

Book of Revelation – Description of the Holy Jerusalem

Series REV-68 - Revelation 21:9 -22:5 Part II

REVELATION 21:9–22:5 – Description of the New Jerusalem

We open this description first looking at the Lamb’s wife:

The church is the bride, the Lamb’s wife. She should keep herself pure, sanctified, holy. Never should she indulge in any foolishness; for she is the bride of a King. Yet she does not realize her exalted position. If she understood this, she would be all-glorious within. {7 BC 986 / Letter 123½, 1898}

The New Jerusalem

One thing the Lord has taught us through the study of this great book, is how to study the deep things of God. Why do we need to do this? Well for one, to expand our mental prowess (intellectual capabilities) and secondly, to ask the Lord Jesus how to apply in the practical arena of life the “deep things” the Spirit reveals to us.

Q.1: Did you notice a change in the language of verse 2 and verse 9? Not only are they bookends of a beautiful chiasm, but the description is slightly different.

Note:

Vs. 2 – John saw *the holy city, new Jerusalem*, coming down from God...

Vs. 9 – John in the Spirit was shown again:

that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven...

Note that the term “that great city” is used. This is the term used for Babylon, again and again (several times in chapters 14-18.) But not until chapter 21 is it now applied to the ‘holy Jerusalem’. Why might that be?

Q.2: We note in verse 11 that she has the ‘glory of God and her light’ is ‘like a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.’

Where else in the book do these two words show up—‘jasper’ and ‘crystal’?

What do you make of that: _____

Q.3: There are eight descriptive points of the holy City, between verses 11-21.

List what you think they comprise:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Q.4: There are two texts which in essence says the same thing—one talking about the people, the other the characteristics of those not citizens of the Holy City. Looking at these two verses—8 & 27—one might ask, why did John remind us (after the nations are mentioned) of the characteristics of those not there? {hint: note the verses in between}. Share your thoughts. {It was an ah ha moment for me.}

Note the number of times the ‘Lamb’ is mentioned in these verses we are covering (21:9–22:5). We will discuss the subject of each in our discussion together. But I bring it up here because several times in the description of the holy City, the subject of “light” is brought up, obviously with God and the Lamb as the source of it.

Because the study of the ‘New Jerusalem’ involves the closing scenes of the book and the Bible—as incentive for the believer to persevere by faith—it is not coincidental that in the opening of the Bible saga, Creation week began (Gen 1:3) with God creating light and dividing it from the darkness, Day 1. It then should be fitting that the Scriptures close with, not only a references to light, but emphasizing there will be no night, no ‘darkness’ there, nor those who comprise darkness, but only Light from God and the Lamb and the redeemed. AMEN!

Though there is more we could have examined in this chapter for our edification, it is sufficient to wet our appetite of what God has prepared for those who love Him.

+ + + + + + + + + +

As we near the close of this great book, our study tonight which focused on our reward—the NEW JERUSALEM, should have given us increased desire, courage and zeal to press forward in these closing days of earth’s history—to gain the victory “on our own account, in our own behalf” (RH Sept 29, 1891, par 1) which Christ so triumphantly accomplished for us in His earthly life, death, and resurrection. What a Masterpiece of Truth has this book been. How grateful we should be for His agape love to us and that He will be with us through to the end of our journey.

Included with this Lesson 68 is a lengthy SOP Addendum on the verses in chapter 21 & early part of 22. May it be a blessing to you as we move into Rev 22:6-21, the Epilogue or Conclusion of the gospel Christ came to give John, termed the

Revelation of Jesus Christ