

Study Notes – Revelation 21, part 2

A New Jerusalem

21.9-11 Then came one of the seven angels holding the seven bowls full of the seven final plagues, and he spoke with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

¹⁰ Then he carried me away in the Ruach to a great and high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God - her radiance like a most precious stone, like a jasper, sparkling like crystal.

- ✓ bride, the wife of the Lamb – Dressed as a beautiful bride would be for her husband.
 - This is a further refinement of John's overview in Rev 21:1-8
 - I also saw the holy city - the New Jerusalem - coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Revelation 21:2
- ✓ the glory of God – This "Glory" is the shekinah, the visible manifestation of God's presence in the city.
- ✓ like a jasper – (iaspis) a translucent precious stone of various colors, especially that of fire. The last stone on the High Priests breastplate. Ex 28: 17,20
 - And the One who was seated was like jasper and carnelian in appearance, and a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance. Revelation 4:3



21.12-14 She had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and above the gates twelve angels. On the gates were inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of Bnei-Yisrael - ¹³ three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. ¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them the twelve names of the twelve emissaries of the Lamb.

- ✚ "12" (dodeka) two & ten. The number in general is suggestive of divine administration, and completeness. In the book of Revelation nearly all occurrences of twelve, except for the fruit of "The Tree of Life", Rev 22:2, are related to the tribes of Israel and reflect the "Jewishness" of the book.
- ✓ twelve gates – (pylonas) of the large gate at the entrance to the temples and palaces. Great freedom of access into the city. Three gates on each side of the building.
- ✓ twelve angels – Guards representing great security even though there are no attacking enemies.
- ✓ twelve tribes of Bnei-Yisrael – Forever inscribed on each gate is a name of the offspring of Jacob Rev 7:4-8. There are no lost tribes of Israel – God knows exactly where each person/tribe is located. He chose them.

- ✚ If the layout of the gates is similar to the camp of Israel in the wilderness, then:
 - Eastern gates: Judah, Issachar, Zebulun
 - Northern gates: Dan, Asher, Naphtali
 - Southern gates: Reuben, Simeon, Gad
 - Western gates: Benjamin, Ephraim & Manasseh (Joseph's sons).
 - Levi & Joseph are omitted because Levi had no specific land apportionment except for around the Temple and Joseph represented by his two sons.
- ✚ However, there is **no encampment around the sanctuary which is the entire New Jerusalem**.
 Rev 21:22 Therefore, the names of the gates maybe engraved according to the plan of the Millennial Temple in Eze 48:30-35
 - Eastern gate: Joseph (Ephraim & Manasseh), Dan
 - Northern gate: Reuben, Judah, Levi
 - Southern gate: Simeon, Issachar, Zebulun
 - Western gate: Gad, Asher, Naphtali

We will know when we enter the magnificent city through the Pearl Gates.

- ✓ twelve foundations – Hebrews 11:8-10
- ✓ the twelve emissaries of the Lamb – each foundation has a name of an emissary engraved.
 - 11 of the emissaries is clear – the disciples chosen by Yeshua. Judah, the betrayer, is not engraved. So, who is the twelfth emissary?
 - Yeshua answered them, "Didn't I choose you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is the adversary!" ⁷¹ Now He was speaking of Judah, the son of Simon of Kriot - for he, one of the Twelve, was about to betray Him. John 6:70-71
 - So they nominated two—Joseph, called Barsabbas (also called Justus), and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who knows the hearts of all men, show us which of these two You have chosen ²⁵ to take the position in this office as emissary, from which Judah turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶ Then they cast lots for them, and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was added to the eleven emissaries. Acts 1:23-26
 - Paul, a slave of Messiah Yeshua, called to be an emissary and set apart for the Good News of God, ² which He announced beforehand through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures. Romans 1:1-2
 - For I am the least of the emissaries, unworthy to be called an emissary because I persecuted God's community. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am. His grace toward me was not in vain. No, I worked harder than them all - yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹ Whether then it is I or they, so we proclaim, and so you believed. 1 Corinthians 15:9-11
 - Acts 9:1-11, 15-16

