

A New Heaven and a New Earth

A Holy City

A gift for the bride of the Lamb



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This booklet is concerned with the part of the book of revelation (Chapters 19:7-9; 21, and 22:1-14) which can be seen as a love letter to those who have washed their clothes in the blood of the Lamb. Here we see a new home for the prepared bride. A new home where everything she lacks in the world will now be in abundance in the presence of the bridegroom in His heavenly city.

This part of revelation we are considering speaks of great encouragement and hope to the heart of a people who have no beauty, who have no safety, and no physical protection in the world of fallen humanity as they suffer tribulation.

This revelation shows God will fulfil all His precious and magnificent promises for His beloved who persevere in suffering. In God's timing it will be done.

In order to gain the most benefit from this revelation of John, we have to understand he has a vision of a spiritual reality that is hard for us to grasp if we insist on seeing things from a purely physical perspective.

This revelation has many symbols based mainly on Old Testament prophecies to convey a meaning otherwise unknown. The types of things under the old covenant point to the greater reality of the future in the new covenant.

Behold, I am making all things new

'Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among

them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.” Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

Rev 21:1-9

We cannot read this and understand it to be speaking of separate aspects of the new creation. This is clear in verse 2, the New Jerusalem was *'made ready as a bride adorned for her husband'* and again in verse 9 when the angel said to John: *"Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."*

Rev 21:9

God was revealing His new creation. *"Behold, I am making all things new."* A bride adorned for her husband, a new tabernacle of God amongst men. *"He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son."*

Rev 21:7

A completely new creation

Chapters 19:7-9; 21, and 22:1-14 are not about separate events in time, but about the same thing from a different perspective and details at the same time.

The New heaven and earth, the holy city, the bride and the Father and the Lamb are merged into the majestic splendour of the beauty of

the glory of God in one life, undivided in intimacy and love. The city is introduced as the bride of Christ made ready for her husband.

The similarities are obvious. *'Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.'* It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.' (Rev 19:7-8) *'And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.'* Rev 21:2

This relationship means they have merged into an infinitely new spiritual reality. The body of Christ on earth will be one with the Father and Son in heaven. The Bible has previously spoken of the unity of this mystery of one life in Christ.

"That they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also

may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one.” (John 17:21-22) *‘To whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.’* (Col: 1:27) *‘Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?’* 1 Cor 6:19

The connection between a New Heaven and Earth, the holy city, a New Jerusalem, and the bride of Christ is clear. As the people of God at any one time are the beautiful church on earth, then, so great a multitude no one can count, from every nation, for all time become the city of God in heaven. No wonder this magnificent city is shown to be so enormous, so secure, so complete, so beautiful, so radiant, so glorious, so holy, and perfect. It is the city of God, the New Jerusalem, the place where God lives with His people.

The New Jerusalem

The New Jerusalem represents the perfecting of the community of believers finally made complete with joy in the presence of God. In Rev 21:2 the image is of a bride made ready for the beloved. This readiness makes their loving intimacy personal, indicating the pleasure of communion with God.

The intimacy of bride and groom is to be known as God living amongst His bride, which is His tabernacle; so His dwelling place will also be their dwelling place.

The unfaithfulness of the bride in the Old Testament is over; those who had washed their clothes in the blood of the Lamb would be faithful and loving, while God would love them and supply all their needs with unimaginable fullness.

The holy city is the bride, the two are identical. Both indicate the redeemed Church of God. This city is a holy city where God dwells, in the midst of His people the New

Jerusalem. It is inhabited by the community of men and woman who have eternal fellowship with God.

This holy community is enjoyed by a countless multitude. (Rev 7:9) The city is the work of God through His sovereign grace and mercy. The city belongs to the future of the people of God and will remain forever. This city shines with the glory of God. (Rev 21:11) The splendour of God now fills the new world, where the redeemed live with God.

Rev 4:1-11

The enormous dimensions of the city (Rev21:15-17) symbolise the completeness and integrity of this new creation in perfect harmony with our transcendence of God. The size of its walls, the open gates with their protective angels, (Rev 21:12-13) is to convince and assure those who live in the time of tribulation that life in the holy city would be in absolute safety.

