

Hidden Hills *Missionary* Baptist Herald

“Preaching Jesus Christ crucified, buried, and risen to a condemned world”



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The Eternal Home

By Leon King

Few people pass through life without some thought of heaven and the life to come. The Bible gives us some beautiful insight concerning the eternal home of God's elect, redeemed people. A close reading of the Apostle John's description of the New Jerusalem on the New Earth will prove to be a rich blessing to those who truly know Jesus Christ and have been forgiven of their sins.

If we think only of the things we can see, touch, smell, and hear in this world, we can never gain an understanding of the eternal home of God's people. The word eternity, itself, is worthy of our most profound thoughts.

Verses nine through twenty-seven of the twenty-first chapter of Revelation are an awesome description of what is in store for God's people. The writer will quote the verses and make some short comments.

Rev 21:9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

This section comes immediately after John saw the New Heaven and the New Earth which is described in verses one through eight. The angel bid him come so he could view the bride, the Lamb's wife. The word "bride" comes from a Greek word which is translated both as "bride" and "daughter

in law," each translation suggests marriage. The bride is said to be the Lamb's wife. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world. He is said to be a lamb in many New Testament passages.

Please note with me some verses in the New Testament which speak of the bride.

The New Testament (NT) teaches that Christ, the Bridegroom, has the bride.

John 3:29 (Words of John, the Baptist) *He that hath the **bride** is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.*

The NT teaches an espousal of the church to Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:2 *For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have **espoused** you to one husband, that I may present you **as a chaste virgin** to Christ.*

The term "espoused" is used only here in the NT. According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, espouse means "To contract or betroth to another." Usually said of the parents or those standing in loco parentis. To pledge, commit, or engage." Paul had espoused the church of God which was at Corinth to one husband – to Christ. This teaches us that those in the local church are to be considered the bride of Christ. Corinth was a local church.

The NT teaches Christ's love for the Church.

Christ's love for the church is clearly seen in Ephesians 5:22-32. The relationship between Christ and the Church is best seen in a good, sound marriage arrangement between a husband and wife. Christ is the bridegroom, the church the bride.

Ephesians 5:22-32 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

The NT teaches the marriage of the Lamb is yet future.

The bridegroom (Christ) has the bride, but the marriage supper of the Lamb (who is the bridegroom) will occur in the future. In Revelation 19, John is writing about "things which must shortly come to pass." The marriage has not yet taken place, but will when the Lord's church is called to the marriage supper.

Revelation 19:7-9 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Rev. 21:10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

The angel showed the Apostle John the New Jerusalem descending out of heaven from God. ***And showed me that great city*** which city is no other than the church, the bride, the Lamb's wife; just as the apostate church seen in the 18th chapter of this book, is called the great city. This, then, is the antithesis of the false church, mystery Babylon the Great, which was destroyed. New Jerusalem is the home of the

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Lord's church just as the city on seven hills was said to be the woman who represented the false church. The following passages speak of the false church:

Revelation 14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

Revelation 17:1-5,18 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: 2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. 3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten

horns. 4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. ...And the woman which thou sawest is **that great city**, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

The heavenly city has the glory of God – the majesty and splendor of the Almighty – the light of the city was like the light of a most precious stone – a jasper. The jasper was a gem among the ancients known for any bright colored chalcidony except the carnelian. It was most esteemed when it was of a green color. We already know from Revelation 4:2,3 that the appearance of the one who sat on the throne was like a jasper. It is said to be clear as crystal – beautiful, flawless.

21: 12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

The names written on the gates with the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel are probably the same names as those listed in Revelation 7:4-8 from whence twelve-thousand were sealed of each tribe. They are Judah, Reuben, Gad, Asher, Nephthali, Manasseh, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulon, Joseph, and Benjamin. The Old Testament presents a shadowy picture of this with the arrangement of the camp around the Tabernacle.

