
The Eternal City

The Lord descends from heaven with all His holy angels, bringing His people with Him. His feet will touch the top of the Mount of Olives east of Jerusalem, and the mountain will split in two from north to south and leave a huge valley. “On that day there will be no cold or frost, neither will there be any more darkness. It will always be day, because even at night it will be light.” The Lord will make it so. “The Lord will be King over all the earth. On that day everyone will worship Him as God and there will be one Lord and His name alone will be honored.” Zechariah 14:4-9, CWB.

“The City was laid out in a square. Its length was the same as its width, and it measured fifteen hundred miles along each wall, with a height that was proportionate. Then the angel measured the wall, and it was two hundred feet thick. The wall was made of jasper, while the City itself was made of pure transparent gold, clear as glass.”

Brilliant Colors

“The foundations of the City and its walls were made of all kinds of precious stones of varying colors. The first foundation was deep green made of jasper, The second was blue made of sapphire, The third was milky

white, the fourth was bright green, made of emerald, The fifth was reddish pink, the sixth was reddish orange, the seventh was bright yellow, the eighth was deep blue, the ninth was pale blue made of topaz. The tenth was gold colored, the eleventh was red and the twelfth foundation was purple, made of amethyst.” Revelation 21, *The Clear Word Bible*. The city was surrounded in brilliant color, with these twelve brilliantly colored foundations, and surrounded by a brilliant rainbow.

The City and its walls rests on twelve foundations, each having the name of one of the twelve apostles of Christ written on it. The City has twelve gates—three gates on each side. The city is always full of daylight due to the light, brighter than the sun, coming from God. The River of Life, clear as crystal, flows from the throne of God through the City. The Tree of Life, loaded with twelve different types of fruit, spans the river with part of its trunk on either side.

As the New Jerusalem, in its dazzling splendor, comes down out of heaven, it rests upon the place purified and made ready to receive it. Christ, with His people and the angels, then enters the Holy City.

Satan’s Super-Army Attacks New Jerusalem

Christ speaks, calling all the lost who have ever lived back to life again. Satan thinks he has one last chance to succeed in His rebellion. He thinks, “If I could just train and equip all of these people, together with the angels that have followed me, I will have a super army. I will attack New Jerusalem, and I will achieve my dreams of being God.”

Satan works with new energy. He works miracles and tells those who were raised from the dead, “I am God, and it was my power that brought you out of the grave. Look,” he says, “at that beautiful city. That is my city. That is where you will live once we capture it back from the evil enemy.” Satan puts on a real show. He makes the weak people strong and electrifies all with his enthusiasm. Everyone is excited and works hard building a mighty army. We don’t know how long they work at this, but they prepare vast military weapons of war and lay plans on how to attack and conquer the beautiful city New Jerusalem.

General Satan lays his plans first with his angels and then with other generals who have fought great wars in their former lives. Big names are there, such as Napoleon and Adolph Hitler and Alexander the Great. We don’t know all their names at present, but they are skilled military leaders. Military leaders and angels organize the lost billions into companies and divisions.

At last Lucifer gives the order to march, and his super army moves on. There has never been, in all of history, such a mighty army or one better equipped with military hardware. Putting together all the armies that have ever fought could not compare to this one army made up of Satan, his angels, and the billions that have chosen to rebel with him.

Kings, generals, soldiers, and the multitudes follow in vast companies, each under its chosen leader. With military perfection, they march over the earth's cracked and uneven surface to the City of God. Jesus then shuts the gates of New Jerusalem. The lost are shut out, and the saved are safely inside. Satan and his armies surround the city and prepare to attack.

Now Christ takes charge of the situation. Everyone sees Him. High above the city, on a foundation of shining gold, Christ sits on an elevated throne. His people are all around Him—the saved of all ages. 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.” Revelation 7:9.

“I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:11, 12.

When the books of record are opened, Jesus looks at the wicked. All of their sins are fresh in their minds. They see just how far they drifted from the path of righteousness and holiness. They see just how far selfishness and rebellious choices carried them away from God's great law of love.

Then they finally realize how very unthankful they were for the numerous times God had protected them. It all seems to be branded on their minds in living fire. They see the hatred they showed for those who truly cared for them, the rejection of God's messages of warning, His messengers, and His mercy. It all appears as if written in letters of fire.

God Uses the Sky As a Giant Movie Screen!

A cross appears above the throne. We all look up, and every eye is focused on the cross. Like a panoramic movie with the sky as the movie screen, the scenes of Adam's temptation and fall appear in the sky. Next, we watch the actual scenes of the human birth of the King of kings in Bethlehem. We see Joseph putting straw and a blanket in a donkey's food box, preparing a

place for the baby King to sleep. Mary wraps her newborn baby, gently rocking her baby. She nurses the newborn King and gently puts her newborn in the place prepared by Joseph.

