

THE NEW JERUSALEM (DICTIONARY – Last page)

The New Jerusalem is like a bride – Revelation 21:2

New indicates a **Heavenly, not an earthly city** . The City of the Great King according to Matthew 5:3. A city of Heavenly Order. John saw a "perfect bride." The city had **the glory of God** , and its **light** was like unto a **stone most precious** , as of a **jasper stone, clear as crystal** " (Rev. 21:11). The description is beyond all human imagination: **foundations adorned with precious stones** (Revelation 21:19), "**every gate was one pearl** " (Rev. 21:21), "**their wall was like unto jasper, and the city was pure gold, as clear glass**" (Revelation 21:18).

HER GLORY

Revelation 21:11. Glory in Hebrew is Kabod = **weight** . In the eyes of men a man's glory had to do with his importance or his possessions. Jacob's *kabod* was his wealth ([Gen.31:1](#)). The *kabod* of the Assyrians was their military strength (Isa.8:7). Joseph's *kabod* was his position as viceroy of Egypt ([Gen.45:13](#)). The *The glory* of God is His **Love** , His **Wisdom** , His **Knowledge** , His **Righteousness** , His **Truth** , His **Power** , etc. etc. All these spiritual "importances" together form the *glory of God* . How overwhelming that John says **that the new Jerusalem has the glory of God !**

HER LIGHT

All the saints together form that New City, which "has no need of the sun or moon, because the glory of God gives it light " (Rev. 21:23). **The Lord is its light** ([Ps. 27:1](#)).

Light is a symbol of truth in the Bible (see e.g. [Ps.43:3](#)). **If her light is like a diamond, clear as crystal, it means that the New Jerusalem is filled with pure truth** (Rev.21:11). She has been led into *all* truth ([John 16:13](#)). Matthew 5:14 says: You are the light of the world.

THE TENT OF GOD

"Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and **He will be with them** " (Rev.21:3).

We read that in the New Jerusalem there is no need for light from the sun or lampstand, **for the glory of God is its light. and the Lamb is the lamp** (Rev.21:23, 22:5). This means that the preparations of the outer court and the holy place are no longer necessary. In the "New" Jerusalem there is only **light from God. He has accomplished His purpose for the bride.**

Of the tabernacle only the Holy of Holies had the shape of a cube (10x10x10 cubits). **The only other cube described in the Bible is the New Jerusalem** . Its length and its width and its height are therefore equal (Rev.21:16). **Square speaks of perfection , a cube of fullness**

Only those who allow themselves to be transformed into His image **become part of this cube** . Those who are regenerated by the Holy Spirit die to their old self, partake of the divine nature and attain perfect purity, wisdom, knowledge and love (2 Pet. 1:4). **This new state of perfection and fullness is the Holy City! It is the revelation of the fullness of Christ in His bride .**

The "New" Jerusalem appears to have gigantic dimensions: **a cube of 12,000 stadia** high (one stadia = 231 cubits). **"And he measured the city, the length, the breadth, and the height, 12,000 stadia" (Rev. 21:16)**. The Holy of Holies of the tabernacle was a cube of only 10 cubits high, the New Jerusalem of no less than 2,772,000 cubits! **Those who prefer to continue to interpret the Bible in an earthly and natural way, should try to imagine a city of about eight billion cubic kilometers** . (The circumference of the earth is approximately 40,000 km). (Zechariah 2:2).

What we must pay attention to is **the meaning of the number 12,000**. The number **12** refers to being called to **the royal priesthood**.

The Lord has taught us to see in all the details of the Bible references to **spiritual realities** . **Also in numbers. They all have a symbolic meaning!!!**
But now the true size of the Celestial City : 12,000 stadia long, wide and high. That is not to be determined in meters and kilometers , but is a royal-priestly " the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ " , "the measure of the knowledge of the Son" (Ephesians 4:13)

DECORATED FOR HER HUSBAND

John saw the city *all* "prepared as a bride **adorned for her husband** " (Rev. 21:2, KJV), in "fine linen, bright and clean" (Rev. 19:7-8).

