

## ***Session 12 New Jerusalem: The Restoration of All Things (Rev. 21-22)***

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. This angelic explanation describes the dynamic quality of life in the New Jerusalem. Jesus will restore to us all that He originally intended for us when creating the garden of Eden. The New Jerusalem coming to the millennial earth assures us that our reign will succeed and release a supernatural dimension of resurrection life to the earth.
- <sup>20</sup>***“...that He may send Jesus...<sup>21</sup>whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets.” (Acts 3:20-21)***
- B. The resurrected saints will live in the New Jerusalem, but will reign on the millennial earth, with governmental responsibilities. They will easily travel from the New Jerusalem to the millennial earth in the same way that angels now travel from heaven to earth. We will come and go more frequently than the angels do now, because the veil between the two realms will be lifted.
- C. Government is the main theme in chronological section #5 and its angelic explanation. They focus on who sits on the governmental thrones of the earth. After Jesus brings His throne to earth, He gives thrones to the saints (Rev. 20:4) and removes Satan’s throne from the earth (Rev. 20:3). Then Jesus prepares the nations for the Father’s throne to come to earth (Rev 21:3).
- <sup>3</sup>***“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.” (Rev. 21:3)***
- D. These truths are given to strengthen us to resist temptation and endure persecution. Whatever it costs to overcome, living with Jesus in the New Jerusalem is worth the sacrifice. Those in the harlot Babylon religion will live forever in the lake of fire because they followed the Antichrist’s leadership. The Bride will live in the New Jerusalem because of Jesus’ leadership.
- E. Satan and all his demons will be cast to the earth (Rev. 12:9). He will give his throne to the Antichrist (Rev. 13:2). Hundreds of millions of demons now in the bottomless pit will be released (Rev. 9:3, 16). The Antichrist will seek to kill any who refuse to worship him (Rev. 13:8, 12, 15). This will lead to billions of people engaging in Satan worship, thus operating in the same spirit. In Gen. 3, Satan brought the seeds of hell to the garden of Eden. Those seeds of evil will be fully ripe by the time of the Tribulation. It will be hell on earth in some places (Rev. 12:9; 13:2; 6:8).
- <sup>9</sup>***“...the Devil...was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Rev. 12:9)***
- <sup>3</sup>***The dragon [Satan] gave him [Antichrist] his power, his throne. (Rev. 13:2)***
- F. In Revelation 21-22, Jesus brings the garden of Eden to replace the Antichrist’s empire and its hell on earth. Jesus will reverse the tragedy that occurred in Eden. He will cast Satan into prison (Rev. 20:1-3) and call the New Jerusalem to descend to the earth. When the New Jerusalem comes to earth, heaven will literally be on earth.

## II. THE CENTERPIECE OF GOD’S PURPOSE: BRINGING HEAVEN AND EARTH TOGETHER

<sup>9</sup>*...having made known to us the mystery [hidden plan] of His will...<sup>10</sup>that...**He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth.** (Eph. 1:9-10)*

- A. The centerpiece of God’s eternal purpose is for Jesus to come back to establish His kingdom rule over all the earth as He joins the heavenly and earthly realms together. *Heaven* is the supernatural realm where God’s presence is openly manifest. *Earth* is the physical realm as the place where natural process, human emotion, and physical sensation reach full expression.
- B. Jesus will rule the earth with the natural processes not suspended, but enhanced by the Spirit’s supernatural dimension, like when Jesus appeared after His resurrection (Jn. 20-21; Acts 1).

