

### **Holy Jerusalem**

*9 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; 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.*

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### **When?**

John had been reminded of all the undesirable elements of human nature which would be banished and excluded, when these aspects are manifest and seen, when those who glory in them will perish in the great conflagration described as the lake of fire. This will take place before the Kingdom is established. The lake of fire is the arena of warfare which will take place particularly in the region of Catholic and Orthodox Europe. However, we recall also how at the end of the Millennium there will also be a rebellion, and the same human rebellious nature will again manifest itself and will be finally purged, once and for all. It is likely though that the destruction of these manifestations of sin, is referring to the beginning of the 1000 year

Kingdom of God, and not the end, as John is spoken to in verse 9 by *one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues*. These angels are the ones responsible for ensuring the events leading up to the establishment of the Kingdom of God, and the end of the kingdom of men. However, turning from this and by way of contrast, John is spiritually uplifted by considering again the destiny of the Believers.

## **The City**

In vision he is told to Come here, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb. Instead of seeing a very lovely lady, in vision he was shown an immense building! Described as a city. He was taken in his dream to a very large mountain, where he saw a city... But which had an enormous wall, was square, and had multiple gates on every side. This is reminiscent of course, of the vision Ezekiel was shown of the House of Prayer for all nations. A Temple which had the Frame of a City, around a very large mountain, was foursquare, with multiple gates on each side. It is not surprising that there is a similar pattern, as the literal is based on the spiritual. Ezekiel was shown a literal temple, one which will be run, organised and be the centre of worship of the Messiah and His saints of the Almighty Father, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. John was shown a spiritual temple built out of people, whose function and organisation is worship and praise of the Almighty Father. Whilst the literal Temple will be built around a mount, located on a great plain, in a newly revamped, and cleansed geographical location of Jerusalem, the spiritual city shown to John is described to him as That Great City – Holy Jerusalem.

## **Descending**

In this vision, John did not see it on earth. It is descending from heaven from God to earth – (same as in verse 2) It is not yet on earth. Earth represents it's inhabitants in the language of prophecy. The earth's inhabitants are not worthy or ready to have God living among them (as described in verse 3) as amongst them are unbelievers, liars,

*abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers* (verse 8). Until this corruption has been expunged and shut up and sealed so that the nations are deceived no more (chapter 20:1-3) the Holy City cannot dwell among men. Instead it is a work in progress, in preparation – as *a Bride is adorned for her husband* (verse 2). This line of thought may be continued, if we image a city which is to be visited by a foreign dignity of great importance. Every street is swept, every building is freshly painted, welcome signs are put up and so on. So, with the spiritual. The City – Holy Jerusalem is by definition a clean city, free from corruption, but as a work in progress, to be the dwelling place of God on earth, every stone and building is being fitly framed together, (Ephesians 2:21)

### **Spoken of by the Apostle**

It is a building which has been built for a very long time, which has been *built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone* (Eph. 2:20) some stones may not yet be in position, either still in the quarry, or not able to slide into place because it is out of line, and needs to be further polished – through friction caused by trial and tribulation. The language of the Apocalypse is built upon the apostles and the prophets, and in the case of this spiritual analogy it is very similar to the words in the letter to the Hebrews: where the great roll- call of the faithful being listed in chapter 11, men and women who saw the life they lived on earth as but temporary, and they cared little for it, but instead *looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God* (11:11) Chapter 12 continues... *seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses ... verse 22: you are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels*, and this the Apostle then defines: *To the general assembly and church of the chiefborns, which are written in heaven...* So today, the City is manifest as a work in progress in the political Heavenlies (although physically on earth) as the living breathing working Ecclesia of the Faithful. It is also a City which

comprises all the Faithful saints of old, from Abel to righteous Zechariah, from the disciples of Jesus to the latter day faithful Gentiles who have died in Christ, every one, which has been written in heaven, and assigned a place in that Building – that dwelling place for God made without hands.

