

A TALE OF TWO CITIES: From the Visions of John and Ezekiel

The famous opening line from Charles Dickens' famous novel, adapted and altered to fit our Scriptural narrative for our "tale of two cities:"

It will be the best of times; now it is the worst of times. It will be the age of wisdom; now is the age of foolishness. It will be the epoch of belief; now is the epoch of incredulity. It will be the season of Light; now is the season of Darkness. It will be the spring of hope; just before us is the winter of despair. They will have everything before them; now they have nothing. We are hoping to go to Heaven; they are all going direct the other way – to be restored on earth..."

In the vision of John, in the Revelation, he saw the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven. The Revelation emphasis is that the New Jerusalem – a city – which represents a GOVERNMENT, is from heaven. That is, it was ordained by God and will be governed by His Laws, taught by His chosen rulers or governors.

And Ezekiel, in his visions, was shown a city on the south side, indicating that he too, saw a government established by God on earth for natural Israel and, by extension, for all of mankind.

Both visions are of the same thing – THE MEDIATORIAL PHASE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. They depict the time of restoring mankind after the ransom price, which Jesus provided, is paid out for Adam and all of his descendants. It is the time of regeneration, restitution of all things, when the Highway of holiness would be open for the world's weary travelers. It will be the time when all that are in their graves shall come forth. The time when the condition of Adamic – inherited death – will cease to exist. The time when everyone in that death condition will be resuscitated (all in order and in due time). Adamic death as a condition will cease to be. Hence in Scripture it is "cast into the lake of fire."

We would like to start by reading Rev. 21:1, 2

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

The timing is after the old order, the present evil world, has passed away due to the great Armageddon anarchy. There are no more restless masses of mankind, as the iron rule of The Christ sets in. The New heavens, the new spiritual rulers – Jesus the Head and the Church his Body members – are the invisible leaders as Kings and Priests, empowered to affect the complete uplifting work of educating and enlightening all humans.

The New earth depicts the righteous society under the leadership of the Ancient Worthies, then empowered as the Princes in all the earth, as the visible representatives of that Kingdom. Hence, in a sense, the New Heavens represent the spiritual phase and the New Earth the earthly phase of the one Kingdom of God.

These two phases of the Kingdom of God are likewise intimated in the Lord's prayer which Jesus taught us to pray – in part –

“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth (earthly phase), as it is in heaven (spiritual phase)”.

It is the privilege of the John Class – the Church Class – to have the spiritual vision of understanding prophecies, to recognize that God has foreordained that the Bride of Christ would constitute this new government for the restoration of mankind.

“Adorned as a Bride for her husband.”

This demonstrates that the Church – the Bride for Christ – will work with Jesus as a helpmate; that the aspect of being the New Jerusalem is her special role, for which she has been particularly developed and trained.

Rev. 21:3:

“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people and God Himself shall be with them and he shall be their God.”

The tabernacle represents the Church. It is a tabernacle condition. That is, a temporary condition for the Mediatorial portion of the Kingdom, for in the end, after the great work of restoration is complete and Christ turns the kingdom over to the Father, then the Little Season takes place in which Satan is loosed for the final testing of mankind. All those who are faithful to God and righteousness at that time will be granted life eternal and have a direct relationship with God Almighty, the Mediator having stepped away from being between them. Then the remainder of that verse will finally be fulfilled – God will indeed be with them and be their God.

READ Rev. 21:9-23

Vs. 9 It was Br. Russell's writings regarding the Divine Plan of the Ages that enable us to recognize the future work of the Church.

Vs. 10 Great and high mountain – the Kingdom of God.

The great city, the holy Jerusalem – the government during the Kingdom of God.

Descending from heaven, from God – God's foreordained plan and purpose of the Church to work with Jesus in restoring the human race.

Vs. 11 The glory of God is light – truth, clear, transparent and yet all radiant like a diamond, truth on every subject. All truth reveals a beautiful element of God's glorious character.

Vs. 12 A great, high wall – A giant cube. Four Square by Four Square! Four square – perfection before God. It reminds us of the Most Holy in the Tabernacle (10 x 10 x 10 = 1,000) where the shekinah light of His presence resided with Israel. But here, the New Jerusalem walls are founded upon the 12 Apostles of the Lamb. That is, the remainder

of the 144,000 Body Members of the Bride, the Mediator, is supported by their Word and examples.

