

Heaven Bound

Part 2: The New Jerusalem (7/26/26)

Please turn to *Revelation 21:1*.

LAST WEEK:

- Heaven and the New Jerusalem are the same.
- The NJ is God's Kingdom where He reigns supreme.
- Our prayer for 2000 years is for God to bring His Kingdom here; to *send* the NJ here to earth.
- God's plan has always been to create a place for us, a Paradise where we can live with each other and more importantly: with Him.
- His desire was and still is for us all to live together in a perfect place that He built.
- Yes He created Eden, but the NJ is His crowning achievement and a day will come when it becomes our forever home!
- It's gates are opened only because Jesus died on the Cross, rose 3 days later from the dead, then ascended to heaven as both sacrificial Lamb of God and Royal High Priest of the heavens.
- When those in Christ die here in this world, our spirits ascend to heaven, step through the gates of pearl, and see a true level of quality contracting!
- The NJ has been the goal since the beginning, as the writer of Hebrews revealed that Abraham himself saw both it and Jesus as Messiah and God.

TODAY we'll get a ***Biblical detailed description of what it's going to be like to live there!***

Before we go there, allow me to show you something God revealed in His Bible. **The name New "JERUSALEM" isn't a coincidence, it reveals the plan of God for His people.**

The word Jerusalem, when translated and broken down, **depicts rays of light shooting forth into a dark world from a source located at the summit of a mountain.** In other words: a city shining on a hill.

The first time the people Israel **took earthly Jerusalem was in the days of King David** and it was inhabited by a tribe called the Jebusites. Even Joshua was unable to conquer it. Several more attempts were made through the years after Joshua, but the Jebusites successfully repelled them all.

Please remember that **David was a type of Second Coming Jesus**. Around 1000 BC, David wrested control of the Holy City from the Jebusites, the same people who resisted Joshua's attempts 400 years earlier, and they actually taunted King David when he tried. Yet God allowed the man after His own heart to breach the gates and take the city over. **That's when David declared Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, which it is to this day.**

I've been in real estate for nearly 30 years now and understand the value of land. If your land has road frontage, the value goes up. If it has a pond or stream, it's worth increases. If it's lakefront or ocean front, it goes WAY up! As they say in the RE agency: *"location! Location! Location!"*

Earthly Jerusalem is the most valuable and hotly contested piece of real estate on planet Earth and look what the Lord prophesies will happen in the last days:

[Zec 12:1-3 ESV] 1 The oracle of the word of the LORD concerning Israel: Thus declares the LORD, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him: 2 "Behold, I am about to make **Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples**. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah. 3 On that day **I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples**. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it."

All the nations surrounding it claim it and want it. All surrounding religions claim and want it too: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. While this has been going on for thousands of years, the Lord prophesies things will heat up closer to the Second Coming of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. A great battle is prophesied in the end, where the forces of the Beast will invade the shining city on a hill and attempt to take it.

In ancient times and today, **Jerusalem has 12 gates, a wall, and a platform** where the Jewish Temple once stood.

All this was designed by God and has been called by Him "the city of God" since the beginning.

There used to be a joke in the church: *“Prayer to God from here is long distance, but from Jerusalem it’s a local call.”* LOL, a saying from bygone days when “long distance” calls were more expensive and before cell phones.

Why is the nation of Israel so special to God?

Why is Jerusalem particularly special? Here’s what God calls it in the Bible:

- God’s own city (Psalm 46:4)
- The perfection of beauty (Psalm 50:2)
- Joy of the whole earth (Psalm 48:2)
- My holy mountain (Joel 3:17)
- “Beulah” which means...wife, husband, married (Isaiah 62:4)
- City of Truth and Faith (Zechariah 8:3)

Remember God’s plan from the beginning: **He desires to build a place where He can live with His people.** Under the OC before Gentiles were grafted in, that place was earthly Jerusalem and His people were Israel, the Jews.

What did earthly Jerusalem have? We already mentioned the 12 gates, but it also *had the Temple (back in Bible times) and God lived in the Temple.*

To sum up, **Jerusalem was the earthly city that God set apart for the Israeli people to gather and live.** His Temple stood there and He dwelt in it to live among His people.

While this was good, **it wasn’t the full manifestation of the plan.** Or as we say in the Church: *“it wasn’t God’s best.”*

When **Mark Twain**, who was an atheist, went to Israel and Jerusalem in 1867, this was his review:

“Of all the lands there are for dismal scenery, I think Palestine must be the prince. The hills are barren, they are dull of color, they are unpicturesque in shape. The valleys are unsightly deserts fringed with a feeble vegetation that has an expression about it of being sorrowful and despondent. ... It is a hopeless, dreary, heart-broken land. Renowned Jerusalem itself, the stateliest name in history, has lost all its ancient grandeur, and is become a pauper village...”

It's a desert and always has been...certainly no Garden of Eden!

What's more is that the *Temple was limited*; a building closed off and guarded so that only the priests could enter the Sanctuary and be close to God. And only the HP could go into the HOH and be in the presence of God.

Earthly Jerusalem, even when it had its Temple, and even when God was truly in there, **was only an imperfect Temu version of what God truly had in mind**. Have you ever had a document that's been photocopied a hundred times? It's blurry, light, hard to read...whereas the original was clear and solid.

The NJ is the original! It's God's Plan, His best intention, and far superior to anything on this earth! Let us go now to Revelation 21 starting with verse 1:

[Rev 21:1-5 ESV] 1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 **And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.** 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "**Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people,** and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." 5 And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Revelation 21 takes place **1000 years after the Second Coming of Jesus**. We're not going to get into the "why" of that today.

