In our last couple of podcasts we started to explore the description of the bride, the wife of the Lamb, who is also described as the holy city, the New Jerusalem. Let's pick back up with a description of the city's glory.

EP184 Revelation 21:11-14

Having The Glory of God

Revelation 21:11

... now having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, now being clear as crystal.

Both "having" and "clear as crystal" are rendered in the present active participle, meaning every moment of our now, this is the truth; and since "having" is rendered as a participle, it is an ongoing truth. Those who comprise this city are now having the glory of God, and it shines as clear as a crystal.

This might be hard to imagine, but this is not speaking about a future reality, but a present reality, ETERNITY NOW, that extends into ETERNITY THEN. In our now, this glory manifests from the indwelling presence of the Spirit of God in the New Creation, and one day the people of God will be entirely consumed by Yahweh's divine nature, and they will be like Him, for they will see Him as He is. As the Spirit said, "And when Christ who is our life may be revealed, then you also will in the future be caused to be revealed with Him in glory," and "in the **future** choose to receive an unfading crown of glory." Again, this is a present reality that extends into eternity.

The glory which the Father gave to Jesus, He in turn has given it to His bondservants, those prepared beforehand for glory, that they may be one just as the Father and Son are one.³ Even now, all who had the mastery of the law removed from their lives reflect the glory of Yahweh as He makes them more and more like him, as they are changed into his glorious image.⁴ For they have been called to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus.5

Its Radiance

The radiance or the luminance of the city is like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. This word translated as "radiance" is where we get our English word phosphorus, and it is used only one other time in the Codex and is translated as "lights."

¹ 1 John 3:2

² Colossians 3:4; 2. See also Timothy 2:10. 1 Peter 5:4

³ John 17:22. Note: "given" is rendered in the perfect active indicative meaning it has been done and the affect is still manifest); See also Romans 9:22-24

⁴ 2 Corinthians 3:18

⁵ 1 Peter 5:10

Philippians 2:15

That you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you now choose to shine as lights in the world.⁶

The bondservants of Jesus Christ even **now** shine or radiate as light all throughout the spiritual realms, for they have and will continue to have the Spirit of glory and of God rest upon them. The description of the radiance is very intriguing. It is like a "most rare" or "esteemed" jewel, like jasper, clear as a crystal. Keep in mind, these descriptors are not synonymous, and they are not just creative and colorful ways to describe the same thing. Rather, these descriptors reflect differing aspects of the same thing. In other words, each picture is **Code** meant to communicate to us a different message.

A Rare Jewel

Their radiance is unique, like a rare jewel. The light that shines from them is priceless and captivating, and it demands the attention of heaven itself. The faithful of God are unique, like none other. They are so special, honored, exalted, and glorified that they can only be described as a "most rare jewel." This is the privilege of the wife of Christ, and no one else. She is stunningly beautiful.

Jasper

Their radiance is like jasper, which is a variety of quartz that is a mixed color of reddish with brown (much like dried blood). In the first scene of heaven, in the early chapters in *Revelation*, the one who is now sitting on the throne (Jesus) is described with a color like a jasper stone. This color alludes to the fact that Jesus is the one who sacrificed Himself, poured out His blood, to redeem His Chosen ones, and He is the same one who will spill massive amounts of blood in the judgment of humanity, including the blood of His Called and Chosen and Faithful ones.

Accordingly, the fact that their radiance is like jasper makes sense since the Called and Chosen and Faithful are promised that they will be just like Him, for they shall see Him as He is.⁸ But this is also an image that connects to the blood that the two witnesses (the bondservants of Jesus) have spilled throughout time, as God's sheep who fill up the sufferings of Christ.9

Crystalized`

The radiance, the luminance, is also—even now—clear as a crystal. 10 Interestingly, crystals have both amplifying and absorbing properties. A crystal takes scattered rays of energy and makes the energy field so coherent and unidirectional that a tremendous force is generated.

This picture is communicating that the glory of the Lord is now both absorbed and amplified in His people through the New Creation (the sanctuary or holy place of God, literally the "naos") and then, in

⁶ "shine" is rendered in the *present middle indicative*

⁷ Revelation 4:3

^{8 1} John 3:2

⁹ Colossians 1:24

¹⁰ "crystal-clear" is rendered in the present active participle

the new heaven, through their new heavenly bodies. His glory, the light of life, is a tremendous force that shatters and exposes the darkness. Some run from it and others are drawn to it.11

His glory is focused with such intensity that our brightness is and will be overpowering.¹² This is the reason that "the god of this world (Lucifer) has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who now is the image of God. For we do not now preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For God, who has been saying, "Light will in the future shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."13

Yes, Lucifer has to blind unbelievers, or they would be inundated by the glory of Christ as He shines His light, His radiance, in-and-through His bondservants. Did you know that if you are "in Christ," if you are one of those who have "been raised up with Christ," that God in-and-through you has this sort of impact in the world? Pretty freaking phenomenal. Therefore, perhaps instead of viewing this verse through the lens of the evil, awful, "god of this world," we can view it as the mercy of God working through Lucifer so that those who are blinded will not be instantly repelled by the light, but will have an opportunity to slowly get used to the light.

