

BIBLE CLASS - 29.12.2022 - REVELATION 21. 9-14 - HOLY JERUSALEM

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. 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; on the south 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. (Rev 21:9-14 KJV)

⁹ Kisha mmoja wa wale malaika saba waliokuwa na yale mabakuli saba yaliyokuwa yamejaa mabaa saba ya mwisho, akaja na kuniambia, "Njoo!Mimi nitakuonyesha bibi arusi, mkewe Mwanakondoo!" ¹⁰ Basi, Roho akanikumba, naye malaika akanipeleka juu ya mlima mrefu sana. Akanionyesha mji mtakatifu, ukishuka kutoka kwa Mungu mbinguni, ¹¹ uking`aa kwa utukufu wa Mungu. Mwangaza wake ulikuwa kama wa jiwe la thamani kubwa kama yaspi, angavu kama kioo. ¹² Ulikuwa na ukuta mrefu na mkubwa, wenye milango kumi na miwili, na malaika wanangojea kumi na wawili. Majina ya wangoja milango kumi namawili ya Israeli yalikuwa yameandikwa juu ya milango hiyo. ¹³ Kila upande ulikuwa na milango mitatu: upande wa mashariki, milango mitatu, kaskazini milango mitatu, kusini milango mitatu na magharibimilango mitatu. ¹⁴ Kuta za mji huo zilikuwa zimejengwa juu ya mawe ya msingi kumi na mawili, na juu ya mawe hayo yalikuwa yameandikwa majina na mitume kumina wawili wa Mwanakondoo. (Rev 21:9-14 SWA)

Dear brothers and Sisters,

The seven last plagues are identical with the Seven Thunders; and as they are contained in the seventh vial, the giving of the plagues is represented in the presentation of the "seven golden vials." We are living in the time of the sixth vial. All that occurred under the pouring out of the previous five vials is now history, These vials contain much more than the "seven *last* plagues." They contain *first* plagues, styled "*these plagues*" in Rev. 16:9, as well as *last* plagues. The plagues of the vials described in this chapter are separated by the thief-like arrival of the Lord Jesus Christ. "*Last plagues*" imply previous plagues that preceded the advent; and those developed *after it* are "the seven *last* plagues."

What surprising blindness to affirm that none of the vials are poured out till after Christ comes, while **his coming is predicted under the sixth!** This sixth-vial

prophecy clearly shows, that five of the vials, and a considerable part of the sixth, are poured out before Christs coming. When it takes place, judgment is given to the saints recently raised, judged, and chosen, as signified by the “golden girdles” and “pure and white linen,” the golden vials are given to them; and they complete in their seventh vial mission the work of the whole seven vials, which without their intervention would never end in victory over the beast, his image, his mark, and the number of his name.

Here in the book of revelation we find political authorities are represented by animals, governing authorities and religious authorities are represented by beasts and sinful women dressed in scarlet clothing and described as ‘harlots’, empires are represented by mountains and lesser powers by hills. These are symbolic.

This use of symbolism is indicated right at the beginning of the book of Revelation where the information conveyed to John in Patmos, verse 1 was sent and SIGNIFIED to his servant John. The message was contained in SIGNS, or symbols of reality.

So for example the apostle John was in the spirit, meaning that in his mind he was receiving information verbally and pictorially conveyed by the Lord Jesus, through the Spirit, about things that were (past), things which are (as in John’s day) and things that were to come about future to John until the return of the Lord Jesus. Verse 9 refers to one of the seven angels who had the seven vials inviting the apostle John to come with him and he would show him the Lamb’s wife, the Lord Jesus is referred to as “the Lamb of God that is taking away the sins of the world” by John the Baptist. So the lamb symbol in the Revelation is referring to the Lord Jesus Christ. Here we see referred to the Bride the Lamb’s wife. This is a multitudinous woman comprised of all the faithful servants who having endeavored to “follow the Lamb whithersoever he goes, even unto death, have after the resurrection been changed, “we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (1Co 15:51-52)

