

The background of the slide features a faded, light-colored illustration of two fencers in a sparring stance. One fencer is on the left, and the other is on the right, both holding their swords and in a ready position. The text is overlaid on this background.

# **EN GARDE!**

## **A STUDY OF UNSEEN FORCES AT WORK IN OUR WORLD**

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Lesson 13

# VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- **Ephesians 6:10-13** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.
- Struggle: *pale:* to wrestle; a close quarters combat
- Resist: *anthistemi:* withstand while opposing
- Stand: *histemi:* make a stand; be established

# WHERE IS THE NEW JERUSALEM?

- Although Christians think of “heaven” as their eternal dwelling place, Scripture indicates that we will be living in the New Jerusalem after the millennial reign of Christ
- **Hebrews 11:8-10** By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign *land*, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.
- **Hebrews 12:22** But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels...

# THE ALLEGORY

- **Galatians 4:21-26** Tell me, you who want to be under law, do you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman and one by the free woman. But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise. This is allegorically speaking, for these *women* are two covenants: one *proceeding* from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar. Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother.
- Hagar – Sinai – slave – Jerusalem on earth
- Sarah – Mt. Zion – free – New Jerusalem from heaven

# COMPARING MOUNTAINS

- **Hebrews 12:18-24** For you have not come to *a mountain* that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind, and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which *sound was such that* those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them. For they could not bear the command "IF EVEN A BEAST TOUCHES THE MOUNTAIN, IT WILL BE STONED" terrible was the sight, *that* Moses said, "I AM FULL OF FEAR and trembling." But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of *the* righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than *the blood* of Abel.

# RISING FROM THE DUST

- **Isaiah 52:1-2** Awake, awake, clothe yourself in your strength, O Zion; Clothe yourself in your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; For the uncircumcised and the unclean will no longer come into you. Shake yourself from the dust, rise up, O captive Jerusalem; Loose yourself from the chains around your neck, O captive daughter of Zion.
- Zion – beautiful garments – no unclean (no unsaved) person can enter in
- After rising from the dust; no longer bound by chains
- **Romans 7:6** But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

# NEW JERUSALEM IN REVELATION

➤ TO THE CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA:

➤ **Revelation 3:11-13** 'I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it any-more; I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which **comes down out of heaven** from My God, and My new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

➤ NAME OF GOD

➤ NAME OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

➤ JESUS' NEW NAME

# COMING DOWN FROM HEAVEN

- **Revelation 21:1-4**...I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them; they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them; He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."
- **Revelation 21:5** And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

# WHEN GOD IS DONE

1. **DONE CREATING: Genesis 2:2-3** By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.
2. **JESUS REDEMPTIVE WORK: John 19:30** Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.
3. **THE END OF THE AGE: Revelation 21:6** Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

# CHARACTERISTICS

➤ **Revelation 21:10-17** ...and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; names *were* written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. *There were* three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south and three gates on the west. And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones; on them *were* the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, its gates and its wall. The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal.

# CHARACTERISTICS (2)

- **Revelation 21:17-21** And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, *according to* human measurements, which are *also* angelic *measurements*. The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone 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; the twelfth, amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

# CHARACTERISTICS (3)

- **Revelation 21:22-27** I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp *is* the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.
- **Hebrews 9:11** But when Christ appeared *as* a high priest of the good things to come, *He entered* through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;