

TITLE: FIVE NEW THINGS

TEXT: REVELATION 21:1-4

INTRODUCTION: (1) I WANT TO BEGIN THIS MORNING BY ASKING SOME PROBING QUESTIONS.

* NOW THEY ARE PROBING FOR YOUR ANSWERS TO THEM WILL REVEAL WHERE YOUR HEART IS TODAY AND MOST LIKELY HOW YOU VIEW LIFE AND LIVE LIFE AND WILL REVEAL PRIORITIES AND BELIEFS THAT DIRECT YOUR LIFE.

** NOW THE QUESTIONS ARE VERY SIMPLE.

*** NO. 1 DO YOU LONG FOR HEAVEN OR BEING IN ETERNITY WITH GOD?

**** NO. 2 DO YOU THINK ABOUT HEAVEN OR THE ETERNAL STATE VERY MUCH? THE NEXT QUESTION IS A FOLLOW-UP TO THIS ONE.

(2) NO. 3 DO YOU THINK ABOUT HEAVEN AT ALL?

* NO. 4 DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HEAVEN FROM THE BIBLE?

** AND LASTLY NO. 5, WHEN YOU DIE, DO YOU BELIEVE YOU WILL GO TO HEAVEN, AND IF YES, WHY WILL YOU GO TO HEAVEN?

*** NOW I ASK THOSE QUESTIONS FOR WITHOUT HESITATION THERE IS A DECLINING INTEREST IN HEAVEN AMONG PROFESSING CHRISTIANS IN OUR NATION.

**** AND I SAY THAT BECAUSE THERE IS SUCH A PREOCCUPATION WITH MATERIAL THINGS, SUCCESS, COMFORT, SPORTS, RETIREMENT, ENTERTAINMENT AND AMUSEMENT.

(3) AND I DIDN'T SAY THERE WAS ANYTHING WRONG WITH THESE THINGS IF GUIDED BY THE **PRINCIPLES OF GOD'S WORD, BUT IT IS** CLEARLY WRONG TO BE PREOCCUPIED WITH THESE THINGS.

* AND QUITE FRANKLY MANY OF US ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE TEMPORAL OVER THE ETERNAL BECAUSE WE HAVE IT PRETTY GOOD RIGHT NOW.

** AND THERE IS A DANGER AND A TEMPTATION THAT WE BECOME SO COMFORTABLE IN THIS LIFE THAT WE FORGET AND DO NOT FOCUS ON THE FACT THAT WE ARE BUT STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS IN THIS WORLD.

*** I MEAN WE SHOULD SEE OURSELVES, IF WE ARE TRUE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST, AS NOMADS, AS VAGABONDS, AS ALIENS, AS GYPSIES IN THIS WORLD.

**** BUT QUITE THE CONTRARY, FOR SOME, HEAVEN IS VIEWED AS AN UNWELCOME INTRUSION OF OUR TIME, AN INTERRUPTION INTO OUR SCHEDULE, OUR CAREER GOALS, OUR MARRIAGE PLANS, OUR VACATION PLANS, OR EVEN OUR HOLIDAY PLANS.

***** AND YOU CAN MAKE APPLICATIONS IN YOUR OWN LIFE IF THERE ARE THINGS YOU ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO - GRADUATION, MARRIAGE, RETIREMENT, VACATION, A NEW JOB, A GAME, A CONCERT, A DIFFERENT PLACE TO LIVE OR WHATEVER.

- AND MY POINT IS, MANY OF US NEED TO BE THINKING MORE ETERNALLY OVER WHAT IS TEMPORAL OR TEMPORARY THINKING ABOUT THE GLORY OF HEAVEN AND THE ETERNAL STATE.

- FOR BELIEVER, OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN, QUOTE PHILIPPIANS 3:20&21.

(5) NOW OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN, BUT THE QUESTION I ASK NOW IS, IS YOUR HEART?

* HAVE WE FIXED OUR ATTENTION ON THINGS ABOVE? ABOVE SHOULD BE OUR FOCUS AND **THAT'S WHY WE HAVE ADMONITIONS TO SET** OUR AFFECTIONS ON THINGS ABOVE AND NOT ON THINGS OF THE EARTH.

** LET ME GIVE YOU A FEW THAT ARE VERY FAMILIAR. JESUS SAID THIS IN MATTHEW 6:19-21 (QUOTE THEM).

*** THEN QUOTE COLOSSIANS 3:1-4, I PETER 1:4, PHILIPPIANS 1:23, LUKE 12:15, II CORINTHIANS 4:17&18, II CORINTHIANS 5:1&2, I JOHN 2:15-17 AND PROVERBS 23:4&5.

**** NOW CLEARLY, WE ARE TO SET OUR AFFECTIONS, OUR DESIRES, OUR WANTS, OUR MINDS, OUR FOCUS ON ETERNAL THINGS THAT LAST AND NOT ON THINGS THAT ARE GOING TO BURN UP AND PASS AWAY OR FLY AWAY LIKE RICHES.