So John was carried through more than two thousand years of time to the period before us when we shall actually stand before the judgement seat of Christ, and hopefully be found worthy to be granted eternal life. So John was carried away to, “*A great and high mountain.*” This is in contrast when John was previously carried away in the spirit to see the Judgement of the great whore, the rival of all that the Lord Jesus stands for in righteousness. The whore is part of the great religio-political set up that exists at the present time, deceiving all nations. The symbol of a great mountain appears in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream,

(Dan 2:35) in which the great image is shattered and destroyed by a stone which becomes a great mountain and fills the whole earth. This is the high mountain of John's vision, where John sees the holy Jerusalem descending out of heaven from God. This shows that the origin of this holy city is from God, everything that will comprise the Kingdom of God, comes from the Father, the world He created, the man created in his image, the woman that he created out of the man, and the human race has its origin in the Divine Maker of all thing. The faithful of all ages from Abel to Zacchaeus had their lives from the Creator and also their understanding of His will and His plan of salvation. The glory of God was developed through the Son of God the mental moral and physical glory of the Lord Jesus perfected, and multiplied in his disciples according to his promise **And the glory which thou gave me I have given them**; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for you loved me before the foundation of the world. (Joh 17:22-24)

The Lamb's wife is reflecting Christ's glory "*Her light is like a jasper stone.*" Christ is "the light of the world." Compare with Rev. 4:3, where the vision of Christ upon the throne of David is likened to a Jasper stone. Her light is His.

Verse 12.—"*A wall great and high.*" The wall of a city is its containing boundary and its defence. The figure occurrence in the scripture. David and his men were "a wall" (1 Sam. 25:16). The Bride is "a wall" (Song 8:10). Jeremiah was "a defended city and brazen walls" *against* Judah and Jerusalem, and so ordained by God (Jer. 1:18). But hereafter God will be unto Jerusalem "a wall of fire round about her, and the glory in the midst of her" (Zech. 2:5). Are we as brothers and sisters of the Lord Jesus Christ defenders of our faith, and not only ours but the faith of all the faithful who set us such a wonderful example. The late Queen has fid. Def. inscribed on her coinage, Defender of the Faith, it is doubtful that should the old Protestants have heard of her visits to the Vatican, they would have counted her as faithful, especially when many of her clergy have gone over to Rome.

"*Twelve gates*" ("twelve pearls," 5:21). Gates are entrances into the city, and in ancient times were the places of authority in which the king sat, receiving the requests of his people. Concerning pearls, Jesus teaches that the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

⁴⁶ Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

A wise man, finding the truth, finds “one pearl of great price” (Matt. 13:45, 46), and buys it at any price. He enters the fold through Christ, “the door” (John 10:9); and enduring unto the end enters the holy city through Christ, “the Resurrection and the Life.”

Pearls are most appropriate as symbols of the Redeemed. They are found in the depths of the ocean, hidden away from human sight until their “graves” (the oyster shells) are opened, and they are brought into view. The Redeemed are also “hidden away” in the depths of the sea of nations (Isa. 57:20), or in their graves. Pearls are very precious for not more than one mussel in a hundred holds one. They are formed in the oyster by a grain of sand acting as an irritant, and so forming a nucleus. The oyster coats this with a many coloured substance which hardens to form the coating of a pearl. So it is “through much tribulation”, or pressure, as the word signifies, that the Redeemed develop characters fit for the Kingdom of God (Acts 14:22). But the pearl must be brought to the light before its full beauty will be revealed. Its outer coating must be peeled away, and its full lustre revealed by the light of the sun. The Redeemed, in fulfilment of the symbol, must shed their coats of flesh, and be clothed with divine nature, thereby shining forth with the reflected light of the Sun of Righteousness (2 Cor. 5:2–4; Mal. 4:2; 2 Thess. 1:10). The trouble that human “pearls” experience is as necessary for their development, as the irritant is for the pearl itself. It is claimed that one of the motives which impelled Caesar to attempt the conquest of Britain was the fame of its pearl-fisheries, for among precious stones the pearl was held in highest rank. **Selected**

DHH