

The Holy City

May 1, 2016

Revelation 21:9-27 - *“One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues (These 7 angels with the 7 bowls of God Wrath were first mentioned in Chapter 15:1 – 16:21) came and said to me, ‘Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb. (The Bride = The Church, The Believers in Jesus Alone. The Una Sancta) And he carried me away in the Spirit (Εν πνεύματι) to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It **shone with the glory of God** (δοξάν του θεου), and its **brilliance** was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. (Remember the Glory of the Lord came down upon the Tabernacle when the Children of Israel made camp while in the wilderness.) It had a great high wall with **twelve gates**, and with **twelve angels** at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the **twelve tribes of Israel**. (Representative of the O.T. Believers) There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. The wall of the city had **twelve foundations**, and on them were the names of the **twelve apostles** of the Lamb. (Representative of the N.T. Believers) The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia (1,400 miles) in length, and as wide and high as it is long. (The Holy of Holies in the tabernacle of God, was a perfect cube 10x10x10 cubits) [God is a God of Order = I Corinthians 14:33] He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits (200 feet) thick by man’s measurement, which the angel was using. (144 = 12 x 12 – symbolic of the believers from the Old and New Testament together in Heaven) The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. [We are the Gold that has been refined by trials. (I Peter 1:7)] The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of **precious stone**. The 1st foundation was jasper, the 2nd sapphire, the 3rd chalcedony, the 4th emerald, the 5th sardonyx, the 6th carnelian, the 7th chrysolite, the 8th beryl, the 9th topaz, the 10th chrysoptase, the 11th jacinth, and the 12th amethyst. (Great Beauty! Some stones listed are not certain what they looked like. Built on the Prophets and Apostles with Christ as the Chief Cornerstone. – Eph. 2:20-21) The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass. I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. (Jesus is the LAMB of God Who taketh away the sin of the World) The **city does not need the sun** or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it **light** and the Lamb is its **lamp**. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. (Heaven is for people from Every Nation, regardless of color of skin or gender. The Racism that we see in our world and the contempt that is seen between genders is a reminder of sin in our world.) On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. **Nothing impure** (No sin or death or Satan or evil) will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose **names** are written in the Lamb’s book of life.*

(God Knows you by Name. When we are in heaven we are not just some nameless spiritual beings floating around on the cloud. As Job says, I know that my Redeemer lives and that in the end I will see God, I myself will see God with my own eyes. Job 19:25-27)

A couple of Sunday’s ago (April 17) it was Good Shepherd Sunday. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. (John Ch. 10) In that chapter, Jesus tells us that He gathers His sheep into His sheep pen. When the sheep are in the pen of Jesus, they are safe. The Sheep are safe because Jesus guards and protects His sheep which He keeps in His sheep pen.

In that same chapter Jesus also tells us He is The Gate. So in other words after Jesus has gathered His sheep into His sheep pen, Jesus is The Gate. The picture language is that Jesus sleeps at the entrance of the sheep pen. Guarding and Protecting.

In England there is a Castle called Warwick Castle. It dates back to the time of William the Conqueror (1027-1087 A.D.) (Another example of a Castle is Windsor Castle, near London = 24 acres)

Castles are built on specific locations which are easy to defend against enemies, often on high ground, if not on a Mountain or a Hill. A Castle = A place of complete safety and security!!!

Castles consist of strong walls and foundations, a large tower also called a "Keep", other smaller towers, strong gates, sometimes a Moat and a draw bridge. Inside the walls are storage areas for food and water and a well.

The ruler and his family stay inside the walls, together with some soldiers.

And in the event of an enemy army coming and invading the land, the people could go inside the Castle walls for protection. The Castle grounds was a small city. Some actually quite large.

In the Book of Revelation, The Apostle John is exiled on the Island of Potmas, because he was preaching the Word of God. Preaching Christ Jesus, the One and Only Savior of the World.

Today we hear the Apostle John describe the Holy City, the New Jerusalem.

The Lord God gave the Apostle John a Special vision or insight into heaven. The Lord gave that picture of heaven to John in various ways which John explained throughout the book of Revelation. In this section the Lord grants us a glimpse into heaven through the Apostle John.

WHY can we look forward to living in heaven one day?

Because of the perfect life of God our Savior – Christ Jesus – The Lamb

Because of His Perfect life which He lived FOR Us.

Because of His Innocent Suffering and death on the cross of Calvary.

And because of His Glorious Resurrection from the dead, we can be certain that His sacrifice was and is acceptable before God the Father, and so we have the forgiveness of sins and life in God's Holy City. AMEN!