## III. JESUS’ THRONE OF GLORY: 2 DIMENSIONS OF 1 THRONE (EARTHLY/HEAVENLY)

- A. At the second coming, Jesus will establish His throne of glory on earth in Jerusalem.  
<sup>31</sup>*“When the Son of Man comes in His glory...then He will sit on the throne of His glory.<sup>32</sup>**All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them.**” (Mt. 25:31-32)*  
<sup>17</sup>*“At that time Jerusalem shall be called **The Throne of the LORD**, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem.” (Jer. 3:17)*
- B. Jesus’ throne of glory will be connected to the Holy of Holies in the millennial temple.  
<sup>4</sup>*The glory of the LORD came into the temple [millennial temple]...<sup>6</sup>**I heard Him [Jesus] speaking...from the temple [Holy of Holies]...<sup>7</sup>He said...“...this is the place of My throne and the place of...My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of...Israel...forever.” (Ezek. 43:4-7)***
- C. Jesus’ throne is in the earthly millennial Jerusalem and the heavenly New Jerusalem.  
<sup>3</sup>*The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it [New Jerusalem]. (Rev. 22:3)*
- D. Does Jesus have one throne or two? Is it on the millennial earth or in the New Jerusalem? Yes! His throne of glory is both on earth and in heaven. It is one throne with two expressions.
- E. I suggest that Jesus’ throne of glory is a vast governmental complex: the far “north” end of it extends into the New Jerusalem and the far “south” end of it is based in the millennial temple in Jerusalem, in what I refer to as a *corridor of glory* between the two Jerusalems.
- F. The New Jerusalem will descend to a place above millennial Jerusalem on Mt. Zion, creating a vast governmental complex joined by a corridor of glory. This governmental center of heaven and earth is referred to as Jesus’ throne of glory (Mt. 19:28; 25:31). This is seen when taking into account all the specific details of the prophetic Scriptures. It is not clearly revealed as such, but is understood by implication. It will be a vast, high city that connects with the earth.
- G. The New Jerusalem will descend to the millennial Jerusalem, connecting the two Jerusalems.
- H. There are four reasons the New Jerusalem is close to millennial Jerusalem, yet not on the earth.

1. First, millennial Jerusalem is about 10 square miles, or 4,500 rods x 4,500 rods (a rod is approx. 10.5 feet; Ezek. 48:30-35; 45:6; 48:15-19). The New Jerusalem is 1,380 miles (Rev. 21:16); thus, it is far too large for the 10-mile area of millennial Jerusalem. Most believe the unit of measure is rods (10.5 feet), not cubits. The NKJV adds the word “cubits” in italics to indicate that it is not in the original text.
2. Second, the kings of the millennial earth come into the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:24-26).  
***<sup>24</sup>The [Millennial] nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the [Millennial] earth bring their glory and honor into it...<sup>26</sup>And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. (Rev. 21:24-26)***
3. Third, the leaves in the New Jerusalem are for the healing of the millennial nations. Therefore, people on the millennial earth have access to these healing leaves (Rev. 22:2).  
***<sup>2</sup>The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the [Millennial] nations. (Rev. 22:2)***
4. Fourth, angels guard the entry to the city to keep sinners out (Rev. 21:12, 27; 22:14-15). Angels guarded the entrance to the garden of Eden after Adam sinned Gen. 3:22-24).  
***<sup>12</sup>...she had a...high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates. (Rev. 21:12)***  
***<sup>27</sup>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. (Rev. 21:27)***  
***<sup>14</sup>Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. <sup>15</sup>But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters. (Rev. 22:14-15)***

#### **IV. THE CORRIDOR OF GLORY: DYNAMIC CONVERGENCE**

- A. There are at least 12 characteristics of millennial Jerusalem and the New Jerusalem that overlap. There will be a dynamic convergence of different expressions of glory between the two cities. To converge means to come together from different directions (heavenly and earthly dimensions) at an intersecting point to achieve union. Each dimension is distinct, yet there is a significant merging or overlapping to form one unified reality. There will be at least 12 areas converging: 1) Mountain; 2) Jerusalem with 12 gates; 3) House of God; 4) Holy of Holies (temple; house of prayer); 5) Garden of Eden; 6) River of life; 7) Tree of life (12 fruits every month); 8) Highway; 9) Whirlwind (funnels); 10) Cloud of glory; 11) Smoke of glory; 12) Shining fire.
- B. Jesus' throne is in the context of the great mountain-city-house, with dynamic convergence of two Jerusalems (millennial and heavenly), two Holy of Holies (house of prayer), two gardens, two rivers, two trees, and the two highways with the whirlwind, cloud of glory, smoke, and fire.
- C. The New Jerusalem descending to earth will create a new situation in which the spiritual and natural realm will operate together dynamically. This will cause an open heaven over the earth as the veil is lifted. A tidal wave of glory will spread to all nations from millennial Jerusalem.  
***<sup>14</sup>The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD. (Hab. 2:14)***