(6) AND WHAT WE SET OUR AFFECTIONS ON REVEALS WHERE OUR HEARTS ARE AT.

* SO THE GLORY OF HEAVEN, THE GLORY OF THE ETERNAL STATE, A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH WITH A NEW JERUSALEM SHOULD BE MORE OF OUR FOCUS.

** AND THE FOCUS OF OUR STUDY TODAY WILL BE THE ETERNAL STATE SOME NEW EXCITING THINGS WHICH ARE AHEAD FOR TRUE **BELIEVERS, WHAT HENRY MORRIS CALLS: "THE MOST GLORIOUS CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE,"** SPEAKING OF REVELATION 21&22.

*** AND I TRUST OUR STUDY WILL ENHANCE AND ENCOURAGE US AND TO HELP US REFOCUS OUR PRIORITIES AND WHAT WE SHOULD BE LIVING FOR AND WHAT SHOULD PREOCCUPY MORE OF OUR THINKING.

**** AND WITH THAT SAID, TODAY WE EMBARK ON A SHORT TOUR OF HEAVEN, THE ETERNAL STATE AS WE EXAMINE REVELATION 21:1-4.

(7) AND THE TITLE **OF OUR STUDY TODAY IS "5 NEW THINGS."** AND THOSE NEW THINGS WILL BE BROUGHT FORTH IN THE OUTLINE I HAVE COME UP WITH FOR TODAY.

* NO. 1 A NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH, V. 1; NO. 2 A NEW JERUSALEM, V. 2; NO. 3 A NEW NEARNESS, V. 3; AND NO. 4 A NEW ORDER, V. 4.

** AND WITH THAT OUTLINE AS OUR TOUR GUIDE FOR OUR STUDY, LOOK AT V. 1 PLEASE **WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT, A NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH.**

I. A NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH, (READ V. 1)

A. NOW FOLLOWING THE JUDGMENT OF THE GREAT WHITE THRONE IN REVELATION 20:11-15, WHAT PRECEDES OUR TEXT TODAY, **JOHN'S** ATTENTION IS NOW DRAWN TO A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH.

* AND HOW REFRESHING THAT MUST HAVE BEEN FOR JOHN IN GOING FROM THE JUDGMENT OF PEOPLE WITHOUT CHRIST AND BEING CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE AND WATCHING THAT TO SEEING A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH.

**** FOR JOHN SAID IN REVELATION 20:11, "I SAW A GREAT WHITE THRONE." THEN IN REVELATION 20:12, "I SAW THE DEAD (THE UNSAVED DEAD) THE GREAT AND THE SMALL STANDING BEFORE THE THRONE," TO NOW HERE IN REVELATION 21:1, "THEN I SAW A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH."**

*** NOW WHAT A WONDERFUL CHANGE OF **SCENERY IN JOHN'S VISIONS OF THINGS TO** COME OF WHAT HE SAW.

**** AND WITH THE JUDGMENT OF UNSAVED PEOPLE NOW COMPLETE, JOHN IS SHOWN A NEW ERA OPENING WHEREIN EVERYTHING IS NEW, WHAT IS CALLED THE ETERNAL STATE OR THE DAY OF GOD IN II PETER 3:12, ETERNITY FUTURE WITH OUR GREAT GOD.

1. AND NOTE THAT THE PHRASE "A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH" COMES FROM TWO PROPHECIES FOUND IN THE BOOK OF ISAIAH.

*** FOR IN ISAIAH 65:17 GOD SAYS: "FOR BEHOLD, I CREATE NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH; AND THE FORMER THINGS WILL NOT BE REMEMBERED OR COME TO MIND."**

** AND THEN IN ISAIAH 66:22 THE LORD GOD **DECLARES: “FOR JUST AS THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH WHICH I MAKE WILL ENDURE BEFORE ME,” DECLARES THE LORD, “SO YOUR OFFSPRING AND YOUR NAME WILL ENDURE.”**

*** NOW WHAT ISAIAH PROPHESED ABOUT APPROXIMATELY 700 YEARS BEFORE CHRIST **WAS BORN NOW BECOMES A REALITY IN JOHN’S VISION.**

**** THERE WILL BE A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH.

2. AND THE GREEK WORD **TRANSLATED “NEW”** HERE LIT. MEANS FRESH, UNUSED, UNWORN, OF A NEW KIND, UNPRECEDENTED.

* SO NEW IS NOT ONLY NEW IN TIME BUT A FRESH DEPARTURE AND VERY DIFFERENT FROM ALL THAT HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY KNOWN.

** SO WE HAVE SOMETHING COMPLETELY NEW, A NEW CREATION, UNLIKE THE OLD EARTH AND HEAVENS. SOMETHING FRESH NEVER BEFORE SEEN.

