

## REVELATION Lesson 196

### Chapter 21:8-27, —New Jerusalem, New Heavens, New Earth

14 February 2022

- Vss 9-11** Eternity is in view here. After the first heaven and first earth are passed away (vs 1, 4) and God makes all things new (vs 5), the lake of fire does NOT pass away, but is still in operation in eternity (vs 8) when New Jerusalem descends out of heaven from God (vs 10).
- This passage strongly opposes any idea that the lake of fire is only a temporary punishment. It continues to operate in eternity.
  - Many commentators teach that verse nine ends the forward progress of book of Revelation and reverts back to the millennium on the former earth.
    - They don't believe there will be nations or kings in the new earth, so they place the rest of the bible on the former earth in the millennium.
- Vss 3-4** Here, the bible speaks of people who once lived on the old earth, had pain, shed tears, and were a part of the former things. But now they are living on the new earth in eternity when the tabernacle of God is with men and God is dwelling with them.
- Isa 66:22-23** When God creates the new heavens and new earth, He promised that Israel's seed would remain at that time. Their national identity and heritage will continue on the new earth.
- God Promised Abraham that his seed would dwell forever in a land that He promised them. When the former earth is destroyed, God's promise must transfer to the new earth.
  - All flesh shall come to worship the Lord. Therefore, men of flesh are not dwelling WITH the Lord if they must come to Him to worship Him. (vs 23).
    - The Church (Bride) dwells WITH the Lord. All others come to visit.
- Isa 65:17-18** Here God promises to "create Jerusalem" when He creates new heavens and the new earth.
- This "Jerusalem" is not "New Jerusalem" that comes down from God. God is promising to create an **earthly** Jerusalem on the new earth for Israel.

### NEW JERUSALEM (Rev 21)

- Vs 2, 9, 10-11** The holy city, new Jerusalem, the bride, the Lamb's wife descends out of heaven from God.
- This city is made up of the mansions that Jesus promised to go and prepare for those who would believe (**John 14:1-2**).
    - This fact refutes the Calvinist doctrine that "*God decided who would go to heaven from before creation.*" If He did that, why did He have to GO and prepare a place for you? It would have already been prepared.
- Heb 11:8-16** Abraham looked for a city built by God Himself (vs 10). He wasn't looking for the Jerusalem on this earth, which was built by the hands of men.
- Abraham and the other saints were strangers on the earth (vs 13). They were looking for something heavenly; not earthly.
- God has prepared them a city that is better than anything they could have found on earth (vs16).

**Heb 12:22-23** Heavenly Jerusalem (New Jerusalem) is where the New Testament believers (the church, the bride) are going to be gathered in the presence of the living God

**Rev 21** How could John see the bride (vs 2, 9) if she was in the New Jerusalem? How could the angel say, "Let me show you the bride" (vs 9), but then proceed to show John the city? (vs 10).

- Rev 21:23, first of all, the glory of God radiates the city. The Lamb is the light of the city.
- Rev 3:21, the church is where the Lord's throne is---in that city.
- Rev 21:18, the walls of the city were "like unto clear glass" "clear as crystal" (vs11). John could see the bride through the clear walls of the city.

**Vss 11-13** Here John begins to describe the New Jerusalem. Why does it have 12 gates?

- There will be exactly 12 earthly nations populating the new earth.
- There will be 12 tribes of Israel populating the new earth.
- Each nation and tribe will enter New Jerusalem through the assigned gate to worship the Lord in their proper courses.

### **Why are the gates named after the twelve tribes of Israel?**

**Rom 9:3-5** It was through the Israelites, that God gave the adoption, glory, covenants, giving of the law, service of God, promises, and most importantly, the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ.

**Rom 11:7-12** Through the fall of Israel, salvation went to the Gentiles as the gospel began to be preached by the twelve apostles. The whole world benefited, as a result.

- All who enter in through the gates of New Jerusalem will see the names of the twelve tribes of Israel and be reminded that they received the blessings of salvation as a result of the Jews.

**Vss 14-27** The description of New Jerusalem continues. Note that the foundations of the city contain the names of the twelve apostles (vs 14) who preached the gospel so that we could be saved by faith. We do not enter in through the gates of the city. We are there through the foundation of faith.

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