

## VII. The Realization of the Kingdom

*“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and first earth had passed away, and there is no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City; the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people...He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’” (Rev. 21:1—4)*

How we envy the Apostle John, who though banished on the desolate island of Patmos, was granted with the magnificent visions of things to come!

Like watching a series of drama, John witnessed many majestic, sublime and sacred scenes as well as many dreadful views of the future and lastly a glimpse of our eternal home, the New Jerusalem!

Revelation 21 also fulfills of the prophecy of Isaiah, *“Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered.” (Is. 65:17; 66:22)*

Following the awful scenes of the bottomless pit, the final battle, the final judgment and the lake of fire in Revelation 20, Chapter 21 brought us a holy, beautiful and serene view of the New Heaven and New Earth. The former heaven and earth have passed away. As II Peter 3:10 tells us, *“The heaven will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.”* God will make everything new.

The beautiful New Jerusalem is *“prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.” (Rev. 21:2)* The Lord Jesus is our spiritual husband, and we are His spiritual Bride. The New Jerusalem represents all who belong to Christ waiting for His coming.

The Holy City is huge in size, 1,500 miles in length, breadth and height. There are 12 gates with the names of the 12 tribes of Israel, representing spiritually the saints in the era of Old Testament. The City walls have 12 foundations with the names of the 12 apostles, representing the saints in the New Testament era. This is the city that

Abraham by faith was looking forward to, *“the city with foundation, whose architect and builder is God.”* (Heb. 11:10) All the saints throughout the periods of Old and New Testaments will dwell in the Holy City, New Jerusalem.

At this point I would like to give a personal testimony. I was born and raised up as a third generation Christian. In the winter of 1971 when my dear mother was taken away by the Lord, five of us children stood by her bed side singing and praying. We said to Mom that we are all going to meet again in the New Jerusalem! We were excited about this future family reunion. Then all of a sudden, I thought about the tremendous size of the Holy City! How are we going to find each other? We were so desperate until my second elder sister Stella exclaimed, “Let’s meet at the Gate of Judah!” we broke into joy and promised each other to do so!

There is no temple in the Holy City. Because *“The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.”* (Rev. 21:22) God and Christ are the temple. We no longer need a physical temple for worship. The City is full of worship. We will have communion with Him and worship Him unceasingly.

*“The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.”* (Rev. 21:23) Jesus is indeed our light. He said, *“I am the light of the world. Whosoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”* (John 8:12)

What a wonderful blessing! The Holy Father and the Holy Son will be our temple and light! We shall be His obedient subjects throughout eternity! God will be our eternal King! His Kingdom will be fully restored. He will reign forever and ever!

This is our Father’s world! We are His people and his soldiers! We have the responsibility to be the light and salt in this present dark world, and by preaching the gospel to fulfill God’s Great Commission and to hasten the Lord’s return!

God told his people formerly *“Shout it aloud, do not hold back!”* (Is. 58:1) Similarly He tells His Church today to *“Arise, shine, for your light has come!”* (Is. 60:1) *“Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”* (Rev. 22:20)