- D. In Bethel, only twelve miles north of Jerusalem, Jacob saw a place in which a supernatural ladder extended from earth to the gate of heaven. He saw angels ascending and descending between the heavenly and earthly realms. Jacob's ladder reveals the connection of these two realms.

*<sup>12</sup>He dreamed...a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it...<sup>17</sup>...He said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!" (Gen. 28:12-16)*

- E. In Genesis 2-3, God walked with Adam in face-to-face fellowship, as spiritual and natural realms operated together. A veil was created between these two realms when Adam sinned. This city will be the first city in history to combine the supernatural dimensions of heaven with the natural conditions of earth under God's favor.

## V. THE NEW JERUSALEM DESCENDS TO EARTH TWO TIMES

- A. The New Jerusalem will descend to the earth in two stages. First, it will descend at the second coming to begin the Millennium (Rev. 21:10). Second, it will descend in the age to come, after the millennial earth is cleansed with fire to become the new earth that has no sea. (Rev. 21:2).

*<sup>10</sup>...he...showed me the...holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. (Rev. 21:10)*

*<sup>2</sup>I, John, saw the holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven. (Rev. 21:2)*

- B. By understanding the structure of Rev. 21-22, we see the two descents of the New Jerusalem. We know that the events in Rev. 21:9-22:5 refer to the Millennium, because the nature of what is described includes the eternal and temporal realms being together. In other words, we see the eternal state of the resurrected saints in the New Jerusalem along with millennial conditions.

- C. The same angel showed John the Bride in Rev. 21:9-10 and the harlot Babylon in Rev. 17:1-3. They are parallel visions that are both clearly parenthetical sections, in which an angel explains significant details and events that do not occur on earth in chronological order. Rev. 21:9-22:5 is a parenthetical section, and its events do not occur until *after* the events in Rev. 21:1-8 (the new heavens and earth, etc.). The descent of the New Jerusalem in Rev. 21:2 is the last event in the last chronological section (Rev. 19:11-21:8).

*<sup>9</sup>Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls... talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the Lamb's wife."<sup>10</sup>...he carried me away...to a great and high mountain, and showed me...the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven. (Rev. 21:9-10)*

*<sup>1</sup>Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot..."<sup>3</sup>So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast... (Rev. 17:1-3)*

## VI. DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY AS THE HOLY OF HOLIES: EXTERNAL VIEW (21:9-21)

- A. The city's design is described as a cube (21:16), like the Holy of Holies in Solomon's temple, in which the inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and twenty cubits high (1 Kgs. 6:19-20).