*** AND BY THE WAY, THE WORD HEAVEN IS NOT TALKING ABOUT A NEW HEAVEN WHERE GOD HAS BEEN RULING FROM CALLED THE THIRD HEAVEN OR PARADISE-**GOD'S ABODE IN II** CORINTHIANS 12:2&3, BUT A NEW SKY, A NEW ATMOSPHERE, A NEW ATMOSPHERIC HEAVEN.

**** **FOR CERTAINLY GOD'S ABODE ABOVE THE** FIRST HEAVEN-THE SKY, THE ATMOSPHERE, AND **ABOVE THE 2'D HEAVEN, THE STARS AND SPACE, THE 3'D HEAVEN, GOD'S ABODE** IS NOT TAINTED BY SIN AND DOES NOT NEED TO BE REPLACED, **IT'S PERFECT.** (NOT 3 LEVELS OF HEAVEN)

3. SO HEAVEN HERE IS THE ATMOSPHERIC HEAVEN, IT WILL BE NEW, LIKE THE NEW EARTH.

* AND THIS IS NOT PLAN B BY GOD, A NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH, BUT A PART OF THE PLAN AND PRE-DETERMINED PURPOSE OF GOD.

** A PROCESS THAT HE ORDAINED TO BRING ABOUT IN HIS PURPOSES OF ALLOWING OR ORDAINING SIN IN THE WORLD THAT HE WOULD USE FOR HIS GLORY.

*** BUT NOW AT THIS POINT OF REDEMPTIVE HISTORY, **IT'S TIME AS ALL OF GOD'S ENEMIES** AND SIN HAVE BEEN PUT AWAY TO BRING ABOUT THE DESIGNED END THAT GOD HAS BEEN WORKING OUT THROUGHOUT HISTORY, A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH.

4. NOW WITH THAT SAID, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FIRST HEAVEN AND THE FIRST EARTH? WELL, THE ANSWER AT THE MIDDLE PART OF V. **1 IS, THEY "PASSED AWAY."**

* AND THAT EVENT TOOK PLACE IN REVELATION 20:11 - THEN I SAW A GREAT WHITE THRONE AND HIM WHO SAT UPON IT, FROM WHOSE PRESENCE EARTH AND HEAVEN FLED AWAY, AND NO PLACE WAS FOUND FOR THEM. THEY WERE DESTROYED AS JESUS SAID IN MATTHEW 24:35 (QUOTE IT).

** NOW THE TEXT THAT GIVES US THE DETAILS ABOUT THE FIRST HEAVEN AND EARTH PASSING AWAY IS IN II PETER 3:10-13 WHERE IT SAYS:

*** II PETER 3:10 - BUT THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME LIKE A THIEF, IN WHICH THE HEAVENS WILL PASS AWAY WITH A ROAR AND THE ELEMENTS WILL BE DESTROYED WITH INTENSE HEAT, AND THE EARTH AND ITS WORKS WILL BE BURNED UP.

V. 11 - SINCE ALL THESE THINGS ARE TO BE DESTROYED IN THIS WAY, WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE OUGHT YOU TO BE IN HOLY CONDUCT AND GODLINESS,

V. 12 - LOOKING FOR AND HASTENING THE COMING OF THE DAY OF GOD, BECAUSE OF WHICH THE HEAVENS WILL BE DESTROYED BY BURNING, AND THE ELEMENTS WILL MELT WITH INTENSE HEAT!

V. 13 - BUT ACCORDING TO HIS PROMISE WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH, IN WHICH RIGHTEOUSNESS DWELLS.

**** NOW THE QUESTION I ASK FROM V. 13 OF II PETER 3 IS, WHAT FOLLOWS THE CATAclySMIC JUDGMENT OF THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH?

5. THE ANSWER IS A NEW HEAVEN, A NEW EARTH, IN WHICH WHAT DWELLS? **RIGHTEOUSNESS, NO MORE SIN, IT'S PURE, IT'S NOT CURSED.**

* SO PETER PROPHESED ABOUT THIS TIME AND JOHN NOW SEES IT.

** A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH, AS THE FIRST HEAVEN AND FIRST EARTH PASS AWAY, DISSOLVE, THEY ARE NO MORE. SO NOW WE HAVE A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH.

*** AND ONLY ONE PHYSICAL FEATURE OF THE NEW EARTH IS GIVEN TO US HERE WHICH SHOWS US WHY THERE WILL BE A NEW **ATMOSPHERE OR A NEW HEAVEN, "THERE IS NO LONGER ANY SEA."** OCEANS OF THE WORLD, FOR THE OLD EARTH IS IN VIEW.