The Greek word for adorning is *kosmeo* (cf. cosmetics). The bride is made beautiful for Christ in every way. She grows "in love in every way toward Him" (Eph. 4:15). The noun derived from *kosmeo* is *kosmos* , which literally means: arrangement, grading. In Dutch translations it is usually translated as *world* . The basic meaning of *kosmos* is closely related to *kosmeo* : the *cosmos* will be *arranged* , *made beautiful*. There is a *New Order* coming! Everything will be *New*!

HER WALLS

God Himself is the Wall!

"And it had a wall great and high. And he that talked with me had a golden rod to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And he measured the wall thereof, **an hundred and forty-four cubits** , according to the measure of a man, which is the measure of an angel. And the material of the wall was jasper" (Rev. 21:12,15-18).

According to these verses, every 2000-kilometer-high city has a wall 144 cubits high. **City walls used to serve as protection against enemies. Is that the case here too? No, now there is a New Heaven and a New Earth, where**

righteousness dwells. The gates in the wall no longer have to be closed to enemies. What does this wall mean then?

Any natural interpretation of these beautiful symbols leads us astray.

We must understand them *spiritually* !!! The walls of the Heavenly

Jerusalem are *spiritual* walls. It says, "We have a strong city with *salvation* "as walls" (Isa.26:1). "Violence shall no more be heard in thy land:

thou shalt call thy walls *Salvation* , and thy gates *Praise* " (Isa.60:18). " ***I***,

declares the Lord, will be a wall of fire round about her, and the

glory in the midst of her" (Zech.2:5). "The name of the Lord is a strong

tower" (literally: a walled place, Prov.18:10). **The wall of the New Jerusalem**

is God, His *salvation*, His *salvation* !!!

THE GATES

Gates is praise!

"And it 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** " (Rev.21:12-13).

"And the gates thereof shall not be shut, for there shall be no night there: and the glory and honour of the nations shall be brought into it" (Rev. 21:25-26).

It is incomprehensible that so many believers apply revelation to natural things and not to *spiritual, eternal realities* . Isaiah already elevated

symbolism to spiritual reality: " **You shall call your walls *salvation* , and your gates *praise* "** (Isa. 60:18). The New Jerusalem is therefore not a city

with stone walls and wooden gates. Salvation and praise do not come about through dead material.

There are **12** gates, **12** "ancient entrances" (cf. [Ps. 24:7-10](#)). Again **12** , **the number of being called to the royal priesthood**. Your gates? *Praise!* When the Holy Spirit reigns in us, our life becomes one praise. Such was the life of Jesus, who was governed in all things by the will of the Father. His life was one and all praise.

The gates proclaim God's message, which corresponds to the meanings of the names written on them (Rev. 21:12). These names are the twelve names of the tribes of Israel (**Rev. 21:12**). **Because of this fact, many believe that the *natural* descendants of Jacob (through Leah, Bilhah , Zilpah , and Rachel) will be the bride of Christ.**

But the book of Revelation speaks symbolically. **Symbols point to spiritual realities, but are not the reality itself.** The city of God that John saw was not an earthly city, **but a symbol for a *people*** . The gates are not gates of iron, but are "ancient entrances," which must "lift up their heads," "that the King may come in" ([Ps. 24:7](#)).

Her lifestream is not an earthly river, but the eternal

stream of God's life-giving Spirit . The wall is not of stone, but is the great *salvation* in the lives of God's children. **The throne is not a golden**

chair above the clouds, but a symbol of God's universal authority. And when we read of *the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel* on the gates of the city of God, **they are not written in letters names of the tribes of natural Israel.** That would be elevating the symbol to reality. **Symbols point to inner, spiritual realities. The Holy City is a heavenly reality. It is not of the old, but of the New creation.**

The names of the twelve tribes on the gates reveal **how** one can enter the New Jerusalem. We will look at some names with the help of the "Biblical Dictionary" by A. Huizinga.

Reuben (raoh =see, ben=son) means "See a son". Whoever allows the Spirit of sonship to work in him has found a gate to the New Jerusalem.

The second root is **Simeon (samoa = to hear)** and means "hearing", "answering". "He who has an ear, *let him hear* what the Spirit says to the churches" (Rev.2:7). **"Faith comes by hearing "** ([Rom.10:17](#)). "Hearing the living Word" is a gate to the glory of God.