In Numbers, chapters two and three, we are told that three tribes were placed on each side of the tabernacle in the wilderness. These tribes were “afar off” from the tabernacle. Moses, Aaron, and Aaron’s sons along with the other Levites who had responsibility for the service of the tabernacle were near the tabernacle and stationed on all sides of it in the same way as the tribes in the outer circle. These were the elect within the elect nation – chosen of God to bear the “burden” of the tabernacle.

21:13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

Just as the tabernacle lay with definite directions, so does the New Jerusalem with three gates on each side of the city.

21:14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The wall, which is great and high, has twelve foundations – that is, twelve bases upon which the wall is built – and in these foundations are the names of the twelve apostles. The names of the twelve are: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon Zelotes, Judas the brother of James, and Matthias (chosen to replace Judas Iscariot, the traitor).

21: 15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. 16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

Foursquare means four equal sides. So this city has equal length, breadth, and height. The measure is twelve thousand furlongs in each direction. A furlong is 582 feet. If we multiply 582 feet times twelve thousand, we get 6,984,000 feet.

If we divide this number by 5,280, the number of feet in a mile – we get 1322.73 miles. This is the size of the city. Awesome! Magnificent! This is the Father’s house of many mansions – the place Jesus has prepared for his bride, the church.

21:17 And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

The wall appears to completely encircle the city, so the measure given is for the height of the wall which is 144 cubits. A cubit can vary from about 18 inches to 21 inches. For the purpose of putting this in modern perspective, the writer will assume 18 inches. If we multiply 144 cubits times 18 inches,

we have 2,592 inches. Divide that by 12 (the number of inches in a foot), and you have 216 feet. This is the height of the wall around the city. Astounding, isn't it?

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

The wall was made of jasper – perhaps, the green color as already mentioned. The city is made of the purest gold. It is difficult to imagine gold so pure that it like clear glass. Are these metaphors? The writer doesn't think so.

19 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 chalcidony; the fourth, an emerald; 20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

The foundations or bases of the wall are garnished with twelve kinds of precious stones. The word garnish comes from the Greek word "kosmeo" and means to adorn, garnish, or trim. So, we see the "cosmetics" of the foundations are beautiful precious gems. It is amazing how wicked men kill one another over the possession of a few of these in this life.

21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

Most people who venture written comments on this verse and the ones surrounding it want to make all of this metaphorical. The writer does not. He believes it means precisely what it says. This is amazing! Every individual gate is of one pearl. The street (not streets) of the city is pure gold; so pure it is like transparent glass. We've never seen anything like this on this earth! "*But eye hath not seen, neither has entered into the heart of man the things God has prepared for them who love him*" – it is only through his Spirit that we know these things.

One commentator said this of this verse: "...it

is to let us know that the mansions of heaven will be most glorious places, giving the souls of those to whom God shall give to enter into them, an infinite satisfaction, beyond what the most rich and glorious things in the world can give our outward senses."

Speaking of mansions, we cannot help but think of Jesus' promise:

John 14:2 *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.*

The only other place the Greek word is found which here is translated "mansions" is in John 14:23. "*Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*"

The translators of the King James Bible did a good job in translating the word for a continuing abode as "mansions." Here is the meaning from the *Oxford English Dictionary*: "A place where one stays or dwells; a place of abode; an abiding place. A separate dwelling-place, lodging, or apartment in a large house or enclosure; the chief residence of a Lord." What a fitting description for our mansion in the Father's house!

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

The immediate fulfillment of God shall there supply all; God shall be all in all.

1 Corinthians 15:26-28 *The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.*

The saints there shall want nothing and, therefore, shall not need a house of prayer; they shall know perfectly will not need any to teach them; they shall always see Christ and will need no ordinances whereby to remember him.

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.

Indeed, no need of the sun or moon, yet it is evident that both shall be on the new earth in eternity. Remember, before the sun, moon, or stars appeared in the heavens in the beginning of creation, God said, *“Let there be light, and there was light.”* *“God is light and in him is no darkness at all.”* If the apostle Paul saw at noon-day a light *“above the brightness of the sun,”* and him who spake was Jesus, then we have some shadowy idea of the brightness of our Lord Jesus Christ. A certain man argues that there is no such thing as light, per se, but light is the absence of darkness. In this heavenly place, no darkness will ever dim the light of God.