**** NOW WHAT A MAJOR CHANGE, FOR **PRESENTLY ABOUT 75% OF THE EARTH'S** SURFACE IS COVERED BY WATER.

6. WE LIVE IN A WATER BASED WORLD WITH A LARGE PORTION OF OUR HUMAN BODIES MADE UP OF WATER, ABOUT 90% OF OUR BLOOD AND 65% PERCENT OF OUR BODIES ARE WATER.

* AND WE NEED WATER TO LIVE AND A LOT OF WATER NOW FOR THE HYDROLOGICAL CYCLE THAT CAUSE WEATHER AND CLOUDS AND GIVES US RAIN.

** BUT WITHOUT A SEA OR THE OCEANS OF THE WORLD, THERE CAN BE NO HYDROLOGICAL CYCLE, WHICH TELLS US EVERY FEATURE OF LIFE AND CLIMATE WILL BE DRAMATICALLY **DIFFERENT OR SIMPLY SAID: "NEW."**

*** AND OF COURSE WITH NEW GLORIFIED BODIES WE WILL NOT NEED WATER, NOR WILL WE NEED HYDROLOGICAL CYCLES BECAUSE THE SUN IS NO LONGER A STAR IN THE HEAVEN THAT GIVES LIGHT, FOR THERE IS NO NIGHT IN HEAVEN FOR THE LORD GOD WILL ILLUMINE EVERYTHING IN THE ETERNAL STATE IN REVELATION 22:1&5.

**** NOW THERE WILL BE WATER IN THE NEW JERUSALEM, FOR IN REVELATION 22:1 IT TALKS **ABOUT "A RIVER OF THE WATER OF LIFE, CLEAR AND CRYSTAL, COMING FROM THE THRONE OF GOD."**

7. BUT OBVIOUSLY THIS RIVER WILL BE A DIFFERENT KIND OF RIVER AND WATER

* BUT KNOW THIS, IN THE NEW HEAVENS AND EARTH, THEY WILL BE RADICALLY DIFFERENT WHICH LEADS US TO ANOTHER NEW THING IN THE ETERNAL STATE, A NEW JERUSALEM, OUR **2'D POINT TODAY, LOOK AT V. 2 PLEASE.**

II. A NEW JERUSALEM, (READ V. 2)

A. NOW THE NEXT THING JOHN SEES IN HIS VISION IS THE NEW JERUSALEM.

* AND THERE ARE TWO ADJECTIVES THAT DISTINGUISH THIS JERUSALEM RIGHT FROM THE GET GO FROM THE EARTHLY JERUSALEM.

** NO. 1 JOHN USES THE WORD HOLY TO DESCRIBE IT, HE CALLS IT THE HOLY CITY.

*** AND CERTAINLY THIS DESCRIPTION IS IN CONTRAST TO WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT THE EARTHLY JERUSALEM IN REVELATION 11:8, WHERE IT IS CALLED SODOM, STRESSING ITS WICKEDNESS.

**** BUT THIS JERUSALEM WILL BE A HOLY CITY, FOR THE HOLY ONE, GOD ALMIGHTY WILL LIVE IN IT AND RULE IT AND THE PEOPLE HE RULES IN IT ARE PEOPLE THAT HAVE BEEN MADE HOLY BY HIS GRACE.

1. SO IT'S A HOLY CITY, BUT ALSO IT'S A NEW CITY, FOR ITS ORIGINATION POINT, ITS SOURCE AND EXISTENCE COMES FROM ABOVE. IT IS TOTALLY NEW AND WAS DESIGNED AND BUILT BY **THE CREATOR IN HEAVEN, GOD'S ABODE.**

*** FOR NOTICE THE PHRASE, "COMING DOWN OUT OF HEAVEN FROM GOD."**

** AND WE SEE THIS SAME PHRASE IN V. 10 OF REVELATION 21 **WHERE IT SAYS: "AND HE CARRIED ME AWAY IN THE SPIRIT TO A GREAT AND HIGH MOUNTAIN, AND SHOWED ME THE HOLY CITY, JERUSALEM, COMING DOWN OUT OF HEAVEN FROM GOD."**

*** AND THEN IN REVELATION 3:12 OUR LORD SAYS TO THE OVERCOMERS (BELIEVERS) IN THE **CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA THESE WORDS: "HE WHO OVERCOMES, I WILL MAKE HIM A PILLAR IN THE TEMPLE OF MY GOD, AND HE WILL NOT GO OUT FROM IT ANYMORE; AND I WILL WRITE ON HIM THE NAME OF MY GOD, AND THE NAME OF THE CITY OF MY GOD, THE NEW JERUSALEM, WHICH COMES DOWN OUT OF HEAVEN FROM MY GOD, AND MY NEW NAME."**

**** NOW WHERE DOES THIS CITY COME FROM AGAIN?

2. IT "COMES DOWN OUT OF HEAVEN FROM GOD."

* SO THIS HOLY NEW JERUSALEM IS A HEAVENLY CITY THAT COMES DOWN TO EARTH. IN OTHER WORDS IT WAS CREATED AND PREPARED IN HEAVEN TO COME DOWN TO THE NEW EARTH.

