

Copyright © Two Journeys Ministry

Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

[www.twojourneys.org](http://www.twojourneys.org)

Please use in accordance with the copyright policy found at [twojourneys.org](http://twojourneys.org)

## **The Glories of Heaven Infinitely Surpass This Present Age**

### **Revelation 21:22-27**

Revelation 21 describes the radiantly glorious capital city of the New Heavens and New Earth... it is called the New Jerusalem. Its glories are almost beyond the power of human language to capture; but God in his wisdom has given us this astonishing chapter with these amazing words.

The first half of the chapter sets the heavenly architecture of the radiant city... it gives us its gates and foundations and dimensions... now the Holy Spirit gives us aspects of the city in amazingly NEGATIVE terms... what will NOT be there

Look at the text:

- No temple in the city
- No sun... no moon...
- No exclusions for the kings of the earth... no shutting of the gates of the city
- No night
- Nothing impure

The earthly worship experience of the Jewish people of whom John was a member was all about exclusions. The Gentiles were forbidden access into the temple grounds, and the Roman soldiers enforced this exclusion.

We all experience the rhythms of night and day, and have since we were born...

We have looked up into the sky and seen the blinding light of the sun... and the moon's softer gleam as well

And we know very well what impurities there are in our own imperfect hearts and lifestyles...

These things will in no way be missed... in every case, the heavenly experience of worship in the New Jerusalem will infinitely surpass anything we have known here on earth.

## I. Earthly Temple Fulfilled in Heavenly Worship

### A. The History of the Temple Reaches Its Ultimate End

***Revelation 21:22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.***

1. The temple was a teaching tool... established by God to teach a spiritual purpose
2. The earthly dwelling place of God... the place where God's people would go and meet with God
3. A mystery, for God is omnipresent... why would he be in one place more than another??
4. BUT AMAZINGLY, God has chosen to reveal himself more in one place than in others
  - a. When Jacob had his dream of a stairway to heaven, with angels ascending and descending on it, he awoke with an overpowering sense of awe at the PLACE

***Genesis 28:16-19 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." <sup>17</sup> He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven." <sup>18</sup>Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set***

*it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. <sup>19</sup> He called that place Bethel* (which means house of God)

- b. In the Old Covenant, God chose to reveal himself MORE in some places than in others
- c. The tabernacle, and then the temple was a symbol of that
- d. Jonathan Edwards makes this point

Heaven is the palace or presence-chamber of the high and holy One... Of course, God ...is everywhere – he fills both heaven and earth. But yet he is said, in some respects, to be more especially in some places than in others. He was said of old to dwell in the land of Israel, above all other lands; and in Jerusalem, above all other cities of that land; and in the temple, above all other buildings in the city; and in the holy of holies, above all other apartments of the temple; and on the mercy seat, over the ark of the covenant, above all other places in the holy of holies. But heaven is his dwelling-place above all other places in the universe; and all those places in which he was said to dwell of old, were but types of this. Heaven is a part of creation that God has built for this end, to be the place of his glorious presence, and it is his abode forever. [“Heaven is a World of Love”]

In the New Jerusalem, there will be no PLACE TO GO for worship!!

#### B. The Tabernacle

1. A tent built by Moses in which God would dwell in the midst of the Jewish nation
2. The Tabernacle was the place where the ANIMAL SACRIFICES were offered to atone for the sins of the people
3. When the Tabernacle was finished, God descended into it in a pillar of fire, filling that tent with a glory cloud to show his dwelling amongst his people on earth

*Exodus 40:34-35 Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. <sup>35</sup> Moses could not enter*

***the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.***

4. This whole thing was SYMBOLIC of God's desire to dwell in the midst of his people

***Exodus 25:8 have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.***

5. The Tabernacle was called a TYPE and a SHADOW, but the reality is in heaven

***Hebrews 8:5 The[Levitical priests] serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven.***

6. BUT it was all just an EARTHLY SYMBOL

***Hebrews 9:8 The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still standing.***

***Hebrews 10:4 it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.***

### C. The Temple

1. In the course of time, King David was zealous for God to have a more permanent dwelling place for the God of Israel
2. Why should the symbol of God dwelling with his people on earth be a tent while he lived in a beautiful palace??
3. God told David he would NOT be the one to build a house for him