Once again, it is a beautiful picture of ETERNITY NOW that continues increasing in magnitude till ETERNITY THEN. And in that day, "Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."14

Walls, Gates & Foundations

Revelation 21:12-14

It is **now** having a great, high wall, **now** having twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel caused to being inscribed. On the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city is now having twelve foundations, and on them the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Let's keep in mind, this is **NOT** a description of an actual city. The angel told John, "I will in the future show you the bride, the wife of the lamb." And then John sees the bride imaged as the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. This city is an image which communicates truths about the wife of Christ.

What does this mean? No matter how many times it has been taught, we simply won't be walking on streets of gold. Sorry to burst your bubble. That is just **Revelation** fiction. Rather, these images paint for us a picture that communicates a message or an idea that is intended to help us understand more about

¹¹ See **John 3:19-21, 8:12, 12:36, 46**

¹² See **1 Corinthians 6:19**

^{13 2} Corinthians 4:4-6

¹⁴ Daniel 12:3

the present and eternal character and nature of the bride and her relationship to the Elect and the Righteous—to those who will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment but are found to have their names written in the Lamb's book of Life. These are those to whom Jesus (the King) will in the future say: "Come, you who have been caused to being blessed, you who have been caused to being blessed of My Father, you are commanded to inherit the kingdom caused to being prepared for you from the foundation of the world."15

Now & Then

"... now having a great, high wall ... now having twelve gates ... now having twelve foundations." Even though this passage comes during the discussion of the new heaven and the new earth, after the present heavens and earth are destroyed, the Spirit renders the bulk of this passage in the present active participle, something that is happening every moment of our now. What that means is the entire passage is in Code and functions as picture in a picture. We are being shown the bondservants of Jesus Christ, as a collective, as they appear to Yahweh, both in ETERNITY NOW and in their final state in ETERNITY THEN.

What will be true then is true now and what is true now will be true then; it just a reality that exists in the sight of God as He looks outside of time through the heavenly realms into our natural realms and puts words and concepts in place, pictures, that we might kind of get a grasp of heavenly realities. Through this imagery, the Spirit will show us the relationship of the bride to unbelievers, specifically to those deemed to be the Elect, the Righteous, and how He sees the collective function in this world and in the world to come.

A Picture of Mankind

In this first description we are given 6 specific images using the number 12 (12 gates, 12 angels, 12 names of the tribes, 12 foundations, 12 names of the 12 apostles). According to the Code, 12 is the number of God's perfect spiritual administration, or the governmental structure, over mankind. Thus, this is a design symbolizing this perfect administration over a collection of mankind. With there being six images, this confirms, or reinforces, that this is a picture of mankind, as according to the Code, six is the number indicating mankind.

In effect, the Spirit does not want us to miss the point that He is showing the beauty of the bride collective comprised of mankind. Again, this is NOT an actual city. The city is just an image used to communicate deep truths about the bondservants of Jesus Christ and those who are and will be privileged to dwell amongst His Called and Chosen and Faithful ones.

Safety, Security & Stability

In a bit, we will address the wall of the city, but for now, it is enough to know that it is great (or massive) and high. This imagery communicates a place of safety, security, and stability, a protected place where no one can break in. Practically, in our day-and-age, we do not have walls around our cities, so the imagery can be hard to connect to emotionally; however, back in the day, this image would have evoked a strong emotional connection to a life that is lived in safety, security, and stability, something so few ever experience in this world.