**** AND BELOVED IT'S DESIGNED AND BUILT BY GOD, AND THAT CITY WAS THE ONE THAT ABRAHAM WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO BY FAITH IN HEBREWS 11:9&10, FOR IT SAYS:**

***** HEBREWS 11:9 - "BY FAITH HE LIVED AS AN ALIEN IN THE LAND OF PROMISE, AS IN A FOREIGN LAND, DWELLING IN TENTS WITH ISAAC AND JACOB, FELLOW HEIRS OF THE SAME PROMISE;**

V. 10 - FOR HE WAS LOOKING FOR THE CITY WHICH HAS FOUNDATIONS, WHOSE ARCHITECT AND BUILDER IS GOD."

**** NOW THIS CITY IS HEAVEN FOR ABRAHAM AND ALL THE PATRIARCHS, IT WAS THE ULTIMATE PROMISE LAND, FOR NOTICE WITH ME WHAT IS SAID ABOUT IT IN HEBREWS 11:13-16.

3. HEBREWS 11:13 - **"ALL THESE DIED IN FAITH,** WITHOUT RECEIVING THE PROMISES, BUT HAVING SEEN THEM AND HAVING WELCOMED THEM FROM A DISTANCE, AND HAVING CONFESSED THAT THEY WERE STRANGERS AND EXILES ON THE EARTH, THEY WERE PILGRIMS, A PILGRIM MENTALITY.)

V. 14 - FOR THOSE WHO SAY SUCH THINGS MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THEY ARE SEEKING A COUNTRY OF THEIR OWN.

V. 15 - AND INDEED IF THEY HAD BEEN THINKING OF THAT COUNTRY FROM WHICH THEY WENT OUT, THEY WOULD HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN.

V. 16 - BUT AS IT IS, THEY DESIRE A BETTER COUNTRY, THAT IS, A HEAVENLY ONE. THEREFORE GOD IS NOT ASHAMED TO BE CALLED THEIR GOD; FOR HE HAS PREPARED A WHAT? **CITY FOR THEM.**"

* NOW THIS FUTURE CITY-HEAVEN, A BETTER COUNTRY, THE PROMISED LAND IS ALSO TALKED ABOUT IN HEBREWS 12:22&23 WHERE IT SAYS:

V. 22 - **"BUT YOU HAVE COME TO MOUNT ZION** AND TO THE WHAT? CITY OF THE LIVING GOD, THE HEAVENLY JERUSALEM, AND TO MYRIADS OF ANGELS,

V. 23 - TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CHURCH OF THE FIRSTBORN WHO ARE ENROLLED IN HEAVEN, AND TO GOD, THE JUDGE OF ALL, AND TO THE SPIRITS OF THE RIGHTEOUS **MADE PERFECT."**

** AND THEN ONE LAST REFERENCE IN **HEBREWS, FOR HEBREWS 13:14 SAYS: "FOR** HERE WE DO NOT HAVE A LASTING CITY, BUT WE **ARE SEEKING THE CITY WHICH IS TO COME."**

**** NOW THE CITY WHICH IS TO COME IS THE NEW JERUSALEM, WHICH COMES DOWN OUT OF HEAVEN FROM GOD.

**** AND THIS CITY IS UTOPIA, IT IS HEAVEN, THE FUTURE DWELLING PLACE OF BELIEVERS FROM ALL TIME.

4. FOR WHEN GOD CREATES THE NEW HEAVENS AND EARTH, THE NEW JERUSALEM WILL DESCEND INTO A PERFECT HEAVEN AND EARTH AND WILL SERVE AS THE DWELLING PLACE OF THE SAVED FOR ALL ETERNITY.

* AND IN ESSENCE, THE NEW JERUSALEM IS THE CAPITAL CITY OF HEAVEN.

** AND JOHN IS NOW GIVEN A SIGHT THAT FOR CENTURIES HAS BEEN A MATTER OF FAITH TO BELIEVERS AND WHAT A SIGHT IT IS.

***** FOR JOHN ENDS V. 2 BY SAYING, "MADE READY AS A BRIDE ADORNED FOR HER HUSBAND."**

**** AND THE SPLENDOR AND BEAUTY OF THIS CITY IS REFLECTED IN THE PICTURE OF A RADIANT BRIDE READY FOR HER WEDDING.

5. AND MADE READY OR PREPARED SHOWS WHAT PREPARATION HAS BEEN DONE BEFORE THIS CITY SHINES FORTH IN ALL ITS SPLENDOR.

* AND DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT JESUS SAID IN JOHN 14:1-3 IN PREPARING HIS DISCIPLES FOR HIS DEATH: (QUOTE JOHN 14:1-3).

