

Morning Sermon 5/15/2022 – “The Glories of the New Jerusalem”
Revelation 21:22-27

I. *No temple –*

²² But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. Revelation 21:22 (NKJV)

1. *Meaning no building, no physical structure –*

In Old Testament times, you had the tabernacle, then the temple as places to meet with God:

A. *The tabernacle of meeting –*

⁷ Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass *that* everyone who sought the LORD went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp. Exodus 33:7 (NKJV)

B. *The temple –*

² Then Solomon determined to build a temple for the name of the LORD, ...

⁵ And the temple which I build *will be* great, for our God is greater than all gods. ⁶ But who is able to build Him a temple, since heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him? Who *am* I then, that I should build Him a temple, except to burn sacrifice before Him? 2 Chronicles 2:1 & :5-6 (NKJV)

2. *The temple was destroyed and rebuilt and a temple existed in Jesus’ day, one which He cleansed (twice), but when Jesus was on earth, He was the true temple of God –*

¹⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, **“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”**

²⁰ Then the Jews said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” ²¹ But He was speaking of the temple of His body. John 2:19–21 (NKJV)

⁹ For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; Colossians 2:9 (NKJV)

3. *After Christ ascended to Heaven, God’s people became God’s dwelling place, His temple on earth –*

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19–22 (NKJV)

4. *The New Jerusalem, the church, Christ’s bride has the Almighty God and the Lamb as their temple, meaning:*

A. *We will have an intimacy with God we never dreamed of here on earth –*

¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 1 Corinthians 13:12 (NKJV)

B. *We will be unhindered by sin, from knowing, seeing or fellowshiping with God or with each other: Jesus cleansed us as a temple, with His blood –*

⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, Revelation 1:5 (NKJV)

C. *Yet, in the New Heaven, and New Earth, all is cleansed, the entire people of God, are completely justified, sanctified and glorified –*

²¹ **because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. Romans 8:21 (NKJV)**

II. *No need for the sun or moon -*

²³ **The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. Revelation 21:23 (NKJV)**

Like flashlights on a bright sunny day ...

1. *We who belong to Christ already know something of His light –*

² **The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. Isaiah 9:2 (NKJV)**

¹² **Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” John 8:12 (NKJV)**

2. *Yet, now some of God’s glory is veiled, hard for even us to see, because of sin, veiled especially to those not saved –*

³ **But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus’ sake. ⁶ For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:3–6 (NKJV)**

Holy, Holy, Holy! Though the darkness hide Thee, Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,

In this dark world, we see God’s glory through the clouds of sin, including our own, an ungodly world does not see or appreciate God’s glory at all –

¹⁴ **But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)**

Consider also – 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 – primarily about Christ’s cross -

3. *In the New Heaven and New Earth, the New Jerusalem will be full of God and Christ’s bright glory, even the glory of the Lamb - The Lamb is its light. Revelation 21:23 (NKJV)*

The Lamb is Jesus slain, sacrificed, on the cross; as such in this world -

³ **He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Isaiah 53:3 (NKJV)**

Things despised now on earth, will be beautiful and glorious in Heaven ... in the eyes of the New Jerusalem, Christ’s bride ... will appreciate the Lamb slain – John 1:29 (NKJV)

⁹ **And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” ¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!” ¹³ And**

every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power *Be* to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!" ¹⁴ Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever. Revelation 5:9–14 (NKJV)

III. Nations (Gentiles) kings of the earth, us –

²⁴ And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Revelation 21:24 (NKJV)

1. *Nations = Gentiles saved walk in the light of the New Jerusalem, which is the Lamb –*
2. *Kings of the earth –*

For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." Revelation 5:9B-10

- A. *Of course, David, Solomon, Josiah, Hezekiah, good kings of Israel, but every tribe is here, and those made kings and priests ... who were not kings or priests on earth –*

³⁵ ... Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, *in dens and caves of the earth*. ³⁹ And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, ⁴⁰ God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Hebrews 11:35–40 (NKJV)

- B. *May be very different people than those who were kings on earth –*

²⁴ And all the trees of the field shall know that I, the LORD, have brought down the high tree and exalted the low tree, dried up the green tree and made the dry tree flourish; I, the LORD, have spoken and have done *it*." Ezekiel 17:24 (NKJV)

3. *Glory of the nations (Gentiles) barely mentioned in the Bible, but ... –*

²⁶ And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. Revelation 21:26

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if *there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things*. Philippians 4:8 (NKJV)

IV. Unshut gates –

²⁵ **Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). No night, no sin, no danger ... See above :26 gates are open constantly, so the glory and the honor of the nations might be brought in** ↑↑↑

"If Babylon had seduced nations and kings by her evil spell, New Jerusalem will have the nations to **walk by its light**." K.H. Easley

Referring to a moral light - ⁸ For you were once darkness, but now *you are light in the Lord*. Walk as children of light Ephesians 5:8 (NKJV)

V. *No sin or sinner allowed* –

²⁷ But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Revelation 21:27 (NKJV)

1. *By no means, this is strong language ...*

A. *Anything that defiles, leaves spots* –

²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, **and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.** James 1:27 (NKJV)

B. *Causes an abomination* –

²² You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. Leviticus 18:22 (NKJV)

⁸ The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But the prayer of the upright is His delight. ⁹ The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But He loves him who follows righteousness. Proverbs 15:8–9 (NKJV)

C. *Or a lie – we live in a world full of lies now!*

2. *Only those written in the Lamb's Book of Life* –

A. *These were sinners, just like others, but are washed in Christ's blood* –

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God **who takes away the sin of the world!** John 1:29 (NKJV)

⁵ and from Jesus Christ, ... who loved us **and washed us from our sins in His own blood,** Revelation 1:5 (NKJV)

You were slain, **and have redeemed us to God by Your blood** Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, Revelation 5:9

⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. **But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.** 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (NKJV)

B. *These are the ONLY ONES (written in the Lamb's Book) who will enter ...*

³ If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? ⁴ But *there is* forgiveness with You, That You may be feared. Psalm 130:3–4 (NKJV)

¹⁸ “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. Isaiah 1:18 (NKJV)

⁶ Jesus said to him, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.** John 14:6 (NKJV)

¹² Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 (NKJV)