

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. In our last podcast, we specifically addressed the measurements of the city. Let's pick back up with a description of the materials of the city.

## EP186 Revelation 21:18-21

### The Materials

#### *Revelation 21:18-21*

And the structure of the wall of jasper, while the city pure gold, clear as glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were caused to being adorned with every kind of jewel. The first jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

And the twelve gates twelve pearls, each of the gates was of a single pearl, and the street of the city pure gold, transparent as glass.

### Fiction Alert

FICTION ALERT

#### *Gold, Jewels, and Pearls*

Despite what has been preached for many years, this is a picture intended to communicate a message. The people of God will **NOT** be walking on literal streets of gold, after all the city is an image, a picture, of the people of God (the wife of Christ) and not a destination. The people of God, in effect, are the streets of gold, just as they are the other materials. So set aside any fictional notions you may have heard about "heaven" and let us just let the text speak for itself.

In this entire passage there are only 2 verbs. First, "*adorned*" is rendered in the *perfect passive participle*. This means that sometime in the past, God is the one who has been adorning His wife. Like any good husband, it is something He continues to do, hence, the participle. Second, "*was a single pearl*" is rendered in the scarcely used *imperfect* tense.<sup>1</sup>

The rest of the passage is a montage of nouns and adjectives that describe **five** aspects of the city: **1)** the wall, **2)** the city itself, **3)** the foundation stones, **4)** the gates, and **5)** the street of the city. Given the description of these five aspects of the city, we can understand that **this city is a representation of the grace of God**, as according to the **Code**, five is the number representing both God's grace and man's abject neediness for all that is God.

<sup>1</sup> Note, throughout *Revelation*, the past tense has largely been rendered using the *aorist active indicative* and the *imperfect*, the technical past tense, has only been used 12 times.

This city of grace is that city for which Abraham longed, “the city which is **now** having foundations whose architect and builder the God.”<sup>2</sup> This is the city which God had prepared for them.<sup>3</sup>

### 1) The Wall

“And the structure of the wall of jasper.” Earlier we were told that the radiance of the city was like jasper, even now being clear as crystal, and that is because the entire wall is jasper.<sup>4</sup> A variety of quartz, jasper is a mixed color of reddish with brown (much like dried blood). This color drives a connection between the blood which Jesus spilt to cleanse and perfect His bride and the blood that **Yahweh’s** two witnesses (the city itself, the bondservants of Jesus) spilled throughout time as they filled up the sufferings of Christ.<sup>5</sup>

When were first introduced to the glorified image of Jesus, as the one who is now sitting on the throne, He was described with a color like jasper stone.<sup>6</sup> And since His bondservants will be like Him, it makes sense that the wall is imaged with the color of jasper stone.<sup>7</sup>

It is difficult to understand, much less emotionally accept, that blood, specifically blood that has been spilled, creates a binding connection between Jesus the lamb of God and His wife. This is a defining connection that will be remembered **now** and for **all eternity**, for their collective sacrifice will define them. Accordingly, blood, imaged in the wall (via this image of jasper quartz) establishes the entire boundary of the city and marks its beginning and end, for with His blood, He purchased His wife from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.<sup>8</sup> Moreover, He will judge and avenge the blood of His bondservants that has been shed by the Harlot and her system.<sup>9</sup>

### 2) The City Pure Gold

“... while the city pure gold, clear as glass.” According to the **Code**, gold is the color indicating divinity. In this image, we have confirmation that those who are now believing will be like Jesus, for we will see Him as He is. In **ETERNITY NOW**, His bondservants stand before Him holy and blameless (pure gold, like clear glass).<sup>10</sup>

In **ETERNITY THEN**, the mortal will put on the immortal, and they will become full partakers of the divine nature, bearing the image of the heavenly, conformed to the image of the Son, who Himself will transform their bodies into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>2</sup> **Hebrews 11:10**

<sup>3</sup> See **Hebrews 11:16**

<sup>4</sup> See **Revelation 21:11**

<sup>5</sup> **Revelation 1:5, 5:9, 6:10, 7:14, 12:11, 16:5-7, 17:6, 18:24, 19:2; Colossians 1:24**

<sup>6</sup> **Revelation 4:3**

<sup>7</sup> **1 John 3:2**

<sup>8</sup> **Revelation 5:9**

<sup>9</sup> **Revelation 19:2; See Revelation 16:5-6, 17:6, 18:24**

<sup>10</sup> **Ephesians 1:4**, “He chose us before the foundations of the world, that we **are** holy and blameless before Him.” Rendered in the *present active infinitive*, this is a statement of our now position before Jesus and not what will be. See also **Ephesians 5:27** which **is** similarly rendered in the *present tense*.

