

Hearts of Love

Tom & Debbie Tillman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

A free monthly publication of Hearts of Love Ministries.

Volume 31 Issue 10 © October, 2023

New Jerusalem Let's go on an adventure into the future!

I've been teaching through the Book of Revelation in our Sunday School class; we are nearing the end of the Book; there's one final chapter to go. In this letter, I'm bringing out some aspects of the wonderful New Jerusalem and of our eternal lives, ruling and reigning with the Lord Jesus Christ forever but in order to best understand it all, please consider going to our website: heartsoflove.org, and reading through our teachings of the entire book. You will be blessed!

The Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ, to John, is a fascinating and most important Book of the Bible; it is the last message Jesus Christ gave to His Body and Bride, the True Church but, sadly, it is one of the most unread, misunderstood and even despised sections of Scripture. Most Christians, even pastors, never even look at it! Too many, today, refuse to even think about Bible Prophecy which is one of the main reasons for the Great Falling Away, the Great Apostasy which Paul told the Thessalonians would be one of the hallmarks of the Last Days, just before the Rapture.

At the end of The Revelation, in chapter 21, we read of New Jerusalem which will come down out of Heaven unto the New Earth which God will have created after He destroys the present Heavens and Earth.

We read, of New Jerusalem: '*And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. ²³ And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. ²⁴ And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.'* Rev 21:22

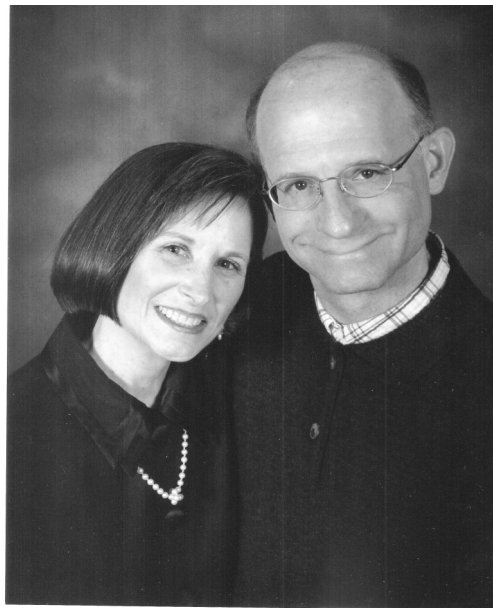
This will be our eternal home but we will not be restricted to being only in this wonderful place. Think about it: in our World today... there are some unbelievably marvelous homes in which people live and, yet, even more wonderful and awe inspiring are God's natural wonders: oceans, forests, deserts, canyons, mountains... nothing, man-made, can compare with God's Creation but, again, think about it: every wonder we see now in nature has been tainted by sin and subject to death and decay; everything is marred and retarded from its true potential. We have no clue as to what God's New Creation will entail... no clue, whatsoever!

New Jerusalem will be unimaginably beautiful in every respect but even more glorious will be what God will do throughout His natural Creation, not only on the New Earth but on every planet and star throughout all His New Universe and, eventually, I firmly believe, we will be privileged to see and experience every single thing He will have created!

Surely, it will take a long, long time but for us, who have already been given Eternal Life... time is of no consequence. How do I know this to be true? God's Word has told us the invaluable Truth that we are, now, coheirs with the Lord Jesus Christ; He is Heir of all things and we are fully invested, fully privileged, full-fledged Children of God!

'The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together... He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?' Rom 8:16

See that? '... that we may be also glorified together.' That doesn't mean all of us together... you and me... that means, us, together with Jesus Christ... when He is fully glorified before all humans and all angels and, I might add... all animals... then, He will also fully glorify us as His fully loved and legitimate children... as His heirs... as His



*He has committed to
us the word of
Reconciliation.
Therefore, we are
Ambassadors for Christ.*

2 Corinthians 5:19,20

beloved daughter-in-law, the chosen Bride for His Son... and make no mistake... God the Father did choose us... each and every one of us... He saw all the Eternal potential He created within us and He will, finally, bring all of that planned potential to its fullest, most glorious expression. And, you caught that I said that the Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified, also, before all animals... I fully believe that in God's New Creation, animals will no longer be just dumb brute beasts but will, then, fully express the Glory of God; imagine how you might recreate animals if you could and then remember that God is way ahead of us and our still puny imaginations and of His New Creation... I don't believe He will merely copy what He did the first time because I know that He is able to do anything and He is unbound by anything which has ever gone before; He will glorify Himself by every glorious surprise He has planned for us. I think that the only thing He will copy will be our Eternal, Glorified bodies which He will fashion after His original, the one He created for His beloved, ever-faithful Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Of New Jerusalem, we read: *'And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.'* Rev. 21:25 In other words, in New Jerusalem, it will always be day... which reminded me of a verse in Hebrews: *'But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.'* Heb 3:13 Notice what He says, a few verses further: *'And to whom sware he that*

they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.' Heb 3:18

I always exhort us to use our imaginations to their fullest extent! What if some rewards, some privileges will be withheld from some of us because of unbelief, because we refused to believe that God was able to do all that we could have imagined, and far, far beyond but we were afraid to imagine such outlandish things? What if sinful Hollywood turns out to have been more faithful to imagine grandiose things than God's own children, who should have been the ones to imagine far, far more extravagantly than any chintzy Hollywood film?