### **The Glory of God**

In the vision which John saw, the first thing he noticed was the Light which was emanating from it. This is exactly how it should be. People who chance upon the City for the first time seeing it from a distance, - The Ecclesia, what should they see, but Light – the glory of God, seen through the actions, and words of the inhabitants of that city. As Jesus said to his disciples: *You are the Light of the world: A city which is on a hill cannot be hid* - Matthew 5:14. The Light actually proceeds much further than the boundaries, and makes the surrounding area look dark, so it should be with the Citizens of the Heavenly City, their influence should be felt through their kindness, patience, love and character before all men.

### **The Stone**

John describes the Light radiating from the city as *a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal*. Jasper today is the name for a opaque quartz, an impure variety of silica which is mostly red. Though a semi- precious stone, it is not particularly known for refracting light. In the verses we are looking at, the jasper is described *as being clear as crystal*. The stone most famous of course for reflecting, refracting light – splitting light, and being transparent is the diamond. In fact it is transparent to all forms of light. Diamond is composed of the single element carbon. Graphite is also composed of the single element of carbon. However the two components are so obviously different. One is transparent, extremely hard, cannot be reconverted, the other is crumbly, dirty, impervious to light, and can be easily converted. The difference is in the atomic makeup. Diamond is created deep underground under conditions of extreme pressure

and temperature. Thus, this stone – diamond is an apt figure for the building material of the spiritual city of God. Whilst the base element of this rarest of material is the same as the universal graphite, the transformation has been made out of sight, deep underground, under intense trial, speaking of this rare commodity – the Righteous - Psalm 139:15 *My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.* Same basic element, but through the trials of life, the human base human instinct is rearranged, to form a new organised unbreakable bond within the hearts of the Faithful, so that their very thoughts can be read by their Creator, - so that all things are naked and open unto Him with whom we have to do. Transparent, and able for the energy, the Light of God to shine through.

But not straight through. Each diamond is polished and cut to fit perfectly into this City, each individual member of the City has a different character, so that the White Light of the Gospel is manifest in the practice of each person, in a different and personal way, showing the complete spectrum, giving an aura of beauty, the very Glory of God Himself. Such glory cannot be appreciated by basic human instinct, and until that has been enlightened, the world has to be kept out, and the City will remain still above the Earth.

### **The Wall.**

The wall *was great and high.* A solid defensive barrier, to protect and separate. The walls of the natural Jerusalem were so broken down, that not one stone was left upon another. This reflected the state of the Jewish nation - which had compromised every doctrine, so there was no longer any separation. But the Psalmist and the prophets spoke of when the Wall would be great and high: Isaiah 26:1-3: *In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; **salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks.** Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keeps the truth may enter in. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusts in thee.* Just like the white linen curtain surrounding the

tabernacle, held high by the upright pillars so the city walls are great and high, the separation is caused by the enmity, whereby the Doctrine of Christ cannot be received by those who love the deeds of their father the devil (John 8:44).

## **12 gates**

However, the wall although a separating barrier – just as with the door of the fold, there is a way to enter into the city – for the righteous who keep the Truth – In this case there are 12 gates seen by John – entrance is therefore an abundant entrance – (2 Peter 1;11) entering the city will be encouraged. The time will come when the way into the heavenly City will not be via a narrow gate and a strait or restricted way, as Jesus described (Matthew 7:14) John saw 12 gates, 3 on each side of the city, - even and balanced, and organised – each named after a tribe of Israel. Yes, the Gentiles, and so-called Jews of today, will by force of circumstance and spiritual education, see that the true Gospel is the Hope of Israel, the Hope of Salvation through the Jewish Messiah. As Jesus was the Way, the Truth and the Life, and the Door of the fold, so his Brothers and Sisters are given the Divine task of being Porters, Door keepers, to let in those who seek the Truth, but keep out corruption and defilement. When the heavenly city finally is on earth, there will be no need for walls and gates, *for the forces of the Gentiles will be converted unto thee* and Zechariah 2:4 *Run, speak to this young man, saying, Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls for the multitude of men ... therein: For I, saith the Lord, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.*

Brother Terry