Levi (lavoh = to adhere) means "attachment", "company". "He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him" ([1Cor.6:17](#)). That is the principle of *abiding in Him* . "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in Him, the same bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing" ([John 15:5](#)). "Levi" knows the Lord as "the refuge of the Most High", as "his refuge" ([Ps.91](#)).

The fourth tribe is **Judah (yadoh = to praise, to thank, to thank)** and means "thanking". They will not only "offer up a sacrifice of praise to God continually" ([Heb.13:15](#)), but especially "they *will be to Him* for a people, a renown, a praise , and an honour" ([Jer.13:11](#)).

The fifth tribe , **Zebulun (zabol = to dwell), means "dwelling. "** "In My Father's house are many *mansions* " ([John 14:2](#)). "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My words; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and *make Our home with him* " ([John 14:23](#)), "that where I am, there you may be also" ([John 14:3](#)).

Issachar means "There is a reward" and points to the completion of the new man. Whoever is "in Jerusalem" is Christ's reward. "Behold, your *salvation* comes; behold, *his reward is with him* . And they shall call them, The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord. And you shall be called, The City Desired, Not Forsaken" (Isa. 62:12). "I am coming quickly; and *my reward is with me* " (Rev. 22:12).

All the names of the tribes, including **Gad (=happiness, according to some: seer), Asher (=blessed), Naphtali (=wrestling), Ephraim (=fruitful), Manasseh (=who makes one forget) and Benjamin (son of my right hand) show "entrances" to the New Jerusalem.**

However, the name of one tribe has disappeared (cf. Rev. 7:1-8): that of Dan. **In place of Dan (=judge, judger) has come Manasseh (=who makes forget). "Dan" is gone: there is no more judging in the Heavenly City. "**

Manasseh " has taken its place: our sins are no longer remembered. It is now "given to the bride to be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean", with "the righteous acts of the saints" (Rev. 19:8). For her, judgment (=separation of good and evil) is a process that is behind her forever (cf. 1 Pet. 4:17). *Dan* (=judge) is not a gate of the Heavenly Jerusalem.

So the Holy City has twelve gates , three on each side (Rev. 21:13). Each gate is *one* large pearl: " **And the twelve gates were twelve pearls ; every gate was one pearl**" (Rev. 21:21). Why a pearl? For example, what is the pearl of great price in Jesus' parable? He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: who when he had found *one pearl of great price* , went and sold all that he had, and bought it" ([Matt. 13:45-46](#)). And who is the merchant? Many think that it is the sinner who seeks the Savior. But that merchant had pearls to sell, and what has a sinner to sell? The old man in Adam has only want, sin, darkness, death! A newly converted and not yet renewed believer in his thinking has only "wood, straw and stubble" to sell. No. **Christ is the merchant! The precious pearl is the Church !** Not the earthly Babylon , which calls itself the church, but the *ecclesia in spirit and truth* , of which all members are "from above".

The Lord Jesus sold all that He had for His Bride . He completely emptied Himself for her (Phil. 2:6-8). He sold everything for her, and loved her, and *gave Himself for her* , and made her glorious, having neither spot nor wrinkle, and without blemish" (Eph. 5:25-27). The pearl of great price is the *one , holy, universal, Christian ecclesia* . She is "the bride adorned for her husband" (Rev. 21:2). She is the wife of the Lamb, the queen of heaven, the heavenly city of God. This bride was so fascinating and precious to the Lord that He gave up everything He had to marry her.

THE FOUNDATIONS

"And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb" (Rev. 21:14).

"And the foundations of the wall were adorned with all manner of precious stones: the first foundation was a diamond, the second a sapphire, the third a carmine, the fourth an emerald, the fifth a sardonyx, the sixth a sardius , the seventh a topaz, the eighth a beryl, the ninth a chrysolite, the tenth a chrysoprase , the eleventh a sapphire, the twelfth amethyst" (Rev. 21:19-20).

The description of the foundations of the wall is also full of symbolism . We are told that the twelve apostles of the Lamb are the foundations of the city.

