

The book of Revelation

Chapter 21-Part 2

1. *The New Jerusalem described (21:9-27)*

-We are to remember that this portion is not giving us a literal description of heaven but is instead giving us a symbolic picture of the _____ in glory. The bride of Christ is the Church and here the Church is pictured as a “new Jerusalem coming down from heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

-An angel (one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls) speaks to John and takes him to a high mountain so he might see “the wife of the Lamb,” the new Jerusalem. What John sees is glorious. It is a city full of _____, radiating with the glory of the Lord, and adorned with precious and beautiful materials.

-“He sees a city. The angel had promised to show him the bride. So the city is the bride; the two are identical. Both indicate the Church of God...it is the community of men who have fellowship with God. _____ in the entire universe is as glorious as this fellowship with God.” (220)

-“The bride-city symbolizes the saints, the church in its eschatological beauty...all the details of the city’s appearance illustrate aspects of the church’s _____ in the eyes of God.” (Johnson, 309)

-The first things that are mentioned about this city are that it comes down from heaven (it is _____ from above by God) and that it has the glory of God radiating from it like a jewel “like jasper, clear as crystal.”

-“The radiance that John once saw emanating from the throne of God, whose glory appeared like jasper (4:3) now permeates the city. The Lord of glory _____ His people and floods His new community with the beauty of His holiness.” (Johnson, 309)

-Then John sees a great _____ wall, with twelve gates (having the names of the twelve tribes on them-and three on each side of the city), twelve angels (one for each gate), and twelve foundations with the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb (Eph. 2:20).

-“On the gates are written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, for the city is the dwelling place of the true Israel, the redeemed Church. There are three gates for each direction; the Church is _____ out of all the nations.” (223)

-“At each gate stands an angel, a reminder of the cherubim with the flaming sword who guarded the fate of Eden (Gen. 3:24) and a symbol of the city’s complete _____.” (Johnson, 310)

-Then the angel measures the city, its gates, and walls. The city is a _____ cube with very thick and beautiful walls (made of twelve different precious stones-think of the twelve precious stones that adorned the high priest’s chest-one for each tribe of the people of God). John sees that the twelve gates are made up of twelve large pearls. He also sees that the streets and city is made of pure gold, like transparent glass.

-“That complete and perfect result is the Church of God enjoying _____ with God in the new universe. That communion will be ‘complete and perfect’ in every direction.” (221)

-“Here the entire city is measured as another token of its complete _____ from every enemy that formerly threatened its holiness and happiness...these measurements, however, are not to be understood as physical data but as enhancing the vision’s imagery concerning the church’s immensity and security...John is not describing an eternally secure place. He is describing eternally secure peoples.” (Johnson, 312-313)

-“The vision stretches and even breaks the paradigm of our experience in order to convey to precious value and purity that distinguishes the bride-church’s _____ in the eyes of her Husband.” (Johnson, 313)

-Next John sees that the city has no _____ “for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.” The brightness of the glory of the Lord makes the sun and moon unnecessary. People from every nation will walk by this light and will come into it.

-“The lamp is the Lamb because He imparts to us the true and saving knowledge of God, abiding spiritual joy, and righteousness of state with a corresponding holiness of condition. Christ, the true Light, drives away the _____ of ignorance, misery, guilt, and moral pollution. In and through Him and His work the glory of God becomes manifest in the Church.” (222)

“No sanctuary is needed, for the fellowship of believers with their God is _____ and immediate. God tabernacles with His people; they are constantly in His immediate and loving and abiding presence.” (222)

-“The nations influx into the city, bearing their glory and honor, vividly portrays the reality that this bride of the Lamb does and will include and embrace the _____ from all the world’s peoples.” (Johnson, 319)

-John sees that gates of this city _____ shut by day (and there will be no night) and that nothing wicked will ever enter this city but only those whose names are written in the book of life. This reminds us of Jesus words in John 6:37 “All the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes I will never cast out.” Those that seek God will find Him and will be allowed entrance into the city of God-the peoples of God-the bride of Christ-the eternal and heavenly humanity.