As the structure of the new city is perfect in shape and form, (Rev 21:16-17) so the security and peace of the city is perfect and eternal. The numbers relating to the people who dwell in the holy city (Rev 7:4-9) and (Rev 14:1-5) are complete numbers and speak of the perfect community of the faithful throughout time from all nations and tongues.

There is no temple in the city because God is there in His fullness. (Rev 21:22) The occupants of this perfect holy city are also priests and kings who not only serve and rule with the King, (Rev 22:4) but also enjoy their unified face to face fellowship forever.

The materials of the city's construction radiate irresistible attractiveness leaving us with a feeling of awe and wonder. (Rev 21:11-21) The majestic beauty of the city is seen in precious and semi precious stones, carrying the idea of spiritual completeness and judgement as adorned the breastplate of the high priest of the Old Testament. The beauty of the stones

also reflected the radiant glory of God who they served.

The city had twelve gates with *the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel*. (Rev 21:12) *And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.* (Rev 21:21) The names written on the foundation stones of the New Jerusalem are not of the tribes of Israel but of the apostles of the Lamb. (Rev 21:14) The foundation stones are in the colour of the rainbow, and again their beauty reflected the glory of God. Rev 21:19-20

This city, with transparent gold and the brilliance of the rainbow and the unending light, proclaim the glory of God which is to be shared by the saints as they dwell in the presence of God.

The enormous and powerful vision of the city of God is given to people who currently have no security. They are often people who have

been dispossessed and have nothing to protect them from evil but faith in God. This vision is to encourage them to hold fast to the promise of God.

All the things in relation to the people of God in the past are elevated to a completely new understanding as our Father brings all things to completion in Christ. The holy city; The enormous walls; The open gates; The many splendid colours; The river of living water; The tree of life; And the temple of God, His holy priesthood and their service and worship of God, all made new.

God will provide for His people

The Lord will provide all the abundance of life and nourishment for His people as the river of the water of life were there. The stillness of a glassy sea (Rev 22:1) symbolising God's tranquil sovereignty flows into a crystal clear river.

The river gives God's overflowing goodness in giving life to all who come to Him to drink.

Jesus has said that those who believed in Him would have rivers of living water flowing from their inner most being. (John 7:38) Now they would live in the city of the water of life that flowed from the throne of God and the Lamb.

Rev 22:1

The tree of Life was open to all who dwell there. (Rev 22:2) The restriction from access due to sin of the past was no longer needed, for all have prepared themselves by washing their clothes in the blood of the Lamb.

The tree of Life was growing on each side of the river and produced twelve types of fruit every month. Its leaves were giving healing for the nations.

Rev 22:3

The healing for God's people had already taken place, *'There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him.'* (Rev 22:3) *'He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any*

mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”
Rev 21:4

The throne of God and the Lamb

'And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him.' (Rev 22:3) *'The throne of God and the Lamb are in the city where they will live and offer service and worship as the priests of God.'* (Rev 5:9-10) These priests would no longer be afraid of the glory of God, for they will now delight in seeing God face to face.

Rev 22:4

There is no temple in the magnificent city of God (Rev 21:22) because there is no need for the holiest of holies for the high priest. The city itself was all one great dwelling place of God. God filled every part of it with himself. Everywhere we look we see the glory of God. Everywhere we turn we see the Lamb in the midst of the throne. The Father's love and the Spirit's power and that glory are everywhere.

There is no need of sun and moon there because Jesus the light of the world illuminates it all and drives all darkness away. The Lamb is its everlasting light. (Rev 22:5) And there is nothing impure, (Rev 21:27) and nothing shameful or deceitful. There will be nothing to destroy our peace and fellowship with one another, ever again.

The bride belongs to God

Those whose name is in the book of the Lamb will have His name on their foreheads marking them as the property of God which means they have protection from the wrath to come. Rev 6:17-7:3; 14:1

'They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.' Rev 22:4-5

Jesus had promised the Philadelphian church: *He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in*

the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Rev 3:12

Babylon served God's purpose of purification

When the Lord came amongst us as a man, He was already perfect God and perfect man; however He was perfected in His mission to be saviour of the world. As Christ was perfected in suffering, (Heb 2:10) so we are called to follow His example. Jesus moved from untested obedience into suffering and then through suffering into tested and proven obedience. Therefore, as He proved Himself obedient through suffering He was being perfected, so we will be perfected in suffering.

