

Five Reasons Why the New Jerusalem Will Be Near the Earth but Not on It

THE NEW JERUSALEM WILL BE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO EARTHLY JERUSALEM

There are *five reasons* why I believe the New Jerusalem will be *close to* and accessible to earthly Jerusalem during the Millennium, but not actually *on the earth* until after the Millennium.

I. JESUS' THRONE

Jesus' throne will be in the millennial temple¹ on earth in Jerusalem *and* in the heavenly New Jerusalem. It is *one throne with two expressions* (Jer. 3:17; Ezek. 43:4-7; Zech. 6:12-13; Rev. 22:3). Jesus' throne of glory will be in the holy of holies of the temple in earthly Jerusalem (Ezek. 43:6-7).

³***The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it [the New Jerusalem]. (Rev. 22:3)***

¹⁷***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)***

⁶***I heard Him speaking to me from the temple [millennial temple]...⁷He said, "This is the place of My throne...where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever." (Ezek. 43:6-7)***

Jesus' *throne of glory* (Mt. 19:28; 25:31; Rev. 4) has an expression in both Jerusalems. I suggest it may be a vast "governmental complex" that includes both the millennial temple structure on earth and the vast "throne room" of the Father and Son in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 4). I picture the possibility of a governmental complex, with the "northern part" extending into the New Jerusalem and the "southern part" based in the millennial temple in Jerusalem on earth.

³¹***"When the Son of Man comes...He will sit on the throne of His glory." (Mt. 25:31)***

³⁵***"...nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King." (Mt. 5:35)***

II. THE SIZE

The size of earthly Jerusalem in the Millennium is either about 10 square miles or 80 square miles, depending on whether the measurement is 4,500 cubits or 4,500 rods (Ezek. 48:15-19, 30-35; 45:6).

Since the New Jerusalem will be 1,380 miles cubed (Rev. 21:16), it will be far too large to rest on the city of Jerusalem on the earth. Some commentators suggest that the unit of measure used to measure Jerusalem in Ezekiel chapter 43 was rods (10.5 feet), not cubits (about 1.5 feet). If Jerusalem is 4,500 rods by 4,500 rods (with a rod being 10.5 feet), then the city will be about 47,250 feet by 47,250 feet—about 9 miles by 9 miles, or about 81 square miles.

¹⁶***These shall be its measurements: the north side four thousand five hundred cubits [rods], the south side four thousand five hundred [rods], the east side four thousand five hundred [rods], and the west side four thousand five hundred [rods]. (Ezek. 48:16)***

1. I use the phrase "the millennial temple" to refer to the Jewish temple that will stand in Jerusalem during the Millennium.

III. THE LEAVES

The leaves in the New Jerusalem are for the healing of the nations (Rev. 22:2), but in the New Jerusalem there will be no need for healing, and thus no need for healing leaves; rather, the leaves will be used to facilitate healing in the nations of the millennial earth². Thus, the New Jerusalem must be close enough to the earth that people with natural bodies, living on the earth, can have access to these healing leaves.

²*...on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits...The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations [in the Millennium]. (Rev. 22:2)*

IV. THE KINGS

The kings on the millennial earth will come into the New Jerusalem to bring their glory and honor which I believe would include their national resources and accomplishments (Rev. 21:24-26; 22:14).

²⁴*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...²⁶ And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. (Rev. 21:24-26)*

¹⁴*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. ¹⁵ But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters. (Rev. 22:14-15)*

V. THE ANGELS

Angels seem to stand “guard” at the gates of the New Jerusalem to make sure that no one enters who does not have right of entry and the right to the tree of life (Rev. 21:12, 27; 22:14-15). If this is so, the New Jerusalem must be close enough to the earth for this to matter. The angels who guard the gates of the New Jerusalem are a parallel to the angels who guarded the entrance to Eden and the tree of life after Adam and Eve sinned (Gen. 3:22-24).

¹²*She had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates. (Rev. 21:12)*

²⁷*There shall by no means enter it [New Jerusalem] anything that defiles...but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. (Rev. 21:27)*

²²*“And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”...²⁴So He 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. (Gen. 3:22-24)*

2. I use the phrase “the millennial earth” to refer to the earth during the time of the Millennium.