

114. THE NEW JERUSALEM

1. What was one of Christ's parting promises to His disciples?

"In MY Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a Place for you." John 14: 2.

2. What does Paul say God has prepared for His people?

"But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city!" Heb. 11: 16.

3. Where is this city, and what is it called?

"But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." Gal. 4: 26.

4. For what did Abraham look?

"For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Heb. 11: 10.

5. What assurance has God given to believers?

"God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city." Heb. 11: 16.

6. What did John see concerning this city?

"And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." Rev. 21: 2.

7. How many foundations has this city?

"And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb." Verse 14.

8. What is the measurement of the city?

"And the city lies foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs." Verse 16.

NOTE - The measure around it, as the words length and breadth imply, and as was the early custom of measuring cities, is 12,000 furlongs. This is equal to 1,500 miles, 375 miles on each side, making a perfect square. The area of this city is therefore 140,625 square miles, or 90,000,000 acres, or 3,920,400,000,000 square feet. Allowing 100 square feet to each person, or a space ten feet square, the city would hold 39,204,000,000 persons, or twenty times the present population of the globe.

9. What is the height of the wall?

"And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits." Verse 17.

NOTE - One hundred and forty-four cubits are equal to 280 feet.

10. Of what material is the wall constructed?

"And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass." Verse 18.

11. With what are the twelve foundations adorned?

"And the ' foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysopterus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst." Verses 19,20. See Ex. 28:15-21; Isa. 54:11, 12.

12. Of what are the twelve gates composed?

"And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl." Rev. 21: 21.

13. What is written on these gates?

"The names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel' Verse 12.

14. Of what are the streets of the city composed?

"And the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass." Verse 21.

15. Why will this city have no need of the sun or moon?

"And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it." Verses 23,24. See Rev. 22:5; Isa. 60:19,20.

16. Why are its gates not to be closed?

"And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there." Rev. 21: 25.

17. What will be excluded from this city?

"And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defiles, neither whatsoever works abomination, or makes a lie." Verse 27.

18. Who will be permitted to enter it?

"Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Rev. 22: 14.

NOTE - The late English and American revisions render this, 'Blessed are they that wash their robes,' etc. The result is the same, for those who wash their robes cease to sin, and hence do God's commandments.

19. When this city becomes the metropolis of the new earth, what will be the condition of God's people?

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. Rev. 21: 4.

20. What will flow through the city?

"And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb'. Rev. 22: 1.

21. What stands on either side of the river?

"In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." Verse 2.

NOTE - The tree of life which Adam lost through transgression is to be restored by Christ. Access to this is one of the promises to the overcomer. Rev. 2: 7. Its bearing twelve kinds of fruit, a new kind each month, suggests a reason why in the new earth "from one new moon to another," as well as "from one Sabbath to another," all flesh is to come before God to worship, as stated in Isa. 66:22,23.

22. What will be the privilege of those who enter there?

"And they shall see His face!' Rev. 22: 3, 4. See Matt. 5: 8; Heb. 12: 14; 1 Cor. 13: 12.

115. THE CONFLICT ENDED

1. In narrating the work of creation, what statement is made concerning its completion?

"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made." Gen. 2: 1, 2.

2. When expiring on the cross, what did Christ say?

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, It is finished: and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost." John 19: 30.

3. At the pouring out of the seventh plague, what announcement will be made?

"And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done." Rev. 16: 17.

4. And when the new heavens and the new earth have appeared, and the holy city, New Jerusalem, has descended from God and become the metropolis of the new creation, what announcement will then be made?

"And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And He said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end!" Rev. 21: 5, 6.

5. In the new earth, what will be no more?

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away!" Verse 4. "And there shall be no more curse." Rev. 22: 3.

6. What will then be the condition of all the earth?

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Isa. 11: 6-9.

7. How does the prophet again speak of this time?

"The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing." Isa. 14: 7.

8. What universal chorus of praise will then be heard?

"And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." Rev. 5: 13.

O WHAT a mighty change
Shall Jesus' followers know,
When o'er the happy plains they range,
Incapable of woe!

There all our griefs are past;
There all our sorrows end;
We gain a peaceful rest at last,
With Jesus Christ our Friend.

No slightest touch of pain,
Nor sorrow's least alloy,

Can violate our rest, or stain
Our purity of joy.

In that eternal day,
No clouds nor tempest rise;
There gushing tears are wiped away
For ever from our eyes.
-Charles Wesley.