** NOW THE WORD PREPARE USED IN VV. 2&3 IS THE SAME VERB TRANSLATED PREPARED OR MADE READY HERE IN REVELATION 21:2 SO THIS CITY WILL BE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANY BRIDE, AS BEAUTIFUL AS OUR BRIDES WERE AND ARE FOR WE THAT ARE HUSBANDS. THE NEW JERUSALEM IS A PREPARED PLACE, LIKE A BRIDE FOR HER WEDDING DAY AND CHRIST HAS BEEN PREPARING THIS PLACE FOR A LONG TIME.

*** BUT ALSO NOTICE IN V. 2 THE WORD **"ADORNED" OR "BEAUTIFULLY DRESSED"** DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE.

**** AND THIS WORD FROM WHICH WE GET OUR ENGLISH WORD COSMETICS SHOWS US THE CARE TAKEN IN PREPARING A BRIDE ON HER WEDDING DAY.

***** AND AS A BRIDE PREPARES FOR HER WEDDING DAY WITH HER GOWN AND HAIR DONE BEAUTIFULLY AND LOOKING HER ABSOLUTE BEST, THIS CITY IS THE DIAMOND OF HEAVEN, A BEAUTIFUL BRIDE PREPARED BY CHRIST.

6. AND BELOVED THESE WORDS JUST EXPRESS THE BEAUTY AND SPLENDOR OF THE NEW JERUSALEM THAT HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR BELIEVERS.

* AND IN THE REST OF REVELATION 21 AND 22:1-5 DETAILS WILL BE GIVEN ABOUT THIS CAPITAL CITY OF HEAVEN THAT ARE INCREDIBLE AND SPECTACULAR.

** AND ALL THE BELIEVERS OF ALL TIME WILL DWELL IN THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY.

*** BUT BEYOND THE BEAUTY OF THE NEW JERUSALEM, THERE WILL BE SOMETHING AT **LEAST TO ME IS MORE INCREDIBLE THAN IT'S** BEAUTY AND THAT IS A NEW NEARNESS, WHICH IS OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, LOOK AT V. 3 PLEASE.

III. A NEW NEARNESS, (READ V. 3)

A. NOW FOR THE 21ST TIME IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION JOHN HEARS A LOUD VOICE, WHICH COMMUNICATES AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.

* AND THIS ANNOUNCEMENT COMES FROM THE THRONE, THE BETTER TRANSLATION RATHER THAN FROM HEAVEN, FOR THE GREEK WORD FOR THRONE IS IN THE OLDER MANUSCRIPTS.

** BUT FROM THE THRONE THIS LOUD VOICE WHICH IS NOT IDENTIFIED, POSSIBLY AN ANGEL, **SAYS: "BEHOLD THE TABERNACLE OF GOD IS AMONG MEN."**

*** AND THE WORD TABERNACLE LIT. MEANS TENT OR DWELLING PLACE. AND IN THE O.T. **THE TABERNACLE WAS THE PLACE WHERE GOD'S GLORY DWELT WITH HIS PEOPLE, IT WAS THE PLACE WHERE GOD'S PRESENCE WOULD DESCEND.**

**** IN FACT EXODUS 25:8 SAYS IN REFERENCE TO THIS TABERNACLE AND ITS SANCTUARY: **"LET THEM CONSTRUCT A SANCTUARY FOR ME, THAT I MAY WHAT? DWELL AMONG THEM."**

1. NOW IN THE NEW JERUSALEM, GOD IS GOING TO TABERNACLE, DWELL AMONG HIS PEOPLE PERMANENTLY. FOR THE TABERNACLE WAS A MOVABLE TENT, A TEMPORARY PLACE OF WORSHIP AND SACRIFICE IN THE WILDERNESS FOR THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL. BUT THIS DWELLING PLACE WILL BE PERMANENT.

*** FOR THE NEXT PHRASE IN V. 3 SAYS: "AND HE WILL DWELL AMONG THEM."**

* AND THE GREEK WORD FOR DWELL IS USED IN JOHN 1:14 IN TALKING ABOUT THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST, AND IT SAYS: (QUOTE IT).

** AND BELOVED IN THE GREAT TRUTH OF THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST, GOD DWELT AMONG MEN, GOD CAME TO SAVE PEOPLE AS EMMANUEL-GOD WITH US.

*** AND WHAT A WONDERFUL TRUTH THAT IS FOR ISAIAH 7:14 SAYS: (QUOTE IT).

**** AND ISAIAH 7:14 IS FULFILLED IN MATTHEW 1:23 WHERE IT SAYS: (QUOTE IT).

2. NOW THE PURPOSE OF GOD BECOMING MAN, GOD WITH US, WAS TO SAVE MAN, TO SAVE PEOPLE HIS PEOPLE, FROM THEIR SINS-RIGHT? QUOTE MATTHEW 1:21.

