

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture texts: **Revelation 21:9-14.**
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 shall show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." 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, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are those of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.
- B. John gives a beautiful description of the church in the book of Revelation. He is carried away in the Spirit to receive the revelation about how the church is beautiful, strong, protective, and benevolent.
- C. We should never be ashamed to be a member of Christ's church.

I. JOHN IS SPEAKING OF THE CHURCH.

- A. Many descriptive phrases are used to tell us what we are looking at in John's description:
 - 1. The beloved city (20:9).
And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.
 - 2. The holy city (21:2, 10).
And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. **10** 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,
 - 3. The bride (21:2, 9).
And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. **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 shall show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."
 - 4. The wife of the Lamb (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 shall show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."
 - 5. Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven (21:10).
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,
- B. All of these refer to the church, but these descriptions are not always about the heavenly realm due to the use of these same terms in other NT books (Heb. 12:22; Eph. 5:32).
(**Heb 12:22**) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,
(**Eph 5:32**) This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.
- C. We need to look at this as describing what the church looks like when it reaches full maturity and beauty in the heavenly realm.

II. THE PHOTO SHOWS THE CHURCH HAVING "PERFECT FELLOWSHIP."

- A. The text (Rev. 21:1-8).
And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." And He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. "He who overcomes shall inherit these

things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. “But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

- B. Sin breaks our fellowship with God (Isa. 59:1-2).
Behold, the LORD’S hand is not so short That it cannot save; Neither is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear.
- C. Jesus brings us back into the right fellowship again (1Jn. 1:6-7).
If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.
- D. When we have fellowship with God, good things will start to happen.
- E. We need not worry about those who oppose us (Rev. 21:8).
“But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

III. THE PHOTO SHOWS THE CHURCH HAVING “**PERFECT PROTECTION.**”

- A. The text (Rev. 21:23-27).
And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. And the nations shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it. And in the daytime (for there shall be no night there) its gates shall never be closed; and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; and nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.
- B. Jesus promised this kind of protection (Mt. 16:18).
“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.
- C. Jesus also promised this kind of value (Mt. 13:44, 50).
“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field. **50** ...and will cast them into the furnace of fire; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
- D. All of these stones are still precious today.
- E. When Xians act like Xians then there is no fear of sinful things going on.

IV. THE PHOTO SHOWS THE CHURCH HAVING “**PERFECT PROVISION.**”

- A. The text (Rev. 22:1-5).
And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. And on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him; and they shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. And there shall no longer be any night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever.
- B. There will be no need or want. All that we need will be supplied every day, forever.
- C. There shall be no sickness or pain, all shall be spiritually nourished.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. If the church does not look like these things it is because sin has entered in and broken the fellowship, protection, and provision that it has been promised.
- B. This is a photo of how the church should look to those in the world. It should be something so attractive it will cause people to want to follow Jesus.
- C. Only Xians know of these great blessings in the church (Eph. 1:3).
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,...
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.