***2 Samuel 7:12-13 When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.***

- a. Solomon fulfilled the immediate next step... the building of the Temple... a more permanent structure

- b. After Solomon built the Temple, the glory cloud came again to dwell in it in Jerusalem

***1 Kings 8:10-11 When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the LORD. <sup>11</sup> And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled his temple.***

- c. Solomon thought God would dwell there forever

***1 Kings 8:12-13 Then Solomon said, "The LORD has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud; <sup>13</sup> I have indeed built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever."***

- d. But he did not fully realize yet what it all SYMBOLIZED
- e. THE REAL TEMPLE would be built by David's perfect Son, Jesus Christ
- f. Solomon did realize that his temple was insufficient to house the infinite God of the universe

***1 Kings 8:27 "But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!"***

- 4. Solomon's Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians because of Israel's many sins
  - a. Ezekiel 10: The glory cloud departed from the Temple because of Israel's sins
- 5. The Temple was rebuilt under Haggai, then enhanced by Herod the Great... but it was still merely a symbol

#### D. Jesus and the Temple

- 1. Jesus twice cleansed the temple, zealous for the glory of God and his dwelling place
- 2. At the first time, he redefined the temple decisively

***John 2:18-21*** *Jesus [told his enemies], "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." <sup>20</sup> The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" <sup>21</sup> But the temple he had spoken of was his body.*

3. He told the Samaritan woman where all this was heading

***John 4:21-24*** *Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."*

4. So, the time of the physical temple in Jerusalem was coming to an end

***Matthew 24:2*** *"I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."*

5. Then he opened the way for all true worshipers to enter into the Holy of Holies, into the very presence of God, by his bloody death on the cross

***Matthew 27:50-51*** *And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. <sup>51</sup>At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.*

6. The curtain in the temple was a BARRIER preventing access to God because of our sins

7. Now, with the death of Christ, the way has been opened... the need for animal sacrifice and a physical temple on earth was fulfilled and made obsolete

***Hebrews 10:19-22*** *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith*

8. In the course of time, the Romans would make obvious that the time of the temple was done forever... in AD 70, they fulfilled Jesus' prophecy and destroyed Herod's Temple... the last temple the Jews have known

#### E. Paul's Temple

1. The new temple is SPIRITUAL, made up of people redeemed from sin by faith in the blood of Christ

***Ephesians 2:19-22 God's household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.***

***1 Peter 2:5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.***

#### F. For Twenty Centuries, this New Spiritual Temple Has Been Rising

1. Missionaries have gone out and preached the gospel to new regions
2. Evangelists have gone out within reached regions to win new lost people in that nation

#### G. Why is there No Temple in Heaven?

***Revelation 21:22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.***

1. The reason given is clear... God will be so immediately present, constantly present, visible in every glowing aspect of the New Jerusalem that it will be impossible to look in any direction without seeing the presence of God and of Christ
2. John speaks of the "Lord God Almighty" ... literally the Lord God who rules over everything
3. God IS the Temple... and so is Jesus Christ, the Lamb... together they ARE the temple

4. Notice the EQUAL place given to God and to Christ!!
5. There is no special place where God and Christ will be more visible, more present, more glorious than any other...
6. The Holy of Holies in Solomon's Temple was a perfect cube... 20 cubits x 20 cubits x 20 cubits (1 Kg. 6:20)
7. So also the New Jerusalem is a perfect cube... only HUGE: 12000 stadia x 12000 x 12000
8. Effectively the whole world is the Holy of Holies, and in no place will God be less present or more present
9. This same idea is established in the next amazing statement

## II. Earthly Light Fulfilled in Heavenly Glory

***Revelation 21:23 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.***

### A. Here We Address the Light of the New Jerusalem

1. The first physical creation mentioned was light

***Genesis 1:3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.***

2. The Sun and Moon were not required... they were not created until the fourth day
3. God was shining the light of creation for the first three days... he entrusted the job to the sun and moon on the fourth day
4. Now, God will be taking the job back!!

### B. The Awesome Sun Will Be Obsolete!

1. The awesome sun, 93 million miles from the earth, has helped sustain life on the earth throughout its history
  - a. The sun is massive... 109 times larger than the earth... you could fit over 1 million earths inside the sun



- b. Every second, the sun puts off the equivalent of half a million years' worth of the energy used by the human race
- c. The sun is staggeringly hot... 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit at its outermost surface... five times hotter than molten lava; at its core, the sun is 27 million degrees F!