21.15-17 The angel speaking with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city and its gates and walls. ¹⁶ The city is laid out as a square - its length the same as its width. He measured the city with the rod - 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. ¹⁷ He also measured its wall - 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. Revelation 21:15-17

- ✓ a square – cube
 - The Temple Holy of Holies was 20 cubits in height, length & width. 1 cubit + 1.5 feet approximately.
 - The eternal “Holy of Holies is over 1,600 times larger in each direction than the Millennial Temple.
- ✓ 12,000 stadia – Approximately 1,380 miles wide & high. Each stadia = 600 Greek feet or 1/8 Roman mile.
- ✓ 144 cubits – Approximately 216 feet.

21:18-20 The material of the city's wall was jasper, while the city was pure gold, clear as glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the city wall were decorated with every kind of precious stone - the first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; ²⁰ the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, carnelian; the seventh, yellow topaz; the eighth; beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.

- ✓ foundations of the city wall were decorated with every kind of precious stone – as a bride would be for her husband.
 - Some of these stones are found in the High Priest’s breastplate, but not all.

21:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls - each of the gates was from a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.

- ✓ each of the gates was from a single pearl – 12 precious pearls of great value.
 - "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ Upon finding a pearl of great value, he went out and sold all that he had and bought it. Matthew 13:45-46
- ✓ street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass – no explanation for the translucency of the gold. Old Testament priests in Salomon’s Temple (the 1st Temple) walked on a golden floor.
 - and he also covered the floor of both the inner and the outer rooms of the House with gold. 1 Kings 6:30

21:22-27 I saw no temple in her, for its Temple is ADONAI Elohei-Tzva'ot and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need for the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God lights it up, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory into it. ²⁵ Its gates shall never be shut by day, for there shall be no night there! ²⁶ And they shall bring into it the glory and honor of the nations. ²⁷ And nothing unholy shall ever enter it, nor anyone doing what is detestable or false, but only those written in the Book of Life.

- ✓ no temple in her – The whole city is the Holy of Holies.
- ✓ its Temple is ADONAI Elohei-Tzva'ot and the Lamb – Now God and the Lamb are present with His people.
- ✓ the glory of God lights it up, and its lamp is the Lamb – God’s shekinah glory illuminates the city.
 - No more will the sun be your light by day, nor the glow of the moon be your light, but ADONAI will be your everlasting light, and your God for your glory. ²⁰ No more will your sun set, nor will your moon wane, for ADONAI will be your everlasting light, as the days of your mourning end. Isaiah 60:19-20
 - Now this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you - that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5

- **Yeshua's eternal light was shining before the Sun & Moon were created.**
 - Then God said, "Let there be light!" and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good. So God distinguished the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness He called "night." So there was evening and there was morning - one day. Genesis 1:3-5
 - Then God made the two great lights - the greater light for dominion over the day, and the lesser light as well as the stars for dominion over the night. ¹⁷ God set them in the expanse of the sky to shine on the land ¹⁸ and to have dominion over the day and over the night and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ So there was evening and there was morning - a fourth day. Genesis 1:16-19
- ✓ the kings of the earth bring their glory into it – They are from every Tribe (Israel), tongue, people, and nation.
 - And they are singing a new song, saying, "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals. For You were slain, and by Your blood You redeemed for God those from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. ¹⁰ You have made them for our God a kingdom and kohanim, and they shall reign upon the earth." Revelation 5:9-10
 - These Kings will never lead the people astray into idolatry.
- ✓ Its gates shall never be shut – no need to close the gates of the New Jerusalem.
 - Your gates will be open continually. They will not be shut day or night, so that men may bring to you the wealth of the nations, with their kings led in procession. Isaiah 60:11
- ✓ only those written in the Book of Life – Only the redeemed inhabit the New Earth and New Jerusalem. The lost who refused God's saving grace through His Son Yeshua are eternally incarcerated in the Lake of Fire.

Take care, brothers and sisters, that none of you has an evil heart of unbelief that falls away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another day by day - as long as it is called "Today" - so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have become partners of Messiah, if we hold our original conviction firm until the end. ¹⁵ As it is said, **"Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."** Hebrews 3:12-15