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A New Heaven, a New Earth
And the
Holy City Jerusalem Prepared as a Bride.
(Revelation 21)
(2013)

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A New Heaven, a New Earth and the Holy City Jerusalem Prepared as a Bride (Revelation 21).

Topics.

- A new heaven and new earth.
- Jerusalem descends as a bride.
- The great white throne judgement.
- God makes everything new.
- The bride the Lambs' wife.
- Kings of the earth bring their glory into the New Jerusalem.
- The future glory of the New Jerusalem.
- A bride adorned for her husband.

INTRODUCTION: to get an idea of where the awesome and breathtaking events spoken of in Revelation chapter twenty-one fit in God's prophetic timetable we will firstly take a brief look at the events that have transpired prior to these prophetic and eternal events unfolding.

Revelation Seventeen: tells us Jesus will return as Lord of lords and King of kings and conquer a woman full of abominations and adorned with gold, jewels and pearls (symbolic of global false religion) sitting on a scarlet beast full of blasphemous names (symbolic of the global secular world system) because both the woman and the beast are of one mind to make war on Christ.

Revelation Eighteen: records the fall of Babylon the Great who the kings and the merchants of the earth grew rich from the power of her global banking and financial system of credit, interest, greed and excessive profits and thereby corrupted the earth with self-indulgent luxurious living and immorality.

Revelation Nineteen: records Jesus descending on a white horse as King of kings and Lord of lords with great power and God by His mighty power destroying the armies of the nations who attempted to destroy Jesus and those gathered to him and the birds of the air feasting on the dead bodies.

Revelation Twenty: records the dragon, the serpent, the devil and satan being bound during Christ's millennial reign and those who died in faith coming to life in the first resurrection. We are told that the second death will have no power over this blessed group and that they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him. At the end of Christ's glorious reign the nations attempt to attack Jerusalem, but fire comes down from heaven and consumes them. The sea, death and hades give up the dead and they stand before the Throne of God and are judged, according to what they had done those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire (a symbol of eternal death) (i.e., total extinction)

A New Heaven and New Earth.

Rev. 21:1-5 ----- ¹Then I saw a *new heaven* and a *new earth*, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the *Holy City, New Jerusalem*, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a *bride* adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." ⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making *all things new*." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

After the great White Throne Judgment John sees a new heaven and a new earth and tells us that the first heaven and the first earth have passed away. This does not mean that the heavens and the earth will be totally destroyed and vanish from existence, but that they will be radically transformed. The words "Have passed away" carry the idea that when the Holy city the New Jerusalem descends to earth there will be no corrupt rulers and governments; no form of trading that oppresses others for one's own gain and profit; no murder, rape, abuse and no trading in drugs and selling young girls for sex slaves etc. Added to this the deserts will blossom, fresh water will be in abundance, natural disasters and storms will be non-existent and all wild animals will eat vegetation of the earth and not meat, which means there will be nothing that can harm us when the Holy City, New Jerusalem descends to earth and ETERNITY begins in all its majestic royal glory.

For these glorious changes to take place the climate and weather patterns will have to be dramatically changed, this is what the words, "The first heaven and the first earth have passed away," mean. When ETERNITY begins the earth will be restored to the glorious paradise it was when God created Adam and Eve. When these changes occur it will be perfectly right and proper for those living in this dramatically changed and renewed paradise to say, "Wow it's a new heaven and a new earth."

NOTE; the words, "There is no more sea," could mean that the sea is restored to fresh drinking water, (there are OT verses indicating this idea). Ezekiel wrote; the Lord GOD: said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and enters the sea; when the water flows into the sea, the water will become fresh (shall be healed in the KJV) (Ezek 47:8). The river Isaiah sees begins as a trickle of fresh water flowing from the temple and sanctuary of God until it becomes a great river of water healing everything wherever the waters of the river go. This prophecy is a majestic and glorious prophetic vision of many things concerning God's eternal Kingdom and ETERNITY.