This begs the question, why is safety, security, and stability even an issue? If the wife of Christ is now

¹⁵ Matthew 25:34

being transformed and then (in ETERNITY THEN) has been transformed such that they are like Christ and bear His image, why would they, or anyone, need to think about safety, security, and stability? If they share the divine nature, how are such things even a concern? Clearly Yahweh does not need to worry about safety, security, and stability. 16

The Righteous of the Nations

That's a good question. The answer to this question will be explained when we get to Revelation 21:24-27, but in short, the holy city, the new Jerusalem, exists for those of the nations (the sheep and not the goats¹⁷) who are privileged to come and experience Yahweh in-and-through His glory in this city, or His glory as it radiates from His bride, the wife of the Lamb (for the Lord God will illume them). 18

The Righteous, the Elect, all those who 1) honored the bride during their lives and therefore received the Son and the Father when they received into their lives one of His bondservants; 19 2) did not receive the mark of the beast or bow before his idol; and 3) did not join Satan in his rebellion at the end of the millennial period. As they did in life, in their eternal experience, they will come to the bondservants of Jesus Christ to experience Yahweh in the kingdom that was prepared for them, a kingdom that is forever ruled by Jesus, a rule which He shares with the Called and Chosen and Faithful of God.

These people who will be ruled are not the bride, they are not divine, but they will experience God and the glories of eternity. They have a place in eternity, and they are intended to be comforted by this imagery of a phenomenal city with great high walls. The bondservants of Jesus Christ, as they reign forever and ever, will be to them a refuge of safety, security, and stability and the very pathway by which they gain access to Yahweh.²⁰

The Angelic Protectors

"... now having twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels ..." In this collective of the bondservants of Jesus Christ, there are even now twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels who presumably guard or protect the entrance to ensure restricted access: "... and nothing unclean, and no one who is now practicing abomination or a lie, may not, never, come into it, but only those whose names have been caused to being written in the Lamb's book of life."21 The double negation ("may not never") is a reinforced negative that makes it clear that no one who does not belong is sneaking past those angels into the gates. They are guarded and protected.

We need to remember that we are being shown the bondservants of Jesus Christ as they appear, as a collective, to Yahweh, both in ETERNITY NOW and in their final state in ETERNITY THEN.

What this means is that this restriction and angelic protection is not a restriction that literally prevents physical and relational access to the bondservants of Jesus Christ by those who are unclean, practicing abomination or idolatry or a lie (all of which is another jab at those within the Household of God who are still beholden to the Women who Rides the Best and to her religious system where they try very hard to

^{16 1} John 3:2; John 17:20-23

¹⁷ Matthew 25:31-46

¹⁸ See **Revelation 22:5**

¹⁹ See Matthew 10:40, 18:5; Luke 9:46-48; John 13:20

²⁰Revelation 22:5, 20:4; Daniel 7:18, 27

²¹ Revelation 21:27

be good for God). They live amongst the bondservants, and God uses them as tools in our lives. But they are absolutely barred from belonging to this City, from being a part of God's eternal structure no matter how hard they try or how good they are at maintaining their Christian witness. They simply will not be permitted to find their citizenship and belonging in this marvelous city. As the Spirit now says:

Galatians 4:30-5:1

You are commanded to cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not in the future be an heir with the son of the free woman. So then, brethren, brethren, we are not now children of a bondwoman, but of the free woman. It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore, you are **now** commanded to stand firm, and you are commanded to **now** not be caused to be subject again to a yoke of slavery

Anyone walking around with a yoke of slavery, bound to the law, will not be granted residence in this city, they will not belong to its citizenship; they will be cast out.

The Gates

"... now having twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel caused to being inscribed. On the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates."

This city is now having twelve gates (rendered in the present active participle), so we once again are reminded that this is an image of how God now sees His wife. On those twelve gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel—on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.

The big question is which tribes? The list of tribes of the sons of Israel, as set forth in **Revelation 7:5-8**, differs from the traditional list of tribes, for it included Joseph and Levi and specifically excluded Ephraim and Dan, which is bizarre given that in the traditional list (from the wilderness wanderings) Dan was one of the leading tribes and Levi was always excluded for the tribe of Levi belonged exclusively to Yahweh. Moreover, the inclusion of Joseph by default includes Ephraim, who was excluded, because Ephraim was one of Jospeh's sons.

For reference, while wandering through the wilderness, the twelve tribes proceeded in the following order and direction, with one tribe on each side taking the lead.

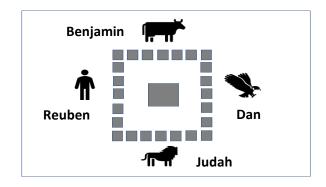
East: **Judah**, Issachar, Zebulun

North: **Dan**, Naphtali, Asher

South: Reuben, Simeon, Gad

West: **Benjamin**, Manasseh, Ephraim

Illustration



The Spirit does not tell us if these names of the gates are derived from the original list, or from the reconstituted list as set forth in Revelation 7:4-8. Given, however, that the reconstituted list is a picture of all the bondservants of Jesus Christ, both Jews and Gentiles, there is a good chance that the new list is the list of names over each of the twelve gates, which also oddly corresponds to the reference of twelve thousand. Twelve gates, twelve thousand. Twelve is found everywhere.