The golden reed, or measuring instrument, represents that it is the divine standard of God that had predetermined both the number and the qualifications of those that would constitute the Bride of Christ and the New Jerusalem walls of salvation (Romans 8:28, 29)

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Each side being 12,000 furlongs wide, tall and high. In a cube there are 12 edges or planes, hence 12 edges or planes X 12,000 = 144,000.

City walls demonstrate protection, safety and security. Hence the primary work of the Church will be to assist the human race into a secure environment. In a word, those passing into the city, inside the walls are entering into the New Covenant arrangement, first learning all the divine laws and requirements, but also being protected from any harm as long they are cooperative with the new City government.

The Walls were like Jasper, diamond as in verse 11. The Church reflects all the characteristics of God, like Jesus.

Pure gold like clear glass, a WARM, INVITING golden translucent radiance showing the Love of God as the leading character attribute.

The 12 Jewel stones, each with their own color, manifest the 12 basic tried and true, crystallized character aspects of the 12 Apostles, which we will consider further along. They represent the 12 basic character/personality/temperament traits of the entire human family.

The street of the city being pure gold (as it were transparent glass, like the walls themselves) shows that the humble and obedient of mankind will walk in the ways of character development like The Christ did, in harmony with the divine standard which is clear – having integrity.

Just here we want to read Rev. 3:12:

“Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out, and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God, and I will write upon him my new name.”

Here we read of five promises held out to the overcomers of the Little Flock. We are focusing on how each will be pillar-like in God's temple and will also have the name of the city of God which is the New Jerusalem! What a wonderful insight! The temple of God is The Church. It is His new creation, after all. It is the power of His spirit that has enabled any to be “overcomers.” And this Temple is the meeting place to which humans will come in approaching God. It is also associated with God's city – again, the Little Flock, the Bride of Christ as we read in Rev. 21. So then, as Br. Russell observes in Rpt. 2832 onward, there is no temple in this new Jerusalem for the Church is the temple in which God is pleased to dwell. But God and Jesus will be a sort of INNER TEMPLE, separate and superior to the Church.

The city does not need the enlightenment of the Sun or Moon, because the Church will completely understand everything that the Word of God – the Old and New Testaments – has taught. They, the Church, will be fully enlightened by God's spirit and by the enlightening words and works of Jesus, their great High Priest.

This enlightenment that the Church receives will fully empower them to share it with mankind!

Just a note: the temple is no more literal here than the sun and the moon, which will last forever. However, this is not a reflection on the Temple vision of Ezekiel.

We will consider the 12 gates to the city a little further on.

At this point we want to introduce a set of Scriptures regarding The Church.

We will start by reading Romans 2:29:

“But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter, whose praise is not of men, but of God.”

Yes, God is interested in Spiritual Israel, which includes those of the Gentiles who have consecrated their lives to Him.

READ REV. 7:4-8.

12,000 from 12 tribes of Israel. Regarding the two missing tribes – Dan might represent the 2nd Death class, being the first in Israel to worship idols in the Land. Ephraim might represent the Great Company as the name means “fruitful,” which is true of the Great Company .

Just a note here: there are 10 lists of names of the 12 tribes with their variations. In some lists, Dan and Ephraim are included in a good way, so each list must be considered on its own merit and context.

These 12,000 from the 12 tribes are the 144,000 spiritual Israelites indeed, those who have circumcision of heart, having the faith of father Abraham. These include both spirit begotten natural descendants of Abraham as well as the spirit begotten Gentiles, grafted into the Olive tree of faith.

Over the years brethren have suggested that these 12 divisions represent 12 basic divisions of temperament, personality or character traits among the human family. The thought being that God, in His wisdom, determined that the 144,000 members of the Church, this New Jerusalem, would be from every temperament, personality or character type that mankind has. Even though 12 basic divisions sounds overly simplified, yet there are almost endless combinations, gradations, experiences and mental health challenges and handicaps that all experience to some degree. All the more so as we get further away from our first, created perfect parents: Adam and Eve.

