THE GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY

9-14. “And there came one of the seven angels that had the  
seven bowls that were full of the seven last plagues, and talked  
with me, saying, ‘Come hither, I will show thee the Bride, the  
wife of the Lamb.’ And he carried me away in spirit to a mountain  
great and lofty, and showed me Jerusalem the holy city,  
coming down out of the heaven from God, having the glory of  
God. Her luminary was like a very precious stone, like a crystal  
jasper. It had a wall great and lofty; it had twelve portals, and  
at the portals twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are  
the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel. On the  
east three portals; and on the north three portals; and on the  
south three portals; and on the west three portals. And the  
wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them the twelve  
names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.”  
  
 The New Jerusalem is called “the Bride.” This is a  
name probably not to continue for ever. It is a title  
given to one newly married. The Law recognized this peculiarity. “When a man hath taken *a new wife*, he shall  
not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any  
business: but he shall be free at home *one year*, and shall  
cheer up his wife which he hath taken” (Deut. xxiv. 5).  
The Old Jerusalem is compared to a bride, but is  
not directly called so. Isa. xlix. 18; lxi. 10; lxii. 5;  
Jer. ii. 32.  
 By the title “the Lamb’s wife,” this city is identified  
with the one which is mentioned before the millennium.  
xix. 7.  
 Messiah, like Abraham, has two wives: one the  
earthly Jerusalem, the other the heavenly. Isaiah  
was permitted to speak of the heavenly Jerusalem, as  
the mother long barren, but at length without pain  
filled with children. John now sees her as the Bride.  
 That John may see the city, he is taken, not bodily,  
but “in spirit to a mountain great and lofty.” Around  
Mount Sinai there was no city, only the bleak desert.  
The better covenant has both mount and city united, if