

HWMR: AN OVERVIEW OF THE CENTRAL BURDEN AND PRESENT TRUTH OF THE LORD'S RECOVERY BEFORE HIS APPEARING, (Week 12)

Scripture Reading: Rev. 3:12; 19:7; 21:2, 9-11, 22; 22:17

Becoming the New Jerusalem

Revelation 3:12	He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.
Revelation 19:7	Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
Revelation 21:2	And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
Revelation 21:9	And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.
Revelation 21:10	And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
Revelation 21:11	Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.
Revelation 21:22	And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.
Revelation 22:17	And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who is thirsty come; let him who wills take the water of life freely.

Day 1

Revelation 21:9-11 - And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb. And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

I. For our Christian life and church life we need to have a **vision of the New Jerusalem—Rev. 21:9-11:**

- A. The New Jerusalem is a composition of **divinity and humanity** mingled, blended, and built up together as one entity; all the components have the **same life, nature, and constitution** and thus are a **corporate person**—John 14:20, 23; Rev. 21:2-3, 9-23.
- B. The New Jerusalem is the **consummation** of the central vision of God's economy and of the **high peak** of the divine revelation—vv. 2, 9-11:
 1. The New Jerusalem, the ultimate consummation of the Bible, involves **God becoming man and man becoming God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead**—v. 2; 3:12:
 - a. In Christ, God has become man to make man God in His life and in His nature so that the redeeming God and the redeemed man can be **mingled, constituted**, together to be **one entity**—the New Jerusalem—21:3, 22.

- b. Eventually, the triune, eternal God becomes the New Jerusalem **incorporated with all of us**, and we also become the New Jerusalem through the process of God's organic salvation—Rom. 5:10; Rev. 3:12.

The New Jerusalem is a matter of **dispensing, mingling, and expression**. First, the processed Triune God is dispensed into His chosen people. Then the processed, consummated Triune God mingles Himself with His redeemed and regenerated tripartite people to perfect, transform, and glorify them. Eventually, there will be the **universal and eternal** expression of the processed and consummated Triune God. Therefore, with respect to the New Jerusalem, the words dispensing, mingling, and expression are very meaningful.

The New Jerusalem is the conclusion of the entire divine revelation. The New Jerusalem is also the central and ultimate consummated significance of the entire divine revelation. The record concerning this wonderful entity in Revelation 21 and 22 could not have been written by anyone other than the **Triune God Himself**. Only He has the wisdom to speak of an entity that is the tabernacle of God and also His wife. Only He could compose these chapters that speak of a city with twelve foundations and twelve gates, a city that is pure gold and that has the glory of God. The vision of the New Jerusalem was given to the apostle John, but this vision has a source, and the source is the Triune God. Therefore, we may have full assurance regarding the truth, the reality, of the heavenly Jerusalem presented in Revelation 21 and 22. The revelation concerning the New Jerusalem was put into writing by John, but for centuries it has not been properly and fully understood by God's people. How we thank the Lord for giving us a clear view of the New Jerusalem! Having this view, we may be certain of our destination. **Our ultimate destination is the heavenly city, the Jerusalem above, the New Jerusalem.** (*The Conclusion of the New Testament: The Church, the Kingdom, and the New Jerusalem, chapter 255*)

Day 2

Revelation 4:3 - And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance, and there was a rainbow around the throne like an emerald in appearance.

Revelation 21:11 - Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

2. The New Jerusalem is a composition of God's chosen, redeemed, regenerated, sanctified, renewed, transformed, conformed, and glorified people who have been **deified**—John 3:6; Heb. 2:11; Rom. 12:2; 8:29-30:
 - a. For us to be deified means that we are being **constituted with the processed and consummated Triune God** so that we may be made God in life and nature to be His corporate expression for eternity—Rev. 21:11.
 - b. The **deification** of the believers is a process that will consummate in the New Jerusalem; this is the **highest truth** and the **highest gospel**—Rom. 1:1, 3-4; 5:10; Rev. 21:2; 3:12.
3. The New Jerusalem is the **corporate God-man**—the enlargement, expansion, and expression of God—the corporate God—Rom. 8:29; Heb. 2:10-12; Rev. 4:3; 21:10-11:
 - a. The New Jerusalem is the **expansion and expression** of the processed and consummated Triune God with His built-up people—vv. 10-11.
 - b. The New Jerusalem is God's **enlargement and expansion**, God's expression in eternity, which is the corporate God—Gen. 1:1; John 1:1, 14; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Rev. 22:17.