2. It was created to give light to the earth and now its job is done

C. So also the Moon will be Gone

- 1. There will be no night, so no moonlight
- 2. The softer gleam of the moon will be obsolete
- 3. God has a different plan for lighting the New Heavens and New Earth

D. Just Like the Temple... The Glory of God and Christ will TAKE OVER OPERATIONS

E. Fulfillment of Isaiah's Prophecies

***Isaiah 24:23 The moon will be abashed, the sun ashamed; for the LORD Almighty will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before its elders, gloriously.***

Compared to the FAR GREATER glory of God, the sun and moon MUST GIVE WAY!!

***Isaiah 60:19 The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.***

III. Earthly Exclusions Fulfilled in Heavenly Openness

***Revelation 21:25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.***

***Revelation 22:15 Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.***

A. God Will Weed Out ALL Dangers... and the Night in Which The Dangers Prowl

B. God Called the Day "Good"... He Said Nothing About the Night

1. Many of us feel the night is a soothing, beautiful time
2. Looking up at the spectacular night sky filled with stars has its own kind of beauty
3. But the fact that God called the Day good, but said no such thing about the night is significant

C. Often in Scripture, the Darkness is a Symbol for Evil

***1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.***

***John 3:19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.***

***John 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."***

1. Especially when Jesus was arrested

***John 13:30 As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.***

***Luke 22:53 this is your hour-- when darkness reigns***

D. In the New Universe, there will be no darkness at all

1. Symbol of the total unity of the universe under the moral beauty and perfection of God
2. No hidden things, no dark secrets, no evil motives, no dark cave or alleyway where evil lurks

E. The Gates Will Never Be Shut

1. In the ancient world, the city gates were always closed and locked at night, and sentries were posted to patrol and guard the sleeping citizens

2. The dangers were many—thieves, wild animals that prowl in the dark, armies that attack while everyone is sleeping
3. The New Jerusalem will be perfectly safe all the time
4. All of the wicked people and demons will be in the Lake of Fire

#### IV. Earthly Sacrifices Fulfilled in Heavenly Diversity

***Revelation 21:24-26 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. <sup>25</sup> On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.***

##### A. The Light of the New World

1. “The nations will walk by its light”
  - a. The New Jerusalem will be glowing with the glory of God and of Christ
  - b. Indeed the whole New Heavens and New Earth will glow with that amazing light
  - c. God’s glory will shine everywhere we look, as the present world is lit up with the light of the sun
  - d. And the NATIONS and the KINGS OF THE EARTH will walk by that light... meaning the light which enables them to see where they are going will be the light of the glory of God
  - e. But more than that, it means that the principles and patterns of the way they will live their lives will be the glory of God and his character... they will LOVE God and yearn to worship him and do all that they do for his glory alone

***Isaiah 2:2-5 In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. <sup>3</sup> Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He will judge between the nations and will settle***

*disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. <sup>5</sup> Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.*

2. BUT... who are these “nations”? And who are these “Kings of the earth”?
  - a. Many speculations, some of them connected to the millennial reign and the final phase of human history
  - b. The phrase used in the Bible usually refers to the Gentiles... the non-Jews... that make up the population of the earth
  - c. I think it is best to just keep it simple... these are the REDEEMED from every nation on earth

***Revelation 7:9-10 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."***

- d. They are recognized in heaven as connected to their nations and cultures of origin... they will have emblems of their cultures and ways so that these various people groups will be identifiable as trophies of God’s grace in Christ
- e. Their ways of worship are very different from each other, but share central essential similarities

I have worshiped with African brothers and sisters in Kenya... the Kikuyu believers I worshiped with in that country left an indelible mark on my memory; their music is rhythmic and the clothing is very colorful... they like to dance and sway and clap rhythmically while they sing... but they are also Westernized city dwellers using modern technology

They were very different from the believers from the Masaai tribe I worshiped with under a tree in the Rift Valley... they are very tall, fierce looking, and graceful in their bearing; they smear red

ochre pigment in their hair and wear brightly colored patterned robes with lots of jewelry; they are cattle herders and live very rural lives; the Maasai were fierce warriors against the British colonial powers and were very resistant to the gospel... the Maasai believers I worshiped with were outcasts from their tribe, kicked out because they had followed Christ

