

**RETHINKING FOR UNDERSTANDING**

**Scripture: Revelation 21:9 – 22:5**

**Introduction:**

- A. Much of the things and activities found in Chapter 21:24 through Chapter 22:5 have continued to be mysterious to me because I could not harmonize them with a perfect people living in a perfect new creation.**
- B. The thought has come to me during my concluding studies in the Book of Revelation that I have neglected to keep in mind a necessary thought process – The Book of Revelation can not be correctly interpreted chronologically. At times there are many things going on at the same time. Two suggested ways to understand this Book is to think of the revelation as a seven ring circus where as many as seven acts may be going on at the same time. The second way is illustrated by the old Wild West movies that carried out the plot by saying “mean while back at the ranch.”**
- C. By injecting the verses of the present text into chapter 20 following verse 3 the things and activities which trouble most who study the Book of Revelation are identified as taking place during the Millennium when the present earth shall be repopulated by people in natural bodies containing the Adamic nature – people who disobey the Lord – people who need to be saved – people who are subject to sickness and death.**
- D. This will be a time before the John saw the new heaven and the new earth – a time before the passing away of the first heaven and the first earth (Revelation 21:1) – a time ending with the judgment of the devil (Revelation 20:10) – the judgment of the physical earth and heaven (20:11) and the judgment of all the spiritually dead people who ever lived upon the earth (Revelation 20:12-15).**
- E. Let us now study the things and the activities revealed in the verses of our present text – Revelation 21:9-22:2. Let us remember that this is taking place during the one thousand year reign of Jesus Christ with all who shall have part in the first resurrection.**

**I. WE ARE FIRST SHOWN THE BRIDE, THE WIFE OF THE LITTLE LAMB OF GOD. Vs. 9-21**

- A. The great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God is what John is shown.**
- B. Chapter 19:7-9 has revealed that the time for the marriage of the Lamb has come and his wife has made herself ready. – And all who are called unto the marriage supper are called blessed.**
- C. It would seem strange for the bride to have made herself ready and the wedding to be put off for a thousand years.**
- D. Verse 9 one of the angels told John that he would show him the bride, the Lamb’s wife.**
- E. Verse 10 reveals that the angel showed John “that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.”**
- F. A city is primarily people gathered to habitat together in the same location in lodgings.**
- G. The Lamb’s wife seems to be all who have part in the first resurrection who shall reign with the Lord a thousand years.**
- H. The Lord and His wife shall inhabit the great city, the holy Jerusalem described in verses 11-21.**
- I. The city had no temple to represent God’s presence with the people. The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb dwell there in the city.**
- J. The city had no need of the sun or the moon – Jesus is the light thereof.**

**II. THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE HEAVENLY JERUSALEM AND THE MORTAL PEOPLE LIVING ON THE EARTH DURING THE THOUSAND YEAR REIGN OF THE LAMB AND HIS WIFE.**

- A. The mortal people living on earth shall walk in the light of this heavenly city. The heavenly city will have no need of the sun and the moon because the Lamb is the light thereof.**
- B. This did not say that earth had no need of the sun. The earth will have the light of the sun to make food production possible during the millennium.**
- C. The mortal kings of the earth shall bring their glory and honor into it.**
- D. The gates shall not be shut at all by day – no night there.**
- E. The glory and the honor of the people – the nations shall be brought into it.**
- F. No evil shall enter into the city.**
- G. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life shall enter in.**

**III. THE NEEDS OF MORTAL PEOPLE ARE PROVIDED DURING THE THOUSAND YEAR REIGN OF THE LITTLE LAMB AND HIS WIFE. Revelation 22:1-5**

- A. The river of the water of life shall proceed out of the throne of God, even of the Lamb.**
- B. The tree of life providing twelve manner of fruit every month of the thousand years. There will be no months nor weeks nor days in eternity which is unmeasured duration.**
- C. The tree of life providing leaves for the healing of the nations – the (*ethnos*) people.**

**CONCLUSIONS:**

- A. It seems to me that these thoughts fit in the time ages – the Millennium especially.**
- B. They answer a number of questions that have plagued me for a long time.**
- C. These thing will come to pass and some will enjoy them and will not.**
- D. If Jesus should come today, where would you spend eternity?**
- E. Or as a saved person, would you meet Him in confidence or in shame?**