This fact alone clearly shows that the Holy Spirit never intended this New Jerusalem to be a natural city. People , the "twelve", are the foundations !!! Paul also speaks about this: "So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners , **but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, and are being**

built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets , Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord: in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place for God through the Spirit" (Eph. 2:19-22). "You are God's building" ([1 Cor. 3:9](#)). *People form the holy city of God* .

The light shining on the stones in the New Jerusalem is not the sun, the moon, or a halogen lamp. **It is the glory of God shining through the Lamb (Rev. 21:23)**. Not one stone is superior in beauty: "And ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may have power **with all the saints** to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge" (Eph. 3:17-18).

We read further that the foundations bear the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb (Rev. 21:14). **Do you remember the meaning of the number 12? The names of the apostles also undoubtedly have to do with fundamental, spiritual principles concerning the Kingdom of Heaven** . The bride is therefore "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone" (Eph. 2:20).

THE STREET

The street is a way of life

"The street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass" (Rev. 21:21). **In the Bible, gold is the symbol of the divine** . Gold never tarnishes. It is a precious metal. **The divine cannot be tarnished in any way.**

Streets are there to be walked on. **The street of the city therefore speaks of the walk of life** . The fact that this **street is of "pure gold"** ("24" carats), as **transparent glass** ", shows us **that everyone in the New Jerusalem walks completely "in newness of life"** ([Rom. 6:4](#)), "in the truth" ([1 John 1:6](#)), as "children of light" (Eph. 5:8). Everyone has been given part of the divine nature and has escaped corruption ([2 Pet. 1:4](#)). Everyone walks in "holiness and sincerity of God" ([2 Cor. 1:12](#)).

Whoever *now* walks in newness, *already experiences* this new paradisiacal condition (Rev. 2:7). He is with his spirit in the Heavenly Jerusalem, just as the Lord Jesus was. During His earthly walk He could say: "I am from above" ([John 8:23](#)). God has then " *quickened us together with Him, raised us up together , and made us sit together in heavenly places*" (Eph. 2:5-7).

So heaven is not a location, but a state !!! Our true heavenly life is now already "hidden with Christ in God" ([Col.3:3](#)). **Whoever knows this, is in the New Jerusalem** .

He *is* a living stone in the city of God. Paul knew this and gave up everything, "to know *Him* and the power of His resurrection, that he himself also might attain to the resurrection from the dead" (Phil.3:10-11). Then we experience *new life on earth* ([Rom.6:4](#)).

In the New Jerusalem, everyone knows the *resurrection walk* of Christ. How did the risen Lord walk? How does He walk now? He always walks with us: "I am with you always" ([Matt.28:20](#)). After His resurrection, He simply appeared, to show **that He was not only invisible, but also present**. "When the doors were shut for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!'" ([John 20:19](#)). This also happened to the Emmaus travelers, and when "their eyes were opened and they recognized Him, He disappeared" (Luke 24:31). **He simply appeared, and then disappeared from view, but He remained present!** Thus "Jesus revealed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias " ([John 21:1-14](#)). **"Then He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at once " ([1 Cor.15 :6](#)). And then to James, then to all the apostles, and also once more to Paul individually ([1 Corinthians 15:7-8](#)).**

THE TREE OF LIFE

"In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and **yielded her fruit every month** : and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations" (Rev. 22:2).

First something about the word *street* . A *street*, as we know it with houses and trees, is *rhume* in Greek : "And the Lord said unto Ananias , Arise, and go **into the street which is called Straight**, and inquire in the house of Judas for one of Tarsus , namely Saul " (Acts 9:11).

In Revelation, however, another word is used, *plateia* . It is derived from *platus* (=extensive, wide). **We should think of an open space rather than a street**. There could have been a better *square* .