* AND BECAUSE THAT PURPOSE WAS PERFECTLY FULFILLED, ONE DAY GOD WILL DWELL PERMANENTLY WITH HIS PEOPLE.

**** FOR THE REST OF V. 3 SAYS: "AND THEY SHALL BE HIS PEOPLE, AND GOD HIMSELF WILL BE AMONG THEM."**

***** AND WHY ARE THOSE REDEEMED ONES HIS PEOPLE? BECAUSE OF THE ABSOLUTE SUCCESS OF THE CROSS, **THE DESIGN OF CHRIST'S DEATH** WAS TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.**

****** AND GOD BY GRACE EFFECTIVELY AND EFFECTUALLY SAVES EVERY PERSON CHRIST DIED FOR AND EVERY ONE OF THEM WILL BE IN THE NEW JERUSALEM.**

3. AND GOD WILL BE AMONG HIS PEOPLE. BELOVED, GOD WITH US HERE WILL REACH ITS OPTIMUM AND ULTIMATE MEANING! **GOD'S SHEKINAH, HIS PRESENCE, HIS GLORY ARE IN THE NEW JERUSALEM FOREVER.**

* GOD WILL LITERALLY BE AMONG HIS PEOPLE FOREVER. AND YES HE IS WITH EVERY BELIEVER NOW IN THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BUT HE WILL PHYSICALLY AND PERMANENTLY BE WITH US IN THE NEW JERUSALEM.

** AND THIS IS A NEW NEARNESS, WHICH LEADS TO A FINAL BLESSING IN OUR STUDY TODAY, A NEW ORDER. LOOK AT V. 4 PLEASE.

IV. A NEW ORDER, (READ V. 4)

A. NOW THERE IS A NEW ORDER IN THE NEW JERUSALEM IN THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW **EARTH, FOR AT THE END OF V. 4 IT SAYS: "THE FIRST THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY" OR THE FORMER THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY AND THE NIV SAYS HERE: "FOR THE OLD ORDER OF THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY."**

* AND THAT TRANSLATION GIVES US THE GIST OF THE MEANING HERE. FOR THE OLD ORDER OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE RELATED TO THE PAIN OF SIN IS GONE FOREVER.

**** BELOVED ALL OF SIN'S EFFECTS ARE DONE AWAY WITH, THERE IS A NEW ORDER OF LIFE THAT WILL NO LONGER HAVE TEARS.**

***** FOR GOD HIMSELF WILL WIPE AWAY EVERY TEAR FROM OUR EYES. HE WILL GET OUT HIS HEAVENLY HANDKERCHIEF AND PERSONALLY WIPE AWAY EVERYONE OF THEM.**

****** AND THIS CAN MEAN EITHER THAT THERE ARE NO TEARS EVER IN HEAVEN, THAT WE HAVE A RETROSPECTIVE LOOK AT THE OLD ORDER OF LIFE WHICH IS FILLED WITH TEARS AT TIMES, TEARS SHED IN OUR LIVES, SO WE WILL NOT BE IN THE OLD ORDER OF THINGS THERE.**

1. IN THE NEW JERUSALEM WE HAVE A NEW ORDER IN HEAVEN WITH NO MORE TEARS, THERE'S NOTHING TO CRY ABOUT.

*** OR IT COULD MEAN, AND I'M CERTAINLY NOT** BEING DOGMATIC HERE, THAT AFTER THE GREAT WHITE THRONE, WE WILL HAVE TEARS FROM SEEING LOVED ONES WHO DID NOT KNOW CHRIST CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE.

** AND GOD WHO IS WITH US, WIPES EVERY ONE OF THEM AWAY IN A TENDER WAY AND REMOVES THAT IMAGE FROM OUR MINDS FOR ALL ETERNITY.

*** FOR CERTAINLY THINKING ABOUT LOVED ONES IN ETERNAL FIRE WOULD BRING CONTINUAL TEARS. AND CHRONOLOGICALLY AND SEQUENTIALLY REVELATION 21 FOLLOWS **THE GREAT WHITE THRONE, SO THAT'S A** POSSIBILITY.

**** BUT REGARDLESS, THE CLEAR TRUTH IS NO MORE TEARS. AND THOUGH GOD IN SOME SENSE BOTTLES OUR TEARS IN HIS COMPASSION NOW, PSALM 56:8, THERE WILL BE NO MORE IN THIS PERFECT PLACE.

2. NOW THREE REASONS THAT ARE GIVEN HERE AND REASONS ARE GIVEN HERE FOR NO MORE TEARS, NO. 1 THERE IS NO MORE DEATH.

* MEANING NO MORE FUNERALS, NO MORE GRAVESIDES, NO MORE CASKETS, NO MORE CALLING HOURS, FOR DEATH LEADS TO MOURNING OR SORROW THE NEXT WORD IN V. 4.