Everyone continues watching, and we see the video scenes from Christ's simple, obedient childhood. As we look, we can see Him walking down to the side of the river talking with John the Baptist. John baptizes Jesus. We see Jesus holding the hand of John as John eases Christ down under the water of the Jordan River. Jesus is coming out of the water, and we hear the voice of God the Father saying, "This is My Son in whom I am well pleased." At that very moment, a form of a dove comes down from the sky, and we know this to be the sign of anointing by God the Holy Spirit.

Next we see miracles performed by Christ, and we hear His teachings. At last we see Him spending a night that begins in prayer in the garden and ends with being ridiculed and tortured in front of Herod and Pilate. We see Pilate's soldiers laughing at Christ and making a crown of long, sharp thorns for His head. Blood runs down His face and His beard as the soldiers laughingly beat the long, sharp thorns into His head. "So you are a King. How do you like the crown we made you? Ha, ha, ha."

He is being beaten and mocked by the crowds. They drag Him this way and that way. Next we see Pilate's soldiers using a whip with chunks of metal and bone in the ends of the whip. Blood is now streaming down His back. After this we see Christ lying down on the cross as the big Roman soldiers come with their hammers and drive nails through our King's hands and feet. The soldiers are lifting the cross together and letting it drop into the hole prepared for it. These soldiers seem satisfied as they see the extra pain they have caused in letting it drop into the hole. Christ's face is so full of pain, and with all the blood, He is hardly recognizable. All of the darkness, pain, and agony of the cross is revealed in living detail. Everyone sees that how they treated Christ in their dealings with others determines their destiny. "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for Me." Matthew 25:40.

The whole wicked world stands beneath the great white throne accused of rebellion against God and His government. They now see that they are judged by how they treated Christ. And the law of God has everything to do with how we treat Christ. The first four commandments show us how to love Christ, and the last six how to love our fellow men and women. Jesus says, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." They are without excuse; and God orders the sentence of eternal death against them. Matthew 25:40.

“All this,” the lost cry out in agony, “I might have had!” As if entranced, the wicked see Christ crowned with a crown of many crowns.

The Devil Will Be Burned to Ashes!

God considers the devil a defeated foe. In this scripture passage, He speaks of the future death (“reduced to ashes”) of the devil as though it had already happened.

“Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

“By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.” Ezekiel 28:16-19.

“Every warrior’s boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.” “The Lord is angry with all nations; His wrath is upon all their armies. He will totally destroy them. He will give them over to slaughter.” “On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot.” Isaiah 9:5; 34:2; Psalm 11:6.

Fire Turns Satan and His Rebels Into Ashes

Christ sends fire down from God to the earth. The fire from above the earth meets the fire from below the earth, and all the vast stores of coal and oil unite. The entire earth is one vast, seething fire. Everything is on fire except for the city of God. Fierce, hungry flames burst from every opening in the cracked surface of the earth. Even the rocks are on fire. The day that will burn as an oven has arrived. “That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.” The earth’s surface seems like a vast boiling lake of fire. “It is the time of the judgment and punishment of ungodly men.” 2 Peter 3:12.

The wicked receive their just reward in the earth. They “will be stubble; and the day that comes will burn them up, says the Lord of hosts.” Some die immediately, while others suffer many days. Each is punished “according to his deeds.” Proverbs 11:31; Romans 2:6.

“The voice of a great multitude,” “as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders,” shout: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!” Revelation 19:6, 7, NIV, KJV.

While God wraps the earth in the fire of destruction, the righteous are safe in the Holy City. On those that had part in the first resurrection, the second death has no power. While God is a destroying fire to the wicked, He is both a sun and a shield to His people. See Revelation 20:6; Psalm 84:11.

“I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.” The fire that burns up the wicked sterilizes the earth. Every trace of the curse is swept away. No eternally burning hell will keep before the saved the fearful price of sin. Revelation 21:1.

One reminder alone remains: Jesus Christ will always have the wound marks of His crucifixion. The scars on His wounded head, His side, His hands and His feet, are the only reminders of the cruel work that sin has caused. The prophet Habakkuk saw into the future. He saw Christ in His glory and said: “His Splendor was like the sunrise; rays flashed from his hand, where his power was hidden.” From His pierced side and hands had come the blood that reunited man to God. This is Jesus Christ’s glory. This is “the hiding of His power.” Habakkuk 3:4.

Christ is “mighty to save” those who accept His love, and He is strong to execute justice upon those who hate and hurt His children. The scars He received when He was tortured on the cross are His highest honor. Through the eternal ages, the nail and spear scars Christ received on the cross of Calvary will shout out to each individual in God’s great universe: “God loves you!” and “God’s power has saved you!”