

The 144,000

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DISTINCT AND ELITE ASSEMBLAGE.

THEY ARE SERVANTS OF THE LORD. Serving Him in a very special capacity. They have been singled out for a ministry that others will not be able to perform. Rev. 7:3 As servants, they will be in close proximity, at all times, to their Lord and Master. One who would serve their master must be in His presence willing to follow Him wherever He goes. They who serve the Lord in this fashion will be greatly honored of the Father. John 12:26 The servants of the Lord must have been set free from sin in order to properly serve the Lord. Their fruit is that of holiness and their ultimate is eternal life with the Lord. Rom. 6:22 These who are chosen to fulfill the plan of the Lord will be the possessors of the righteousness and holiness of the Almighty, the servant will be identical to his master. Their protection and deliverance is assured. They are indeed . Isa. 54:17.

THEY ARE A SEALED PEOPLE. The mark, the seal of the Lord to be placed in their foreheads. This is done for identification and protection. They are set apart and signified as members of this very important segment of the Bride of Christ. Rev. 7:3 This is in contrast to the fact that following this the antichrist will develop a system of his own that will require a stamp or signet, { no doubt an image of himself}, to be inscribed in the hands or foreheads of all who would do any kind of merchandising. Rev. 13:16-17 This very unique group of sealed ones are seen again as those who accompany the Lamb. They remain in close affinity with the Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God. The seal is described as being a name. The name of the Lord Jesus Christ which is the name of the Son of God. The Father has also given Jesus His name, which is LORD. Rev. 14:1.

HIS NAME IS INVOKED UPON US IN WATER BAPTISM. The command was that converts were to be baptized in the NAME of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Mt. 28:19 What is His name? Father, Son and Holy Ghost are titles and not names. Our God does have a NAME and responds when we use His NAME in prayer. Note the pattern of

baptisms in the Acts of the Apostles. {1}. IN THE NAME, Of the LORD JESUS. Acts 2:38 {2}. In the NAME of JESUS. Acts 8:12 {3}. In the NAME of the LORD JESUS. Acts 8:16 {4}. In the NAME of the LORD. Acts 10:48 {5}. In the NAME of the LORD JESUS. Some texts have the full NAME of the LORD JESUS CHRIST in these scriptures. A very strong pattern emerges from the Acts that the early church fully honored the command and baptized in the NAME of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a triune name, by which the Triunity of the Bible may be identified and fully known. God is everything that His name implies. The thoughts presented here are not intended to associate with any one particular group or organization but rather, to present a truth that is presented to us throughout the scriptures. It is a subject that is worthy of all considerations. His name is above every name that is named.

THEIR ORIGINS. They are descendants of the twelve tribes of Israel. Twelve thousand from each tribe. Rev. 7:4-8 As scattered, mixed and mingled as the tribes of Israel are today, if the Lord holds to the letter of the word and requires that these people be literal descendants of Israel, we can rest assured that He will find them. They are chosen to accomplish a spiritual service required by the Lord.

WHO IS A JEW? Heed the words of one who was a Hebrew of the Hebrews. A Jew, under New Testament economy, is not a Jew simply because he has been born into Israel. Paul differentiated very strongly between one who is of the flesh and one who is of the spirit. The flesh, with the sign of circumcision, the natural man, Paul states; is not a Jew. The sign of one who is a Jew, is still circumcision, but not of the flesh, rather of the spirit. A work that is done in the heart, inwardly. A time when the heart is changed and the old life becomes extinct. The New Life in Christ Jesus is now in control and reigns supremely. Rom. 2:28-29 Being born of the flesh, regardless of race or creed, does not automatically include an individual as a child of God. Jesus said; You must be born again. That which is received and accepted by the Lord must be children of His promise. That promise is life eternal in the Lord Jesus. Rom. 9:8

WHAT TRANSACTIONS COUNT WITH THE LORD? Neither circumcision, in the flesh, nor uncircumcision have any value before the Lord. Only a new creature has any merit whatsoever with the Lord. The new man

will loose the religiosity of his old ways. For in Christ, the fleshly divisions of race cease to exist, the church is no longer Jew or Greek, circumcision or uncircumcision, but Christ reigns supreme and is manifesting the life of that new man. Col. 3:11 The new man is in a process of alteration and spiritual change. Becoming knowledgeable in the Word and teachings of Christ. The ultimate purpose of the Lord is that He might have a people who are in the total image and complete likeness of their Lord. Col. 3:10.