Regarding the sun and moon: Isaiah 66:22-24 *“For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. 23 And it shall come to pass, that from **one new moon to another**, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD. 24 And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.*

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.

The word “nations” comes from the Greek word “ethnos” and is translated in other passages as “gentiles, heathen, and people. This undoubtedly does not refer to political nations as we know nations today; but they are undoubtedly the different kindred of those who have been redeemed. These are the nations of them which are saved, which perhaps refers to those of every kindred, people, tongue, and nation today. In the church, however, there are no such distinctions, for we are neither male nor female, Greek nor Barbarian, Jew nor Gentile, but one in Christ – this is the bride.

These nations of the saved shall walk in the light of the city which suggests they are outside the city proper, yet on the new earth. There are kings on the earth. Those, who are the re-

deemed, in the Lord’s churches have been made both kings and priests. This all suggests that they are the ruling element on the new earth. This ruling element, the kings, shall bring their glory and honour into the city.

As to the identity of the nations who will be on the new earth, yet are not part of the bride, we can only guess. It is our opinion that these will be the people spared at the end of the one thousand years reign who are taken into eternity in their natural bodies.

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

No bars and no locks – no works of darkness – no darkness – forever light! There is absolute safety and freedom from the dark hand of criminals. They, of course, except they repent and believe the gospel shall never enter the gates of that celestial city.

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

This apparently speaks of the kings of the nations in verse 24, who shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into the city. It is abundantly clear that there are kings who shall have rule over the nations outside of the city, the lamb’s wife.

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

This verse does not suggest that there are people on the new earth who are defilers, who work abominations, or liars—for they have all had their part in the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. At the great white throne judgment described in the 20th chapter of Revelation, all those whose names were not found written in the Lamb’s book of life were cast into the lake of fire. We are told this is the second death.

For those who are God’s children, rejoicing is in order because their names are written in heaven. Their names were written there from before the foundation of the world. God’s beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, came into the world to die and save *his* people from their sins! Amen!



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Schedule of Services

Sunday Worship..... 12:00 PM

Wednesday Prayer..... 7:00 PM

Our meeting house is located just south of the intersection of Bendapole Road and Passthebait Avenue

Have you been lied to?

Has any one ever said to you, "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life?" That may be a **lie!** Did they tell you about the things God hates? Yes, God hates some people as well as loving others. Did they forget to tell you that God hated Esau but loved Jacob (Romans 9:13)? How about all the reprobate people listed in Romans, chapter one? They are said to be filled with fornication (sexual impurity), wickedness, greediness, malice, envy, murder, strife, deceit, slander, speakers of evil, haters of God, insolent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, foolish, covenant breakers, inhuman, implacable and unmerciful.

Did they also forget to tell you that **"God is angry with the wicked every day?"** (Psalms 7:11).

The same Bible that says "God is love" also says God hates and that He is a God of justice and judgment. Did they tell you he loves holiness and hates wickedness?

O, about that wonderful plan for your life? **"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."** (Psalms 9:17). **"Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup."** (Psalms 11:6).

"The LORD is king for ever and ever: the heathen are perished out of his land. LORD, thou has heard the desire of the humble; thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear." (Psalms 10:16,17).

The Lord does love. He loves His own people. And who are His people? They are those who have fallen under the convicting work of God and have repented of their sins and believed the Gospel of Christ, that is, Christ came to save sinners from their sins. It is they—His people—that have their sins forgiven and will enter Heaven's gates.

No man can cause you to believe in Christ nor will merely praying a prayer save you. Your **only** hope is in a godly sorrow for your sin and believing Jesus Christ died in your place to deliver you from your sin. The scriptures say, **"Repent ye, and believe the gospel."** **"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."** (John 3:36).

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