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The Last Great Day

“...The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for **seven days** to the LORD...on the **eighth day** shall be a holy convocation to you...and you shall do no servile work therein...and on the **eighth day** shall be a Sabbath” (Leviticus 23:34, 36, 39). The eighth day is the **last day** of the Feast of Tabernacles, and it is the **last** of the seven annual appointed times. It is the culmination of God’s plan of giving eternal life to those who choose to obey Him.

At the Feast of Tabernacles, “In **the last day, that great day of the feast**, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come to Me, and drink. He that believeth on Me ... out of his belly shall flow **rivers of living water**. (But this He spoke of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified)” (John 7:37-39).

The Holy Spirit was given to man on the Day of Pentecost in 30 A.D. Pentecost is called the eighth day of Passover, because it is wholly dependent on, and is directly connected to, the **seven days** of Passover. On the eighth day of Sukkot man will become fully spirit, and this will be the ultimate fulfillment of Jesus’ statement about the “rivers of living water.” Jesus said, “...Behold, I make all things **new**...And He said to me, **It is done** [1096, *to come into existence, to be born, to be created*]. I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. **I will give to him that is thirsty of the fountain of the water of life** [2222, *living*] freely” (Revelation 21:5, 6).

The living water symbolizes the Holy Spirit that flows forth from God. “And he showed me a pure river of **water of life**, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb” (Revelation 22:1). The Eternal God is “... the fountain of **living waters** ...” (Jeremiah 2:13). “Therefore with joy **shall you draw water out of the wells of salvation**. And **in that day** shall you say, Praise the LORD, call upon His name....Sing to the LORD; for He hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, you inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel **in the midst of you**” (Isaiah 12:3-6).

The Biblical name of the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar is “Ethanim” (1 Kings 8:2). It is *Strong’s* 388, the plural of 386. It means: “*permanent, ever flowing brooks.*” It is used in Amos 5:24. “But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a **mighty** [386, *perennial, constant*] stream.” The seventh month points to a time of everlasting righteousness.

A New Heaven and a New Earth and No More Sea

The seventh day of Sukkot pictures the complete destruction of the original creation, and on the eighth day, “...I saw a **new** [2537,] **heaven** and a **new** [2537] **earth**: for the first heaven and the first earth were **passed away** [3928, *to disappear, vanish, perish*]; and there was no more sea” (Revelation 21:1).

The Greek word translated as “new” is *Strong’s* 2537. It means: “superior to that which

it succeeds; of a new kind; unprecedented; novel; uncommon; unheard of." This is a completely new creation in which everything that exists is composed of spirit, and it is therefore eternal. "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).

Why will the seas cease to exist? Seas are the cesspools of the earth, and they represent carnal man and the way of this world. "...The waters...where the whore sits, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues" (Revelation 17:15). In order to be saved, you must come out of the sea, which is pictured by baptism. Jesus said to His disciples, "...Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). When you catch fish, you pull them out of the water. Likewise, at baptism you come up and out of the water.

In a parable about the Kingdom of God, Jesus said, "...[T]he kingdom of heaven is like a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: which, when it was full, they drew to shore...and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. So shall it be at the **end of the world**: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from the just, and shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 13:47-50).

Once the good are gathered and the bad are cast away, the fishing expedition is over forever. Those who inherit eternal life will be changed, because "...flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption....So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, **Death is swallowed up in victory**" (1 Corinthians 15:50, 54).

This will be the third and final resurrection, because all flesh must die, but the righteous will be changed to spirit. "...[F]or the child shall die a hundred years old; but the sinner being a hundred years old shall be accursed" (Isaiah 65:20).

"He that overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: **which is the second death**" (Revelation 21:7, 8). That which the seas represent will be destroyed, and there will be no more sea.

The Construction of the Bride's Dwelling

It is the responsibility of the bridegroom to provide a dwelling place for his bride. Jesus said, "In My Father's house are many mansions [3438, dwellings] ... **I go to prepare a place for you**" (John 14:2).

Solomon's temple is a type of the heavenly city. In the construction of Solomon's temple the stones were cut at the quarry, away from the building site. They were then taken to the building site and put in place. "And the house [temple], when it was in building, was built of stone made ready [8003, *complete, perfect, whole*] before it was brought [4551, *a journey, a quarry*] there: so that there was neither hammer nor ax nor any tool of iron heard in the house while it was building" (1 Kings 6:7).

The earth is the quarry, which is where we begin our journey, and the house is "...the city

of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem..." (Hebrews 12:22). While on this earth, "You also, as living stones, are built up [3618, *to construct, establish*] a spiritual house..." (1 Peter 2:5). Jesus is shaping each stone so that it will fit perfectly into the New Jerusalem. "...Jesus Christ Himself being **the chief cornerstone**; in whom all the building fitly framed together grows to a holy temple in the Lord" (Ephesians 2:20-21).