** FOR THE GRIEF THAT PRODUCES SORROW AND MOURNING ARE GONE AND CRYING FROM THAT IS GONE.

*** AND CRYING, THE NEXT WORD HERE GOES **BEYOND TEARS, IT'S THE OUTCRY, THE VOICE OF TEARS, IT'S THE WAIL OF LOSING SOMEONE**-BUT NO MORE CRYING IN HEAVEN.

**** AND FINALLY, NO MORE PAIN. AND BECAUSE OF SIN WE HAVE MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL PAIN AND HURT AND BECAUSE OF SIN IN GENERAL AND DETERIORATING CORRUPTIBLE BODIES WE HAVE PHYSICAL PAIN, AND EVEN PAIN FROM LOSING SOMEONE IN THIS CONTEXT.

3. AND BELOVED, NO MORE PAIN FROM ANYTHING IN HEAVEN-PHYSICALLY, EMOTIONALLY OR IN ANY WAY.

* NO MORE PAIN PILLS, NO MORE IBUPROFEN, NO MORE TYLENOL, NO MORE VICODIN, NO MORE MORPHINE, NO MORE NEED FOR THESE THINGS, FOR THERE IS A NEW ORDER. WOW!

IN WRAP UP AND IN APPLICATION: (1) BELIEVER, WHAT A DAY THAT WILL BE, A GLORIOUS DAY. NO MORE TEARS, NO MORE DEATH, NO MORE MOURNING, NO MORE CRYING, NO MORE PAIN!

* AND ON TOP OF THAT THE TABERNACLE OF GOD IS AMONG HIS PEOPLE AND WE WILL BE HIS PEOPLE.

**** NOW THAT'S ENOUGH, BUT THERE IS MORE TO COME IN TALKING ABOUT THE BEAUTY OF THE NEW JERUSALEM.**

***** BUT IN APPLICATION, IF YOU'RE WEARY AND WORE DOWN TODAY, DRINK THIS TRUTH IN, BE ENCOURAGED.**

****** IF YOU'RE GRIEVING OR IN PAIN, DRINK THESE TRUTHS IN, A NEW ORDER, A NEW WAY OF LIFE IS COMING.**

(2) GALATIANS 6:9 SAYS: (QUOTE IT).

* AND BROTHERS AND SISTERS MAY WE THINK MORE ABOUT THESE THINGS AND LONG FOR HEAVEN.

** MAY WE SET OUR AFFECTIONS ON THINGS ABOVE, MAY WE LAY UP TREASURE IN HEAVEN, MAY WE GROAN FOR GLORY.

*** AND MAY WE SET THAT HOPE BEFORE US CONTINUALLY.

**** AND MAY WE LIVE WITH THE GLOW OF **HEAVEN'S** GLORY HERE IN THE NASTY NOW AND NOW.

(3) AND AS WE WALK WITH OUR SAVIOR, MAY THERE BE SWEET FELLOWSHIP NOW THAT GIVES US A TASTE OF HEAVEN.

* FOR OUR LORD IS WITH US NOW AND PROMISES TO NEVER LEAVE US. AND MAY WE LOVE HIM AND HIS PEOPLE AND THE LOST AND KNOW THE JOY OF OBEDIENCE THAT GIVES US A FORETASTE OF GLORY DIVINE.

** AND MAY THAT FORETASTE WET OUR WHISTLES FOR THE LONGING AND JOY OF HEAVEN.

*** FANNY CROSBY WHO WAS BLIND WROTE THESE WORDS:

**** WHEN MY LIFE WORK IS ENDED, AND I CROSS THE SWELLING TIDE, WHEN THE BRIGHT AND GLORIOUS MORNING I SHALL SEE, I SHALL KNOW MY REDEEMER WHEN I REACH THE OTHER SIDE, AND HIS SMILE WILL BE THE FIRST TO **WELCOME ME...**

(4) THRU THE GATES OF THE CITY IN A ROBE OF SPOTLESS WHITE, HE WILL LEAD ME WHERE NO TEARS WILL EVER FALL; IN THE GLAD SONG OF AGES I SHALL MINGLE WITH DELIGHT BUT I LONG TO MEET MY SAVIOR FIRST OF ALL.

*** THAT'S MOST IMPORTANT, NOT OUR FAMILY** THAT WAS SAVED, NOT THE GLORY OF HEAVEN, BUT JESUS.

* BELOVED, ONE DAY OUR FAITH WILL BE SIGHT.
BUT UNTIL THEN MAY WE BE FOUND FAITHFUL
FILLED WITH HOPE FOR ONE DAY THERE WILL BE
ANEW HEAVEN, A NEW EARTH AND A NEW
JERUSALEM. **(LET'S PRAY)**