

The Great Controversy V

1. **Revelation 21** talks about the holy city, the new Jerusalem and **Revelation 22** talks about the water of life and the tree of life which are inside the city
2. John first describes what he sees from the outside (walls, gates, foundations) and then proceeds in Rev 22 to describe what he sees inside (the streets of gold, the water of life and the tree of life)
3. These three things which Babylon lost at her final collapse and annihilation are found in the kingdom that God establishes at the end of the Millennium
 - a. **Rev 22:1-2, 17**—the **river of life** which flows from the throne of God (The great river Euphrates is dried up)
 - b. **Rev 21:2**—the **holy city** coming, the new Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven (the great city of Babylon, burned and thrown into the sea like a millstone)

The New Jerusalem, the Lamb's Wife

4. **Rev 21:9**--Why is the Lamb's Wife portrayed as a city?

The Holy City, the New Jerusalem, which is the capital and representative of the kingdom, is called "the bride, the Lamb's wife." Said the angel to John: "Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife." "He carried me away in the spirit," says the prophet, "and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God." Revelation 21:9, 10. **Clearly, then, the bride represents the Holy City, and the virgins that go out to meet the bridegroom are a symbol of the church. In the Revelation the people of God are said to be the guests at the marriage supper. Revelation 19:9. If guests, they cannot be represented also as the bride.** Christ, as stated by the prophet Daniel, will receive from the Ancient of Days in heaven, "dominion, and glory, and a kingdom;" He will receive the New Jerusalem, the capital of His kingdom, "prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." Daniel 7:14; Revelation 21:2. Having received the kingdom, He will come in His glory, as King of kings and Lord of lords, for the redemption of His people, who are to "sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob," at His table in His kingdom (Matthew 8:11; Luke 22:30), to partake of the marriage supper of the Lamb. **GC 426**

- a. Notice the salient points in **GC 426**:
 - i. God's people are "**virgins**" that go out to meet the bridegroom
 - ii. God's people are "**guests**" in the marriage supper
 - iii. But God's people are not the "**bride**"

5. The New Jerusalem, the Lamb's wife or bride represents the totality of the redeemed, both Jews (God's people) and the Gentiles (not God's people); in other words a) the church (who understand the truth) and b) the Gentiles who are ignorant of the truth, but who are nevertheless honest at heart; specially those who were once drunk with the wine of Babylon's false doctrines but come out of spiritual Babylon and join themselves to Christ in answer to the call to come out of her, in the Loud Cry
 - a. **Rom 9:25-26**—the Gentiles have a place in God's plan of redemption
 - b. **Zech 2:1-5; Zech 8:20-23; Isa 60:1-5**—the city of Jerusalem to be inhabited not only by Jews but by Gentiles as well
 - c. **Matt 21:28-31**--In the parable of the two sons, the Gentiles are represented by the son who at first said, he will not work in the vineyard, but later on, has a change of heart
 - d. **Eph 3:3-6; Rev 10:7, 11; Rev 14:6-12; Rev 7:9**--The final gathering of the Gentiles to the fold of God in the time of the loud cry of the third angel is the finishing of the mystery of God!

The 8th Millennium

6. Things belonging to the new earth are branded with the number 8!
7. For starters, the vision of the new Jerusalem and the water of life in **Revelation 21** and **Revelation 22** is the 8th vision of Revelation and find fulfillment during the 8th Millennium; the 8 visions of Revelation are as follows:
 1. The Seven Churches, **Rev 1-3**
 2. The Seven Seals, **Rev 5-8:1**
 3. The Seven Trumpets, **Rev 8:2-Rev 11**
 4. The Final Conflict, **Rev 12-17**
 5. The Fall of Babylon, **Rev 18**
 6. The Seven Last Plagues, **Rev 15-16**
 7. The Second coming of Christ to incarcerate Satan for 1,000 years, **Rev 19-20**
 8. The New Heavens and the New Earth, **Rev 21-22**
8. In **Revelation 21**, there are 8 former things which are no more in the 8th Millennium:
 1. **Verse 1**: no more sea, for the first heaven and first earth are passed away
 2. **Verse 4**: no more death
 3. **Verse 4**: neither sorrow
 4. **Verse 4**: nor crying
 5. **Verse 4**: no more pain
 6. **Verse 22**: no temple therein
 7. **Verse 23**: no need of the sun
 8. **Verse 25**: no night there
9. There are exactly 8 things said about the physical appearance of the new Jerusalem that descends out of heaven from God (**Rev 21:9-23**)

1. the glory of the city	Verse 11 --Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;
2. The walls of the city	Verse 12 --And had a wall great and high Verse 17 --And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. Verse 18 --And the building of the wall of it was of jasper
3. The gates of the city	Verses 12 --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: Verse 13 --On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. Verse 21 --And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl:
4. The foundations of the city	Verse 14 --And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. Verses 19 --And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; Verse 20 --The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.
5. The measurements of the city	Verse 16 --And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.
6. The composition of the city	Verse 18 -- and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. Verse 21 --and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.
7. The temple of the city	Verse 22 --And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.
8. The source of light of the city	Verse 23 --And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

10. **Rev 21:8**--Eight wicked personalities are mentioned who will not be found in the new Jerusalem but will have their part in the lake of fire burning with fire and brimstone
- a. Fearful, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, whoremongers, sorcerers, idolaters, liars

The Theology of the Number 8 Reviewed

11. The number "8" represents life; the beast of Revelation 17 is stamped with the number "8" because the deadly wound is healed and he receives new life

- 8 beatitudes
- 8 writers of the New testament
- 8 better things in the book of Hebrews
- 8 souls were baptized in the flood and rose to newness of life
 - Noah the new Adam
 - Noah's diet defined as was Adam's
 - Noah told to go forth and multiply as was Adam
 - Noah found naked as did Adam
 - Animals gathered to Noah as they were to Adam
- David the 8th son of Jesse and Solomon the 8th son of David
- The children of Israelites were circumcised on the 8th day
- The name Jesus in the Greek adds up to 888
- The title Son of Man when used of Christ, is mentioned 88 times in the New Testament

“And I saw No Temple Therein. . .”

