

**Revelation**  
**A Wednesday Night Bible Study**

Lesson #99  
9/24/2008

**The Eternal Heaven: Part 9**  
**“The Lamb’s Bride, the New Jerusalem: Part 3”**  
**Revelation 21:22-27**

After a number of statements (21:10-21) describing “**the holy city, new Jerusalem**” the focus returns to the primary characteristic of heaven, i.e., the presence and person of the Lord God.

**Revelation 21:22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.**

First, we read that John saw “**no temple in the holy city, new Jerusalem, God’s eternal heaven.**” Both the tabernacle and then the temple were earthly places where God presented Himself to man after man performed the rituals which symbolized the removal of the obstacle of his sinfulness. As such, the tabernacle and the temple were, when reduced to their basic function, a place for God to be present and meet man. In the “**eternal heaven,**” no such place is needed.

Dr. J. Vernon McGee says “*the temple, which supplanted the tabernacle in the Old Testament, was an earthly enclosure for the shekinah glory. It was a testimony to the presence of God and the presence of sin. When sin existed, God could be approached only through the rituals of the temple.*”

However, in the “**new Jerusalem**” there is no sin, nor can there be any. Therefore, since “**... the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God**” and there is no sin to separate man from God, there is no need for a “**temple**” with its rituals which were designed to deal with man’s sin-problem.

The tabernacle, and then, afterwards, the temple, was necessary when sin was present because man’s sin separated him from God. Each of these, both the tabernacle and the temple, had altars upon which sacrifices of blood for sin were offered so that the blood could symbolize the power of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, offered on calvary, to wash away man’s sin. When the blood sacrifices were offered to God as an atonement for man’s sin, God could then present Himself to the sinners.

What was prophetically symbolized in the Old Testament concerning the atonement for man’s sin was actualized and fulfilled by Jesus Christ upon the cross of calvary as is explained the book of Hebrews:

**“And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without**

**Revelation 21:22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.**

**Revelation 21:23 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.**

**Revelation 21:24 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 honor into it.**

**Revelation 21:25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.**

**Revelation 21:26 And they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it.**

**Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.**

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blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself” (Hebrews 9:15-26).

“Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more” (Hebrews 10:9-17)..

In the New Testament, God made Himself present in the lives of those who accepted the sacrifice of God the Son, Jesus Christ, as the payment for their sin. The lives of the redeemed literally became *“the temple of the Holy Spirit of God”* (1 Corinthians 6:19). Such are therefore expected to *“present their bodies as living sacrifices, holy, acceptable unto God”* as a *“reasonable service”* of worship (Romans 12:1). Since, in the person of His Holy Spirit, God is present in the actual life of the believer, the believer

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And God said, Let there be light:  
and there was light.

is to continually be presenting himself as *“a sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God.”* Thus, the **“temple”** on earth changed from being a building to being a person, making each and every person who gives himself to the Lord Jesus Christ God’s very own **“temple”** where He is present because that person’s sin has been cleansed by Jesus Christ. God satisfied His wrath against man’s sin by pouring His wrath out upon His *“only begotten Son.”* Of His Son God said: *“And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world”* (1 John 2:2).

**Revelation 21:23 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.**

John 1:1 tells us **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”** A more accurate translation of John 1:1 would be: *“When the beginning began, the Word always had been; And the Word always had been equal with God; And God always had been the Word.”* The Holy Spirit’s dictation to His scribe, John, went on to inform us about the manifestation of God to man as God the Son: *“All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was (always had been) life; and the life was (always had been) the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not”* (John 1:3-5). Later the Holy Spirit instructed John to write a quote of what Jesus said of Himself: **“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life”** (John 8:12).

To use a modern day term, what we have before us in Revelation 21:23 might be called **“back to the future”** because it has a relationship to what God did when He created this world. In Genesis 1:3 we are told: **“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.”** God did not have to create light because light already existed in the person of Jesus Christ and emanated from Him as a natural expression of His presence. In Genesis 1:2 where we are told that **“The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters,”** the Hebrew word for **“moved,”** **rachaph** (7363), means **“to shake or make waves.”** Today, we often measure energy in **“wavelengths”** and speak of the **“light spectrum,”** or **“wavelengths of light,”** often seen as various colors. Perhaps without realizing it, what we are saying is that, when man measures energy or light in **“wavelengths”** or speaks of the **“spectrum of light,”** he is really speaking of observing the light which emanates from the person and presence of Jesus Christ.

The celestial **“city,”** heaven, has **“... no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the**

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**Lamb is the light thereof.”** In Genesis we are told that *“God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years. And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth”* (Genesis 1:14-17). There is no more earth, as it had been, and thus, no more need to divide the day from the night or to specify seasons, and, with **“the glory of God”** being the light of the celestial city, emanating from the presence of the Lord God, there is, of course, no need for a sun, a moon or any stars.

**Revelation 21:24 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 honor into it.**

**Revelation 21:25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.**

**Revelation 21:26 And they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it.**

**“The nations,”** indicating the redeemed of the various ethnic groups of the world, all saved the same way, through faith in the propitiatory sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, will be present, without any distinctions, in the celestial city to enjoy eternal life in the light provided by the Lord God. Since there are no more enemies of God, or of His redeemed saints, there can be no danger or threat to them. Therefore, there is no need to shut any of the gates.

**Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.**

Repeating some of the same list found in 21:8, God emphasizes those who will not be allowed into His celestial city. God includes in both lists those who **“worketh abomination”** (relating to the worship of idols) and those **“who maketh a lie,”** i.e. are habitual liars. By doing this, God specifies those who will not be allowed into His heaven, thus equating and focusing on those who worship the devil and those who reproduce Satan’s primary characteristic, lying. To get into God’s heaven a person must have his name written down in **“...the Lamb’s book of life.”** That is the only way by which a person can get into God’s heaven. Those who would suggest or proclaim that there is some other way are either ignorant or dishonest. Heaven belongs to God and He alone determines who is allowed in. No one else’s opinions matter.