

The City – The Bride Revelation 21:1-5

John uses symbolic language, words and images we understand, to describe the celestial and glorious visions God is giving him on the Isle of Patmos. This chapter holds two scenes. First, John sees the marriage ceremony of Christ and His Bride – the Church. Secondly, he sees the Bride!

1. He sees a new heaven and a new earth – that which we know now has “passed away” following the judgment described in Chapter 20
 - a. John sees the place Jesus described in John 14 – A prepared place...
 - i. There is no more sea. Throughout the Bible the sea is representative of all that opposes God. In the new heaven and new earth there will be no opposition to God
 - ii. A new earth – not this planet. This will be consumed by fire, but a new place where God is eternally present in person.
 1. God created this earth in six days – what glory waits on the new earth after 2,000-plus years!
2. John sees New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven.
 - a. Not the divided earthly city in modern day Israel.
 - i. He sees spiritual Jerusalem. The Jerusalem that is above is free!
 - ii. Those who choose to look toward the Lord dwelling in an earthly city are thinking too physical/materialistic.
 - iii. The Lord does not live within walls of brick or stone today and will never again confine himself to a lifeless city. Jerusalem of old was replaced with the heart of repentant men and women who willingly accept Jesus as savior.
 - b. Jerusalem is a city prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
 - i. There are few greater images than a holy bride, adorned for her husband
 - ii. New Testament (Ephesians 5) teaches us that the church is the Bride and Jesus is the bridegroom
 1. It is a mystery, but Paul speaks of Christ and the church Vs. 32
 - c. New Jerusalem is a city made up of CITY people.
 - i. Jesus described his believers as a “city that is set up on a hill cannot be hid.”
 1. The church is “a city set on a hill.”
 2. By receiving Christ as our savior we become part of that spiritual city – “The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”
 3. Our citizenship is a dual citizenship; a citizen of two worlds; now and forever!
 - ii. (From book “Restoring Broken Things” – “God never designed the church merely to be a spiritual component of a city, in the same way grocery stores and Wal-Mart is part of a city. Neither did He call the church just to be the moral conscience of the city.

- iii. The Church, in a very unique sense, is a city – a covenant community of believers married to Jesus. And, as a city, we are to offer a glimmer of the glow of the coming city.
 - iv. The Church was never commissioned to be a refuge from the messiness of life, or a fort whose walls are topped with razor wire protecting “us” from “them.”
 - 1. Jesus says we are not to be “of” the world, He has commissioned us to be IN it.
 - a. We are to bring Jesus’ light into the dark places of society and His restoring love into every aspect of city life.
3. John hears the pronouncement!
- a. I now pronounce you husband and wife is the declaration at a wedding today.
 - b. God’s pronouncement of the marriage of the bride and groom is greater. God affirms His presence in the marriage. The eternal unity of the bride and groom
 - i. God declares the happiness of their eternal life together.
 - 1. No more tears
 - 2. No more sorrow
 - 3. No more death
 - 4. No more crying
 - 5. No more pain
 - a. May I add – No more heart disease; shortness of breath; arthritis; migraines; No more debt, homelessness, mental disease, AIDS; No more earthquakes, famine, or flood;
 - b. NO MORE CANCER!
 - ii. All former things are passed away; All things are made new in that city to where we are going!
4. These words are true and faithful – write it down!
- a. This is celebration day – the marriage certificate is signed with the blood of the eternal sacrifice. God Himself has said it!
 - b.