ADOPTION. Frequently, much to do is made because of the adoption of sons that is ours in Christ Jesus. All who are new creatures in Christ are members of the great family of believers. Therefore if the Lord continues to maintain the twelve tribe order, every one in Christ is a member of the tribes, by proper and legal adoption. Gal. 4:5 Interestingly, the original twelve tribe race who are the descendants of Abraham were also adopted. Rom. 9:4 Abram was a Syrian, until the Lord called Him, adopted him and made of him a great nation. Deut. 26:5 It is the choice of the Lord made by His call that will elevate one into the great and wonderful family of the Lord. The one hundred forty-four thousand are very choice servants of the Lord. We might note also that the scripture does not state that the one hundred forty-four thousand are evangelist preaching during the tribulation period.

CHOSEN AND SEALED. A people chosen by the Lord. They had not chosen Him, the choice was His and His alone. Not only chosen but ordained, appointed to be fruitful. A chosen person or persons will always be fruit bearing and produce much fruit. John 15:16 Those who are in close proximity to the Lord Jesus have a certain character about them, they are called to be saints, they have been invited. They are chosen, selected. Favorite ones and faithful, believers and trustworthy. They are a group who will not be turned aside from following the Lord. Rev. 17:14 The one who is about to seal them is ASCENDING from the East or the sunrising. He comes from the rising light or the dawn. He is about to place the seal, the signet of God upon the one hundred forty-four thousand. Separating them, fencing them off as an act of security. Letting it be know that they are set apart and very special to the one whose seal they wear. Rev. 7:2 All judgments are suspended until these who are special servants are sealed unto the Lord. Rev. 7:3.

THEY STAND WITH THE LAMB. They stand beside Him on Mount Sion. Rev. 14:1 They call on the name of the Lord, recognizing the worth and power of that name. For in His name, and in His name alone is to be found deliverance. They are His in a very unique way. Joel 2:32 Zion is the chosen of the Lord. It is that special place that He has chosen for His eternal dwelling place. This is the place of rest and tranquility for Him. It is that which He has DESIRED. This is the place of His throne. Ps. 132:13-14 .

THIS IS HIS CITY. Here we find the true Holy City. His throne. His dwelling place. His bride, of which the one hundred forty-four thousand are members. This is the heavenly, the real Jerusalem, not that which is but a shadow, such as is that which is natural. This is His City, the City where the Lord has chosen to take up His abode forever. The value and importance of this City cannot be over emphasized. It is one of a kind. There never has been one that can compare to it, nor will there ever be. This is the city that Abraham was seeking when he first started out. It is the City where life lives and that life is imparted to all who dwell there. Heb. 12:22 How beautifully He identifies it by calling it . All of whom have their names recorded in the Lambs book of life. They are the spiritual, the righteous, those who have reached the perfection that is in Christ. Heb. 12:23 They live by virtue of the New Covenant. They have been washed in the precious, sin cleansing blood of the Lamb. Their trust is fully based on the Lord Jesus. He is everything and all to them. Heb. 12:24 That which is a stumbling stone to the old order is the chief foundation to that which is new. While they trip up and fall, the church builds on Christ the true foundation. With great confidence that He does all things well we can place our utter trust in Christ, knowing that He is building that which is everlasting and eternal. That which will never cease nor grow old. Rom. 9:33.

A NAME WRITTEN. Many versions of the Bible include , which is correct. God in His Triunity has chosen that His name would reveal the unity of the Godhead. To invoke and seal them with that divine name is to place the fullness of His protection upon them. It is a proclamation of ownership and possession. They are totally sheltered by the authority and power of the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Rev. 14:1 .

STANDING ON MOUNT SION. Their location is high on mount Sion. Like the shining forth of a volcano or a fire on the peak of a mountain, they shine forth and are visible from afar. Prominent and outstanding. They are important to the Lamb. This is the city that is set on the hill of the Lord. Mt. 5:14 The Lamb is surrounded by this very special group. We have seen the importance of mount Sion to the New Testament church. It is founded on Christ the rock of ages. Rom. 9:33 It is the church of the first born. It is the eternal city of the living God. Heb 12:22-24 It is the New Jerusalem. It is the bride who has prepared herself. She has beautified herself and has been glorified by the Lord. Rev. 21:2 She is plainly identified as the Bride, the wife of the Lamb. Rev. 21:9 She is the greatest city that ever has been or ever will be. She is holy and comes from God. He is the architect and builder. Rev. 21:10 She is the woman of the intense glory of God. The city of great light and glory. Rev. 21:11 The same woman as seen in Revelation twelve. The one hundred forty-four thousand are a segment of that bride and that city. Whatever their racial background they belong to the Bride of the Lamb, to the New Jerusalem and to the New Testament church.

