will not blot out their names from the Book of Life. Instead, He will confess their names before the Father. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to explain these things.