

No Temple Therein

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

23 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.

24 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 honour into it.

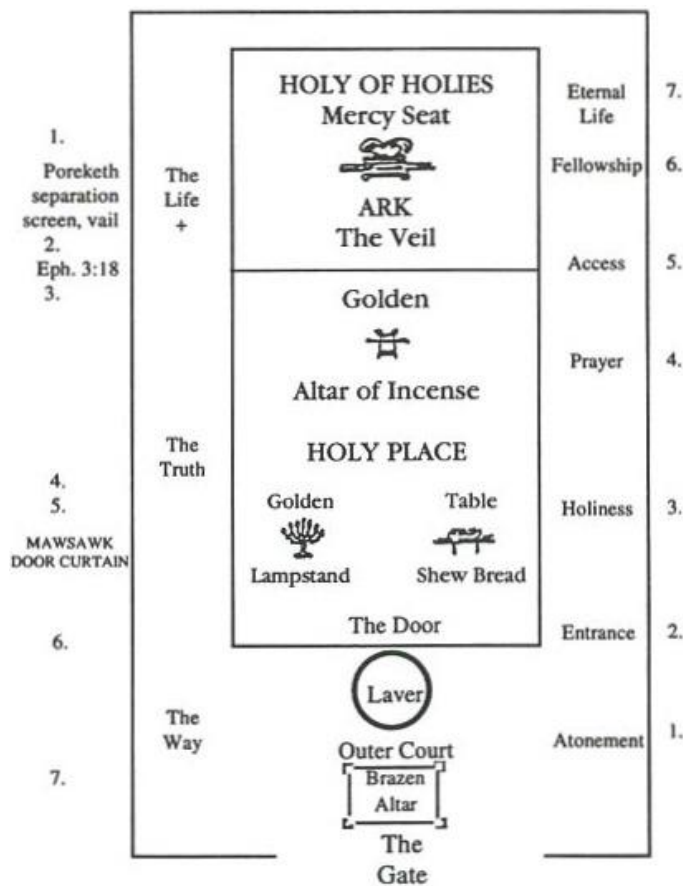
25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defiles, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or makes a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life..

John was being shown in vision the glory and wonder, in this 21st chapter and the first 8 verses, where the millennium, the 1000 year Kingdom of God has drawn to an end. But from verse 9 onwards, John is being shown in spiritual and symbolic shades of colour of the glory of the manifestation of God through the saints during the Kingdom.

In the earlier verses, the Spirit described to John *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.* The following verses from verse 9 onwards describe the construction of this spiritual dwelling place, and how it is formed. Thinking about the first dwelling place that God designed for His glory, to be amongst His people, we recall how it had three sections. There was the outer court, where the sinner would approach. There was the Holy Place where the priests



would carry out work on behalf of the people, offering prayers, fellowship and light. Then at the far end, furthest away from the sinner, was the Holiest of all. Three levels of separation – Holy, holy, holy. The Holiest of all, was where the High Priests entered just once a year to make atonement for the people, representing the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. These three sections represent the three states which a human can be found in their levels of

acceptation to God. Those who are sinners, who are repentant, yet are corrupt, and seek to approach God. These are the not saved, but the opportunity of life is available to them. This is now known as the court of the Gentiles. There is the Holy Place. This is where the priests share a closer relationship with God, and is the state of those who are within the Ecclesia, as Priests a Holy Nation, operating under their High Priest Jesus Christ, who intercedes for them. It is still in the mortal state. Yet the way into the Holiest of all is made possible to them one day – when the day of atonement is fully come. The Most Holy, the Holiest of all, represents the State of immortality, or perfect fellowship with the Father, the manifestation of the glory of God, seen in the representative immortal saints in the form of the Cherubim. Only Jesus has entered this Holiest, but has made access to the Holiest – eternal life possible for all those who are faithful in the Holiest. Those who labour in the Holiest are described by Peter in 1 Peter 2:9: *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light*

Yes, the Believers today show forth praises, carry out the work of priests in the Holy Place, maintaining the lampstand, as described in Revelation 1:13,20.