In the middle of the square of the New Jerusalem stands *the tree of life* on both sides of the river (Rev.22:2). In Greek it simply says **tree** (*xylon*) *of life* , in the singular. That is amazing! The **tree** of life on both sides of the river..... **how can there be one tree on both banks? Is the tree of life divided in two? To understand this we must know something of the meaning of the number two . It indicates *the fullness of Christ* .** Therefore we read of two tables of stone ([Ex.31:18](#)), two rows of shewbread ([Lev.24:6](#)), two cherubims one with the mercy seat ([Ex.25:18-19](#)), two silver trumpets ([Num.10:2](#)), two good spies ([Num.14:6](#)), two olive trees (Zech.4:3), two stables ([John 10:16](#)), two witnesses (Rev.11:3), **the tree of life on two banks (Rev.22:2). We see here the fullness of the male Body of Christ .**

The " *two* " are *perfectly one with the Spirit of God* . They stand by the river that flows out of the throne of God and of the Lamb (Rev. 22:1-2). **They are completely led by God's Spirit.**

They are the sons of God for whom all creation waits ([Rom.8:14](#) , [19](#)).

Through *this fullness of Christ (=anointed)* everyone will see the salvation of God. Jesus is *the* Redeemer and the Head of that fullness. All other sons who have become like Him are also redeemers. The Statenvertaling calls them *saviors* : "There will come up saviors on Mount Zion" ([Ob.21](#)). The Almighty makes them come up from the regions of the flesh and the soul . **He gives them, as He had done to His Son, "power over all flesh"** ([John 17:2](#)). In this way a Body of saviors is created, **who, one with the Head, are the tree of life** . What kind of "trees" these are, is also clear from the Greek. There are two words for tree. First of all *dendron* (cf. rhododendron), a living tree. All the trees you see on earth are *dendrons* , which get their lifeblood from the ground.

The trees of life are no longer dendrons : John uses the Greek word *xulon* , a *felled* tree (often translated as wood, timber). They have been cut down: their ego is dead. **Their lifeblood no longer comes from the earth, but from the river of God (Rev. 22:2). That is why the leaves of that tree are for healing. Jesus gives healing as *xylon* . The two fallen witnesses also bring healing (Rev. 11:8). In them too springs of living water flow forth unto eternal life ([John 4:14](#)). For out of their innermost being flow rivers of life-giving water ([John 7:38](#)).**

When I recently saw the difference between these two Greek words, I was reminded of a vision the Lord showed one of us in the 1960s: on the side of a path in a deciduous forest (all *dendrons*) lay a pile of tree trunks (*xulons*) . The Lord said, "I am waiting until all the trunks have bled dry and all the shoots have died. Only then will they be like My mouth."

Even today, God is adding sons to the firstfruits . They are learning to walk perfectly in the footsteps of the Lamb "in streets of gold." They are lights that shine "as stars in the world in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation" (Phil. 2:15). **All flesh will see God's *salvation in them*** . It will reach to the ends of the earth (Isa. 49:6). And then "the leaves of the tree shall be for the *healing* of the nations" (Rev. 22:2).

FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS

"And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations" (Rev.22:2).

The first man walked in paradise in perfect union with the Spirit of God . **He continually ate of "the tree of life which was in the midst of the garden"** ([Gen. 2:9](#)). **He partook of the life of God** . But when Eve was deceived by the serpent, that changed: "The Lord sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. And he placed at the east of the garden Cherubims, and a flaming sword, to keep the way of the tree of life" ([Gen. 3:23-24](#)).

And what do we read now in Revelation 22 verse 2? "The leaves of the tree (=the tree of life) are *for the healing of the nations* ". **Never has mankind received anything for the healing of *nations* . No philosophy, social system, form of government, legislation or religious system has ever**

been able to heal nations from the curse to which they are subject (cf. [Rom.8:19-22](#)).

Healing comes through the *living Word of God* . "He sent His word, and He healed them" ([Ps.107:20](#)). **The leaves of the trees are the truths of the living Word!!!** In the Word is life and life is the light of men (cf. [John 1:4](#)). **The *Word of truth* in the *sons* is for the healing of the nations!** " Until now the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain" ([Rom.8:22](#)). It waits for redemption, for healing. It waits for "the leaves of the tree of life".

This tree bears twelve fruits , every month anew (Rev.22:2). Jesus says: "He who abides in Me, and I in him, the same bears much fruit" ([John 15:5](#)). Again the number twelve! **This fact tells us that everything they produce is based on inner, divine kingship** . They speak the truth "with authority and power" (Luke 4:33,36). They are, just like Jesus, *having authority* ([Matt.7:29](#)). Their fruits, which were able to grow by the water of the river of life, are delicious. Let all *nations* come now and "taste and see that the Lord is good" ([Ps.34:8](#)). Let them also come and "eat to the full, and be satisfied" (Joel 2:26). Yes, God is good! To *all* people! ([Ps.145:9](#)).

