

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.***

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

#03-09110

New Jerusalem #20.

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Having the Glory of God

(10) And he carried me in spirit onto a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, holy Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven from God, (11) having the glory of God. And its light was like a very precious stone, as a jasper stone, being clear as crystal.

(Revelation 21:10-11 LITV)

As we continue in this series, which, without doubt, is one of the most important subjects in all of Scripture, we need to be like John and be carried away **in spirit** in order to see the significance of the holy city as it comes down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God.

The holy city is both heavenly and of God. Nothing, absolutely nothing on earth answers to this city, for it is heavenly in character through and through. Everything we see on earth associated with Mystery Babylon is a counterfeit to God's reality. Nothing of this earth and of fallen man and his corruption are part of this city or will ever be part of this city, for it is holy in character and holy in vocation and destiny, wholly set apart unto God as an integral part of His purpose and plan.

It is through New Jerusalem that all of mankind will be restored back to God, for it is the Complement (fullness) of the One who is completing the all in all (Ephesians 1:23), the One who is summing up and reconciling all things in the heavens and on earth (Ephesians 1:10; Colossians 1:19-20).

Today, all of us who believe in the Lord Jesus are part of this city in some measure, for, individually, we are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 6:16), and, corporately, **we are connected together, growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom we are being built together for God's dwelling place, in spirit** (Ephesians 2:21-22 CV). We are of God's household and growing up in His beloved Son to be His holy city of glory. We are the city-future.

I say the city-future, for this city has yet to come down out of heaven and has not been completed. Besides, there needs to be a new heaven and a new earth before it is revealed to the rest of mankind in all its glory. It is part of the New Creation when all things will be made new. **It is the New Creation!**

Now, here is the mystery or the secret of New Jerusalem. When we believe on God's Son, we become part of this New Creation, for as Paul wrote: **So that if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new** (2 Corinthians 5:17 LITV). Paul simply stated the same words that John heard coming from the One who sits on the throne: **"Behold, I am making all things new"** (Revelation 21:5 NASB).

As an aside, I believe this is one of the proofs that Paul was snatched away to see the same thing that John saw (2 Corinthians 12:1-4), only Paul could not record the words that he heard; instead, in his epistles, especially in the circular letter titled *Ephesians*, he explained the spiritual greatness of what he saw and heard.

So, when Paul wrote that those in Christ are a new creation, it was as if he pointed to New Jerusalem and declared that if you are in Christ, you are in New Jerusalem. But it is even more than this, for you are New Jerusalem, joined together with all the saints of God from down through the centuries who have been called and chosen to be New Jerusalem. You were born in her (Psalm 87:6), and you will be her as the bride of the Lambkin. Think about it!

But where does this New Creation begin? It begins in Christ! Where does glory begin? It begins in Christ!

John declared: **And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth** (John 1:14 NASB). Matthew recorded the transfiguration of the Lord Jesus as He stood on the mount: **And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light** (Matthew 17:2 NASB).

Again, where does the glory of New Jerusalem begin? It begins in Christ! Paul tells us so.

(24) I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and do fill up the things lacking of the tribulations of the Christ in my flesh for his body, which is the assembly, (25) of which I did become a ministrant according to the dispensation of God, that was given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God, (26) the secret that hath been hid from the ages and from the generations, but now was manifested to his saints, (27) to whom God did will to make known what is the riches of the glory of this secret among the nations, which is Christ in you, the hope of the glory. (Colossians 1:24-27 YLT)

When Christ, who is our life, shall be manifested, then shall ye also with him be manifested in glory. (Colossians 3:4 ASV)

It was a secret, but now it has been revealed to a people, the saints who are being raised up to be New Jerusalem. The riches of the glory of this secret is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**, and this will come about when He is manifested and the saints are manifested with Him and in Him.

Here is the good news for those in Christ who overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loves us (Romans 8:37): All who conquer through Christ will be manifested as New Jerusalem 1,000 years before the second resurrection and God's Day (2 Peter 3:12; Revelation 20:11-13). The conquerors will be manifested with Christ in glory through the first resurrection and transfiguration (Revelation 20:4-6). The world will not see New Jerusalem as a whole in that day, which will usher in the Lord's Day, the 1000-year Kingdom or Tabernacles Age, but they will see it in the face of the conquerors who will reign with Christ over the nations for the eon (age). All believers will be brought into glory in God's Day, but only the conquering believers will be brought into glory in the Lord's Day.

What is glory? Glory signifies both appearance and character. In appearance, it is likened to light. After all, **God is light** (1 John 1:5). There is no darkness in Him, which also signifies perfect character and essence. New Jerusalem will have no need of the sun or the moon, for it is the fullness of the light of God. **And its light was like a very precious stone, as a jasper stone, being clear as crystal.** From whence is this light shining. It shines from the precious stones. But what or, rather, who are these precious stones? Peter tells us that it begins with Christ, the living stone, choice and precious in the sight of God, and all in Christ are just as He is, living stones being built up as a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:4-5). The very precious stone is Christ the Head and His Body, all joined together – *the* Christ.

Again, what is glory? It is the absolute manifestation of the very essence or nature of God. It is the fullness of God in every way possible. The glory of God is the manifested expression of the full, ultimate, and absolute satisfaction of God found in His Son and all who are conformed to His image. When Jesus was transfigured on the mount, the Father's voice boomed out of heaven: **"This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"** (Matthew 17:5 NASB). The beloved Son is bringing many sons to glory (Hebrews 2:10). When the full expression of His Son is manifested through the many sons of God manifested as New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:7), the Father's heart is pleased beyond measure, and when He is well-pleased, there is glory. When the Father is satisfied, there is glory. The Father is fully satisfied when all things are as they were meant to be according His heart and mind. It is as He purposed and planned for His creation. **Glory is God in all and in all new.**