- B. The city's adornment has eight of the precious stones (21:19-20) that the high priest wore on his breastplate when entering the Holy of Holies, signifying nearness to God (Ex. 28:17-20; 39:10).
- C. The city's glory—it's filled with the *shekinah* glory like the temple (2 Chr. 5-7), yet with the brightness of ancient jasper, which is different from modern jasper (Rev. 21:11, 23; 22:5).  
<sup>10</sup> *...the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, <sup>11</sup>having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. (Rev. 21:10-11)*
- D. The city's construction includes gates (21:12b-14), walls (21:12a, 14-18), foundations (21:12, 19-20) and streets (21:21; 22:2). The gates are about 500 miles apart, if they are evenly separated over 1,380 miles. Chicago, Dallas, and Minneapolis are all about 500 miles from Kansas City.  
<sup>12</sup> *She had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates... <sup>13</sup>three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. <sup>16</sup>The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth...he measured the city...12,000 furlongs [1,380 miles]. Its length, breadth [width], and height are equal [cube]. <sup>17</sup>...he measured its wall: 144 cubits [216 feet thick]... <sup>18</sup>The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. <sup>19</sup>The foundations of the wall...were adorned with all kinds of precious stones... <sup>21</sup>The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each...gate was of one pearl. The street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. (Rev. 21:12-21)*
- E. The city's size: the walls are 1,380 miles (about 7,000,000 ft.) in length, height, and width (Rev. 21:12b-14). A furlong (stadia, NIV) is a Greek measurement that is approx. 600 feet. Outer space is 800 miles from earth. The walls are 216 feet, (72 yards) thick (21:15-17).

## **VII. DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY AS THE GARDEN OF EDEN: INTERNAL VIEW (21:22-22:5)**

- A. John gives us an internal view of the city as the ultimate garden of Eden. He describes the city's beauty (21:22-27), and its life with face-to-face communion with God (22:1-5). It is a worshipping city with no temple (21:22; 22:4a); an illuminated city with no sun (21:23; 22:5); a governmental city with God's throne (21:24, 26; 22:3-5d); a servant city that works (21:25b; 22:3c, 5a); and a holy city without any sin (21:27, 8; 22:14-15).
- B. John described the beautiful light source of the city (21:23-24; Ezek. 43:2; Isa. 60:20).  
<sup>23</sup> *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. <sup>24</sup>The nations...shall walk in its light. (Rev. 21:23-24)*
- C. Life in the city (Rev. 22:1-5): the river of life (22:1) and the tree of life (22:2) point to Eden. John saw a pure river of water of life clear as crystal and a tree of life with twelve kinds of fruit. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations (22:2). There shall be no curse (22:3).  
<sup>1</sup> *And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. <sup>2</sup>In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (Rev. 22:1-2)*

D. The saints shall serve God in a face-to-face relationship filled with holiness (Rev. 22:3-5). God's light will impart power, wisdom, and holiness to those ruling with Him (Rev. 22:5). The saints will not be idle, but will be administrating His government with authority over a billion galaxies.

*<sup>3</sup>And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. <sup>4</sup>They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>There shall be no night there: they need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. (Rev. 22:3-5)*

### VIII. THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING: MILLENNIAL JERUSALEM AND NEW JERUSALEM

*<sup>34</sup>“Do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; <sup>35</sup>nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.” (Mt. 5:34-35)*

*<sup>2</sup>In the latter days the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills... <sup>3</sup>Many...shall...say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob”...from Jerusalem. (Isa. 2:2-3)*

*<sup>1</sup>Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in His holy mountain. <sup>2</sup>Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. <sup>3</sup>God is in her palaces; He is known as her refuge. <sup>4</sup>For behold, the kings [millennial kings] assembled, they passed by together. <sup>5</sup>They saw it [New Jerusalem connected to the millennial Jerusalem], and so they marveled; they were troubled, they hastened away. <sup>6</sup>Fear took hold of them there, and pain, as of a woman in birth pangs, <sup>7</sup>as when You break the ships of Tarshish with an east wind. <sup>8</sup>As we have heard, so we have seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God: God will establish it forever. <sup>9</sup>We have thought, O God, on Your lovingkindness, in the midst of Your temple. <sup>10</sup>According to Your name, O God, so is Your praise to the ends of the earth; Your right hand is full of righteousness. (Ps. 48:1-10)*

*<sup>1</sup>The Mighty One...has spoken and called the earth from the rising of the sun to its going down. <sup>2</sup>Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth. <sup>3</sup>Our God shall come, and shall not keep silent; a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous all around Him. (Ps. 50:1-3)*

*<sup>7</sup>Give Him no rest till...He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. (Isa. 62:7)*