The city that God built **descends from heaven and fulfills the Lord's Prayer**

Christians have been declaring for 2000 years: *His Kingdom come, His will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.* **Our request for God to send the REAL version of the Shining City on a Hill is made manifest!**

Verse 2: fascinating comparison...John sees the NJ dressed **like a bride** on her wedding day. What did God call earthly Jerusalem? *One name was "Beulah" which meant "married, husband, wife."*

Verse 3: NOW, for the first time, the TRUE dwelling/home of God is with humanity! His Kingdom has finally come to earth! NOW His people will gather there and live with Him, be His people, and He their God!

Verse 4: all death and evil are gone! Forever. We will be completely protected and safe there. All sorrow and pain, gone.

Verse 5: the NJ is new, constantly. New things here on earth get old, wear out, and break. We get bored of them too. Not the NJ: it's forever new, forever fresh, forever awe-inspiring!

[Rev 21:6-8 ESV] 6 And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

Verse 6 this is Jesus speaking. The River of Life flows through the NJ and I can only imagine what happens when we drink it!

Verses 7-8: not everyone makes it. The only way to citizenship in the Holy City is Jesus. He is the Conquering King Who shares His victory with us, setting a table before us in the presence of our enemies. Through Him, we are more than conquerors of the devil and our old selves. Those who reject Jesus will not be allowed entry.

[Rev 21:9-11 ESV] 9 Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you **the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.**" 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the **holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God**, 11 having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

Verse 9: the angel calls the NJ God's Wife, consistent with what the Lord has always called it.

Look what the Apostle Paul says in *Galatians 4:26*:

[Gal 4:26 NKJV] 26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

Verse 10: this is what I saw in my dream! John is carried away to high mountain...b/c the NJ is the true Shining City on a HILL. The writer of Hebrews also places the NJ at the summit of a mountain in chapter 12 that I read to you last Sunday.

Verse 11: as the NJ descends to earth, John is overtaken with awe. It's radiance floors him!

[Rev 21:12-21 ESV] 12 It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed-- 13 on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. 16 The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. 17 He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. 18 The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. 21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

Verse 12: 12 gates, just like earthly Jerusalem. 12 gates for the 12 tribes of Israel.

Verse 14: 12 foundations, each for the 12 Apostles of Jesus.

Verses 15-17: in English measurements, the NJ is 1500 MILES high, long, and wide...it's HUGE. It has walls.

Verses 18-21: God builds its walls and foundations with a) gold so pure that its transparent, and b) precious gems.

GOLD: here on earth, gold goes through a refining process. The more it's refined, the more it glitters and is pure. 18 K is more expensive than 12 K, and 24 K is the best we can achieve. Even 24 K gold is still opaque, however. The gold of the NJ is refined at a HEAVENLY level!

PRECIOUS GEMS: I taught this once before, but it bears repeating. The "light" we see mixed and comes from external sources like the sun, moon, stars, and artificial lighting. As we know, there are different kinds of light and now they sell lightbulbs for some of them. Mixed light is also mixed with, believe it or not, shadows, shade and darkness.

PURE LIGHT is different, not mixed with anything and emanating from one source. No differing frequencies and no shadow.

The particular gems that God chose for the NJ are the only ones which will light up under pure light. No diamonds in the NJ because diamonds don't reflect pure light, but only mixed. The ones God chose will not only glow but give off amazing prisms, like a divine kaleidoscope.

[Rev 21:22-27 ESV] 22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the **glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb**. 24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its **gates will never be shut** by day--and there will be no night there. 26 They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. 27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Verse 22: earthly Jerusalem required a temple so that God could live among them. Heavenly J will not need one, for as the Lord Jesus said in the Gospels, HE is the Temple of God! And so are we!

Verse 23: the pure Light of Christ will shine in the NJ! He is the Light of the world as is stated in *John 1:1-5*.

Verse 24-26: the gates are never shut! People will come and go, and any glory people have on them are brought into the Holy City.

Verse 27: no sin, no evil, and no devil will ever enter in. Never. We will be completely protected!

Let's turn to chapter 22 now:

[Rev 22:1-2 ESV] 1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Verse 1: the River of Life!

Verse 2: The Tree of Life! The same one that once existed in the Garden! The one that conveys immortality! The one that heals!

Both are here, just waiting for us to drink and eat!

[Rev 22:3-5 ESV] 3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Verse 3: No curses here! No sin, no fears, no insecurities, no PTSD, no trauma! We will worship our Lord forever!

Verse 4: WE WILL SEE HIM FACE TO FACE!!!!!!!!!!!!!! His name on our foreheads!

Verse 5: no more darkness, shadows, or night...only LIGHT!

[Rev 22:14-16 ESV] 14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. 15 Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. 16 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

Verse 14: we are blessed because Jesus has washed us clean with His blood! He has washed us also with the water of His Word, taking place right now as we follow Him and become more like Him! We will enter these gates!

Verse 15: outside are all those who rejected Jesus, denied His Gospel, and wanting nothing to do with His Saving Grace.

Verse 16: I told you earlier that David was a type of Jesus and now you see it confirmed.

[Rev 22:17 ESV] 17 The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

The Holy Spirit is calling us to the NJ! The NJ is calling us to itself! They want us to live there! Today is the day of your Salvation.

Today is the day you hear the Gospel
and believe in the one and only path
to the Holy City, that path is JESUS!