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**Jerusalem
the
Holy City
and the
Tabernacle**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Jerusalem the Holy City and the Tabernacle.

Topics.

- The tabernacle of God.
- The tabernacle, and the New Testament.
- The temple of the tabernacle in heaven is opened.
- The Holy City has no temple.
- God and the Lamb are the temple of the city.
- The dwelling place of God is with man.
- The Holy City, New Jerusalem, prepared as a Bride for her Husband.
- Revelation chapter twenty, twenty-one, and twenty-two.

THE TABERNACLE OF GOD

The word, tabernacle comes from the Hebrew words (*mishkan and shakan*).

- MISHKAN can refer to a residence (including a shepherd's hut, or a lair of animals. Figuratively it refers to the grave, the temple and especially the tabernacle, and carries the idea of a dwelling place.
- SHAKAN carries the idea of lodging, or permanently staying and abiding to dwell in a place and remain in rest. The expressions, "the tabernacle of God is with man," and "God shall tabernacle with them," carry the idea that the divine Presence of God and His favour abides with His people.

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In the Old Testament, the tabernacle is also called the tent of meeting, because it was the dwelling-place of God and the meeting-place between God and man where God would meet and speak with His people. The true tabernacle for all the faithful that God pitched, not with human hands, is the Lord Jesus Christ.

The tabernacle consisted of three areas:

1. An Outer Court.
2. The Holy Place.
3. The Most Holy place (also called the Holy of Hollies).

To enter Christ's Kingdom all must firstly enter, into the outer court, were we through faith in Christ offer our lives in repentance upon the altar of sacrifice to God, and receive His forgiveness, and now being born again into Christ's family we enter the Most Holy Place where God's Presence dwells and we commune with Him, as we spiritually grow in the knowledge of Christ and in the fruits of the Spirit, until we are gathered into the heavenly and Holy City, the New Jerusalem where we will receive splendours and wonders that our minds cannot yet imagine, and which will bring the full depths of happiness and eternal fellowship with God.

THE TABERNACLE, AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

During the Old Testament the tabernacle stood in the centre of the wilderness in the centre of Israel's camp, as an outward sign, that the Shekinah glory of God was dwelling with Israel, who by name and outward separation and consecration were God's people. During the current New Testament age, the faithful church stands on earth as a symbol of God's temple, and though God by His Spirit dwells in those in Christ's Kingdom, many like Israel of old, defile the temple of God, and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ's church. In contrast to this, in the new future age, all that has been a symbol in past ages will be perfected, Christ will no longer dwell with his people by faith but will dwell with them in reality, and his people will dwell with him.

THE TEMPLE OF THE TABERNACLE IN HEAVEN IS OPENED

- **Revelation 15:5-6:** After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness (the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in KJV) in heaven was opened, ⁶ and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests.

Some understand the temple of God to represent:

1. The temple in Jerusalem.
2. The church triumphant.
3. The church of Christ militant here on earth.

And by heaven some understand:

1. The natural heavens.
2. The Christian church.

In the book of acts Stephen spoke of the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, which was made after the pattern shown to Moses on the mountain of Sinai.

- **Acts 7:44:** Our fathers had the tent of witness in the wilderness, just as he who spoke to Moses directed him to make it, according to the pattern that he had seen.

The tabernacle was called the tabernacle of witness, for it contained the ark of the testimony with the Law of God, and was a perpetual witness of God's presence among His people, and served to keep up the remembrance of Him. The word 'tabernacle' here does not refer to the whole of the building called the temple, but to, 'The Most Holy Place,' (also called the Holy of Holies), spoken of in the following verse.

- **Hebrews 9:3:** Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place.

This was regarded as the unique sacred dwelling-place of God usually closed from all access, except for once a year when the high priest could enter, but is now opened, which in this context, implies the command given to the seven angles to execute their specific judgments came directly from God Himself. The following verses show when the Most Holy Place, of the heavenly tabernacle of the testimony is opened and comes into view, God's righteous judgments go forth to destroy His enemies, and avenging and vindicating, His people.

- **Revelation 11:19:** God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.
- **Revelation 16:17:** The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"

The statement the temple of the tabernacle in heaven was opened," denotes the Most Holy Place being opened, and carries the idea of a new stage of God's righteous judgments is about to be poured out. These judgments will fall upon those who deny God, and have violated His law contained in the ark of the covenant, and are hostile toward His people. When these judgments are completed, Jesus will return and the Gospel will freely flow out to all nations.

THE HOLY CITY HAS NOT TEMPLE

- **Revelation 21:22:** And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

The edifying and the gifts of the body of Christ will no longer be needed, tongues, prophecies, knowledge, will pass away.