<sup>11</sup> See **1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 15:42-57; 2 Peter 1:4; Romans 8:29; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:4**

It is ironic that the idea which Satan used to deceive Eve is literally fulfilled. Satan's words, though twisted, were more than prophetic. Those who eat of the tree will literally "be like God." Satan a prophet, go figure! Nevertheless, these are words he will choke on for all eternity.

### Clear like Glass

Gold, as clear as glass, speaks of purity or to be without imperfection. It is beyond difficult to conceive of the reality that Jesus even now sees us before Him as holy and blameless, without imperfection. It is utterly mind-blowing. We tend to have an easier time understanding it through the lens of **ETERNITY THEN**. But in our now? It sounds utterly ridiculous.

This is the beauty of **ETERNITY NOW**. This is the beauty, magnitude, and mind-blowing reality of His grace, and the glory of His name **Yahweh Tsidkenu (Yahweh our righteousness)**. In a mind-numbing act of *agape* love, He has imparted His righteousness to those who are now believing. He more than understands that for now they are bound to these bodies of sin and corruption, but one day they will be released to become one with Him as He is with the Father.<sup>12</sup>

**Yahweh** is our righteousness and that is a statement of fact.<sup>13</sup> And that is the reason why God does not deal with us based on our sin nor does He reward us according to our iniquities. "For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us."<sup>14</sup> We are seen by the Father through the lens of Jesus' presence in our lives. As for our part, we get to relish the fact that in His eyes we are pure, like clear glass, and we get to look forward to the day when we shed all that is mortal and put on immortality and are just like Him.

### 3) The Foundation Stones

*"The foundations of the wall of the city were caused to being adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst."*

Previously, we were given this information about the foundations of the wall: "And the wall of the city is **now** having twelve foundations, and on them the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."<sup>15</sup> Now we are given details about how these stones have been caused to being adorned (rendered in the *perfect passive participle*). Sometime in the past God was adorning them as such, and these foundation stones continue to bear their embellishment throughout eternity.

This is kind of trippy in that John was being shown an image of something that symbolizes and reveals his own eternal glory and honor, his eternal reward. You can just hear the whispers in his head, "A stone in the wall, really? I thought I was the disciple you loved. I was expecting something a little more fantastic and preeminent than a stone at the foot of the wall. You could have at least put me in the center of the action, not just supporting everyone else's fun." Just a little "disciple humor" for you.

<sup>12</sup> **John 17:11, 20-21**

<sup>13</sup> **Jeremiah 23:5-6, 33:16; Isaiah 45:24**

<sup>14</sup> **Psalms 103:10-12**

<sup>15</sup> **Revelation 21:14**

**Ephesians 2:19-22**

So then you **now** are no longer strangers and aliens, but you **now** are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, caused to having been 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, is **now** growing 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.

The twelve foundation stones, symbolic of the twelve apostles, *were* adorned with every kind of precious stone, that which is of extreme value to humanity. These stones are identified sequentially, one through twelve. The colors imaged by the various stones provide a vivid and stunning picture. The colors come in various shades of red, blue, black, white, green, yellow, and purple. According to the **Codex**, the stones are nearly the same as the ones worn in the breastplate of the Jewish high priest, but not exactly.<sup>16</sup> Still, it provides an image of the honor and even the privilege that Peter, James, and John and the rest will receive for having been the groundbreakers of faith, the ones to whom the rest of the bride owes their lives.

Now this is pure speculation, but perhaps each apostle is identified with a stone in the order of apostleship that we are given in the **Codex** which matches the sequential order of the stones listed.<sup>17</sup>

*“The first jasper (Peter), the second sapphire (Andrew), the third agate (chalcedony-like copper) (James, the son of Zebedee), the fourth emerald (John – he’s thinking, “now that’s more like it, that’s what I’m talking about”), the fifth onyx (Philip), the sixth carnelian (sardius) (Bartholomew), the seventh chrysolite (Thomas), the eighth beryl (Matthew), the ninth topaz (James, the son of Alphaeus), the tenth chrysoptase (Thaddaeus), the eleventh jacinth Simon the zealot), the twelfth amethyst (Matthias? Paul?).”<sup>18</sup>*

Why precious stones or jewels? This whole scene is an allusion to a beautiful promise found in the **Codex** which says, *“O afflicted one, storm tossed and not comforted. Behold, I will set your stones in antimony, and your foundations I will lay in sapphires. Moreover, I will make your battlements of rubies, and your gates of crystal, and your entire wall of precious stones.”<sup>19</sup>*

The imagery of every kind of precious stone paints a picture of transformation, from suffering and affliction to a state of glory and beauty. Instead of ordinary stones and building materials, these foundation stones are made of precious and imperishable materials that have been forged in the fires of suffering making them permanent and invincible.