12. Ellen White is accused by some of being a false prophet for saying mentioning a temple in the new Jerusalem when the Bible clearly says that there is no temple in it (**Rev 21:22**). How do we prove that this accusation is groundless?

With Jesus at our head we all descended from the city down to this earth, on a great and mighty mountain, which could not bear Jesus up, and it parted asunder, and there was a mighty plain. Then we looked up and saw the great city, with twelve foundations, and twelve gates, three on each side, and an angel at each gate. We all cried out, “The city, the great city, it’s coming, it’s coming down from God out of heaven,” and it came and settled on the place where we stood. **Then we began to look at the glorious things outside of the city.** There I saw most glorious houses, that had the appearance of silver, supported by four pillars set with pearls most glorious to behold. These were to be inhabited by the saints. In each was a golden shelf. . .

I saw another field full of all kinds of flowers, and as I plucked them, I cried out, “They will never fade.” Next I saw a field of tall grass, most glorious to behold; it was living green and had a reflection of silver and gold, as it waved proudly to the glory of King Jesus. Then we entered a field full of all kinds of beasts—the lion, the lamb, the leopard, and the wolf, all together in perfect union. We passed through the midst of them, and they followed on peaceably after. Then we entered a wood, not like the dark woods we have here; no, no; but light, and all over glorious; the branches of the trees moved to and fro, and we all cried out, “We will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods.” **We passed through the woods, for we were on our way to Mount Zion. . . .**

Mount Zion was just before us, and on the mount was a glorious temple, and about it were seven other mountains, on which grew roses and lilies. . . There were all kinds of trees around the temple to beautify the place: the box, the pine, the fir, the oil, the myrtle, the pomegranate, and the fig tree bowed down with the weight of its timely figs—these made the place all over glorious. And as we were

about to enter the holy temple, Jesus raised His lovely voice and said, “**Only the 144,000 enter this place,**” and we shouted, “**Alleluia.**”

This temple was supported by seven pillars, all of transparent gold, set with pearls most glorious. The wonderful things I there saw I cannot describe. Oh, that I could talk in the language of Canaan, then could I tell a little of the glory of the better world. I saw there tables of stone in which the names of the 144,000 were engraved in letters of gold. **After we beheld the glory of the temple, we went out, and Jesus left us and went to the city. Soon we heard His lovely voice again, saying, “Come, My people, you have come out of great tribulation, and done My will; suffered for Me; come in to supper, for I will gird Myself, and serve you.” We shouted, “Alleluia! glory!” and entered into the city. . . EW 18-20.**

13. The accusation falls to the ground when it is realized that the temple supported by seven pillars Ellen White describes in her vision of the new earth (in **EW 18-20**), is not located inside the city but outside of it!
14. Like John, Ellen White saw no temple in it; the temple Ellen White described was on Mt. Zion which was a distance from the city, the New Jerusalem.
15. **Rev 22:15**--Six wicked characteristics are listed which are excluded from the tree of life
 - a. Dogs, Sorcerers, whoremongers, murderers, idolaters, whosoever loveth and maketh a lie
16. There were 8 wicked characteristics listed in **Rev 21:8** and only 6 in **Rev 22:15**. What might account for the difference?
 - a. The vision of the new heavens and the new earth ends in **Rev 22:5**.
 - b. What follows is an epilogue (closing remarks) to the book of Revelation
 - c. In **Rev 22:6-21**, John is no longer describing scenes or events belonging to the 8th millennium, but of present events, John’s time frame, where the great controversy is still actively raging. . .

Conclusion

17. Those who embrace the third angel’s message and have victory over the beast and his image will have a wide entrance in the new Jerusalem and partake of the tree of life and drink of the water of life;
 - a. **Rev 22:7, 9** —blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of prophecy of this book (lines up with “who have the testimony of Jesus Christ” in **Rev 12:17**)
 - b. **Rev 22:14**—blessed are they that do his commandments (lines up with “here are they that keep the commandments of God” in **Rev 12:17 and Rev 14:12**)
 - c. **Rev 21:8, Rev 22:11**--Those who remain filthy forever are excluded

18. The wonderful thing is, the new Jerusalem with its water of life and the tree of life, spiritually speaking, is accessible to all even now, in the 6th Millennium, to those who hear the invitation to come and are athirst!
- a. **Rev 22:17**—the Spirit and the bride say, Come to those who hear the gospel.
 - i. By faith, we can live as if, we are now dwelling in the new Jerusalem
 - b. **Rev 22:17**-- those who are athirst today are invited to come to the water of life and drink of its freely
 - i. By faith, the water of life is accessible even now to those who are thirsty

The third angel of Revelation 14 is represented as flying swiftly through the midst of heaven crying: "Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Here is shown the nature of the work of the people of God. They have a message of so great importance that they are represented as flying in the presentation of it to the world. They are holding in their hands the bread of life for a famishing world. The love of Christ constraineth them. This is the last message. There are no more to follow, no more invitations of mercy to be given after this message shall have done its work. **What a trust! What a responsibility is resting upon all to carry the words of gracious invitation: "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."** 5T 206-207