

Rev. 21:7: *'He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.'*

John wrote in his first Epistle that every born again child of God is an overcomer; it is our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ which overcomes the World. Therefore, every true child of God is a fellow-heir with the Lord Jesus Christ and we shall inherit ALL things, things are of no value to God; He needs absolutely nothing and it is nothing for Him to freely give us all things.

'What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? ³² 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 8:31

We shall inherit and rule with Him over all things... on the other hand...

Verse 8: *'But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.'*

Just those bad people... they'll go to the Lake of Fire... These will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire: murderers... that's easy except for the fact that John wrote, *'Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.'* 1 John 3:15

whoremongers... that's easy, prostitute's customer or agent... that's certainly not me... but Jesus said, *'whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.'* Matt 5:28

... the abominable... that's easy... the Bible says that homosexuals and those who wear clothing of the opposite sex are abominable... but it also describes idols as abominations... well, at least we aren't idolators... except that an idol is anything we might put before God... houses, cars, TV, clothing, so many other things... well... sorcerers... I'm not a sorcerer... except for the fact that the Greek word of sorcery is Pharmakaia... pharmacy... pharmaceuticals... drugs... how many Christians, today, think it's ok to use marijuana, now that it's legal? Liars... too many of us have done that a time or two... thankfully, John clarified this, a little: *'Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.'* 1 John 2:22 ... the unbelieving... how often have I refused to believe that God really is in complete control... that God really does accept me completely... and love me unconditionally...

How about the fearful... isn't it natural to fear certain things? As we look at this list of those who will spend Eternity in the Lake of Fire, it wouldn't be difficult to imagine that we might fall into this same category... except, again, John clarified it, earlier:

'Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. ¹⁷ Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love him, because he first loved us.' 1 John 4:15

'Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. ¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.' Heb 4:14

The Lord Jesus Christ was tempted, as we are, but He never did sin; He lived His Earthly life, sinless, in our place; then, he was punished and crucified in our place; He was raised to life in our place and soon He will return to receive us to Himself and take us to our place. He is our place; He is our hiding place; He is our place of safety and security: *'There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.'* Rom 8:1

'He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. ¹² As far as the east is from the west, so

far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.' Psalm 103:10

We will never experience the Lake of Fire... no matter what we've done or not done if we have trusted fully in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on the Cross, paying the full penalty for all our sin.

And a final thought on that verse: tragically, the Lake of Fire will also contain countless people who never did any of these listed sins except for being the *unbelieving*: *'For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. ¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach, except they be sent?'* Rom 10:13

We are tasked with sending and being sent; to take the Gospel to all we know, and all we meet.

Verse 9: *'And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.'*

The Greek word here for 'bride,' is: *nymphē/noom-fay*;' it means: a bride, a recently married woman, young wife, a young daughter, a daughter-in-law.

Think about that... here we are, as the first 1000 years have passed and we, the Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ, are still considered, a young wife, a recently married daughter-in-law of God Almighty; we've only just begun. Remember that song from 50 years ago, by The Carpenters? We've Only Just Begun: It's been sung at 100's of weddings. That will be our theme through countless ages into Eternity: We've only just begun!

Notice this angel calls her both bride and wife. The marriage of the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ, to His longed-for beloved, happened 1000 years before, and all that time, the 'short' precursor to Eternity, has been our wonderful 'honeymoon.' Imagine time, finally having no power over us, like we now feel in our deteriorating bodies; that 1000 years should quickly pass as our delightful honeymoon with our Lord, Savior, King and Bridegroom. Then, after that first, short 1000 years, which will seem like only a day or few, we will look forward to 50 million, billion, trillion more 1000 year days, and we will have only, barely scratched the surface of our never-ending Eternity with Him and with each other.

Verse 10: *'And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,'*

This will be a huge mountain... this will be the dwelling place of God Almighty on His Throne. New Jerusalem will come down out of Heaven to rest upon this great mountain.

This is not the present Jerusalem or the Jerusalem which will have been rebuilt for the Millennium. This is the New Jerusalem, descending down out of Heaven to rest upon a great high mountain on the New Earth.

Isaiah wrote, prophetically, of this time, but what he wrote was more for the Millennium when the Lord Jesus Christ will rule and reign from present Jerusalem which will have been rebuilt to marvelous specifications, to house the Millennial Temple of the Lord, which will have been built to never before seen glory and majesty; the only thing which will surpass the Millennial Temple will be this, New Jerusalem.

'And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. ³ And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.' Isaiah 2:2

Micah wrote the very same thing; God wanted to make certain that Israel, and we, understand the significance

of this proclamation: *'But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it...'* Micah 4:1

Remember... this is New Jerusalem; we assume this is the place Jesus meant when He said, *'In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.'* John 14:2 He didn't say that He went away to create something new but, rather, to prepare a place in His Father's house which was already the place God created as His Palace which He made for Himself. At the Rapture, we will be taken up, given new glorified eternal bodies and taken to that wonderful place. When Jesus Christ returns, 7 years later, as we return with Him, at Armageddon, we will rule and reign with Him, on Earth, for the next 1000 years but our home will be in Heaven, in New Jerusalem, as we easily travel back and forth, as we commute, perhaps daily, from our Heavenly home to our workplace, to the area of authority Jesus Christ will have given us to rule. If Jesus Christ is able to instantaneously travel between Heaven and His Throne, on Earth, so shall we: *'Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.'* 1 John 3:2

Now we are sons of God but when He comes for us in the Rapture, He will instantaneously transform us into His likeness. During the 1000 years of the Millennium, New Jerusalem will remain in Heaven but it will still be our home, the special bridal chamber He created for us, His beloved Eternal Bride.