This is a clear case of His perfecting working for the salvation of mankind. This perfection of Christ is the perfection of His life, His way

of living; this life of His, perfected in obedience, is now up to us to be perfected in suffering.

Therefore we are perfected in our suffering. The existence and conflict with Babylon was necessary for the preparation of the bride's marriage to the Lamb. (Rev 19:1-9) The oppression and temptation of Babylon were the fire God used to refine the faith of the saints in order that they may be prepared to enter the heavenly city for the marriage of the Lamb. For it was by this tribulation the bride was prepared. *'It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.'*

Rev 19:8

'It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God,

the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect.' Heb 12:7-8, 22-23

Enduring under the hand of God means the bride prepared herself; (Rev 19:7) as it was the brides' responsibility to make herself ready for the marriage.

The fine linen was given by God as a reward for the preparation undertaken in the city of Babylon. *"These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."*

Rev 7:14

The people of God who suffer as the bride of Christ are encouraged to look forward to that Glorious Day when God will say for the last time, *"it is done."* In the mean time we can ask, how much does God cherish His beloved children? How much does God bless His children? How hard does God work to perfect

His children? How precious are His children in His sight?

We are purified by fire. Look, look at this magnificent vision of God and the church made in heaven to reflect the glory of God. When we consider what God has done so we can be saved to live with Him we can begin to understand why He doesn't want anyone to be lost. When we consider how much God loves us we can begin to understand the importance of the battle of the world. We can start to see the need for testing and purification to prepare us for the marriage supper of the Lamb. Everything has been done to bless those who will love God more than life on earth.

This marriage of the Lamb is the crowning time of all things. Indeed, the whole earth groans in anticipation of the complete redemption of the children of God. (Rom 8:22) The war of the heaven and earth will be the victory of all who love and obey Christ Jesus. The war serves God's purpose to judge the

unbelievers but more importantly to present us to His Son without spot or wrinkles.

Considering what God has done, is undying faithfulness too much to ask? Is perseverance worth the effort? Is it too much to trust in God and let Him be God?

The bride is perfected to suit the heavenly bridegroom who is the perfect Son of the Father and they all dwell together as in the glorious temple of God, the New Jerusalem. *'Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.'*

Rev 19:7

All the history of man finds its purpose in God at this point in time. This is why all the invited guest to this wedding feast must have the necessary wedding garment provide by God as those washed with the blood of the Lamb.

Behold the bride of Christ, the wife of the Lamb, the covenant people of God, the Holy

City as a New Jerusalem. This is the sacred wedding gift of love and faithfulness for the bride of Christ. Jesus has said on earth we will have tribulation, (John 16:33) but the new city of God means we will have jubilation, with great happiness and triumph.

Who are invited?

The marriage feast is for those who have repented and not fallen away. This marriage feast is for the overcomers.

It is for those who have not received the mark of the beast. It is for those who have not defiled their clothes.

It is for those who have received the seal of the living God on their foreheads.

It is for those who have not compromised their faith with double standards. It is for those who have not played the harlot with other gods.

It is for those who have not bowed down to idols in the world. It is for those who have been faithful witnesses to Christ.

The feast is for those who have denied themselves and taken up their cross to follow Christ.

It is for those who have stayed alert and kept their lamps full of oil as they waited patiently for the Lord.

It is for those who have built on the rock of Jesus Christ. And for those who have loved the Lord and obeyed His word. It is for those who have remained faithful even unto death.

The marriage feast is the celebration of bride with Christ who overcame the world. The marriage feast is for the church of the saints who persevered in suffering.

Special guest will include all the little ones that have been killed before they could grow enough to understand the importance of God and His Christ.

It is for those who have been victims of the beast's mark and Satan's curse.

'Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.'

Rev 22:14-15

'The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.'

1 Cor 6:9-10

Do you qualify for entry to the marriage supper of the Lamb? Or are you on the outside looking in?

'He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.'

Rev 22:20

Living Water Resources

Come to the river

Compiled by
Robert C May

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cometotheriver@optusnet.com.au