

Our Home, Sweet Home!

Revelation 21:9-21

East Berlin Community Church

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April 14, 2024

Introduction

- The Learning Experience of House hunting in Pontiac
- Evaluating a house by the number of years it will take to fix it up.
- Looking for a “ready-to-move-in” house
- *“People of faith are always looking forward to their heavenly city.”*

Our Home, Sweet Home!

- Revelation 21:9-21-- *“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. *Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 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.”*

A. The Descent of Our Home, Sweet Home Revisited

1. The eternal habitation of the resurrected saints during the Millennium which will expand into the eternal state.
2. This solves the problem of our relationship to the new dispensational arrangement in force during the Kingdom age.

B. The Description of Our Home, Sweet Home

1. General Appearance of our Home

- Revelation 21:9-11-- *“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.”*

a. Most distinguishing character will be the radiance of God’s glory!

- Revelation 21:23-- *“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.”*
- Isaiah 60:19-- *“The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, and your God your glory.”*

- b. *"The light will be like a jasper stone, clear as crystal"*
 - 1) Modern day Jasper is opaque, not clear.
 - 2) The Greek word translated "Jasper" refers to a translucent material
 - 3) Many believe that it refers to a very pure diamond
- c. **The city walls will be constructed with diamonds and the streets of pure gold.**
 - Revelation 21:18-- *"The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass."*

2. Specific Details regarding the Construction of our Home, Sweet Home.

a. Twelve entrances or gates

- Revelation 21:12-13-- *"Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west."*

1) Gates guarded by Angels

- a) Connection to the angel who guarded the way to the tree of life in the Garden of Eden.--
 - Genesis 3:24-- *"So He (that is, God) drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life."*
 - Genesis 3:22b-- *"put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"*

b) Angels are posted to keep out the undesirables.

- Revelation 21:27-- *"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."*
- Revelation 22:15-- *"dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie"*

c) Angels will guard the way into the city

- Revelation 21:24--*"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."*

2) The names of the Twelve Tribes of Israel are inscribed over each gate.

- a) Reminder of God's covenant relationship with Israel, His chosen people
- b) Gates arranged symmetrical like the tribes of Israel camped around the tabernacle (Numbers 2) or like the allocation of the land around the Millennial temple (Ezekiel 48)

3) Each gate of the city resembles a huge, giant pearl.

- Revelation 21:21-- *"The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl."*

b. The Foundation of the City

1) Made from precious stones

- Revelation 21:19-20-- *"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 chrysopraxe, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst."*

2) The Names of the Apostles written on the foundation stones.

- Revelation 21:14-- *"Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."*

- a. The apostles as the foundation of the church
- b. Indicates that Israel and the Church will maintain their separate identities throughout eternity.

C. The Dimensions of *Our Home, Sweet Home*

- Revelation 21:15-16-- *"And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal."*
1. **Our home laid out as a Cube, not a Pyramid**
 - a. Length, breadth, and height are all equal.
 - b. Henry Morris's comment
 - 1) Pyramids connected to pagan worship of the sun
 - 2) The cube was specified by God for the Holy Place where God would dwell.
 - 1 Kings 6:20-- *"The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and twenty cubits high."*
 2. **Our home measures 12,000 furlongs in all directions**
 - a. 12,000 furlongs = 1,500 miles
 - b. The base of it would cover the land mass from the farthest tip of Maine to the tip of Florida, and from the Atlantic Ocean to the State of Colorado. And it will reach as high as it is wide.
 - c. Based on the estimate of population since the creation of the world (30 billion), every person would have an area of 40 cubic miles.
 - d. **Bottom line: Plenty of room!!**
 3. **The Walls of our new home**
 - Revelation 21:17-- *"Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel."*
 - a. Measure 144 cubits thick or approximately 200 feet thick
 - b. Human measurements and angelic measurements are the same.
 - c. The walls will be made of Jasper, the same diamond-like materials, and the streets will be paved with pure gold (Revelation 21:21)

D. The Occupants of *Our Home, Sweet Home*

- Hebrews 12:22-24-- *"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel."*
1. **God, the Judge of all men**
 - Revelation 21:3-- *"And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.'"*

2. **Jesus Christ, the Mediator of the New Covenant.**
 - Revelation 21:22-- *"But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple."*
 - Revelation 22:3-- *"the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him."*
3. **An innumerable company of Angels.**
4. The *"spirits of just men made perfect"* -- The Old Testament resurrected saints whose faith was perfected by the death and resurrection of Christ.
5. The *"church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven"*-- that is, you and I who have trusted in Christ as savior, who are part of the church, the body of Christ. This would also include tribulation saints and people saved during the kingdom age who would make up the "general assembly".
6. **Also included will be...**
 - a. **Children who die before reaching the age of accountability.**
 - 2 Samuel 12:23-- *"I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."*
 - Psalm 23:6b-- *"And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."*
 - b. **Babies that have been miscarried or aborted.**
 - c. **People who are mentally challenged, unable to understand the gospel.**

Application for us today?

1. **People of faith have always looked forward to their heavenly home.**
 - a. We are to live as sojourners and aliens
 - b. Are we settled in this world, or are we looking forward to our Home, Sweet Home?
2. Perhaps some if they should die today would miss this marvelous home God has prepared for us. **The only way to heaven is through faith in Jesus Christ.**
 - John 14:5-6-- *"Lord, we don't know where you are going so how can we know the way! Jesus answered, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. NO man comes to the Father but by me!'"*