

The New Jerusalem Rev. 21:9-27

Introduction

1. Chapters 21-22:5 is an incredible revelation of the spiritual reality of the bride of Christ.
2. The central focus of the Jewish wedding was/is the holy city of Jerusalem and the rebuilt temple and this is the focus of these verses in Chapter 21.
3. Let's remember the temple was destroyed in AD 70.

The bride of the Lamb is revealed. 21:9

1. This is not a physical city. This is the spiritual reality of the church from God's viewpoint.
2. This is the bride of Christ.

A new Jerusalem is revealed and she symbolizes the church. 21:10-11

1. This revelation can only be seen by the Holy Spirit.
2. John is taken to a great high mountain, the best viewpoint.
3. The holy city, Jerusalem is descending out of heaven from God.
 1. The place where God dwells (in his people) is a place full of His glory.
 2. Rev. 3:12 revealed that the members of the body of Christ are also the pillars in the temple.
 3. This reminds us of Paul's description of the holy city in Heb. 12:22-24.
4. The Bride reflects the glory of God (costly stone-crystal clear)

How is the Bride to be overcomers? 20:12-14

1. By the Holy Spirit's inspiration John reveals to the churches how they are saved, secured, and grounded in order to be overcomers.
 1. Saved by God's choice and by grace.
 1. What is the gate by which the saints enter into the body of Christ/ the bride? Rev. 7:2-4
 2. 12 is the number of fullness or totality.
 3. Jesus taught this to his disciples. John 6:44-45; John 15:16
 4. Paul taught this in all his epistles. Rom. 9:16; Eph. 1:4; Col. 3:12
 5. Peter called the church...1 Pet. 2:9
 2. Secure by God's choice. Election is also the grounds for assurance and security.
 1. What is the wall of protection to the Bride so that she will not be violated or abused, but kept for her husband?
 2. Jesus. John 6:37-39
 3. Paul. Rom. 8:29-31
 4. John. 1 John 2:1-2
 3. Assisted by angels.
 1. Jesus. Mark 13:27; Luke 15:10; 16:22
 2. Paul. Heb. 1:7, 13-14
 4. Grounded in the apostles' teaching.
 1. Luke. Acts 2:42; 16:4
 2. Paul. Eph. 2:19-20
2. The point is this: God has provided everything we need to be overcomers! He has given us entrance by grace. His election has walled us in. His angels assist in our salvation. The apostles' teaching keeps us grounded and supports the walls and the gates.

The believers' confidence is in God's purpose and power. 21:15-17

1. Every one in the city is protected. God knows the number of the elect. They are measured. Rev. 11:1-2
2. God has established this city.
 1. He has established the city by his power. (1500 miles = 12,000 stadia). 12 (totality) x 1000 (power).
 2. He has established the walls by his power. (72 yards - 144,000 cubits). 12 (totality) x 12 x 1000 (power)
3. These are angelic measurements inferring spiritual realities, not physical fulfillment.

The doctrines of election, preservation, and of the apostles is of infinite beauty and value. 21:18-21

1. The Bride of Christ is precious, valuable, and beautiful. Why?
2. The city was pure gold, like clear glass. There's no more sin or impurities. She reflects perfectly the image of her husband, the Lamb.

This new Jerusalem is not physical. Make no mistake about it 21:22-23

1. There is no temple in this new Jerusalem because _____ and the _____ are its temple. God is the temple and God fills the temple with His light. Eph. 1:22-23
2. There is no need for sun or moon because the glory of God is the light.

The evangelistic mission of the new Jerusalem is revealed. 21:24-26

1. The Bride, the new Jerusalem, filled with the Spirit of God, living in His presence, and sustained by His light become the light of the world.
 1. The nations walk in her light.
 2. The kings of the earth will bring their glory in.
 1. The wicked kings (their glory pales in comparison to the bride's glory)? Maybe Ps. 110:1-3
 2. The righteous kings (saints)?
2. There is no night in the new city.
 1. Jesus. John 11:10; 9:4; 1 John 1:5
 2. Paul. Eph. 5:7-10

Those whose names are not written in the Lamb's book of life are described? 21:27

1. Nothing unclean.
2. The character of their life is the focus. "practices"...
3. What is not practiced in the holy city?
 1. Abomination - from a word meaning "to stink." There is no stench from the pollution of sin. 1 Jo. 3:3-10
 2. Lying - Relates to false religion, the work of the second beast.
4. The point: As people become citizens in the new Jerusalem and the work of the cross is applied to them, the result is that they are cleansed and made ready for Christ.
5. The only ones who can enter the gates of the holy city are the holy ones, whose names have been written in the Lamb's book of life.