THE LAMB IS TO BE MARRIED. This is certainly an important teaching to the body of Christ, and in particular to we who are living in the end of the age. This will shock some, but the marriage of the Lamb is of greater importance to the church than His Second Coming. For the simple reason that it comes FIRST. The woman of Revelation twelve is married and has been for a sufficient length of time to give birth to the man-child. The events that are recorded there are those which introduce the great tribulation period. All Christians who have prepared themselves to be in the bride will be removed into a place prepared for her, by God. Rev. 12:6 While that place is called a wilderness, it is speaking only of its location. It will be located in a desolate and solitary place but because of the presence of the Lord will be anything but waste and empty. Here is a bit of insight, which will give us an idea of the glory of that wilderness. The Bride is comforted. The wilderness to which she was taken will be like the garden of Eden. How fitting, the first Adam and Eve were in a garden. The last Adam and Eve will also be in a garden. A place of singing, joy, rejoicing and thanksgiving. Certainly not a place of hardship and difficulties or this sort of gladness and praise would not be practiced by the inhabitants of the wilderness.

Isa. 51:3 Every need will be abundantly supplied. What a glorious experience.

A NEW SONG IS A SIGNAL OF A GREAT EVENT. The sound of a NEW SONG is not unusual in heaven. That it is used as the evidence of an outstanding moment is obvious from the song of those who will be in close proximity to the throne. The cause for this song is the ability of the Lamb to open the seals which usher in the last days. It is a song of His worthiness and His act of redemption which is extended to all mankind. Special emphasis is placed on the offering of His BLOOD and the purchase of the souls of men, through His sacrifice on Calvary. They have excellent reason to offer thanksgiving in their song for they have been exalted to be the kingdom of God and to reign and serve as priests. Rev. 5:9-10 This will have to be the largest songfest ever. It is joined by a myriad of angels. v.11 By EVERY creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth and on and in the sea. From the language used here this would include ALL of mankind who have ever existed. v.13 Their song concerns the worthiness of the Lamb and is a sevenfold hymn of all that He is and those things which are becoming to one who is so admirable. v.12 .

THE NEW SONG. The new song is a song of triumph and great victory. It is sung unto the Lord because of His glorious works and the manifestation of His mighty hand and the revelation of His holy arm in salvation. Ps. 98:1 it is an ode unto the Lord lifting high the Word of the Lord. Declaring His righteousness and the showing forth of His goodness which fills the whole earth, even the most unworthy are participants of His daily supply to the inhabitants of the earth. Ps. 33:3-5 Most fitting, the new song will be heard in the wilderness, the place of refuge for the Bride during the tribulation period. His praises will be extolled with great fervor and excitement. Those who inhabit the rock, Christ Jesus, will sing and shout from the mountain tops. Isa. 42:10-11. Every new song is a praise sounding from the redeemed of the Lord. The Israel of God rejoices in Him and finds the satisfaction of joy in her new song about Him and directed to Him. Ps. 149:1-2 The new song is a song sung under the anointing of the Spirit in which the Lord is exalted on high.

SINGING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG. A special song sung only by the one hundred forty-four thousand, for they are a special people. A

unique portion of the Bride of Christ. It is a song that is to be sung in the throne presence of the Lord. Because of its nature, it is a song limited to be sung only by this group. While its contents are not revealed we must know that it is a song of fresh revelation glorifying the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus. Its contents must pertain to the depths of the God like love that will exist between Christ and His Bride. An anthem of adoration and worship such as has never been sung. Would there be any doubt but what this is a true composition of the Spirit and that it will be sung in the unity of the Spirit. What a glorious sound this will create in heaven.