All creation anxiously waits for our transformation; all creation longs for us to be revealed because, like Jesus Christ, we, too, will rule and reign in righteousness; all creation longs to be ruled in righteousness: *'The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creature (all Creation) was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, ²¹ Because the creature itself (all Creation) also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.'* Rom 8:16

Then, after we have ruled and reigned with Him, in Righteousness, for 1000 years, He will destroy the present Earth and Heavens and create a New Earth which will have no corruption from sin at all; then, God's Throne Room in New Jerusalem can come down to the New Earth; then will the Feast of Tabernacles be fulfilled as He lives in and among His beloved children, forever.

Verse 11: *'Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;'*

New Jerusalem will be far beyond our imagination. Jasper is a marvelous stone; it's found in many different colors and textures: some wildly colorful and some looking like clear diamonds. We think of precious stones like ruby, emerald, sapphire, diamond but there are so many beautiful, wonderful stones, many of which we've never even seen, yet, but God has used all of them in His spectacular home which He will share with us.

Verse 12: *'And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.'*

An angel stands guard continually at each of the 12 gates. We'll see that New Jerusalem will be the home of not only the True Church, the Bride of Jesus Christ, but, also, of Israel, the wife of God, the Father.

Each of the 12 gates has the name of one of the 12 tribes of Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Benjamin, Joseph (Ephraim, Manasseh); Joseph received special honor in there being 2 tribes from him: Ephraim and Manasseh. We assume that the name of Joseph, alone, would be on one of the gates.

New Jerusalem is absolutely huge; we will see so, and the wall and gates are also huge. The city is square with 3 gates in each side of the city's walls.

Verse 14: *'And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.'*

Here, then, is the evidence that New Jerusalem was created to be the home of God and all His children, Israel and the True Church. Each of the 12 foundations are named for one of the 12 Apostles: Peter, James, John, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon, Judas the brother of James and Matthias who was chosen later, by lot, to replace Judas Iscariot.

These 12 foundations would be laid out with one under each corner and then 2 more spaced evenly under each side of the wall.

Verse 15: *'And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. ¹⁶ And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.'*

He! Angels are always male/he... he gives John a golden reed. Reeds were used like our measuring tapes. It would be cut to a certain length with marked gradations; it would be added up to find the full distance.

A furlong is 1/8 of a mile. This city, all gold and precious stones, it huge! 1500 miles on each side, as well as 1500 miles high! This is the place where Jesus promised to prepare a marvelous place for each of us. Since it is made of pure gold, like transparent glass, the glory of God, Who also lives there, will fill the entire place with golden light; there is no night there; it is always light, but a beautiful, soft, golden light, never a harsh light.

Jesus said, 'Wide is the way that leads to destruction and many go therein but narrow is the way that leads to life and few there be that find it. The number of God's Elect is not a majority of historic humanity.

Let's say that the 'cozy' little apartments Jesus prepared for us are 1/4 mile square and high: 1 cubic quarter mile. That huge golden city could hold 54 billion such apartments. If He decided to make them an entire mile square and 'only' 1/4 mile high, it could hold 13 1/2 billion!

All that to say, we can't even imagine the size, beauty and magnificent dwelling places He has planned for us.

'But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. ¹⁰ But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.' 1 Cor 2:9

We cannot even imagine what God has planned for us but we are instructed to try to imagine it: *'Set your affection (set your minds and hearts) on things above, not on things on the earth.'* Col 3:2 When we do so, that is what allows us to confidently face all the wickedness and danger of this present, dark World system.

Not only will our home in New Jerusalem be lighted by the Glory of God and the Lord Jesus Christ, **but also by our own glory**. We will shine with our own glory, given us by God. Blasphemy? No, it's true unless, that is, God's Word is not true...

'When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.' col 3:4 Glory is not a place; we've always heard, said, something like: '... when we get to glory...' as if glory is another word for Heaven... it's not.

Glory is the 'shining' of God; the glory of God is His Own light shining forth.

'For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.' Rom 8:29

All these are actions having been completed in the past, things God has already accomplished for, and in, us. None of this is 'figurative'; it is all cold, hard facts. We have already been glorified but since it is only, for now, seen in the spiritual realm, we cannot see it. This is why Jesus said, 'You are the light of the World.' Our light is seen shining forth in the spiritual realm and always seen by those ruling in the kingdom of darkness. If we're

in a spiritually dark place, we might be tempted to try to hide our glory, our light, but that cannot be done; we are always known and seen as children of God by every dark and evil spirit.

Peter wrote: *'The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: ² Feed the flock of God which is among you...*

⁴ And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.' 1 Pet 5:1

Jesus said: *'Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.'* Matt 13:43

Paul wrote: *' For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.'* Rom 8:18

Of our bodies, Paul wrote: 'It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.' 1 Cor 15:43

The moment our physical bodies are transformed to join our spiritual bodies, our glory will then, suddenly be revealed and shine forth.

'For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: ²¹ Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.' Phpp 3:20

And the best of all: *'... he that winneth souls is wise... And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament (the Heavens); and they that turn many to righteousness (shall shine) as the stars forever and ever.'*

Prov 11:30/Dan 12:2

Always remember the next verse after: *'Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.'* It says: *'But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit...'* 1 Cor 2:9

Allow His Spirit to reveal to you the truths He's hidden in His Word to be seen by those with eyes to see and to be heard by those with ears to hear.

He has revealed to us, by His Spirit, far, far more than we even realize; He expects us to take all the clues and all the revelations in His Word and be faithful to imagine the impossible: *'...With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.'* Matt 19:26

Nothing is impossible; all that holds us back from glorifying Him is our weak and paltry imaginations or our pride in thinking we're so powerful that God couldn't possibly accomplish the huge things we might dare to imagine.