

The Church in Glory

Introduction

- The church will be sanctified and cleansed in glory because of faith in Christ & obedience to the word of God (Eph. 5:25-26) – *trust & obey*.
- The church will bring glory to God forever throughout eternity (Eph. 3:21; 5:27).
- Symbolism regarding believers – sheep, children, citizens, athletes, farmers, soldiers, stones, temple, branches, heirs, etc.
- The church is symbolized as a bride & city in this marriage relationship with Christ (Eph. 5:25-32; Rev. 19:7-8; 21:2).
- The church has a glorious future in eternity.

I. God Will Dwell with Believers (Rev. 21:1-8)

A. The old order of things will be removed

*The first heaven & earth passed away – no longer a point of reference for life (v. 1b). The source & results of sin will be removed – the sea (v. 1c), death, mourning, crying & pain (v. 4), curse (22:3), & night (22:5). All sinners who died without faith in Christ will be removed (21:8). **There is no place for anyone or anything sinful in the new heaven & earth.***

B. All things will be made new

*The new heaven & earth will be provided for eternal life – new in quality like believers' new bodies (v. 1a). The church is represented as both a new bride & city (v. 2). A bride – true relationship; A city – a place of permanent residence, safety, security, fellowship & beauty. There will be eternal fellowship & communion with God (v. 3). **There will be no times of broken fellowship, empty prayers, aloneness, dry times, etc.** God has spoken & guarantees that this is every believer's glorious future – comfort, encouragement & hope (v. 5-7). **There is no one or nothing to break fellowship with God in the new heaven & earth.***

II. Believers Will be Glorious with God (Rev. 21:9-14)

A. The radiance of this glory (v. 9-11)

The church (the bride & city) is chosen & kept by God until the end of time (v. 9-10) – “coming down out of heaven from God”. God's presence (glory) shines through the church (v. 11; Ps. 16:11) – unique, distinctive like a rare jewel; nothing compares to God's glory; Shekinah glory in OT.

B. All believers experience this glory (v. 12-14)

*The city (church) is symbolized as 1400-1500 miles square (v. 16) = the distance from NY to Houston [massive in nature]. All saints are to bring glory to God on earth (Mt. 5:16; 1Co. 10:31) & in heaven (Eph. 3:10). All saints will experience God's glory in eternity – twelve tribes & twelve apostles [OT & NT]. The city (church) is an eternal place of safety & security in fellowship with God – high walls, angels, firm foundation. **All believers' fellowship with God is safe & without interruption for all eternity.***

ILL: Sleep is defined as a naturally recurring state characterized by reduced or absent consciousness, relatively suspended sensory activity, and inactivity of nearly all voluntary muscles. REM (rapid eye-movement) sleep is normally 20-25% of total sleep time in most adults. REM sleep is believed to be most beneficial to body organs when uninterrupted – oxygen to brain, rest for heart, etc.

APPL: In a similar way, uninterrupted fellowship with God is most beneficial. And since sin is the only thing to interrupt this fellowship, the believer must minimize sin in his/her life. In the new heaven & earth, God will remove everything sinful so there will be perfect fellowship, peace, joy, love, worship, adoration, etc. forever without interruption!