It is without doubt that we cannot fully grasp the effects of sin, selfishness and fears as regarding the degraded effects upon the human mind. This is the reason that God pre-determined to have 144,000 overcomers to join with His sinless Son, Jesus Christ, to be the best plan to assist fallen mankind back to human perfection. This is what we can contribute if we are faithful and diligent in the transformation of our

characters into godlikeness, Christ-likeness, by our ongoing battle within against our own selfish patterns of thought.

Br. Russell observed that there are different human temperaments in the 6th Volume, pages 134, 135. We read in part: “On account of differences of temperament, there will, necessarily, be differences of experience in connection with this full consecration. To some a full surrender to the Lord, and a realization of his special care for them as members of this prospective elect Church, will bring merely a satisfying peace, a rest of heart; while to others of a more exuberant nature it will bring an effervescence of joy and praise and jubilation. We are to remember these differences of natural temperament, and to sympathize with those whose experiences are different from our own, remembering that similar differences were exhibited amongst the twelve apostles....Let the brethren of exuberant and effervescent disposition learn the moderation which the Apostle commanded; and let the brethren who by nature are rather too cold and prosaic, pray and seek for a greater appreciation of and greater liberty in showing forth the praises of him who hath called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

It is very interesting that about 400 BC, Hippocrates of Greece, known as the “father of modern medicine,” started a school of clinical observation and documentation.

In the area of observing patterns of human behavior, he observed 4 basic temperaments or personalities: two are extroverted and more “relational” or outgoing – entitled – Sanguine and Choleric. Two are introverted and more “organizational” – entitled – Melancholic and Phlegmatic.

Hippocrates theorized that these traits were passed on through various bodily fluids. But with the scientific progress of our day, they now believe these basic personality traits or tendencies are a combination of inherited DNA and each person’s unique environment.

In a modern-day example of how these four fundamental temperaments are still being used, a brother in our Ecclesia brought up that in his place of work, at a group meeting, they distributed a graphic dividing people into four categories called DISC, meaning “Dominance, Influence, Steadiness and Compliance. Two are “outgoing” and two “reserved.” Two are “task oriented” and two are “people oriented.”

It is not our intended purpose to spend very much time considering these differences, for they are very easily observable to anyone paying attention to themselves and human interactions. Yet for the sake of clarity we will give a VERY brief description of the four basic temperaments:

SANGUINE: fundamentally impulsive and pleasure-seeking. Expressive in personality, desire influence, and being enthusiastic with people, express thoughts with excitement. Sociable and charismatic, generally warm-hearted, pleasant, lively, optimistic, creative, compassionate, and outgoing.

CHOLERIC: fundamentally ambitious and leader-like. Sometimes referred to as a “Type A” personality, or the doer. A hard driving individual, known for accomplishing goals, has a lot aggression, energy and or passion. Dominant in personality they are best at

jobs that demand strong control and authority and require quick decisions and instant attention. They are less concerned for the feelings of others.

PHLEGMATIC: fundamentally relaxed and quiet, ranging from warmly attentive to lazily sluggish. Often referred to as “Watchers,” they are best in positions of unity and mediation, and solid in positions that desire steadiness. Often content with themselves, easygoing, calm, tolerant of others, sympathetic, keeps emotions hidden, avoids conflicts.

MELANCHOLIC: fundamentally introverted and thoughtful. Known as “the thinker.” Analytical, desire caution and restraint, best at attending to details and in analyzing problems too difficult for others. They often see the negative attributes of life, rather than the good and positive. Self-reliant and independent and get wholly involved with what they are doing. They have perfectionist tendencies, musical, artistic, talented, creative and conscientious, very introspective.

However, it is important to note that no one is just one type. Rather everyone is a combination of at least two types, though one temperament might be more dominant. Each one of these four basic temperaments or personality types can be co-joined in part with each of the other 3 remaining basic types, hence 3 possible combinations, each of four types, equals a total of 12. For example: a Sanguine personality type might also have strong Melancholic tendencies, while another Sanguine might have some Phlegmatic characteristics, and yet another Sanguine temperament could be borderline Choleric.