It is also more than likely that with the Spirit naming very specific types of stones, that the specific stone represents a specific idea or meaning, **Code** if you may. However, the Spirit did not give us anything in the **Codex** to decipher the meaning, so we are going to settle on the idea this image represents all manner of beautify formed in the fire.

<sup>16</sup> **Exodus 28:17**

<sup>17</sup> **See Matthew 10:2-4**

<sup>18</sup> **See Acts 1:21-26; Romans 1:1**

<sup>19</sup> **Isaiah 54:11-12**

#### 4) 12-Gates-12 Pearls

*“And the twelve gates twelve pearls, each of the gates was of a single pearl.”*

With twelve being **Code** for God’s spiritual administration of things pertaining to man, we learned that each gate bears the name of tribes of the sons of Israel. These names imaged the fact that entry into the kingdom of God comes through the Jews, as Jesus Himself was a Jew and God made Himself manifest to the Jews. But the fact that the actual gates themselves are pearls speaks to the reality that the entry ways to the kingdom of God were established by the Gentiles, for God used the Jew (Jesus) to bring light to the Gentile nations. And this was always **Plan-A**.

When Jesus was first presented in the temple of Jerusalem, there was a man, Simeon, righteous and devout, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and said, *“Lord, let your bondservant **now** depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, **A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES**, and the glory of Your people Israel.”*<sup>20</sup> Even the Jews who believe in the last days are provoked to jealousy by the grace which God is even now pouring out on the Gentiles.<sup>21</sup>

#### Pearls and Gentiles?

The notable point is that the pearl was unclean amongst the Jews as it came from an unclean animal. The pearl was something in which the Gentiles could exclusively relish but not the Jew. Thus, this idiom is exclusively Gentile and not Jewish, and it depicts the glory, brilliance, and luster of the Gentiles.

Besides, as with the other descriptions, this could have been part of the string of nouns and adjectives, but the Spirit specifically included a verb rendered in the *imperfect* (*“each of the gates was of a single pearl”*). The point is that it was always God’s plan to bring salvation to the Gentiles and to populate the kingdom with Gentiles through the ministry of the Jews. From before the foundation of the earth, this was His unchanging plan (**Plan-A**).<sup>22</sup>

This dynamic, though a mystery to the Jews, was clearly revealed in the **Codex**, but the Jews either missed it or had no place in their religious mind to fit it or accept it.<sup>23</sup> Thus, it was fulfilled through Jesus and the Apostles.

#### **Isaiah 9:1-2**

But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, **Galilee of the Gentiles**. The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.

<sup>20</sup> See **Luke 2: 25-32**. See also **Isaiah 9:1-2, 42:6, 49:6, 9, 60:1-3**

<sup>21</sup> See **Romans 9-11**

<sup>22</sup> See **Ephesians 1:4-5**

<sup>23</sup> **Romans 9:30-32**

**Isaiah 42:6**

I am **Yahweh**, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, and I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the **nations** (a.k.a. the Gentiles) ...

**Isaiah 49:6**

He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the **nations** (a.k.a. the Gentiles) so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

**Isaiah 60:1-3**

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of **Yahweh** has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; but **Yahweh** will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you. **Nations** (a.k.a. the Gentiles) will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

**Romans 9:22-26**

What if God, although **now** willing to choose to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath those caused to have been prepared, those having chosen to be prepared for destruction? (a noun, literally for the Beast, a.k.a. Destruction)

And He did so that He may make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, **but also from among Gentiles**.

As He **now** says also in Hosea, "I will in the **future** call those who were not my people, 'My people,' and her who was not caused to be beloved, 'caused to be beloved.' And it shall in the **future** choose to be in that place where it was caused to be said to them, 'you are not My people,' there they shall in the **future** be caused to be called 'sons of the **now** living God'."

