

## A Future for Israel and All Believers

Early in the book of Revelation John, the author, records that "On the Lord's Day I was in the spirit and heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet" <sup>1</sup> instructing him to write and tell about what he saw (and apparently what he heard) as recorded throughout the book of Revelation. His phrase 'On the Lord's Day' is taken to mean the future 'Day of the Lord' which encompasses the Great Tribulation, the resurrection of believers who have died and those living at the time of the rapture, and beyond. Toward the end of the book John records "I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband." <sup>2</sup> And a little later says "The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. The city was laid out like a square, as long as it is wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick by man's measurement, which the angel was using." <sup>3</sup>

Prior to seeing the Holy City descend from heaven and the measurements taken by the angel, John himself tells " **I was given** a reed like a measuring rod and was told, 'Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers. But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample the holy city for 42 months.'" <sup>4</sup> The 42 month time span here appears to coincide with the 3-1/2 years, the 1260 days, of the latter half of Daniel's 70th week; i.e., the 2nd half of that period of great tribulation that concludes with the time of the resurrection and rapture. John's command to take measurements seems to be for a witness to the fact that there will be a specific place of Jewish worship on earth in a temple in that period of time which agrees with a reference to the temple named in regard to the great tribulation where the antichrist is revealed by sitting in the temple usurping the place of God. <sup>5</sup>

Once again, but about 600 years prior to John's writings, Zechariah writes in 519 b.c. about his vision and an encounter with an angel who is talking to him. Among other features of the vision Zechariah relates "Then I looked up, and there before me was a man with a measuring line in his hand. I asked, 'Where are you going?' He answered me, 'To measure Jerusalem, to find out how wide and how long it is.' While the angel who was speaking to me was leaving, another angel came to meet him and said to him: 'Run, tell that young man, Jerusalem will be a city without walls because of the great number of people and animals in it. And I myself will be a wall of fire around it,' declares the LORD, 'and I will be its glory within.'" <sup>6</sup>

Referring again to John's account where he sees the Holy City, the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God he states "I did not see a temple in the city because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives its light and the Lamb is its lamp." <sup>7</sup> Whereas John earlier was told to measure the earthly temple, now in this latter part of the vision there is no temple to measure in the Holy City. And, he was told that the Lord will be its glory within as is consistent with that of Zechariah's vision. Another parallel with Zechariah is that John was told to exclude measuring the outer court. In Zechariah one angel urgently tells a second angel to run and tell the young man that the city will be without walls which implies that it is not measureable.

---

<sup>1</sup> Rev. 1:10

<sup>2</sup> Rev. 21:2

<sup>3</sup> Rev. 21:15-17

<sup>4</sup> Rev. 11:1,2

<sup>5</sup> II Thess. 2:4

<sup>6</sup> Zech. 2:1-5

<sup>7</sup> Rev. 21:22-23

We might ask, Why was John told to go and measure the temple of God if later "I did not see a temple in the city..." ? Again, these would be two separate measurements and a matter of John as a witness to the fact that there is to be a future (third) temple on earth during the foretold encounter with the antichrist<sup>8</sup> but is not the temple of the New Jerusalem whose temple is the Lord and the Lamb. And, Why did the angel who measured the city with a rod of gold find the wall to be 144 cubits thick and also John was shown the Holy City having a great high wall with its twelve gates, yet Zechariah's second angel said that the city will be without walls. Reading further we find that the Holy City's gates will never be shut so that the glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it,<sup>9</sup> these being the nations who embody the outer court; i.e.; the court outside of its walls. The outer court was not to be measured and has no walls because of the great number of people and animals in it. Furthermore, "I myself will be a wall of fire around it, declares the Lord ."

These visions all connect in a literal future time and fulfill the biblical model portrayed throughout Jewish history in their wilderness tabernacle temple and that at Jerusalem to establish the beginning of the thousand year reign of Jesus over the earth in the new Jerusalem. A final connection appears to allow that John is the 'young man' who Zechariah encountered and talked to in his vision as John, in his own vision, would be younger than Zechariah by about 600 years.

---

<sup>8</sup> Dan.9:27 & 12:11; 2 Thess. 2:3,4

<sup>9</sup> Rev. 21:25-26; Isa. 60:11