Revelation 7:4-8

And I heard the number of them having been sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand having been sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand having been sealed,

from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand,

from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand,

from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand,

from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand,

from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand,

from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand,

from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand,

from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand,

from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand,

from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand,

from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand having been sealed.

It is through the gateway of "every tribe of the sons of Israel" that Yahweh revealed His Son, with Christ being a Jew, the son of David, the son of Abraham.²² Therefore, it is through these gates which bear the names that everyone must pass to be in relationship with Jesus, for salvation is from the Jews.²³ The witness of Christ was first preached in Jerusalem, then Judea and Samaria, and then to the gentiles in the remotest parts of the earth.²⁴ To the Jew first and then to the gentile nations.

²² See Romans 1:3-4, 9:3-5; Matthew 1:1

²³ John 4:22

²⁴ Acts 1:8

This picture of the gates and the names describes a beautiful act which so few understood, and even today few understand. God had prepared the gentile nations for salvation by having exiled "Ephraim" (which was a euphemism, Code if you will, for the ten northern tribes of Israel) to be disbursed amongst the gentile nations so they too can be gathered in this grand collective (through Gentile converts). This is exemplified by the inclusion of Joseph In the reconstituted list in *Revelation 7*.²⁵

Keep in mind, both Ephraim and Manasseh are the sons of Joseph who were specifically part of the original lists of the tribes of Israel, as they were recognized in place of their father Joseph. Second, in this reconstituted list, we have the inclusion of the tribe of Levi (the priests who were set apart as belonging to **Yahweh**), a reference which also surreptitiously includes the Gentile converts.²⁶

Now, due to its size and overall prominence, in the Codex, Ephraim became a moniker, a picture, representing the ten northern tribes of Israel (all the tribes except for Judah and Benjamin).²⁷ Therefore, with the inclusion of Joseph, we have a picture of God regathering those of the ten northern tribes that had been exiled and disbursed amongst the nations, which even includes the demonic tribe of Dan, which was excluded from this list in Revelation 7:4-8, which finds its inclusion through Ephraim which finds its inclusion through this reference to Joseph.

This explains the little phrasing in the prophecy that Jacob had over His sons, where after giving a very dark and demonic prophecy about Dan, Jacob says, "For Your salvation I wait, O Yahweh."28 Though excluded due to its demonic loyalties, God would find a creative way to include Dan in His plans for salvation, and Jacob knew it and declared it, "For Your salvation I wait, O Yahweh." This is a mind numbing and awesome characteristic of our God.

2 Samuel 14:14-15

For we will surely die and are like water spilled on the ground which cannot be gathered up again. Yet God does not take away life but plans ways so that the banished one will not be cast out from him.

Then we must consider the inclusion of Levi in this list. As mentioned, the tribe of Levi was never included in the original lists of the tribes of Israel because they had been picked out of the community and set apart for God. But here God includes them. Why? Perhaps this is another way that God ensures that those of the gentile nations are included by letting us know that the gates of the city are represented by Yahweh's priests.

1 Peter 2:4-6

And choosing to **now** be coming to Him a stone **now** living which has been caused to being rejected by

²⁵ According to **2 Kings 17:6** (and the whole narrative in **17:5-23**), the ten northern tribes of Israel were exiled by the Assyrian nation and disbursed amongst the conquered nations, fulfilling the prophecy first set forth in **Deuteronomy** 28:64, where God promised to scatter rebellious Israel from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth.

²⁶ See Genesis 48:1-22; Numbers 1:32-35, 47-49, 2:18-20, 3:5-13, 8:14

²⁷ See Hosea 4:17, 5:3, 6:10; Isaiah 7:2, 5-9; Jeremiah 31:20; Ezekiel 37:16-17; Psalm 78:67-68

²⁸ Genesis 49:18

men but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as stones now living, are caused to now being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:6

...and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father

Revelation 20:6

Blessed and holy is the one who is **now** having a part in the resurrection the first; over these the second death now has no power, but they will in the future choose to be priests of God and of Christ and will in the **future** reign with Him for a thousand years.

Revelation 22:3-5

His bondservants will in the future serve Him; they will in the future choose to see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And there will in the future choose to no longer be any night; and they will now not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will in the **future** illumine them; and they will in the **future** reign forever and ever.

These references to our being priests of God apply to every bondservant of Jesus Christ, whether Jew or Gentile. Accordingly, the names on the 12 gates, including Levi, are from every tribe of the sons of Israel comprised of both Jewish and Gentile believers, for salvation is first from the Jews and then to the Gentiles.²⁹ Though these gates everyone must pass to be in relationship with Jesus.

