

- <sup>9</sup> 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."
- <sup>10</sup> 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,
- <sup>11</sup> having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

- 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—
- <sup>13</sup> on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.
- <sup>14</sup> And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.
- <sup>15</sup> And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls.

<sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement.

<sup>18</sup> The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

- <sup>19</sup> 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,
- <sup>20</sup> the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.
- <sup>21</sup> 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.

- <sup>22</sup> And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.
- <sup>23</sup> 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.
- <sup>24</sup> By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it,
- <sup>25</sup> and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.

- <sup>26</sup> They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.
- <sup>27</sup> 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.

## 1. New Earth - When and Where?

#### A. When?

- 1. Premillennialism (before the millennium) Christ's return comes before Christ's thousand-year reign on earth. (New Heaven and Earth come after Jesus' literal thousand-year earthly reign.)
- Amillennialism (no millennium) Christ's return comes after the "thousand-year" reign of Christ in the current Heaven but not on earth. (New Heaven and Earth comes right after Jesus' return with no millennium in between.)
- 3. Postmillennialism (after the millennium) Christ's return comes after Christ's "thousand-year" reign on earth, which is described as the current Christian Age that eventually ends in a Christian utopia of sorts. (Christ's return and the New Heaven and Earth come after the triumph of the Gospel on earth.)

## 1. New Earth - When and Where?

### A. When?

#### B. Where?

- 1. On Earth, with Heaven coming down to join with Earth. (Rev. 21:1)
  - a. The Messiah will reign on David's throne an earthly throne. (Isaiah 9:7)
  - b. Hebrews 11:13–14, 16 The O.T. saints longed for a heavenly homeland, and God has prepared for them a city.
    - i. "What thrilled these expectant believers was not that God would rule in Heaven—He already did. Their hope was that one day He would rule on Earth... They believed the messiah would come and bring Heaven to Earth. He would make God's will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." -Randy Alcorn from his book *Heaven*

# 2. New Earth - Completely Recreated or Merely Renewed?

- A. It's easy to think the earth will be destroyed before it is recreated. (Psalm 102:25-26; Luke 21:33; 2 Peter 3:10; Rev. 21:1)
- B. But that is NOT the case.
  - 1. The earth, though thoroughly impacted by sin, is not evil in and of itself. Rather, God said, "It was good."
  - 2. God's words to Noah after the flood prove that the word "destroy" does not necessarily mean to dematerialize.
  - 3. Something does not have to be completely destroyed in order to be made new. (2 Cor. 5:17)
  - 4. Just as believers will be renewed and refreshed at the return of Christ, so will the earth. (Rom. 8:18–22; Acts 3:19–21)

## 3. New Earth - Familiar or Not?

- A. Yes!
- B. It will be familiar. It will be home...! And isn't that what we long for? It will be:
  - 1. Familiar
  - 2. A place together with loved ones
  - 3. Safe
  - 4. A place where we are known and loved
  - 5. Made for us
  - 6. Where we belong

## 3. New Earth - Familiar or Not?

- A Yes!
- B. It will be familiar. It will be home...! And isn't that what we long for?
- C. It will be wonderfully unfamiliar!