After Tomorrow

SESSION TWELVE / WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2011

THE NEW JERUSALEM

Friend....this chapter is “out of this world.” At the close of the 1,000 year reign of Christ on this Earth, God destroys it and builds a new one, together with a new, unpolluted by sin atmosphere. Then He reveals to us the headquarters city for the redeemed throughout eternity....THE NEW JERUSALEM.

Rev. 21:9-27

And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife. [10] And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, [11] Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; [12] And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: [13] On the east three gates; on the north three gates; and on the west three gates. [14] And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. [15] And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. [16] And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. [17] And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. [18] And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. [19] And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; [20] The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. [21] And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. [22] And I saw
no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.  
[23] And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the  
glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. [24] And the nations  
of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do  
bring their glory and honour into it. [25] And the gates of it shall not be shut at all  
by day: for there shall be no night there. [26] And they shall bring the glory and  
honour of the nations into it. [27] And there shall in no wise enter into it anything  
that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they  
which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Rev. 22:1-5

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of  
the throne of God and of the Lamb. [2] In the midst of the street of it, and on either  
side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and  
yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the  
nations. [3] 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: [4] And they shall see his face;  
and his name shall be in their foreheads. [5] And there shall be no night there; and  
they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light:  
and they shall reign for ever and ever.

God is not in the remodeling business. He makes all things new! So it will be at the  
end of the Millennium. We have already learned in Revelation 21 that God will  
create:

1) A new heaven (verse 1)  
2) A new earth (verse 1)

And now we learn in the listed verses above that God creates:

3) A new Jerusalem (verse 2 and 10) The Holy City will be suspended somewhere  
between God’s throne and this Earth.  
4) A new people (verse 3)  
5) A new Temple (verse 22)  
6) A new light (verse 23)  
7) A new paradise (22:2)

All things have become new - including our now immortal and eternal bodies. Not  
much will be as it was on this Earth. For example:
1. No more sin
2. Laws of physics as we now know them will be changed or rescinded. For example we will go from the New Jerusalem to Earth and other spots as well.
3. The sun will not be needed for either light or energy because God Himself will be the source.
4. No more sea. That will leave far more space for God’s people as today 3/4 of the Earth’s surface is water.
5. God will live with us. His presence will be with us continually.

OUR NEW ETERNAL HOME

(Verse 21:1) And I saw a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and the sea is no more.

We go back to the Old Testament for more information: Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Isaiah 65:17
For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Apparently this “new earth” and the coming new Jerusalem will be so fabulous that they will blot out all memory of this present Earth.

Hebrews 11:13-16
These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. [14] For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. [15] And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. [16] But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

THE NEW JERUSALEM WILL BE OUR ETERNAL HEADQUARTERS CITY

Rev. 21:2
And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
Over the years, when I used to perform many marriages, I have seen many brides come
down the aisle. I have never seen one that was not attractive. They are “prepared” for
this day. **THIS IS THE FULFILLMENT OF JESUS’ PROMISE**: John 14:2-3 **In
my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go
to prepare a place for you.** [3] And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come
again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

The New Jerusalem is that “prepared place.”

The “marriage” between Christ, the groom, and the Church, the bride, took place at the
Rapture. The reception was the “marriage supper of the Lamb.” The honeymoon lasted
1007 years - right through the judgment seat of Christ, the marriage supper, and the
millennium. Now the bride and groom move to their permanent home - the New
Jerusalem.

"Paul continues to talk about this marvelous relationship between Christ and the
church, comparing it to human marriage down here. Ephes. 5:28-32 **So ought men
to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.** [29] For
no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the
Lord the church: [30] For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.
[31] For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto
his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. [32] This is a great mystery: but I speak
concerning Christ and the church. This idea is a mystery that is now being opened to
us. The marriage relationship is the most beautiful and wonderful relationship. It is
the oldest ceremony that God has instituted for man. It goes right back to the Garden
of Eden, to the very beginning, and it is all-important. It is such a profound mystery
that, even with all these marriage counselors and all the books they have written, I do
not really think they have touched the fringe of how wonderful marriage could be for
believers.”

THRU THE BIBLE / J. VERNON MCGEE / VOLUME V / NELSON PUBL / PAGE 1064

**EVERYTHING WILL BE 'NEW'**

**Rev. 21:5**

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said
unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

We will have a new start! A clean slate! And the possibilities will be unlimited.

**Isaiah 9:7** Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end,
upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

I have often been told that I am a “driven man.” My district superintendent said to me, “You’re never content. You always want more.” That’s true - but not “stuff.” What I want are more opportunities - more abilities to accomplish - more dreams to fulfill. But I have this “limited body.” I have a brain that has limits, too. It is incredibly frustrating to me. But in THE NEW JERUSALEM there will be no limitations whatsoever! God will make everything NEW! Praise the Lord!

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

I have had the joy of being in many cities: New York, Paris, Moscow, Bejing, Singapore, Jerusalem, Cairo, Manilla, Rio de Janeiro, Capetown, Amsterdam, Brussels, Vienna, Rome and many more. Many of these have been truly magnificent places. But the New Jerusalem “will outshine them all.” Even during the Millennium, Jerusalem will have its imperfections. But in this heavenly city, coming down from God, there will be no flaws, no unrighteousness.

Rev. 21:10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God

Note carefully that while this city comes down from heaven, it never descends fully to Earth. We have become accustomed to satellites floating around in outer space, so it comes as no shock to us that God’s perfect city is in space.

1. Verse 11 - the city has the appearance of a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

Jasper is an opaque rock of virtually any color, a form of chalcedony. Jasper can exhibit combinations of patterns. Light flowing through it causes jasper to become virtually other-worldly in appearance and dazzling in beauty.

