

## GRACIOUS LIVING IN THE NEW JERUSALEM

**PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First, let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.**

### INTRODUCTION:

The Eternal Kingdom comes after the thousand year reign of Jesus Christ on this earth. It comes after the old heaven and the old earth are burned up and a new heaven and a new earth are made (2 Pet 3:10-13). It comes after the unrepentant sinners are judged and cast into the Lake of Fire. It is during this Kingdom that the New Jerusalem comes down from Heaven. It will be the center of the universe, because the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it. Jesus promised to prepare this city for those who receive Him as their Savior (Jn 14:2-3). John said that nothing shall enter this city that can defile it or work something abominable or make a lie. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be able to enter it (Rev 21:27). This is the beautiful city which will be the home of the people of God for eternity.

### AIM OF THE LESSON:

Discover what God has revealed about this city to learn what He has promised to believers.

**OUTLINE OF THE LESSON** (use the Study Notes to add to this lesson plan as the Spirit leads you):

#### I. Description of the Eternal Kingdom (21:1-8)

The Eternal Kingdom begins with the creation of a new heaven and a new earth. The earth will change because there will be no more sea (21:1). The heavens will change because God will make all things new (21:5). The New Jerusalem will come down from Heaven (21:2) and God will dwell with His people in this beautiful city (21:3). The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in this city (22:3). The New Jerusalem will be the center of the universe. Life experienced in the Garden of Eden will be restored (21:4-7). God will remove all the wretched things of the past life such as death, sorrow, crying, and pain. Life will be filled with love, joy, peace and the other blessings of the Spirit (Gal 5: 22-23). This revelation was so amazing to John that he had to be told to record what he was seeing (21:5). However, those that refused to receive Jesus Christ and His gift of eternal life cannot enjoy this Kingdom. Instead, they will be suffering in the Lake of Fire (21:8).

**APPLICATION:** Will you be admitted into the New Jerusalem to enjoy the blessings of God's Eternal Kingdom? The only way you can have a place prepared for you in the New Jerusalem is to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior.

#### II. Description of the Eternal City (21:9 - 22:5)

The eternal city of God is the New Jerusalem, which is called the Bride, the Lamb's wife (21:9). The Bride is no longer the Church alone as it was formerly known, but now the Bride includes all believers. The saints of Israel and those of the Church will be prominent in this city. Notice the names of the twelve tribes of Israel as well as the twelve apostles of the church are found in this city (21:12, 14). This shows that it belongs to all the people of God. This city expresses the glory of God with dazzling beauty in its gates, walls, foundations and street (21:11-21). The presence of the Lord God Almighty and of the Lamb in the city makes it a place of personal worship, because they are the temple of the city (21:22). Their glory gives abundant light to all places in the city (21: 23). This city never closes its gates for it has no fear of being attacked, and furthermore, this city allows its citizens freedom to come and go as they please (21:25). It will be a city without a single record of crime because sinners that have not been born again by the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ will be forbidden to enter it (21:27). This is the city of life: it has both the water of life (22:1) and the tree of life (22:2). This will be the perfect city.

**APPLICATION:** Are you a citizen of this city? It is reserved for those who have been cleansed by the blood of the Lamb (Col 1:13-14). There is no fee that you will have to pay to live in the New Jerusalem, because Jesus paid for it all when He died on the cross for your sins. All you must do is repent of your sins and ask Jesus to become your Savior to cleanse you from all your uncleanness.

### III. Description of the Eternal Judge (22:6-21)

Three things are revealed about the eternal Judge that should cause everyone to wake up and consider seriously. First, **His coming is imminent**: it could happen suddenly at any time. That is the meaning of "come quickly." When He comes, He will bless those that have kept the sayings of this prophecy (22:7). He will reward the believers according to their works (22:12). It seems these rewards will be an eternal blessing for the believers. Now that is no small reward. Jesus repeats His imminent coming one more time (22:20), so this is an important truth for us to know.

Second, His **judgments are irreversible**, whether they bless us or curse us (22:10-11). Since these prophecies are not sealed, anyone who is interested can know what they must do to avoid His judgments and receive His rewards. When He comes, or when a person dies, no changes in that person's life is possible; His judgment of each person at that time will continue throughout eternity. There is no purgatory which can change a person and improve his situation. He that is unjust will remain unjust. He that is filthy (with sins) will continue to be filthy. He that is righteous will be righteous. He that is holy will still be holy.

Third, His **authority is invincible** (22:13-19; cf Mt 28:18). How can that be said of Him? He is eternal; He is before all things and will be the last of all things (22:13). He is the final authority. He blesses those that wash their robes in His blood so they can have the right to the tree of life (most translations of 22:14). Access to the tree of life is not granted to those that do His commandments unless it is referring to the fruit of salvation. Sins cannot be removed by good works (Eph 2:8-9), but only by the blood of Jesus Christ (Rev 7:14; 1 Jn 1:7). His authority will keep all unbelievers that live on the earth during His thousand-year reign from entering the gates of His city (22:14-15).

He sent His angel to give this message to John for the churches, so they may know how to be prepared for His coming. He is the King that God promised would come from David's family. He is the morning star that will appear in the darkened sky before the dawn of a new day (22:16). Yes, He will come for His Church in the dark hour before the Tribulation to bring His Bride to her Father's house for marriage. After He receives the scroll from His Father and begins to open it, seven years of Tribulation will darken the earth. Then He will return with His Bride and with great authority He will destroy His enemies that still remain on the earth. At last a new day or era will begin when He rules the earth for a thousand years. As a result of this good news the Spirit and the Bride urge those that hear this message to come. And those who receive this good news will tell others to come. And those who are thirsty for truth to satisfy their souls are invited to come and drink of the water of life freely (22:17).

The authority of the words in this prophecy from the Father to His Son carries a severe warning. Anyone that adds to these words will have the plagues of this prophecy added to him. And anyone that takes away from the words of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the book of life and from the holy city

**APPLICATION:** Are you ready to stand before the eternal Judge today? Have you been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ from all your sins so you can enter the New Jerusalem? If not, come to Jesus for cleansing today. If you are ready, you will be able to say with the Apostle John, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (22:20).

## THE NEW JERUSALEM IS READY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED JESUS AS SAVIOR