- **1 Corinthians 13:8-10:** Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.
- **Ephesians 4:11-12:** He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

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Churches will be absorbed in the one glorious church where God will be All in All. However, there will be no structure built solely for the worship of God, for the whole city is a church, since the Lord God and the Lamb surround and fill every part of it, every citizen will be filled with the fulness of their Spirit.

The apostle Paul wrote:

- **1 Corinthians 13:12:** Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

At this present time, we see dimly, and know God only in part, but when we enter the New and Holy City we will see God face to face, and know Him as we are known, by Him and therefore there will be no need for a temple and no need for anyone to teach, for all who dwell in the Holy City will forever see Christ, and therefore there will be no need for sacraments to remember him by.

GOD AND THE LAMB ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE CITY

- **Revelation 21:22:** And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

The glory, the light and the presence of the Father and the Son will be present and fill all parts of the city and its inhabitants. It could be said that the splendour of the Father and the Son's presence and glory is the temple since the entire city will be a holy world, for no part of it will be set aside for the purpose of public worship, because in all places God will

be adored, and every citizen devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ and His Heavenly Father. In the same way that God and the Lord Jesus Christ at this present time now dwell in the global spiritual church, in the heart of the faithful (His temple) by His Spirit and by love.

- **1 Corinthians 3:17:** If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.
- **1 Corinthians 6:19:** Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own.

When perfected the faithful will no longer need faith or grace since they will be made perfectly holy, and literally dwell in the presence of the Father and the Son, and have uninterrupted and direct communion with Him and their Saviour Lamb of God without Blemish.

In the book of Corinthians Paul wrote:

- When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all. (1 Cor. 15:28).

And he prayed:

- That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: (Eph. 1:17).

Paul desired that the faithful would know:

- The hope to which they are called.
- The riches of his glorious inheritance.
- The immeasurable greatness of his power.

This New and Holy City is the literal and perfect manifestation of the immeasurable greatness of God's power, and the great riches of the glorious inheritance of the faithful, that Paul spoke of in the following verse:

- For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (Eph. 1:15-23).

God will be present with His people, and they shall see His face, and serve Him in the most pure and spiritual manner, and the Holy City will be filled with divine perfections, and the fulness of God and His Presence, and the faithful's praises of His people.

THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD IS WITH MAN

- **Revelation 21:3:** And 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.

This is the desire of God from the beginning, and the climax and the goal of the faith of all the redeemed, that they would abide together with Christ and with His Heavenly Father in unity and in love. When God's eternal plan that He planned and purposed in His eternal mind from the beginning is fulfilled, God will set Himself in, the midst of those who, out of the sea of humanity accepted His plan of salvation. The meaning is, that God will dwell with the redeemed, as if in a tabernacle, or a house specially prepared for Him and for them to dwell together.

- **2 Peter 3:13:** According to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

This is the full accomplishment of the following promise recorded in Ezekiel:

- **Ezekiel 37:27:** My dwelling place (tabernacle in KJV) shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (Ezek. 37:27).

NOTE: it is not said that this would be on the earth, although it very likely if will be, for it is most likely that the earth will become the abode of the redeemed.

Though God and the Lord Jesus Christ are at this present time with the redeemed by faith, the expression, "I will be their God, and they shall be my people," in its fullest sense surpasses the spiritual presence of Christ in his church (as his tabernacle and temple), and in the hearts of his people, in that God and the Lord Jesus Christ, will literally dwell with His people. For the space of a thousand years, Christ will dwell with the resurrected faithful in person and not by Spirit, or by faith, and after this space of time, Christ the Groom and the church the Bride will come together as Husband and Wife, and Jesus will hand his Kingdom over to God who will then be All in All.

THE HOLY CITY, NEW JERUSALEM, PREPARED AS A BRIDE FOR HER HUSBAND

Scripture tells us, "The Holy City, New Jerusalem, will come down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband, (Rev. 21:2), all Christians look forward to the marriage of the Bride to her Groom, but not all agree when it will take place, mostly because the beloved city Jerusalem is spoken of many times in, Revelation chapter twenty, twenty-one and twenty-two. This study focuses on these three chapters, to see if we can pin point the time this glorious event will take place.

REVELATION CHAPTER TWENTY

Following is an overview of the nine major events listed in chronological order, that take place in this chapter:

1. The dragon, the ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, is bound for a thousand years, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years are ended. (Rev. 20:1-3).
2. Those given authority and seated on thrones are given authority to judge. (Rev. 20:4).
3. The first resurrection takes place, and those who attained to it reign with Christ for a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4-5).