“Her light...was like unto a stone most precious.” The word “light” used here is the Greek word “phoster” which means SOURCE OF LIGHT. It does not reflect light such as the moon, but rather generates light. (John 9:5) “I am the light of the world.”

2. The walls are massive. They have 12 gates - 3 on the north, 3 on the east, 3 on the
south and 3 on the west. Each one is named after a tribe of Israel. (Rev. 21:12-14)
The walls are so massive they have to be supported by twelve foundations, each of them
named after one of Jesus' disciples (except Judas, of course). Why the disciples?
Because they were used of God to launch His mighty church (Christ being the
cornerstone as well as the foundation of our faith). Some commentators believe that
Matthias, chosen to replace Judas, will not be one of those named on the foundation, but
rather Paul will have the place of privilege. I have no feelings about that one way or the
other.

3. The city is enormous. Using a conservative estimate of a furlong, the New
Jerusalem will be 1400 miles long, 1400 miles wide and 1400 miles high. Some
scholars believe the city will be like a cube; other see it as a pyramid. I believe it will
be like a cube for verse 15 says simply, "the city lieth four square." A pyramid is not a
square; it is a triangle.

We do not have any square planets in space. So, as one writer suggests, the New
Jerusalem could really be like a big plastic ball with a cube inside. The difference
mainly to now would be this: on this earth we live on the surface; in the New Jerusalem
we would live inside.

4. No cement in the walls. Revelation 21:19-20 give us the make-up of this massive
wall around the city.

★ Jasper
★ Sapphire
★ Chalcedony (a variety of emerald)
★ Emerald
★ Sardonyx (a red stone)
★ Sardius (another variety of red stone)
★ Chrysolyte (a yellow or golden stone)
★ Beryl (green)
★ Topaz (a greenish-yellow stone)
★ Chrysoprasus (sea green)
★ Jacinth (violet)
★ Amethyst (purple)

What a dazzling laser show of color, all radiant from the outside as God Himself is the
source of light coming from inside. Can you even imagine what a show that will be in
space!
5. God Himself will reside there. Rev. 21:22-23 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. [23] And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

God lights the new creation directly by His presence. After the entrance of sin into the old creation, God withdrew His presence, and ‘darkness covered the face of the deep.’ (Gen. 1:2) Then God made use of the physical lights in His universe. He put them up like we put up street lights or lights in our homes. However, in the new creation, sin is removed, and God again becomes the source of light. Today Jesus is the Light of the World in a spiritual sense: John 8:12. Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. In the new creation, He is the direct physical as well as the spiritual light.

Ibid. Page 1073

Remember that sin no longer exists as we enter the New Jerusalem. While there was sin, God could be approached only by the ritual of the Temple. Now, in the literal presence of god in the New Jerusalem, no Temple will be necessary.

6. There will be traffic coming from Earth to the New Jerusalem. Rev. 21:24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

We must remember that God had created a “new heaven” and a “new earth.” We have no record that He ever destroys the new entities and they will apparently still exist even when the New Jerusalem comes down out of Heaven. With immortal bodies we will have access not only to the New Jerusalem, but to the New Earth as well and, I believe, anywhere else in space.

7. There will be undesirables in the New Jerusalem. Rev. 21:26-27 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. [27] And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

No one will be allowed inside who could bring defilement or sin. Satan will have no access for he is bound up forever in Hell with no more reprieve.
We will have long since passed the time when decisions can be made about eternity. One will either be with God or away from Him forever. How do we know that? We take a hard look at:

**Rev. 21:8** But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

8. While the millennium was limited to 1,000 years, the length of duration of the New Jerusalem will be forever and ever.

**Rev. 22:5** And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Time will be no more. You won’t need a watch - Timex or Rolex. You won’t need a calendar. You won’t need a flashlight either for there shall be no night there. This life on earth - while not even remembered - will be but a split second, a batting of an eye, in comparison to eternity.

9. For the first time, mankind will be able to see God face to face.

**Rev. 22:4** And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

In the good old days when we used to sing hymns, the lyrics of those beloved songs lifted our sights and hearts far past this world. Songs such as:

Face to face with Christ my Savior; face to face - what will it be -
When with rapture I behold Him, Jesus Christ Who died for me.

FACE TO FACE SHALL I BEHOLD HIM, FAR BEYOND THE STARRY SKY;
FACE TO FACE IN ALL HIS GLORY, I SHALL SEE HIM BY AND BY.

Only faintly now I see Him with the darkened veil between’
But a blessed day is coming when His glory shall be seen.

What rejoicing in His presence when are banished grief and pain
When the crooked ways are straightened and the dark things shall be plain.
OR Fanny Crosby's immortal song:

Safe in the arms of Jesus, safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'er shaded, sweetly my soul shall rest
Hark, tis the voice of angels borne in a song to me
O'er the fields of glory, over the jasper sea.
And this was one of our standard songs:

Love divine, so great and wondrous, deep and mighty, pure sublime,
Coming from the heart of Jesus, just the same through tests of time.
HE THE PEARLY GATES WILL OPEN SO THAT I MAY ENTER IN
FOR HE PURCHASED MY SALVATION AND FORGAVE ME ALL MY SIN

The praise choruses currently be sung are, for the most part, fine; however, they are really one-dimensional in that they do not constantly remind us of eternity to come, of missions to fulfill, and our discipleship responsibilities. But, my friend,

*He's coming soon; He's coming soon;
With joy we welcome His returning;
It may be morn, it may be night or noon;
But we know He's coming very soon.*

When He does, indeed, return, may it be your blessing to be taken and to live in eternity in The New Jerusalem.

Next Wednesday I must be in Springfield for Executive Presbytery meetings; however, we will meet two weeks tonight, June 15, for the grand finale of this series: *LIFE IN ETERNITY.*