I have also worshiped in a Lutheran cathedral in Dresden, Germany, in which they used music written by Johann Sebastian Bach with German lyrics set to those baroque melodies... the German engineering was seen in the massive architecture that soared above our heads and in the pipe organ sounds that filled that massive church; the people were far less emotional than our African brothers and sisters

I have worshiped in a cell church in Shanghai, with Chinese Christians who used a boom box and CDs with western-style praise and worship choruses; they prayed a long time and very fervently, and met in an apartment in a Shanghai high-rise; they were risking discovery by the communist authorities, but had a strong faith and a consistent joy

I have worshiped with Indian believers in Pune, near Mumbai; a large assembly of dark-skinned Indian Christians who were vastly outnumbered by their Hindu neighbors who were celebrating Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights; these Indian Christians had broken away from that religion and found truth in Christ; they listened with great fervency to the preaching of the word of God from the Book of Philippians

I have worshiped with Japanese Christians in an Easter sunrise service in Tokushima... in the land of the rising Sun, feeling that we were the first Christians in the world to celebrate the resurrection of Christ that day... leading they way for the rest of the Christian world

In heaven, these diverse cultures and origins and stories and patterns will be retained as a testimony to the all-conquering power of the grace of God in Christ

They wore different clothes on earth, used different worship styles, sang and spoke in different languages, but worshiped the SAME triune God – pouring out thanks to Christ their savior by the power of the Spirit

IN HEAVEN, some of these differences will end – like the language differences; for I believe we will all speak the same heavenly language; and the music will be new, for we will all worship by a new song that no one on earth had ever learned before...

***Revelation 14:3 And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.***

BUT the diversity of their earthly experiences... their diverse cultures and backgrounds... will make for a marvelous display in heaven of God's MANIFOLD GRACE

Paul spoke of his preaching ministry among the Gentiles...

***Ephesians 3:10 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms***

The word "manifold" = many-sided, diverse, richly varied

The variety of the Gentile tribes and their stories will make for an amazingly rich display in heaven!!

The nations will stream into the New Jerusalem, and all their kings will bring the treasures of their affections and worship to lay at the feet of King Jesus

B. Key Old Testament Passage: Isaiah 60

1. The glory of Zion: success of the gospel
2. The diverse glory of the heavenly Zion

***Isaiah 60:1 "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.***

***Isaiah 60:3-7 Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup> "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm. <sup>5</sup> Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. <sup>6</sup> Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD. <sup>7</sup> All Kedar's flocks will be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth will serve you; they will be accepted as offerings on my altar, and I will adorn my glorious temple.***

C. "Kings of the Nations": rulers of the future New Universe

1. Jesus will be the King of kings and the Lord of lords
2. There will be heavenly rulers under him

***Daniel 7:27 Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.'***

***Luke 19:12-19 "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. <sup>13</sup> So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.' <sup>14</sup> "But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.' <sup>15</sup> "He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it. <sup>16</sup> "The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.' <sup>17</sup> "'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.' <sup>18</sup> "The second came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned five more.' <sup>19</sup> "His master answered, 'You take charge of five cities.'***

So... there might be many cities on the surface of the New Earth, and a hierarchy of glorious rulers who will administrate them under Christ's overall rule

These rulers will be perfectly humble, wielding their authority as Christ commanded... with no lording it over those under them; and those under their authority will not resent them in the least.

#### D. Heavenly Work Producing Heavenly Riches to Bring Into the City

1. A continual flow of “stuff” being brought into the gates of the New Jerusalem

***Revelation 21:24-26*** *The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.* <sup>25</sup> *On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.* <sup>26</sup> *The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.*

2. Work itself will be redeemed
3. Whereas Adam’s sin resulted in the labors of his hands being cursed, there will be no curse in the heavenly world... but that doesn’t mean there will be no work
4. Imagine a whole world with the riches of the New Creation ready to be developed and shaped and worked by perfect minds and perfect hands for the display of Christ’s glory and then carried into the perpetually open gates of the New City
5. Why have glorified minds with glorified intelligence and glorified creativity, with glorified hands and limitless strength... and why have a glorified physical planet to explore AND DO NOTHING WITH THEM? Without having perfected works that we can do??
6. So as the nations and the kings of the new earth do their amazing works of creativity and labor, they will bring them as gifts to the king and lay them at his feet

