Revelation 21v9-14 Holy Jerusalem 29th December 2022

"*And there came unto me one of the seven angels having the seven vials full of the seven last plagues and he spake unto me saying come hither, I will show thee the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.*

"And he carried me away in spirit to a great and high mountain and he showed to me that Great City, the Holy Jerusalem, descending out of the heaven from the Deity, having the glory of the deity. And the brightness of it was like a stone most precious, as a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

"And it had a great and high wall, having twelve Gates. And at the gates twelve angels, and names had been written thereon, which are those of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.

"On the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, on the west three gates.

"And the wall of the city had twelve Foundations and on them the names of the twelve Apostles of the Lamb" Translation from Eureka by John Thomas.

Sections from Eureka covering these verses

4	The Holy City new Jerusalem	Blue p 684	Red p 279	Brown p 341
5	The glory of the Deity	Blue p 688	Red p 282	Brown p 344
6	The great and high wall	Blue p 688	Red p 283	Brown p 345

There is some replication in the subsequent verses where more details are covered about the foundations and gates so comments on this will be left to the next class, God willing.

The Apostle John was conducted by the spirt to a vantage point high up and elevated, this has overtones of passages such as Matthew 4v8 & 17v1 where Jesus was both tempted and encouraged with glorious visions, but the one mountain that most resonates here is that of Daniel 2v35 where the little stone became a great mountain and filled the whole earth, speaking of the universal Kingdom that would arise after the return of Christ and his dramatic intervention into world affairs.

The person who took John there was one of the seven angels. These vial angels from chapters 15 & 16 represent different powers that God used to bring about the ramifications of the vials poured out. The last of these is the multitudinous Body with Christ at its head which is constituted after has Jesus returned in the time of the sixth vial. The last angel poured his vial into the air and speaks of the civil war which will break out in the territory of the Image empire after Christ smashes the image in its feet and brings it crashing down. This lack of cohesion will be exploited by the Angel power and ultimately Christ will emerge totally victorious in the sight of all.

In his possession are the seven last plagues. As John Thomas identifies, these should be understood as to be different from the contents of all seven vials but are rather the contents of the last vial, which are therefore poured out subsequent to the return of Christ, not before he comes again.

Taking the sevens theme onwards, the seals bring the trumpets which bring the vials which bring the seven last plagues which completes the purpose of God with regard to the re-establishment of the Kingdom of Israel on the earth with Christ as King. In the Apocalyptic drama they are not yet history but are still future. We believe we are living in the days of the 6th Vial as did John Thomas.

In this last vision of future glory, covering chapters 21 & 22 the Lamb is mentioned seven times, commencing here in verse 9. See Numbers 29v36 where 7 lambs are associated with the offerings on the eighth day and so forward. The Lamb is a title of Jesus Christ and emphasises his sacrificial aspect. This grounds the consideration in our time and generation where the atoning work of Christ is very much to the fore as that Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world. Only those who receive the mercy of God at the judgment seat and have divine grace extended to them then will become part of the Bride, until that time, some who are espoused but not yet married (1 Corinthians 7v12 part of the rest) can depart and return to the world from whence they came if they refuse to repent when they transgress.

The Bride the Lamb's wife is the subject of this vision. Now the One Body is espoused to him, betrothed or promised, but the union has not been consummated. Spiritually the marriage between the Ecclesia and the Lord Jesus will not be consummated until the physical transformation and glorification of the saints after the resurrection and the judgment. The vantage point of the mountain top shows that this vision is post millennial and therefore in the period beyond the ohlam, the ohlam being the final age of the thousand-year reign of Christ before time switches over to eternity as God lives it.

At that point they will be constituted as the Holy Jerusalem, the place where God has been pleased to put His name and dwell there. This Holy Jerusalem if different from the physical Jerusalem which sadly today is full of wayward Jews, apostate Arabs and blasphemous, so-called Christians. That it is said to come down from heaven from God reflects the celestial nature of their transformed state. It is not a real edifice but a symbolic city however it draws on the physical aspects of the rebuilt temple, the House of prayer for all nations which the Branch will build at the start of the millennium.

It has the glory of God which as Romans 6v4 & Ephesian 3v21 make clear should be at the heart of everything we do, if we are anxious to please Him, if we lose sight of this great power of motivational strength, we will be even weaker. In this way she has light. Not the light of the sun but like the light of a highly polished gemstone like a jasper and therefore refracted or focused depending on the cut of the stone. Dr Thomas points out that this Jasper can be of various hues, purple cerulean or green. These colours are associated with the rulership and territory of the Kingdom. Cerulean needs extra comment as it is a rarely used hue. It is derived from the colour of the sky but not the light blue of the midday, but rather the bluey -green of the edges of the day. Its inclusion here seems to indicate the passing onto of a new age not the zenith of the Millennial Age. In Rev 4v3 the occupant of the throne is said to be like a jasper stone. This is in contrast with the Great white Throne and its occupant the Eternal Father Himself.

God is spirit and Zechariah 2v5,10 details that God will be the glory in the midst of her. All their glory is derived. God alone is the initiator of glory. Thus, it is the Father who

initiates and the Son who is derived therefore. That is what the essence of these words, father and son, mean notwithstanding false trinitarian theology.

Why does this Holy Jerusalem need a wall? Are not all her enemies defeated? Have not all sinners been subjugated to the second death? The city wall has gates and foundations, twelve of each. These are expressly associated with the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 Apostles so binding the Old & New Testaments in-separately together at the climax of the purpose of God. The Jews must not discount the Ecclesia nor must the gentile Ecclesia discount the Hope of Israel to which they are naturally alien. No one can enter without passing though the gates of Israel. The edifice is founded upon the work of the Apostles of the Lamb. There is a wall which keeps a division and separation between those outside and those within. The truth is by definition exclusive to some but inclusive to others. The wall keeps out the sinner and enshrines the saint!

Think of it a city not centred upon sin! Not a gathering place of the indulgent where every avarice can be participated in as the cities of today, blot the landscape and blaspheme God's Holy purpose. That purpose is to fill His creation with immortal children grateful to fellowship with Him in Eternity as their esteemed Father, truly a city of Gold!

The city has four sides. It is a square and is built symmetrically around the cardinal points of the compass. Nothing is out of place, nothing is rushed or haphazard, nothing is coincidental or by chance, all has been framed and prepared from the very beginning and revealed to the believers now some two thousand years ago!

Ephesians 2v20-22 is a good place to pause before this exposition is completed in the next class God willing.

"*The household of God and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together grows unto an holy temple in the Lord : in whom you are also builded together for an habitation of God through the spirit*".

A Voice from the Altar Russel Noonan