Day 3

Revelation 21:2 - And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 19:7 - Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

II. The New Jerusalem is “the **bride**, the **wife** of the Lamb...the holy city, Jerusalem”—21:9-10:

- A. The apostle John saw “the holy city...prepared as a bride adorned for her husband”—v. 2:
 - 1. The New Jerusalem is a bride, indicating that she is not a material city but a **corporate person** for Christ’s satisfaction.
 - 2. As the bride, the wife of the Lamb, the New Jerusalem is Christ’s **eternal counterpart**—19:7.
- B. The New Jerusalem is the ultimate consummation of the divine romance—a **universal couple**, “a loving pair eternally”—22:17:
 - 1. The subject of the Bible is a **divine romance** of a universal couple; the male is God Himself, and the female is God’s chosen and redeemed people—Isa. 54:5; Jer. 2:2; 3:1, 14; 31:32; Hosea 2:7, 19; John 3:29; 2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:7.

Day 4

Song of Songs 6:13 - Return, return, O Shulammitte; / Return, return, that we may gaze at you. / Why should you gaze at the Shulammitte, / As upon the dance of two camps?

Song of Songs 6:4 - You are as beautiful, my love, as Tirzah, / As lovely as Jerusalem, / As terrible as an army with banners.

- 2. The divine romance is portrayed poetically in Song of Songs—1:2; 8:14:
 - a. The seeker passes through a process to become the **Shulammitte**, the duplication of Solomon and a figure of the New Jerusalem—6:13, 4.
 - b. The New Jerusalem will be a corporate Shulammitte, **including all** of God’s chosen and redeemed people.
- 3. Christ’s espousal and marriage life cover the **church age**, the **kingdom age**, and the **eternal age**:
 - a. In the church age we are **betrothed** to Christ—2 Cor. 11:2.
 - b. The **wedding day** will be the age of the millennial kingdom—Rev. 19:7.
 - c. The **marriage life** will be in the New Jerusalem eternally—21:2, 9-10.
- 4. The New Jerusalem will be the bride in the millennium for one thousand years as one day (2 Pet. 3:8) and then the wife in the new heaven and new earth for eternity (Rev. 21:2):
 - a. The bride in the millennium will include only the **overcoming saints**— 3:12.
 - b. The wife in the new heaven and new earth will include **all the redeemed and regenerated sons of God**—21:7.
- C. Revelation 22:17 indicates that Christ and the New Jerusalem as His wife will be a **universal couple for eternity**:

1. The Spirit, who is the totality of the processed Triune God, becomes one with the believers, who are now **fully matured** to be His bride—cf. Eph. 4:13, 15-16.
 2. The consummation of the processed Triune God and the consummation of God's chosen, redeemed, regenerated, and transformed people will be **one** and will be a **universal couple** expressing the Triune God for eternity.
- D. The **overcomers** in the recovered church will be the **New Jerusalem** in the millennial kingdom—Rev. 3:7-8, 12.

In the new **heaven and new earth** Christ will have a **wife**, but in the **millennium** He will have a **bride**, consisting of the overcoming believers. At His coming back Christ will marry the overcomers. This marriage is described in Revelation 19:7-9.

Revelation 19:7 says, “*Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.*” The marriage of the Lamb is the issue of the completion of God's New Testament economy. God's economy in the New Testament is to obtain for Christ a **bride**, the **church**, through His redemption and divine life. By the continual working of the Holy Spirit through all the centuries, this goal will be completed at the end of this age. Then the bride, who will consist of the **overcoming believers**, will be ready. The words His wife in Revelation 19:7 refer to the **church, the bride of Christ**. However, according to Revelation 19:8 and 9, the wife, the bride of Christ, consists only of the **overcoming believers during the millennium**, whereas the bride, the wife, in Revelation 21:2 is composed of **all the saved saints after the millennium** for eternity.

Revelation 19:7b tells us that the wife “has made herself ready.” The readiness of the bride depends on both the overcomers' maturity in life and on their being built up together as a **corporate entity**. Therefore, the overcomers are not only mature in life but also **built up together as one bride**.
(*The Conclusion of the New Testament: The Church, the Kingdom, and the New Jerusalem, chapter 258*)

Day 5

Revelation 21:22 - And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Revelation 3:12 - He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

III. The Lord Jesus will make the overcoming one in the recovered church a **pillar built into the temple of God, which is the Triune God Himself**—v. 12a; 21:22:

- A. In Revelation 21:22 we see that in the New Jerusalem the **Triune God Himself** will be the **temple**:
 1. For the overcomer to be a pillar in the temple means that he will be a **pillar in the Triune God**—3:12a.
 2. This involves being **mingled** with the Triune God and constituted with the Triune God—Eph. 3:16-17a.
- B. The Lord makes us pillars by **transforming** us, that is, by carrying away our natural element and replacing it with His divine element—Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18:
 1. The meaning of *make* in Revelation 3:12 is to **constitute us into something**, to construct us in a creative way.