#### V. Earthly Impurity Removed for Heavenly Purity

***Revelation 21:27*** *Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life*

- A. The New Jerusalem will be PERFECTLY PURE



1. The word “impure” refers to moral darkness; sinful people bringing their sinful attitudes and their dark deeds into the city to corrupt it
  - a. Modern cities are patterned after wicked Babylon, the city whose moral character was described in Revelation 17... depicted like a whore drunk on the wine of immorality and the blood of the saints; and whose fall was predicted in Revelation 18:

***Revelation 18:2 "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!"***

- b. So also modern cities are filled with wicked people who do wicked things

Imagine landing by plane at night in New York City; the modern high-rise, high-tech city is lit up at night by human ingenuity, and a display of human genius; it holds its own kind of attraction and beauty, inspiring us with the astonishing achievements of human science and art; over here is the glow of lower Manhattan; there you can see all alit the Brooklyn Bridge; perhaps you can see the Empire State building or the sparkling taillights of thousands of automobiles, sparkling like rubies and diamonds in the night... but the massive sprawling city has a seething darker side. Like the original Babylon, it is at root a testimony to human pride; like the original Sodom and Gomorrah, it is woven through with depravity and luxurious disregard for the poor and needy. Like Jerusalem, it saw the lavish gifts of God turned from purity to whoredom. This is the City of Man... it is amazing from an airplane as you descend to land; but woe unto you if you venture out at night and get caught in a stinking alleyway by unsavory characters who will kill you for the price of their next addictive fix.

All of that will be purified out by the wrath of God and the weeding out of the sheep from the goats on Judgment Day

The final capital city – New Jerusalem – will be perfectly pure of all human depravity

2. All of those wicked people will have been weeded out by Judgment Day... all of them will be cast into the Lake of Fire from which they cannot escape

#### B. Only the Elect Can Enter the City

1. Only those whose names were written in the Lamb's Book of Life... written there by the predestining purpose of Almighty God before the foundation of the world
2. Confirmed there in space and time by actual conversion worked by the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and by the transforming work of the Holy Spirit
3. Only the redeemed can enter that pure city... and they will enter whenever they want, for the gates will never be shut

### VI. Applications

#### A. Hear and Believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ

1. The only way into this radiantly beautiful city in the radiantly beautiful new universe will be faith in Jesus Christ NOW
2. Believing that he is the Son of God... believing that you have sinned and violated God's laws; believing that Jesus Christ died on the cross for YOUR sins... believing that Christ rose from the dead on the third day; forsaking any trust in your own basic goodness and your own works... trusting in Christ alone to save you
3. If you do that NOW, today, you will be perfectly forgiven, you will be counted as righteous by God on Judgment Day, and you will enter the New Jerusalem in a radiantly glorious resurrection body

#### B. Understand the Future of Worship in the New Jerusalem

1. No tabernacle in that beautiful city... no temple... no church building... JUST GOD HIMSELF and Christ, His Son... they are the perfect focus of heavenly worship
2. Worship him NOW by faith and by the Spirit

3. Give yourself every single day to worship by faith... saturate your mind in scripture and return thanks and praise to God

C. Celebrate the Heavenly Diversity and Help Make it a Reality

1. The treasures of the nations will flow into the New Jerusalem
2. Every tribe, language, people, nation... the amoral diversity will greatly glorify God in heaven
3. This is a call to MISSIONS now... to make that a reality
4. Let's continue to pray for missions... to support missionaries... to sacrifice so that we can send more... to go on short term missions
5. Let's continue to be evangelistically fruitful!

D. Look forward to heavenly work!!

1. Look forward to having the works of your hands blessed, not cursed
2. Look forward to a glorified mind in which you will think with amazing creativity at some project you will work on'
3. Look forward to a tireless body in which you will have amazing strength to do the work God wants you to do
4. Look forward to bringing the fruit of your hands into the gates of the New Jerusalem to beautify the place!
5. And work NOW, still under the curse, with the same kind of zeal, even though you are not there yet