THE RIVER

"And he showed me a river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Rev. 22:1).

Water of life! That is water with *life-giving* properties! Earthly rivers usually flow from some spring or from a mountain. This river flows from the throne in heaven. Jesus spoke about that water to the Samaritan woman: **"Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never thirst;** it will be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" ([John 4:14](#)). And later He said: "If anyone is thirsty, let him come and drink of Me. **He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his belly will flow rivers of living water "** ([John 7:37-39](#)).

life to everyone who believes . **We are "come unto mount Zion, to the city of the *living* God, the heavenly Jerusalem"** ([Heb. 12:22](#)). We may "come boldly unto the throne of grace," from which "the river of the water of *life* proceeds" ([Heb. 4:16](#) , Rev. 22:1).

The Lord Jesus has opened the fountain for us ([John 7:37-39](#)). He says that if a man drinks of that water, it will become a well *in him* ([John 4:14](#)). **" Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water "** ([John 7:38](#)). **Then the river of life will flow through us** . And it will continue to flow until all creation is set free into the glorious liberty of the children of God ([Rom.8:21](#)).

FROM THE OLD TO THE NEW

Did Abraham and his family ever find the heavenly city? No. "They all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and confessing that they were strangers on the earth" ([Heb. 11:13](#)).

Whoever follows Abraham is also a stranger on earth. Human work is not his "home". He has seen the Kingdom of God (cf. [John 3:3](#)). **He knows that he has "come to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem"** ([Heb. 12:22](#)). He is also only interested in that City, which rises far above human work. He too dwells on earth by faith as in a foreign country. He too lives with his own "in tents" ([Heb. 11:9](#)). He too only wants to settle permanently in **the city , which in the Bible is called *new* , heavenly, permanent, free and holy .**

Now don't imagine that city as a place somewhere in the firmament!!! There are theories that the New Jerusalem will come down from heaven as an undiscovered cubic constellation. It is not a city of stardust. Nor of earthly material . **It is a spiritual city , formed by living stones: by angels, by firstborn who are registered in heaven, by spirits of men ([Heb.12:23](#)). The mystery is that it is heavenly in nature: it is *in* the world, but not *of* the world.**

"And many nations shall come and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of God; and he will teach us 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" (Isa. 2:3).

Going up to the mountain of the Lord in *Jerusalem* ! What confusion there is about that ! One of the main causes is the preaching of countless preachers and Bible teachers who do not know how to distinguish between the *natural* and the *spiritual* . Since the old city still exists and bears its old name, it is thought that the *New, Heavenly Jerusalem is related to the current capital of the Israelites.* But does not the natural point to spiritual realities? The visible is *temporary* and yet a shadow of the permanent! ([1 Cor. 15:46](#) , [2 Cor. 4:18](#) , [Heb. 10:1a](#)). **The developments around the earthly Jerusalem must be seen as a sign of what is coming on the spiritual plane .** The Lord Himself said: "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. And when these things begin to come to pass, then *look up* , and *lift up your heads* ; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:20-33).

The temporal contains "shadows of things to come, while the substance is of Christ" ([Col. 2:17](#)). **The earthly Jerusalem is not the city that God designed and built. It has never been a holy of holies .** It is called the city of blood by Ezekiel ([Ezek. 22:2](#) , [24:6-9](#)). Jesus wept over her: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killeth the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee! How often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen gathereth her chickens, and ye would not: behold, your house is left unto you desolate" ([Matt. 23:37-38](#)). And John saw it as a "city, which spiritually is called Sodom

and Egypt, where also the Lord was crucified" (Rev. 11:8). The earthly Jerusalem is *old* . **The heavenly Jerusalem is New** .