4. When the thousand years are ended, Satan is released from his prison to deceive the nations (Rev. 20:7-8).
5. Gog Magog and their hordes, surround the beloved city, and fire comes down from heaven and consumes them. (Rev. 20:8-9).
6. The devil, the beast, and the false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire (a symbol of eternal death) (i.e., utter annihilation and total extinction) (Rev. 20:10).
7. God descends on a great white throne, and earth and the sky flee from His presence, and no place was found for them. (Rev. 20:11).
8. The sea, death and hades give up the dead, and the great and small, stand before God's throne. The book of life, and other books are opened, and those standing before the throne are judged by what is written in the books, according to what they had done. (Revelation 20:12-13).
9. Death and hades, and anyone's name not found in the Book of life are thrown into the lake of fire, which is called the second death. (Revelation 20:14-15).

CONCLUSION: the events recorded in Revelation chapter twenty-one focus at the start on the glorious millennial age, and finishes at the end of it with God descending on a Great White Throne, and judgment of those standing before His throne takes place.

REVELATION CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

Following is an overview of the eight major events listed in chronological order, that take place in this chapter:

1. After the Great White throne Judgement, the first heaven, earth, and sea pass away, a new heaven and new earth appear, and the Holy City, New Jerusalem, comes down from God out of heaven prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Rev. 21:1-2).
2. God dwells with His people, there is no more death, mourning, crying, or pain, for all former things have passed away, for God has made all things new. (Rev. 21:3-6).
3. God Himself is God of all who have conquered (overcome in KJV), and they are His Son. (Rev. 21:6-7).
4. There is then an interlude in the chapter, it pauses, and reflects to the Great White Throne Judgement that took place at the end of the previous chapter, and prior to this chapter. (Rev. 21:7). Here we are also told, "the wicked will be cast into the lake of fire, which is the second death." (Rev. 21:8).
5. After this interlude ends, the Bride, the wife of the Lamb, the Holy City Jerusalem descends out of heaven from God. (Rev. 21:9-11).
6. We are then given symbolic descriptions of the Holy City, and told, it has no temple, because its temple is God the Almighty and the Lamb, and has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, because the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. (Rev. 21:12-23).
7. Kings of the earth will bring their honor and glory into the Holy City, and its gates will never be shut for there will be no night there. (Revelation 21:24-26).

8. Nothing unclean or anyone who does what is detestable or false will enter the Holy City, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Rev. 21:27).

CONCLUSION: events in this chapter start at the beginning of Jesus glorious millennial age and finishes at the end of it, with God descending on a Great White Throne, and a judgment of mankind takes place.

REVELATION CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

Following is an overview of the eight major events listed in chronological order, that take place in this chapter:

1. From the throne of God, and the Lamb a river of life with the tree of life on either side flows through the middle of the street of the Holy city. (Rev. 22:1-2)
2. There is no light of lamp or sun, in the Holy City, because God and the Lamb dwell in the City and are their light. The citizens of the City will see God's face, worship Him, and reign forever and ever. (Revelation 22:3-5).
3. The wicked will have no place in the Holy City. (Rev. 22:6-11).
4. The Lord proclaims he is coming to repay each one for what they have done, and that those who have washed their robes are blessed, because they have the right to the tree of life, and to enter the city by the gates. (Rev. 22:12-14)
5. The wicked, sorcerers, the sexually immoral, murderers, idolaters, and everyone who practices falsehood will have not place in the city. (Rev. 22:15)
6. Jesus, the Spirit, and the Bride say, "Come," and invite all who are thirsty and hear to come and take the water of life without price. (Rev. 22:16-17)
7. Jesus warns if anyone adds to, or takes away from the prophecy of this book, God will take away their share in the tree of life and in the Holy City. (Rev. 22:18-19)
8. The chapter ends with the words, "come, Lord Jesus, and concludes, "the grace of the Lord Jesus be with all, Amen." (Rev. 22:20)

CONCLUSION: events in this chapter begin with a river of life flowing from the throne of God through the Holy City, and God, the Lamb and its citizens all dwelling together. It ends with Jesus, the Spirit, and the Bride inviting all who are thirsty to come and take the water of life without price, and concludes, "the grace of the Lord Jesus be with all, Amen."

The great blessing for all dwelling in the Holy City the New Jerusalem will be:

- Dwelling in a city that is filled with the glory of God, and presence of the Lord Jesus Christ and all its citizens being perfect in holiness and love.
- Having perfect and direct communion and fellowship with God, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Walking in a city in which the glory of God and the Lamb is its light, and Christ the everlasting fountain of knowledge, and the joy of living amongst all its perfected citizens.

- Dwelling in a city so safe and full of peace, and joy that there is no need to shut its gates.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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