

## REVELATION Lesson 199

### Chapter 21:10-21 — New Jerusalem: A Literal City

21 February 2022

#### WHY WE BELIEVE NEW JERUSALEM IS A LITERAL CITY:

##### 1. THE DESCRIPTION DEMANDS IT.

- a. We have a very detailed description of the materials used to make this city: gold, gemstones, pearls, gates, foundations, engravings, with precise measurements.
- b. We must believe what is written in the scriptures to be literal or else we cannot trust anything the bible says.
  - i. The bible will tell you if something is figurative or a symbol of something else. Otherwise, we ought to accept that it is literal.
- c. These materials are literal everywhere else they are found in the bible.
  - i. **Exodus 28:15-21** — The gold and the 12 gemstones in the High Priest's breastplate were literal materials.
    1. Men collected the gold and jewels and produced the breastplate. Therefore, they don't have any trouble believing that this was a literal object.
    2. God is the One creating New Jerusalem. This causes men to doubt because they can't see it, and it's out of their control.
  - ii. **Revelation 1:5-6** — God hath made us kings and priests. Therefore, it is fitting that we be clothed with a transparent city containing precious stones such as those that were on the High Priest's golden breastplate, engraved with the names of the tribes.
    1. That priestly breastplate typified the future New Jerusalem. (Eccl 3:14-15).

##### 2. ABRAHAM AND THE PATRIARCHS LOOKED FOR A CITY, NOT A "STATE OF MIND."

- a. Abraham never established a city. He sojourned all the days of his life as a stranger.
  - i. No earthly city would ever satisfy the longing of their heart. God had shown them a city that was waiting up in heaven.
  - ii. The city they looked for was a literal city in heavenly places built by God (**Heb 11:10**).
    1. Jesus said, "I go to **PREPARE a place for you.**" (John 14:2)

##### 3. GOD REQUIRES MEN TO HAVE FAITH IN WHAT HE SAYS IN THE WHOLE BIBLE.

- a. People have trouble believing heavenly things (John 3:12) such as the contents of Revelation 21-22.

##### 4. IF YOU DENY THE NEW JERUSALEM, YOU MUST ALSO DENY THE MILLENNIAL JERUSALEM (EZEKIEL 40-48).

- a. Neither city has ever been seen.

##### 5. GOD TELLS YOU IN THE SCRIPTURES IF SOMETHING (SUCH AS A CITY) IS SPIRITUAL AND NOT LITERAL.

- a. **Revelation 11:8** — Jerusalem is spiritually called Sodom and Egypt.
- b. Babylon, the mighty city is a literal city (**Revelation 18:10**).
- c. **Revelation 16:19** Jerusalem, Babylon, and other literal cities shall fall as the result of a great earthquake sent by God.

## 6. THE IDEA THAT WE MUST ABANDON ALL MATERIAL THINGS IN ORDER TO BE SPIRITUAL CONTRADICTS GOD'S DEALINGS WITH MANKIND IN THE BIBLE.

- a. God fellowshiped with the men in this order:
  - i. No place of abode. (Garden of Eden)
  - ii. Residing in a pillar of cloud and fire.
  - iii. Residing in a tabernacle.
  - iv. Residing in a temple.
  - v. Residing in the city of Jerusalem, built around the temple.
    1. Notice the transition from spiritual to more and more material.
    2. God is building a house for his bride (material). Note that this spiritual blessing (Eph 1:3) is a material home in heaven.
    3. Abandoning all your material possessions in an attempt to be more spiritual is not biblical.
    4. God made all the material things on this earth and said it was good.
      - a. Love not the world (1 Jn 2:15): that's not referring to the created earth, but the system of evil that exists in creation.
- b. The invisible God spoke to Adam and the early patriarchs.
  - i. God was manifest in the flesh (1 Tim 3:16) and dwelt among men (John 1:14).
    1. God began invisible but ends up very material (in a physical body).

## 7. IT IS WICKED AND HARMFUL TO DENY A LITERAL HOME IN HEAVEN WITH THE LORD.

- a. We are going to be absent from the body and present WITH the Lord (2 Cor 5:8). The Lord is in a literal place.

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### CITY LIFE

Some say *"because Cain (the murderer) built the first city, cities are no good. Therefore, New Jerusalem can't possibly be a literal city."* These people forget that Satan has been counterfeiting God's plans from the beginning. He got Cain to murder his brother and build a city because he knew God had plans to build a city (New Jerusalem).

**Genesis 4:17** — Cain **"builted a city."**

**Genesis 4:16** — **"Cain went OUT—from the presence of the Lord."** The city is not the evil thing. Departing from the Lord is the devil's work.

- In the Holy City, New Jerusalem, no one will be departing from the presence of the Lord.

**Psalms 49:11-13** — Today man continues to build cities after the manner of Cain: cities that honor men instead of honoring God.

- God's Holy City will honor His Son, Jesus Christ forever. That's the PLACE—where we will live!
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