**Romans 10:19-20**

But I **now** say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses **now** says, "*I will in the **future** provoke you to jealousy by that which is not a nation, by a nation without understanding I will in the **future** anger you.*"

And Isaiah is very bold and **now** says, "*I was caused to be found by those who are not **now** seeking Me, I chose to be made manifest to those who are not **now** asking for me.*"<sup>24</sup>

<sup>24</sup> See **Deuteronomy 32:21; Isaiah 65:1**

Clearly, **Plan-A** included God shining His light upon the Gentile nations. Do you remember the parable which Jesus told. *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is now like a merchant now seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, having gone he sold all that he had and bought it.”*<sup>25</sup> Jesus is the merchant, and this pearl of great value, this prized possession that He gave up everything that He had to possess, represents the glory of the Gentiles.<sup>26</sup>

It is fascinating to note that pearls are uniquely formed because of an irritation in the tender side of an oyster. Perhaps this is meant to give us the sense that the church was formed not only out of the wounds of Christ but also the wounds of humanity that were necessary for the pearl to be formed. Thus, every one of our wounds was determined, purposed, and intended as an irritation that would create something lovely, rare, extremely precious, and breathtakingly beautiful. And since Jesus is the **Adonai**, the **Alpha and the Omega**, we can be sure that everything has been done in accordance with **Plan-A**.

### **Street of Gold**

*“... and the street of the city pure gold, transparent as glass.”*

### **Fiction Alert**

**FICTION ALERT**

*“... and the street of the city pure gold, transparent as glass.”* This is the famous passage that for some reason people take literally and preach literally. *“When we get to heaven we will be walking on streets of gold, hallelujah.”* Sorry to busy your bubble, but we are going to have to set aside those silly notions proffered by those who do not understand the text and who do not follow the **Code**.

As we have learned, according to the **Code**, gold is a symbol of divinity. And although we were told that the entire city is comprised of the divine, pure, and unadulterated, the Spirit wants to make sure we understand that there is no aspect of our life in Christ, even now, that is not comprised of His divine nature.

Let us remember that this image of this city is a picture of **Now** and **Then**, a picture that is comprised of a collection of people, a holy city, where others can come and encounter the divine. In the **“Now,”** they encounter Jesus as He lives His life in-and-through His bondservants, via the *New Creation*, i.e., their *“New Man, which after the manner of God has been caused to being created in righteousness and holiness of truth.”*<sup>27</sup>

And the Spirit tells us that our bodies are now the *“naos,”* which is the Sanctuary of God, the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.<sup>28</sup> Collectively, the bondservants of Jesus Christ are now caused to being fitted together and now grow into the holy Sanctuary of the Lord, in who we also are caused to being built

<sup>25</sup> **Matthew 13:45-46**

<sup>26</sup> See **Philippians 2:5-8; 2 Corinthians 8:9**

<sup>27</sup> **Ephesians 4:23**. See also **2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15**

<sup>28</sup> **1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19**

together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit, the place where God dwells with us and walks with us.<sup>29</sup> That is why everywhere that someone steps, so-to-speak, in the lives of the bondservants of God, they traverse the divine—they literally walk on streets of gold.

For “**Now**”, we are being fit together and built into this holy Sanctuary, but “**Then**” the construction will be finished, and we will be the completed Sanctuary of God, the dwelling place of the Spirit of God. We will have been enfolded into the divine, for “*we will in the future choose to be like Him, for we will in the future choose to see Him as He **now** is.*”<sup>30</sup>

### Why a Street?

#### If the entire city is gold, why make a point about the street?

Let’s be clear, this image of the bride of Christ, the New Jerusalem, this holy city, has one street. In the Greek this is *singular* and not plural. There are not streets of gold, but a *singular* “street” of gold. Furthermore, “street” is a rather poor translation. The Greek word “*plateia*” refers to a wide plat or place, more of an open square, something you would see in a city center. In contrast, what we understand as a street would be captured in the Greek word, “*hodos*” not “*plateia*.”

Understanding this will be important when we get to **Revelation 22:2** and discuss the river of the water of life that flows out from the throne of God and bisects this open square into two parts.

The purpose of this imagery is tied to the nations, the Righteous and the Elect, and what we are told about their coming to this city to access and to worship **Yahweh**. We are the city where the Righteous and the Elect from the nations come and gather to experience and encounter the living God. Remember, this is an image of **ETERNITY NOW** that extends forth into **ETERNITY THEN**. They now, and will, have the privilege of proverbially traversing all that is divine, on their way to meet Jesus.

The point is that we are the street, that large open square, the gathering place which they must walk to access **Yahweh**.

Consider what is prophesied about this holy city, the Zion of **Yahweh**.

#### **Isaiah 60:1-14**

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of **Yahweh** has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; but **Yahweh** will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you.

Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes round about and see; they all gather together, they come to you. Your sons will come from afar, and your daughters will be carried in the arms. Then you will see and be radiant, and your heart will thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, the wealth of the nations will come to you.