A very important understanding is that no one temperament is superior to another, and no combination of temperaments is superior to another. Rather, each type or combination of types has both strengths and weaknesses. Regardless of our temperament types or personalities, each of us are required to TRANSFORM OUR THOUGHTS, OUR THINKING, not by eliminating our personalities, but rather by modifying our habits of thought to be in harmony with God’s instructions for our behavior. We read this in Romans 12:2:

“And be not conformed to this world, but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may ascertain (DIAGLOTT) what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”

And similarly in II Cor. 10:3-5 from a liberal paraphrase Bible – “The Message”:

“The world is unprincipled. It’s dog-eat-dog out there! The world doesn’t fight fair. But we don’t live or fight our battles that way – never have and never will. The tools of our trade aren’t for marketing or manipulation, but they are for demolishing that entire massively corrupt culture. We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ. “

Yes, we are to bring every thought, every emotion and impulse into accordance with the principles and examples we have learned through our contemplative study and reflections on how Jesus and his Apostles lived and what they taught us.

So then, having even a little understanding of these basic, largely inherited, largely shaped by surrounding circumstances, temperament traits, we can use this information to help us to better understand ourselves, to the intent of knowing better how to improve our characters and how to better interact with others and also to help us give others the benefit of the doubt more readily.

In this context, we want to be sure to include that a very practical means of bringing our every thought, emotion, and impulse into accord with God's will and Christ's example is to make an effort in re-structuring our habits of thought by incorporating the beautiful Fruits of the Spirit – learning by trying, failing at times, and then trying again and again to be **patient, kind, loving, gentle, long-suffering, meek, humble, selfless**. If we are not conscientiously making this effort to transform our thoughts, IT WILL NOT HAPPEN! MORE THAN THIS, IT CANNOT HAPPEN!

Why? Because God created humans to have FREE MORAL AGENCY, THAT IS, WE HAVE FREE WILL. Otherwise, we would be merely robots, programmed for success or failure.

A proper character is the result of our intentionally making decisions on how we are going to be thinking.

At times what we are thinking about might have little to no bearing upon our character development. However, at times even when the actual decision has little to no impact on our character, something as seemingly insignificant as our ATTITUDE IN THAT DECISION MAKING PROCESS CAN HAVE A GREAT IMPACT ON OUR CHARACTERS!

For an example: We are going to purchase a car. This seems simple and straight forward. A little research, a little shopping for prices and availability. A few more choices: color, accessories, trim packages, etc. However, the attitude of PRIDE OR VANITY can creep into our thought processes. At times even SELF-SATISFACTION instead of a recognition of God's abounding grace, that He has even allowed us to be in such a blessed position to make such a purchase!

This sinful, selfish attitude has to be recognized, challenged by our educated conscience, and then fully rejected and repented of, in order to train our brain into thinking correctly – transforming our thought process.

The twinge of guilt is the New Mind feeling badly, remorseful about our poor attitude in this decision process. Our peace of mind comes from realizing that we can repent and, through the merit of Jesus' atoning sacrifice, we can be forgiven.

Conversely, if we do not make the effort to think about something as simple as "what is my attitude" in a mundane decision, then we will not have any sense of remorse if there is any pride or vanity. We will just move through life learning very little about ourselves and hence in our inherited fallen condition of self-centeredness, NO PROGRESS CAN BE MADE.

Based on the foregoing example, we can just imagine what goes into our inter-relational decisions! Ego, rejection, acceptance, anxiety, and on and on...

If this sounds like a lot of work, you betcha. It is a LOT OF WORK. But, that is the duty for those of us who have decided to be Soldiers of Christ. Our battles are mostly the civil-war within.

Our loving Father does NOT MAKE US DO ANYTHING. But He does put us into situations in which we are to make choices – decisions. If you think that by not making decisions you are spared, do not be self-deceived. You have already made a decision.

However, how wonderful it all is when we view it in the right manner! Our God has called us to be conformed to the character as His Son Jesus. He has provided a robe of righteousness by which we can be educated and then practice what we learned, and not be cast away! He desires us to be successful, not just for our own well-being in glory for life immortal, but more than this. IT IS ALL FOR THE PURPOSE OF JOINING WITH HIM AND JESUS IN THE WORK OF GRADUALLY EDUCATING AND ASSISTING OUR FELLOW FALLEN HUMAN FAMILY INTO CHARACTERS THAT ARE ALSO GODLIKE – CHRISTLIKE, JUST AND LOVING TO ALL.