For further information see: -

- Isaiah 47 in, NT Commentary (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The bride is prepared: means ready for the marriage. This is at the end of Christ's glorious reign as King of kings and Lord of lords and after the great White Throne judgment. Here is the glorious climax of God's eternal plan of salvations that He purposed and planned in His eternal mind before the ages began, God will dwell with humans and ETERNITY in all its perfect and glorious wonder will begin in the fullness of its royal eternal glory. God Himself will dwell amongst those counted worthy of ETERNITY there will be no more pain because God will wipe away every tear, there will be no more mourning or crying because death and all the things that caused suffering will have passed away. God will be with His people and be their God and they will be His people.

After the Great White Throne judgement God makes everything new

Rev. 21:6-8 ----- ⁶And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. ⁸But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

After the great White Throne Judgment those who are resurrected and gathered to Christ in the first resurrection and those counted worthy at the great White Throne Judgment are called the sons and daughters of God, while those who are counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire (also called the second death) meaning eternal death (i.e., total and utter extinction).

The Bride the Lambs' Wife.

Rev. 21:9-13 ----- ⁹Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the *bride the wife of the Lamb*." ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the *Holy City*

Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹²It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— ¹³on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.

After the great White Throne judgment one of the seven angels shows John the bride the wife of the Lamb and he sees the Holy City New Jerusalem descending from heaven. John's vision of the Holy City Jerusalem is a vision of the bride the Lamb's wife (Rev 21:9). The beautiful and glorious words of these verses link us back to the following verses of Isaiah, Zechariah and Malachi: -

- I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride *adorns herself with her jewels* (Isaiah 61:10).
- On that day the LORD their God will save them, as the flock of his people; for like the *jewels of a crown* they shall shine on his land (Zech. 9:16).
- They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in that day when *I make up my jewels* (treasured possession in KJV) and I will spare them, as a man spares his own son that serves him (Malachi 3:17).

In John's glorious vision so far we have seen that the twelve tribes of Israel (symbolising all the faithful of the Old Testament) are part of the eternal Holy city of Jerusalem and now in the following verses of this majestic vision we are shown that the twelve apostles (symbolising all the faithful of the New Testament) are also part of the Holy City of Jerusalem.

The Twelve Apostles and the Precious Stones in the Wall of Jerusalem.

Rev. 21:14-20 ----- ¹⁴And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the *twelve apostles of the Lamb*. ¹⁵And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. ¹⁶The city lies foursquare; its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. ¹⁷He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. ¹⁸The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, clear as glass. ¹⁹The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with *every kind of jewel*. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, ²⁰the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

All these stones are not only gloriously beautiful and spectacularly different, but also tremendously valued by whoever possesses them. This is a perfect picture of all who are counted worthy to enter ETERNITY and shines a spotlight on the truth that within God's Kingdom are people from all nations, tongues, languages, cultures, backgrounds, upbringing, professions, careers gifts and talents who though vastly different from each other are highly valued by God.

The New Jerusalem.

Rev. 21:21-23 ----- ²¹And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass. ²²And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord GOD the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light and its lamp is the Lamb.

The temple of the Holy city New Jerusalem is the Lord God Almighty and the Lord Jesus Christ the city has no need of the sun or the moon to shine on it because the glory of God gives it light and its lamp is the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the glorious climax of the eternal plan God purposed in His eternal mind before the ages began and the eternal and glorious inheritance of the redeemed.

Kings of the Earth Bring their Glory into the New Jerusalem.

Rev. 21:24-27 ----- ²⁴By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶They will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean (defiles in KJV) will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Unclean: not only refers to anything that opposes God and stands against His will, His plans and His purposes but also to anything that dishonours God's name and stands against the Lord Jesus Christ and his people.

Detestable: (abomination in KJV) not only embraces everything that is of the flesh (i.e., selfishness, pride, ego, greed and such like things, but also to any type of false religion and belief in any type of false god.

False: (lie in the KJV) embraces lies and deception of any kind it means to utter an untruth with the aim of deceiving by falsehood (especially for one's own gain).