JERUSALEM, A UNIFIED CITY

The old **Jerusalem** was and is the capital of Israel and is therefore still a **symbol of the New** . **For the New Jerusalem also fulfills a capital function in the Kingdom that " is not of this world " ([John 18:36](#))**. In her resides "the government". **It is the "city of the great King" ([Matt. 5:35](#))**. "Out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isa. 2:3). And from there "priests of God and of Christ shall reign with Him" (Rev. 20:6). We also read that "Jerusalem is builded *as a city fitly framed together* " ([Ps.122:3](#)). **The *living* stones in the heavenly Jerusalem are "fitly framed together" by the Holy Spirit** . "By one Spirit, into one body" ([1Cor.12:13](#)). That is not ecumenical unity. Nor is it the unity that can exist within the same organization around a certain doctrine, preacher or magazine. By His Spirit, God Himself joins all members together into unity with and in Himself ([John 17:20-23](#)). **It is a living, spiritual organism. Abraham expected that "city" ([Hebr.11:10](#))**.

DESCENDING FROM HEAVEN

"And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God" (Rev.21:2).

Also in Psalm 48 we read of the New Jerusalem: "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in His holy mountain" ([Ps.48:2](#)). **The city is one with Mount Zion (= the rule of the Holy Spirit), "beautiful in its exaltation " ([Ps.48:3](#))**. The city of God is not on earth, in the lowlands, shrouded in the mist of dualistic, Hellenistic thinking. Nor on a geographical mountain. **God establishes her forever on His holy mountain (=on the rule of the Holy Spirit)** . There is "the city of our God," our fortress ([Ps.48:2](#) , [4](#) , [9](#)). (Zechariah 8:3).

It is our calling to dwell with Him on Zion. "Then we shall no longer be strangers, as Abraham, but members of the household of God." From there God's light will shine ([Ps.50:2](#)). *You*, who trust in God's Spirit, you are the light of the world.

You are the city that is set on a hill and cannot be hidden ([Matt.5:14](#)). Therefore, arise, be further enlightened, "for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon you, and his glory shall be seen upon you. Nations shall come *to your light*, and kings *to the brightness of your rising* " (Isa.60:1-3).

Let it be clear, that John did not see a natural city , so many degrees east longitude, so many degrees south latitude. **The city is from God . She lies on the highest "mountain" (=power)** that is there: on the mountain of the house of God. For "it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of

the house of the Lord shall be *high* " (Micah 4:1). **That mountain is the power of the Holy Spirit. It is a Heavenly reality. A Heavenly City! A spiritual people!** "As the heavenly is, so are the heavenly also . And as we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly" ([1Cor.15:48-49](#)). **They shall "reign with Him for ever and ever" (Rev.20:6, 22:5). Where? "They shall reign on *the earth* " (Rev.5:10). For "the tabernacle of God is with *men* " (Rev.21:3).**

BRIDE AND GROOM

The exalted city of God is *the bride of Christ* (Rev. 21:2). All its "stones" are living, built on a living foundation, on Christ the chief cornerstone, on the foundation of apostles and prophets (Eph. 2:20). Her growth and maturation process would last for centuries. John sees her consummation. She is "the holy people, the redeemed of the Lord, a city desired, and not forsaken" (Isa. 62:12). **So the bride does not live *in* the city (as some claim), the city *is* the bride**

. The city is the bride. But who is the bridegroom? Then most of us say: the Lord Jesus Christ. But that is only partly true. The bridegroom, just like the bride, also has a spiritual, composite body. The bride is the *fullness of the believers redeemed by the Lord* (Isa. 62:12). **The bridegroom is the fullness of the first fruits of the earth redeemed with Him** (Rev.14:3). They relate to *the city* (bride, Church, believers) and the *temple* (bridegroom, Christ, sons).

To understand the concept of *Christ* clearly, we need to look at the genealogy of Matthew 1. It lists the *male* line of Jesus' ancestry. "All the generations from Abraham to David are *fourteen* generations; and from David to the captivity in Babylon are *fourteen* generations; and from the captivity to Christ are *fourteen* generations" ([Matt. 1:17](#)). **So a total of 42, seven (=fullness) times six (=in the flesh).**

But if we look more closely at the genealogy, we see that *Jesus* is not the last generation, but the *41st* , the *13th* after the exile. But it does say: "Unto *the Christ* is fourteen generations". **After *Jesus, the Son*, there comes another "male" generation. These are the sons, the "144,000", the Christ, the Body of Christ, the fullness of Christ, the Son together with the sons, the *bridegroom* .**