Another example of building the temple is found in the Book of Zechariah. "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it ..." (Zechariah 4:9). Zerubbabel is a type of Jesus Christ. Jesus is "...Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end..." (Revelation 21:6). He laid the foundation of the house, and He will also finish it.

The building must be plumb. "...For they shall rejoice, and shall see the **plummet** [913, *stone of tin*] **stone** in the hand of Zerubbabel..." (v. 10). Strong's 913 is from 914, which means "*to divide, separate, distinguish, select.*"

The stone of tin is Jesus Christ. The altar of burnt offering was made of bronze, which is an alloy of tin and copper. An alloy is a "*less valuable metal mixed with a more valuable one, often to give hardness; hence, something that lowers the value or goodness of another thing when mixed with it.*" For example, sin lowers the value of man and hardens him. Jesus became sin for us, thus purifying us by the removal of our sins.

"Therefore says the Lord, the LORD of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease Me of My adversaries, and avenge Me of My enemies: and I will turn My hand upon you, and purely purge away your dross, and **take away all your tin** [913]: And I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counsellors as at the beginning: afterward you shall be called the **city of righteousness, the faithful city**. And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the LORD shall be consumed" (Isaiah 1:24-28).

The weight and the plumb line is equated to righteousness. "Judgment will I lay to the line, and **righteousness to the plummet** [4949, *a weight with line attached*]..." (Isaiah 27:17). The plumb line stretches from the altar, i.e. Jesus Christ, to the Mercy Seat in the Most Holy Place (fig. 1). When the inner court of the tabernacle is overlaid on the outer court, the mercy seat is directly above the altar.

"...Christ Jesus, whom God has set forth to be a propitiation [2435, *mercy seat*] through faith in His blood, to declare **His righteousness** for the remission [3929, *passing over*] of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; to declare at the present time, **His righteousness** that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believes in Jesus" (Romans 3:24-26).

The plumb line of righteousness that stretches from the altar to the Most Holy Place must be strong enough to support the weight that it must carry. It is a seven-strand cord. The seven strands are the seven appointed times. The dates of the seven appointed times equal ninety ($15 + 21 + 6 + 1 + 10 + 15 + 22 = 90$). Ninety degrees is both plumb and square.

The last stone to be set in place is the headstone. Zerubbabel "...shall bring forth the headstone [7222, *the highest stone at a corner*] thereof with shouting, crying, Grace, grace unto it" (v. 7). The word 7222 is used just this one time in scripture, because this will be a onetime event. The bringing forth of the headstone is the final step in the Eternal's plan. The headstone is

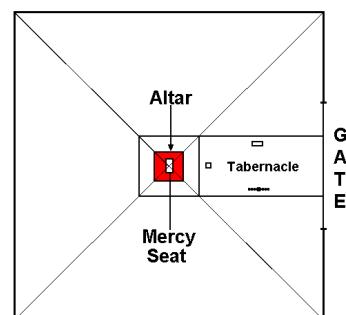


Figure 1

“... that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God: and her light was like a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal” (Revelation 21:10, 11).

The New Jerusalem

“And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, **prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.** 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, their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be **no more death,** neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Revelation 21:2-4).

The throne of God is in the Most Holy Place, which is the only cube in scripture, and the New Jerusalem is a cube: “And the city lies 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 are equal**” (v. 16). All of those who are saved during the three periods of salvation will dwell in the Most Holy Place with the Father and the Lamb.

The city has three gates on each of its four sides. Unlike the tabernacle, which could only be entered from the east, i.e. from the direction of Babylon, the holy city can be entered from any direction because there is no longer a Babylon. “And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defiles, or whatsoever works abomination, or makes a lie: **but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life**” (v. 27).

The “...street [4113, *a broad way, spread out*] of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass” (v. 21). Gold represents that which is pure and eternal. The street represents the way in which one walks. All of those in the Kingdom of God walk in righteousness.

“And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. 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” (vv.22-23). God had set the “...lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons [4150, *appointed times*], and for days, and years” (Genesis 1:14).

In the Kingdom of God there will be no day or night, or seasons, or years, because it will be the same day for all eternity. It will be the **Last Great Day, the eternal Sabbath.** The annual Sabbaths will cease to exist, because their purpose will have been fulfilled. Only the Sabbath day will remain, because it represents the eternal kingdom.

“And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, the tree of life, which bare twelve fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: **but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him:** and they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: **and they shall reign forever and ever**” (Revelation 22:1-5).