3 Gates Per-Side

It does not matter from what side one approaches this city, there is a perfect provision (3-gates) allowing access from all sides. According to the Code, the number three is the number representing perfection. The Righteous who choose to come to the city will find access.

4 Sides

u... On the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three. gates."

It is pointed out that there are four walls to this city which face the direction of the compass: east, north, south, and west. This structure is Code and contains an embedded message, for the city could have been round, or could have had many sides, but it has just four, which, according to the Code, is the number that represents the entirety of God's creative works often expressed in the directions of the compass.

To us, the directions of the compass are merely constructs of the axis of the earth, its rotation around the Sun, and the earth's magnetic field. It is a relative reality tied to this current dimension. There is no

²⁹ John 4:22

sense that in eternity any of that will still exist, yet we know this is a picture of Now & Then.

The Spirit uses familiar descriptions to paint a beautiful story of the grace of God. The wife of Christ is a result of God's creative works, and not their own work. Who they are, down to their very eternal fiber and being, is a result of God's creative works. He is the one who first loved them, He called, chose, and redeemed them from sin and death. He gave them new life—a new nature (the **New Creation**) created in His image, righteous, holy, and true.³⁰ He filled them with His Holy Spirit, perfected or transformed them, and shared with them His glory and His name.

The fixed position of this city is a message which declares that the people of God live and exist because Jesus lives and exists. It is a message about the **grace** of God reminding us that He honors as His bride those who stand only on the goodness of God—those who let Him cause them to stop their struggle and their fight to be good for God. We must never forget:

JUDE AND REVELATION TARGETS THOSE WITHIN THE VISIBLE CHURCH WITH A MESSAGE WHICH SEPARATES THOSE WHO STAND ONLY ON THE GOODNESS OF GOD FROM THOSE WHO ARE TRYING VERY HARD TO BE GOOD FOR GOD.

Being the Alpha and the Omega, everything came from Him, and everything finds its completion in Him, which is the essence of grace (100% of what comes from God and 0% of what we can do for God). Hence, there are four sides and not six. The embedded message is that the people of God are a showcase of God's creative works (the number four) and not the works of man (the number six).

North, South, East & West

There is also another message buried within the four directions of north, south, east, and west. The wife of Christ is comprised of a great multitude from every nation and all tribes and peoples, and tongues gathered from the four corners of the earth.³¹ Without regard to race, heritage, or national affiliation, all who are *willing* to let Him cause them to be believing will be part of this wonderful city.

The Foundation

"And the wall of the city is **now** having twelve foundations, and on them the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."

Like the gates with the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel, this image is also communicating a powerful point. Jesus chose the apostles upon which He would build His church. From their lives our lives have come. If it was not for their endurance of faith, we would likely not be here. Although they went through a lot of ups and downs and had a lot of successes and failures, when it was all said and done, their faith proved to be solid and stable in Christ Jesus. They are ones whose lives we can and should emulate, which is why Paul had the courage to tell people, "You are commanded to now choose to be imitators of me, just as I also of Christ."³²

³⁰ Ephesians 4:22

³¹ See Revelation 5:9, 7:9

^{32 1} Corinthians 11:1

The **Codex** gives us a similar picture to make the same point, but it utilizes the imagery of a Sanctuary, the "naos," the holy place of God.

Ephesians 2:19-22

So then you **now** are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are **now** fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been caused to being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself **now** being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, caused to **now** being fitted together, **now** grows into a holy sanctuary in the Lord, in whom you also are caused to **now** being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

In typical human fashion, many have speculated on the twelve names wondering if Paul' name is written on one of them. Please keep in mind, this image of the holy city, Jerusalem, is only a picture as are the foundation stones, as are the numbers: 6, 12, 4, 3. They are all pictures that communicate a message. Therefore, trying to ascribe to the picture certain details is silly and misses the point.

So, what is the point of the imagery of the foundation stones? The point is that in God's perfect work, revealed in the lives of those whom He chose to be apostles, we have a sturdy example of faith assuring us that we too can ask God to establish us in faith. For if we choose to stand firm in faith, He will cause us to stand firm in faith.³³

Hebrews 13:7-8

You are commanded to **now** remember those who choose to **now** be leading you, who spoke the word of God to you; and **now** considering the result of their conduct, you are commanded to choose to **now** imitate their faith.

Let's stop here and pick back up next time with the measurements of this grand and glorious city.

I am glad you "tuned in" and have been "ready to listen."

³³ See Isaiah 7:9