When John saw *this* , he fell at His feet as dead. He had never experienced anything so overwhelming. This was not the Jesus of Nazareth with whom he had lived for years. This was a very different and much grander appearance. His head and hair were like wool, like snow! His eyes? Like flames of fire. His voice? As of many waters! (Rev. 1:12-16). John then heard Him say, "Fear not, I am the first *and* the last" (Rev. 1:17). **John had seen the Son and the sons, the Head with a full body of "144,000" redeemed from the earth (Rev. 14:3). He had seen the *bridegroom* .**

In his visions he also saw **the bride** . What a *wedding* it will be, when the "bridegroom comes out of his chamber" (=is revealed, [Ps.19:6](#)) and when He "rejoices over the bride", because "she has made herself ready" (Isa.62:5, Rev.19:7)! **Then temple (bride in whom Christ, God the Holy Spirit lives) and city will completely merge** (Rev.19:7, 21:22). Then it will be a universal feast! "Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb" (Rev.19:9). "All nations will flow to it" (Isa.2:2). They will all be healed! (Rev.22:2). They will be *His people* , who will walk in the light of His glory (Rev.21:3,24). Then *everything* will be new (Rev.21:5). **Then "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of God, as the waters cover the sea" (Isa. 11:9).**

"Then comes the *end* , when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father; when all rule and all authority and power shall be abolished" ([1Cor.15:23-25](#)). The *end* ! Paul uses the Greek word *telos* (=result, goal; from *tello* : working toward a *goal*). Then God is all in all ([1Cor.15:28](#)). Then " *of him and through him and to him are all things* . **To whom be glory forever! Amen**" ([Rom.11:33-36](#)).

Depending on the activity of the "overcomers", being The New Jerusalem, this will ultimately be manifested all over the earth!!!

DICTIONARY

The New Jerusalem is: bride/overcomer, not an earthly city.

Glory is: Kabod : weight or God's Love, wisdom and Power.

Her Light is: God's glory over all the saints together who form the new city.

Light is a symbol of Truth

Crystal Clear Diamond: Pure Truth!

Cube is: A cube in the NT is The New Jerusalem. It is a square. And a square speaks of **perfect Truth** , or **a cube of fullness** . Only those who allow themselves to be changed become part of this cube.

The Dimensions of the City is: The measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

The Walls: God Himself is the Wall, His Salvation! Let the walls be spiritual! Isaiah 26:1 and Isaiah 60:18. **Zechariah 2:5 I Myself will be its wall. The walls of the Heavenly Jerusalem are spiritual.**

Pure river of water of life: Revelation 22:1. Is the Eternal stream of God's life-giving Spirit!

Gates is: Praise! You shall call your walls salvation, and your gates praise. Isaiah 60:18.

The Twelve Gates: The Spiritual Understanding of the Descendants of Jacob .

Twelve: Being Called to royal priesthood.

Symbols: point to spiritual realities.

Ruben: see a son.

Simeon: hearing, answering.

Levi: attachment, company

Judah: praise and glorify.

Zebulun : dwelling.

Issachar : There is a reward

Gad : luck, seer

Asher : Blessed

Naphtali : wrestling

Ephraim : fruitful

Manasseh : who makes forget

Benjamin: Son of My Right Hand

Pearl: the church of Christ, Jesus is the Merchant.

Foundations: The foundations full of precious stones are people: Paul indicates that the overcomers are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets**, **Jesus being the chief cornerstone.**

The street is: the walk of life. A street of pure gold means that everyone walks perfectly in newness of life.

Heaven: Not a Location but a "Condition".

Tree of life is: the fullness of the Male Body of Christ.

The Leaves for Healing: Jesus gives healing and the Two Witnesses bring healing.

The leaves of the trees are: the Truths of The Living Word!

To eat from the tree of life is to partake of the Life of God.

Twelve times fruit is: production based on inner, divine kingship.

River is: whoever drinks from the water that Jesus gives him will never thirst forever.

JERUSALEM: a spiritual city formed of living stones, of angels, of firstborn children registered in heaven, and of the spirits of righteous men made perfect.