In other words, our efforts are not just for our benefit. They are to benefit millions of others. Yes, the 144,000 will each be empowered to specially assist millions of others, who have like temperament, personality and experiences as they!

On a personal note, regarding thinking about what and how we are thinking: regularly when I am irritated or disappointed in someone, I always end up telling our heavenly Father that my greatest disappointment is in myself.

Brethren, it is not just that we are learning what God's righteous laws and standards are, but we are in training to learn HOW each of us has learned to overcome and change our habits of thought. This is an integral aspect of how we are going to assist our fellow sisters and brothers through Adam up that Highway of Holiness – how they can change their thinking process.

And your personality type is going to be far more successful in assisting those who have the same disposition.

One more thought on this: ALL of us should be encouraged that it is an equal 12,000 each from each of the 12 tribes. This means that even if you do not think you are important to God's plans, YOU ARE! We remember that there are 12 Apostles of the Lamb as the foundation to the remaining Church members. Yet, how much do you and I know about most of the 12 Apostles? VERY LITTLE! So, too, with the remaining 144,000. Most will be very little know during their time of life. Yet, they are an invaluable part of what God has deemed necessary to best accomplish His Plans!

GOD'S WAY ARE HIGHER THAN OURS! HIS WAYS ARE MARVELOUS IN OUR SIGHT!

With these thoughts in mind, we want to return to the New Jerusalem and consider the possible symbology of the 12 gates.

Rev. 21:12, 13, 21:

“And had a wall great and high, and 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: On the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl...”

We read that the four square city is in line with the four cardinal points of earth. This is to demonstrate world-wide opportunity for all the willing to enter into the city, the New Covenant relationship. We read that there are 12 Angels (Messengers), each one associated with a gate. This may represent the Ancient Worthies as that specific “gate keeper” or authority, as they will be the Princes in the earth, the earthly representatives of the Kingdom.

The names of the twelve tribes of Israel (although not here specifically given), may represent that the rehabilitated Natural Seed of Abraham, Israelites indeed, will be used as the means for the remainder of mankind to enter into the New Covenant arrangement pictured by entering into the city.

The pearl as a gate may symbolize that the individuals must recognize that their cooperating with the new arrangement will include their need to CONSECRATE THEMSELVES TO THE LORD THROUGH THE GREAT MEDIATOR.

Matt. 13:45, 46: In this parable the purchasing of the pearl of great price cost the merchant all that he had, depicting what Jesus and We have consecrated. But in the future, mankind’s consecration will be to righteous living in harmony with their Creator.

And perhaps another lesson is due to the fact that pearls, although considered “gems,” are not “stones.” They are not created underground like the gem stones. Rather they are formed from organic matter. They are created by a speck of sand or grit that found its way into the oyster shell and, because it was irritating the oyster, the oyster slowly secretes layers of aragonite and conchiolin, materials that also make up its shell. This creates a material called nacre, also known as mother-of-pearl, which encases the irritant and protects the mollusk from it.

So then, those who will enter the city will have to learn to take that which is irritating to them and learn to overcome them by patient persistence in right doing.

We cannot help but note how the four sides of the city, with three gates each, might represent the similar lesson to the 12,000 from the 12 tribes of Israel in Rev. 7! Not that it is the Church as these 12 gates. No, they are the city walls. Each tribe represents one of the 12 possible combinations of the 4 basic personality traits of all mankind!

Putting this together: in the Spiritual phase of the kingdom the 12 Apostles have their 12 divisions of basic characteristics. The Church has its 12 divisions of basic characteristics. Correspondingly, in the earthly phase of the kingdom, there will be 12 similar divisions among the Ancient Worthies along with a similar 12 divisions of natural Israel! All will work together to assist all mankind in understanding God’s requirements to enter the City, the New Covenant, and how they can individually achieve that goal!

Universal unity and harmony, with diversity, of individual uniqueness of personality and character! Perhaps it is like the snowflakes. All are snowflakes, but each a uniquely patterned crystal all its own, singularly coming down, but together forming a blanket on the ground, pure and sparkling.