Based on the meaning of the words, unclean, detestable, abomination and false the words, "Nothing unclean" will enter the Holy city New Jerusalem not only applies to everyone who denies God and dishonours His name and the name of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, but also to everyone who is driven by selfishness, pride, ego, greed etc., and oppress and deceive others (especially for their own selfish gain). Entry into the Holy city Jerusalem will never be closed, because there will be no night in it and all nations of the restored earth will walk in the light of the Holy City Jerusalem and kings from all over the earth will bring their glory into it. Here we are told that only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will enter the Holy City New Jerusalem; this embraces: -

- All the faithful of the Old Testament.
- All who ruled and reigned with Christ through his millennial Kingdom age.
- All who accepted Christ's rule during the millennial Kingdom age.
- All who are counted worthy at the Great White Throne Judgment.

The Future Glory of the New Jerusalem.

In the following verses Isaiah in prophecy not only speaks of the future glorified royal restored city of Jerusalem with Christ as its King but also majestically echoes the Bridegroom (the Lord) and the Bride (the redeemed).

NOTE: Zion is God's Holy Mountain that God's Holy City Jerusalem is built on.

The following is an absolute beautiful promise of Jerusalem's future: -

Isaiah 62:1-12 ----- ¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until Jerusalem's righteousness goes forth as brightness, and Jerusalem's salvation as a burning torch. ²The nations shall see Jerusalem's righteousness, and all the kings Jerusalem's glory, and Jerusalem shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³Jerusalem shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴Jerusalem shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. ⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. ⁶On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the LORD in remembrance, take no rest, ⁷and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth. ⁸The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: "I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not

drink your wine for which you have laboured; ⁹but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in the courts of my sanctuary." ¹⁰Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones; lift up a signal over the peoples. ¹¹Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." ¹²And they shall be called the holy people, the redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called sought out a city not forsaken.

Though Isaiah is speaking to the people of Israel verse twelve shows us that the prophecy embraces all the redeemed of the Lord of every generation. Here we see that the LORD will establish Jerusalem and make it a praise (meaning a blessing) in the earth (v7). This prophecy continues into the next chapter in which Isaiah says that the Lord Jesus Christ will come with the rewards of the redeemed and their salvation and proclaims that they will be called the Holy People, the redeemed of the LORD.

A bride adorned for her husband: if you have ever been to a wedding you will understand the beauty and glory of John's vision of the bride. I attended a wedding that was held at a magnificent dam surrounded by vividly coloured trees. The brilliant shade of green grass and the sparking water of the dam acted as a magnificent backdrop while the Groom and guests all waited in excited anticipation for the Bride to appear. Eventually the chatter of the invited guest was broken as the wedding music began and there she was, the Bride radiant, pure, innocent her white dress with its lacy train caressed the fresh green grass as she came closer to her first real love. I turned and glanced at the Groom and noticed the struggle he had to hold back his joyful tears from filling his eyes like a river overflowing its banks as he saw the beauty and radiance of his Bride approaching him with her smile of grace, and charity and her obvious affection and tender compassion she had for the man she loved at first sight.

Just as I was touched by the splendour and glory of the appearance of my friends' Bride, John is no-doubt touched in his vision by the same overwhelming wonder as he sees the glorious beauty of the earthy city Jerusalem restored as a Bride adorned for her husband. We often think of how much we love the Lord and how great our rejoicing will be on that day when we see him face to face, but just as the Groom at this wedding was overwhelmed with inexpressible joy when he saw the woman who had so faithfully committed her life to him, likewise Jesus our Groom will also be excited and overwhelmed with joy when he sees the radiance and beauty of his Bride as she approaches him, knowing all the while that she has faithfully and patiently endured life's many trials and testings to be with him.

FOOTNOTE: we should always keep in mind when we are speaking of Christ's return, the millennial age and the thing concerning ETERNITY that it is with a fallen and finite mind that is limited to time (as we understand it) that we are attempting to understand things not yet happened and that are radically different to anything any generation of every age of history has experienced on earth and because of this we should never be dogmatic and absolute in our understandings and explanations concerning Christ's return, the millennial age and the things concerning ETERNITY, but always allow for certain amount of mystery.

End.