<sup>29</sup> **2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:21**

<sup>30</sup> **1 John 3:2**



A multitude of camels will cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba will come; they will bring gold and frankincense and will bear good news of the praises of **Yahweh**. All the flocks of Kedar will be gathered together to you, the rams of Nebaioth will minister to you; they will go up with acceptance on My altar, **and I shall glorify My glorious house**.

Who are these who fly like a cloud and like the doves to their lattices? Surely the coastlands will wait for Me; and the ships of Tarshish will come first, to bring your sons from afar, their silver and their gold with them, for the name of **Yahweh** your God, and for the Holy One of Israel **because He has glorified you**. Foreigners will build up your walls, and their kings will minister to you; your gates will be open continually; they will not be closed day or night, so that men may bring to you the wealth of the nations, with their kings led in procession.

For the nation and the kingdom which will not serve you will perish, and the nations will be utterly ruined. The glory of Lebanon will come to you, the juniper, the box tree and the cypress together, **to beautify the place of My sanctuary**; and I shall make the place of My feet glorious.

The sons of those who afflicted you will come bowing to you, and all those who despised you will bow themselves at the soles of your feet; **and they will call you the city of Yahweh, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel**.

#### ***Isaiah 66:22-23***

For just as the new heavens and the new earth which I make will endure before Me," declares **Yahweh**, so your offspring and your name will endure. And it shall be from new moon to new moon and from sabbath to sabbath, all mankind will come to bow down before Me," says **Yahweh**.

### **Our Purpose**

The nations come to the holy city, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel, to encounter Jesus. We are the open square over which they must traverse to gather before Him. They must pass through our gates, and they must walk on our street, or our large open place. Proverbially speaking, they have the privilege to tread upon all that has become divine.

This speaks of our role of being a witness of Jesus, one through whom people are introduced to Him and get to know Him. It is reminiscent of the example Jesus set for us. He once said that people can come to know the Father through knowing Him, because the Father lived in-and-through Him.<sup>31</sup> This is the pattern, this is the design. People come to know Jesus, and the Father, as they live in-and-through His bondservants. Our lives are to be that open place to which they come and gather.

This also means that the bondservants of Jesus Christ are going to get stepped on, and they must bear the weight of those who are coming to meet Jesus. True believers are designed for this task, but the point is that it gets messy and heavy. Our lives will be disrupted by those wanting to come to meet Jesus and far too often we get stomped on with dirty feet, so to speak.

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<sup>31</sup> ***John 14:8-11, 17:11, 22-23***

## Unity

This noun is also rendered as a *singular* location, an open space, to note the **unity** in which the true believers of Jesus Christ are joined. As Jesus said:

### **John 17:22-23**

The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may **now** be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may **now** be caused to being perfected in unity, so that the world may **now** know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

In short, all true believers are in it together and they can be a support for one another when things get dirty, messy, heavy, and it seems that people are creating ruts in the road of our lives.

## Like Transparent Glass

Gold as clear as glass speaks of purity or the fact that there is no imperfection in this city. Regarding our "**Now**," that sounds a bit incredulous, but seen through the lens of our **New Creation**, which is righteous, holy, and true, we can be confident that though our *flesh* is riddled with imperfection, Jesus in us is perfect. Praise the name of **Yahweh Tsidkenu** now and forever more, for He is our righteousness, He is our purity, He is our perfection.

As for our "**Then**," we tend to understand and accept this truth that the bondservants of God will be as gold, clear as glass. After all, we are waiting for the big transformation where, in the twinkling of an eye, the mortal will put on the immortal and the perishable will put on imperishable, and we will be changed.<sup>32</sup> But the whole idea becomes a bit more incredulous when we consider that this is also our "**Now**." We must remember, God does not see things as man sees things. His ways are simply not our ways. Consider what He says:

### **Ephesians 1:3-4**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has been blessing us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places {both spiritually and physically} in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we **now** be holy and blameless before Him in love.

### **Ephesians 5:25-27**

The husbands, ***the husbands***, you are commanded to **now** love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having been cleaning her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, **now** having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she may **now** be holy and blameless {literally, without blemish}.

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<sup>32</sup> **1 Corinthians 15:50-57**

The use of the *present* tense is stunning. The bondservants of Jesus Christ, the bride to be, the wife of the Lamb, are as *pure gold, transparent as glass*. That is their **Now** and **Then**, because Jesus is their purity, He is their pure gold.

Let's stop here and in our next podcast we will discuss the fact that in this city there is no Sanctuary and no sun or moon; in fact, there is no need of sun or moon.

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