However, during the Millennium, all those who have been righteous will be given eternal life. They will be in that Holiest of all, with the High Priest, because they are immortal, they will be the cherubim, all of gold. Incorruptible, and united as one.

Having reminded ourselves of the Old Testament symbols, used to instruct and teach, going onto verse 22, it is now clear to what the passage is referring to.

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

The word for 'temple' here in Greek is *naos* from a word meaning dwelling place. Dr.Thomas for this reason does not use the word temple, but the word *nave*. It is to be understood as the Holy Place – the main part of the tabernacle. (In church architecture speak it is the main long section)

So we understand from this that as the Ecclesia has passed into the Most Holy – has been given eternal life. The Lord God Almighty – Yahweh Elohim of Armies – He who will be Mighty Ones of Armies – and the Lamb are the Holy Place, in other words, there is no longer segregation in the Jerusalem which is above. At the moment it comprises believers in mortality, but who live as citizens in the Heavenly State, and obey the rules of New Jerusalem, and look for that city whose builder and a maker is God.(Hebrews 11: 10) It also comprises the Father and the Son, who are in the Most Holy. There is a division, - caused by mortality. But the time will come when that Jerusalem will only be the Most Holy, all within will be eternal, immortal, and will be comprised of the Father, the Son – the Lamb, and the Elohim, the saints in Glory, thus Lord God Almighty and the Lamb.

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 Because this Jerusalem, this spiritual city, is made up of immortal people – not all sitting together in one place literally, but spread across the globe, preaching and teaching the Word, and will of God, to those in the outer court, they are the brightness to which the leaders of the Gentiles will seek. There will be no more sun- emperors, and dictators, and tyrants, nor any need for the moon, the ecclesiastical system of false religion, to guide peoples and nations. This language is taken from the prophecy of Isaiah 60: 3,19 *And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.* The Lamb is the light thereof. In the tabernacle of Moses, the Lampstand had seven branches, from a central stem, with knops, flowers and bowls representing the almond tree,. Which speaks of the resurrection, made of pure gold, all beaten out of one piece, whose sole function was to produce light from the pure oil olive, giving a bright light with no corruption. It was the work of the saints beaten out of the same tried faith as Christ Jesus – all relying on him to distribute to them first, and from them to emanate the brightness of truth. Ye are the branches said Jesus to his disciples. In the Kingdom to come, the Saints in Glory will be that Lampstand. Each saint is a manifestation of Christ himself. Their life is his life. They and the Lamb have become one. (John 17:21)

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 honour into it. Of course, this is a reminder that some nations will have retained their territorial identity, and unique character as a nation, even within the Kingdom, when all will speak one pure language. We recall our recent Bible class, where we spoke about the sheep and goat nations. Some nations will refuse to submit, and as a nation they will be destroyed - even though individuals within will be permitted the opportunity of

repentance. As the prophet Ezekiel reminds us the nation that refuses to go up to Jerusalem to worship, upon them there will be no rain. The remaining nations – those who bring gifts as described in Psalm 72:10,11 will be able to bask in unprecedented benevolence and just rule, enjoying the consequences of obedience, - note the phrase - *which are saved...* Nations who as peoples together have bowed the knee at the Name of Jesus, and confessed him as their Saviour. These men and women will form the mortal inhabitants in the court of the Gentiles or nations, who will go up from year to year to walk in the Light. *And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.* Access to the Word of God, will be freely available. Teachers and preachers on hand in every village, town and city – so no symbolic gates, restricted access – like the curtain around the tabernacle court all will see clearly the work of the High Priest and His Helpers, who work as One.

New Jerusalem will at first be centred in the area of literal Jerusalem, but in time, as the stone that filled the whole earth, will grow and expand so that there will be no space left for any insurrection, rebellion, or corruption of religious apostasy. *And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defiles, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or makes a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.* The Rod of iron will crush and break in pieces the disobedient, and the disciples of the serpent who work and make a lie. Accountability will still be necessary. The Lamb's book of life, will still be in operation, only a new volume, for the subjects of this Kingdom, Nothing will escape his notice, as the Saints will judge righteously, and those who commit evil will be blotted out of that book – just as men and women were treated in the 6000 years previously.

Brother Terry

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