2. In the church life today the **Lord desires** to make us, constitute us, into pillars in the temple of God.
- C. The Lord's work in the recovered church is to **work Himself into us**, constituting us into pillars in the temple of God—Eph. 3:16-17a; Rev. 3:12a.

In 1 Corinthians 3 Paul says that the unique foundation has been laid, but we must be careful how we build upon it. We can build with two categories of materials: gold, silver, and precious stones or wood, grass, and stubble. Wood, grass, and stubble all become dust after they are burned, but gold, silver, and precious stones do not.

In Paul's concept the natural created men are wood, grass, and stubble; and the regenerated, transformed men are gold, silver, and precious stones. When Peter came to the Lord Jesus, he was a "dusty" man, a man made of dust, because he was born of the adamic race. Adam was made of dust, and Peter was born a dusty man. Nevertheless, the Lord Jesus called him Cephas (Gk. Peter), which means "a stone". The **changing of Simon's name by the Lord Jesus to Peter** indicated that Peter would be **transformed**.

This was the reason that Peter was very strong in this concept, even in the writing of his first Epistle. He said that the Lord Jesus is a living stone, and that as we come to this living stone, we all become living stones to be built up as a spiritual house. The spiritual house is not built of wood, grass, and stubble. It is built of **transformed materials**. Because our mentality is fully occupied by the natural thought of ethics, philosophy, and morality, we overlook this matter in the New Testament. The entire New Testament, however, is saturated with this thought of the divine building of transformed humanity. The conclusion of the Bible is a **holy city composed of gold, pearls, and precious stones**. (*The Basic Revelation in the Holy Scriptures, chapter 8*)

Day 6

Revelation 3:12 - He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Romans 12:2 - And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

IV. Upon the one in the recovered church who overcomes, the Lord Jesus will write the **name of His God**, the name of the city of **God**, the **New Jerusalem**, and His **new name**—v. 12b:

- A. The fact that the name of God, the name of the New Jerusalem, and the Lord's new name are written upon the overcomer indicates that the **overcomer is possessed by God**, by the New Jerusalem, and by the Lord; that God Himself, His city (New Jerusalem), and the Lord Himself all belong to him; and that he is one with God, with the New Jerusalem, and with the Lord.
- B. The name of God denotes **God Himself**, the name of the New Jerusalem denotes the **city itself**, and the name of the Lord denotes the **Lord Himself**—v. 12b.
- C. That the name of God, the name of the New Jerusalem, and the name of the Lord are written on the overcomer indicates that what God is, the nature of the New Jerusalem, and the person of the Lord have **all been wrought into the overcomer**—John 14:19-20, 23; Eph. 3:16-17.

- D. The mentioning of the New Jerusalem as a prize to the overcomer indicates that this promise will be fulfilled in the millennial kingdom; the New Jerusalem in the millennium will be a **prize only to the overcomers**—Rev. 3:12b.

In the millennium the names of the **overcomers will remain in the book of life**. The book of life is a divine record of the names of those who partake of the blessings that God has prepared for them. The names of all the saints chosen by God and predestinated to partake of these blessings are written in this book. These blessings are in three stages: the **church**, the **millennial kingdom**, and **eternity**. The blessings in the stage of the church, such as forgiveness, redemption, regeneration, eternal life, and the divine nature, are all the initial portions. All God's chosen ones whose names are written in the book of life have a share in these initial portions to begin their spiritual life. If they **mature in life** in the church age, this earlier maturity in life will constitute a **prize to be rewarded to them**. However, those who **do not mature** in life in the church age **will not be able to enter** into the millennial kingdom at the Lord's coming back. Therefore, during the millennial kingdom their names will be erased from the book of life. After being disciplined by the Lord and growing in life unto maturity during the millennial kingdom, their names will be written in the book of life again so that they may share in the blessing of eternity. Therefore, in the coming kingdom age only the names of those believers who live an overcoming life in the church age will remain in the book of life. (*Truth Lessons, Level Four, Vol. 1, chapter 20*)