

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How shall God care for His people?
2. Who shall be in this great city?
3. Describe the New Jerusalem.
4. What will be the physical dimensions of the New Jerusalem?
5. Why will there not be a temple in the holy city?

SUMMARY:

One of the most beautiful facts of the new heaven and new earth is the assurance that God shall dwell with those who have their place in His kingdom. It will not be just in Spirit as we now experience His presence but it will be in person. His tabernacle (home) will be with men. He will care for His own, even as a parent nurtures a little child.

The view of this New Jerusalem is one of splendor and extreme beauty, all of the gold and precious stones denoting all the great virtues, holiness and purity of God's kingdom. The beautiful gates of pearl, the enduring foundations of the city, the glory of the wall and the street paved with gold give evidence of the majesty of God. The presence of the saved ones protected from anything that defiles is a wonderful assurance for each believer.

Note especially the "no mores". No more sun, no more death, no more sorrow, no more crying, no more pain, no more night, and in Chapter 22, no more curse.

NOTES:

[SoF:10] We believe that both the saved and the lost will be resurrected; the saved unto life eternal and the lost unto eternal damnation.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #12

December 13, 2020

Fourth Quarter

NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH

LESSON TEXT: *Revelation 21:1-27*

LESSON SETTING: Heaven

TIME: Approximately 96 AD.

- I. GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.** **[SoF:10]** Revelation 21:1-8
 - A. God Shall Dwell with His people (vs. 3) Isaiah 57:15
 - B. God Shall Care for His People (vs. 4) Isaiah 25:8, 51:11
 - C. Overcomers Only Shall Inherit All Things (vs. 7)
Romans 8:17; 1 John 3:1
 - D. All Others Have Part in the Lake of Fire (vs. 8) Romans 6:21;
Hebrews 6:8
- II. GOD'S GREAT CITY.** Revelation 21:9-21
 - A. The Twelve Gates (vs. 12, 21)
 - B. The Twelve Foundations (vs. 14, 19, 20)
 - C. The Dimensions (vs. 16)
 - D. The Wall (vs. 18)
- III. THE GLORY OF THE CITY.** Revelation 21:22-27
 - A. The Temple - God and the Lamb (vs. 22) Ephesians 2:20-22
 - B. The Light (vs. 23) Isaiah 60:19; John 1:4; 1 John 1:5
 - C. The Saved Are There (vs. 24-26) Luke 13:29; 20:35-36;
Revelation 7:13-17, 22:14
 - D. No Defilement There (vs. 27) Matthew 5:20; 1 Corinthians 6:9

GOLDEN TEXT: *HE THAT SAT UPON THE THRONE SAID, BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW.* Revelation 21:5

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: 1 John 4:1-21

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Isaiah 7:14; 9:1-7; Luke 2:1-20

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ, The Triumphant Lord

TOPIC: GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS LOVE - Christmas

INTRODUCTION:

Our study this quarter has concerned the end of this present world and the picture of the eternal home for all believers. It is only proper and very timely to consider the evidence of God's love for us in providing a way of salvation through His Son. We will study in this lesson, "the old, old story, of Jesus and His love."

God saw that man, while having sinful hearts often desired to serve God, but did not have the ability to remain faithful. He had previously established a plan of worship and of sacrifice but this lacked power. Then He sent His Son as a supreme sacrifice, an evidence of His boundless love, and with this sacrifice was given a power through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit whereby men could faithfully serve Him finding a deliverance from sin and temptation.

Those who experience God's saving grace are filled to overflowing with love for Him and have a desire to commit their all to Him. All too often though, this first love "cools off" almost imperceptibly, and people are enticed again by earthly pleasures, entertainment and even oft-time becoming too involved in business or civic affairs. While perhaps not necessarily being evil, they take our time and our talents, which we had promised to give in God's service.

Perhaps our greatest responsibility in demonstrating love is to try to reach a needy world with the gospel message of Christ's love and salvation so that His birth and His death on the cross shall not be in vain.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Those who have followed Christ will be with Him throughout eternity to enjoy all the blessings He has provided for them.

GOLDEN TEXT: AND WE HAVE SEEN AND DO TESTIFY THAT THE FATHER SENT THE SON TO BE THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD.

1 John 4:14

John could say, "*We have seen and do testify,*" because He had been with Jesus and knew of His origin and most assuredly of His death on the cross. But his knowledge did not stop there. After a few bleak days of despair after the death of Jesus, he also, with others, witnessed the resurrection of Jesus. He saw Jesus and talked with him, "*until the day in which He was taken up after that He through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom He had chosen: To whom also he showed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.*" (Acts 1:2-3) John also witnessed the ascension of Jesus. His heart burned with love and gratitude for the One who had done this to become the Savior of the World.

We have not witnessed these things in the same sense that the Apostles did, but each believer has experienced God's forgiveness for sins repented and confessed, and has felt the power of His salvation and knows the joy of His salvation. We perhaps have not "seen" but we have "felt". There is no doubt in our hearts. It is real to us. Surely we too can testify that the Father sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. He is our Savior!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF December 14 – 20

M. The Birth of Jesus. Matthew 1:18-25

T. The Word of Love. Matthew 25:31-46

W. The Loyalty of Love. Matthew 27:51-61

T. The Demonstration of Love. John 3:7-21

F. The Triumph of Love. John 20:11-18

S. The Ministry of Love. Ephesians 3:7-21

S. *God's Supreme Gift of Love. 1 John 4:1-21

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