'And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.' Rev 21:26

'They shall bring...' Who is *'they?'* The previous verse states, *'And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.'*

These are the nations, throughout the Earth, of God's Elect, those saved from every nation, tribe, tongue and family. First, 1000 years before, after Jesus' return at Armageddon, when He established His 1000-year Kingdom, the Earth was repopulated by people who had lived through the 7-year Tribulation, some from every tribe, nation and tongue: *'And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to*

year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. 17 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.' Zech 14:16

These, during the Millennium, were still normal, mortal humans who all still had a sin nature, were still subject to death, although they lived long and healthy lives, like the first people did, before the Flood, and these were required to come up to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles which commemorated the fact that God was finally living among them, in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, ruling and reigning from His Temple and Palace in rebuilt Jerusalem but this was not New Jerusalem, which I'm now describing... it was the Earthly Jerusalem, rebuilt after Armageddon and inhabited by the Earthly people of God, Israel, who were now enjoying the fulfillment of all God's Earthly promises to Israel: Israel becomes the head and not the tail, Israel becomes the head of the nations, Israel becomes the most blessed of all nations... all the promises they forfeited, for 2000 years, when they rejected and crucified their King... all will be fulfilled in the Millennium.

Now, as we look at **New Jerusalem**, having moved ahead 1000 years, God has destroyed the present Heavens and Earth and created a New Heavens and a New Earth; then, the New Jerusalem will come down from Heaven to the Earth. This is the Eternal home, we assume, of Israel and the True Church. Moreover, it is the Eternal Home of God Almighty and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, God is truly living among His Children, completely, in every way. New Jerusalem shines with the Glory of God; it is composed of pure, transparent gold and of every beautiful, precious stone. It needs no light from the Sun because the Glory of God shines, eternally throughout... *'And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. 26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.'* Rev 22:25 Who are *'they'* which will bring the glory and honor of the nations into it, and who are the nations? Today, people mistakenly believe that those living forever, throughout the New Earth and Universe do not marry or reproduce; they misunderstand what Jesus said: He was asked, *'In the resurrection therefore, when they shall rise, whose wife shall she be of them? for the seven had her to wife. 24 And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God? 25 For when they shall rise from the dead, they*

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neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven... ²⁷ He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living:

ye therefore do greatly err! Mark 12:23

Did Jesus say anything at all about the mortal humans who trust Him and live through the Millennium and unto the New Earth, **never having died and been resurrected from the dead?**

The Bible never says that they die and are resurrected. Jesus said to the Pharisees, that **those who are resurrected from the dead** are those who do not marry or are given in marriage; He never said any such thing regarding those who never die. As a matter of fact, we, who will be alive to be taken up in the Rapture, will also never have died, to then be resurrected from the dead.

Here is an example of our needing to take all the different clues that God gives us, in His Word, and to then make an informed understanding of what is to come. (We, the Body and Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ, who will rule and reign with Him forever, very well may not be among those increasing and reproducing but there are many who are not His Body and Bride who do not rule and reign with Him but, rather, are ruled over by Him, and by we who are His 'under-governors'.)

Who are 'they?' Who are those bringing the glory and honor of the nations into New Jerusalem? And who are 'they' which are part of the never-ending increase and expansion of God's Eternal Kingdom: Isaiah tells us, of Eternity: **'Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end...'** Isa 9:7

That, and those, over which the Lord Jesus Christ rules and reigns **will never stop increasing and expanding forever!** The

Hebrew word is marbe/mar-beh'... it means: increase/abundance.

His righteous and peaceful reign will never stop increasing outward and upward, finally, into the farthest reaches of His infinite Universe and we will rule and reign with Him forever!

These multiplying humans, who live forever by eating from the Tree of Life and drinking from the River of Life, will fill up His Universe and they will always continue to honor and worship the Rightful King, bringing their glory and honor to Him and into New Jerusalem.

Now, I know this seems different than what we've always thought, and been taught, but as we look just a little closer at the Word of God, we begin to notice that it never, at all, says that those living forever will not marry and multiply... only, specifically, those who die and are resurrected from the dead. The rest may very well and, I think, surely do, multiply and expand His Kingdom forever and ever.

When God created the first humans, they were perfect and created to live forever and they were also created to reproduce and multiply forever. It's easy to imagine Adam and Eve never having sinned, eating only from the Tree of Life, living forever and they, with their offspring, continuing to live, multiply and fill up the Earth and then expanding out into God's Universe. Shouldn't we imagine that when God fulfills all His plans, that people could be the same as Adam and Eve might have been had they never sinned unto death?

God has wonderful, unimaginable glorious

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eternal plans for us; shouldn't we be walking in a manner worthy of our calling, looking, **always**, for His soon return for us in the clouds? Never forget! Now, today, this, our short, infinitely tiny stretch of time we are living within these Earthly, mortal, dying bodies is our only chance to faithfully serve the King, gaining and accruing infinitely valuable Eternal Rewards. We are not here to change the World; we are not here to strive after some glorious ministry; we are not here to gain the glory and honor of the World. We are here to be His faithful servants; that's it!

'... seek those things which are above... Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.' Col 3:1

Jesus said: '... behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.'

Rev 22:12

He was, is and always shall be the God Who creates; the same yesterday, today & forever!

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The Harvest is Great, but the laborers are few. Matt 9:38

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