Now to the Second City, seen in Ezekiel’s visions.
Read Ezk. 40:2

“In the visions of God brought he me into the land of Israel, and set me upon a very high mountain, by which was the frame of a city on the south.”

Here we read of God showing to the Prophet that which was to come in future. A vision from the vantage point of a very high mountain representing the Kingdom of God. This city or future government was located on the south. This represents that to Israel, they would be invited into the earthly phase of the Kingdom, the New Covenant arrangement.

Remember when we read in Rev. 21:10

“And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem descending out of heaven from God.”

Notice the similarity but also the difference! In both cases, by visions, they each were on a high mountain, viewing a great city. With the John Class the emphasis is that it comes down from heaven emphasizing the spiritual phase, while with Ezekiel it is being emphasized that he is in the land of Israel and the city is on the south side or earthly phase!

Yet in a very peculiar manner, the depiction of the city is left off here (except for a few verses) and, instead, Ezekiel is shown all about the Temple, the people, the services and requirements to enter into the Temple complex. Later, the Land divisions and the water comes forth from the Temple, until finally in the last part of the last chapter, we read about the city once more:

READ: Ezk. 48:30-35

How wonderful! As in Revelation 21 we have 3 gates on each of the four cardinal walls of the city! Here though, the names of the 12 tribes of Israel are told to us, undoubtedly symbolizing the same lessons we have already considered – the 12 basic temperaments of the human family.

These verses are the “bookend” for Ezk. 40:2! Why did God not have Ezekiel write more on the city before this? Apparently it is because God had determined to use the Temple as His symbolic illustration of the conditions and requirements along with all the helps to restore all those of the human family who are desirous to have their own personal relationship with their Creator.

We read that His name will be there – this demonstrates His approval by the end of the Little Season.

Is it not just like our God to give us multiple illustrations of His glorious plans and purposes!

Now we want to consider some familiar Scriptures that support the proceeding thoughts:

Isa. 2:1-4:

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of

the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mount of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, and he will teach us of 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. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks, nation shall not lift up sword against nation neither shall they learn war anymore."

1. Zech. 8:20-23

"Thus saith the LORD of hosts, it shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people and the inhabitants of many cities, and the inhabitants of one city shall go to another saying Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts, I will go also. Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts, In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying we will go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."

Now some verses from the Revelation in harmony with these two:

2. Rev. 21:24-27 (corrected from the Sinaitic manuscript):

"And the nations shall walk in the light of it, and the Kings of the earth do bring their glory into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day, for there shall be no night here. And they shall bring the glory of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination or maketh a lie, but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

3. Jer. 31:31-34:

"Behold, the days come saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah. Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD. But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts and write it in their hearts, and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother saying know the LORD, for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and I will remember their sin no more."

4. Ezek. 16:60-63:

Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant. Then thou shalt remember thy ways and be ashamed when thou shalt receive thy sisters, thine elder and thy younger and I will give them unto thee for daughters, but not by thy covenant. And I will establish my covenant with thee, and thou shalt know that I am the LORD."

5. Daniel 2:35:

"Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloor: and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them, and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth."

6. Isaiah 11:9:

"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."

7. Acts. 15:14-17:

"Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for His name. And to this agree the words of the prophets, as it is written, after this I will return and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down, and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: that the remainder of men might seek after the Lord even all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things."

8. Isaiah 35:8-10

"And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for those. The wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

10. Matthew 19:28:

"And Jesus said unto them, verily I say unto you, that you which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Rpt. 5183:

"The changes will come about gradually. There will be inequalities of brain and muscle: but the kingdom will even up these differences. There will always be

some kind of incentive to energy. Either there will be an impetus of some sort, or else there will be some sort of punishment to help people along. The Lord will hold out certain inducements to those who are willing to co-operate along the line of advancement and will impose stripes, punishments, to assist those who will not be induced otherwise. Both rewards and punishments will be in operation during the Millennium.”

We think of Zech. 14:16-19.

ENDING:

A tale of two cities, One from God's Word in the Old Testament and the other from God's Word in the New Testament! One emphasizing the Spiritual Phase of His Kingdom and One emphasizing the Earthly Phase!

May the Lord add His blessing.