UNDEFILED AND UNSPOTTED. This company of individuals have two outstanding and distinguishing characteristics about them which separate them from others. In order for them to be in this company they must possess certain qualifications. In the first place they are women and of necessity must be virgins. The Greek word used here is parthenos. A parthenos is described as a woman living under the protection and care of her father's house. Rev. 14:4 The Bible gives evidence of a number of miraculous births. The one most outstanding and closely related to this was MARY, the mother of Jesus. Isaiah had prophesied of the virgin who would conceive and birth the man who was to be called Immanuel, or God with us. Isa.7:14 The angel of the Lord made reference to this prophecy when assuring Joseph that this was all of the hand of the Lord. Mt. 1:23 A virgin birth is not impossible with God. With whom there are no impossibilities. If scientist can produce a pregnancy, even to cloning, how much more God. The virgin birth should be more acceptable today than ever before. The Lord produced another miraculous birth in those days. Zachariah and Elisabeth were both descendants of the priesthood and were themselves Godly living people. They were faithful in serving the Lord. They were also beyond the age of child bearing. Once again the Lord is about to do the impossible. They are to become the parents of John the Baptist. Once again it is the angel of the Lord who proclaims to the father to be, just exactly what shall be. There is no question but what the Lord rules and reigns amongst men and does that which is according to His own will. He has established His ultimate goal and has been working toward the accomplishment of the same.

THE TIMING OF THE LORD IS ALWAYS RIGHT. God promised Abraham that he would be the progenitor of great nations, but did not

immediately fulfill His promise to him. Gen. 17:6 The Lord waited until it was physically impossible for Abraham and Sarah to have children. Then the Lord performed a miracle and rejuvenated their old bodies so that they could produce Isaac. Gen. 17:17 This revitalization came about by the Lord taking the letter H out of His own name (JHVH, or Jehovah) and inserting it in the name of Abraham and Sarah. The letter H is the eighth letter in the Hebrew alphabet. Eight is the number of resurrection. In this fashion the Lord interjected His resurrection life into them and they became fruitful. Isaac had to pray for Rebecca his wife to bear children for she was barren. The Lord heard and Esau and Jacob were born to them. Gen. 25:25-26 The wife of Jacob, likewise bore him no children until the Lord intervened. Gen. 30:22-23 The Lord was building a dynasty and made certain that all involved in that Godly lineage must acknowledge that it was the hand of the Lord that made them who and what they were. The ultimate purpose of the Lord will be accomplished through Christ and His Bride. That which to man is not possible will be consummated by the Lord.

CONTAMINATED? These were not defiled with women, does not make them to be men. Rev. 14:4 Especially in the light of the fact that they have been declared to be virgins, (Gr. parthenos) in an absolute sense, as was the virgin Mary. Mt. 1:23 What defiles a woman but is right and proper? Marriage. A married woman, even though a widow could not be the wife of a priest, for to him, she was defiled or no longer a virgin. The priest must marry a virgin. Lev. 21:14 To the priest any woman other than a virgin was not to become his wife, to him she was defiled, but only to him. The one hundred forty-four thousand are not men who have not defiled themselves with relationships with women. They are women who have not been defiled after the manner of women, that is, even in marriage. This is not saying that marriage defiles, but only as far as marriage with a priest was concerned.

FIRSTFRUITS. We are introduced to first fruits in relationship to what was called the feast of harvest (harvest, Hebrew, qatsiy, harvest, bough or branch). It was also called the feast of ingathering. Ex. 23:16 The first ripe fruit was brought to, and dedicated to the Lord. It was the general harvest of the fruits and crops of the land. It was also in the end of the year. Both of which are significant of the end of the age being harvest time. The feasts of Israel were celebrations of joy and gladness. Deut. 26:10-11 Each feast has its offering. Lev. 23 There

was a constant emphasis on the first fruits, showing its importance to the Lord. The first fruits were always the best and the choicest of the crop, certainly the one hundred forty-four thousand will not be one bit less. Num. 18:12 The Lord considered Israel to be the first fruits of His increase. The joy and delight of His heart and His love. Jer. 2:3 Today we have the first fruits of His Spirit in our lives awaiting the time of the resurrection of our bodies. Rom. 8:23 Christ is the first fruit of the resurrection. 1 Cor. 15:23 Those who are born of the Word of Truth are a first fruit unto the Lord. James 1:18 Where there is a first fruit, there will be an increase, a harvest and an ingathering of fruit like unto the first fruit. The first fruit was not the end of the harvest but as its name implies the very beginning, that which burst forth, well ripened but ahead of the ingathering that was to follow. In particular, they are brought into existence and unto the LAMB. We have previously noted their beautiful affinity with the LAMB, for they are His constant companions wherever He goes. While they, are obviously a separate entity, they are still very much members of the Body of Christ, His Bride. The experience of one member of His body will be the experience of the whole body. The glory and the majesty with which the Lord will clothe His Bride is to be enjoyed by the whole. The birth of the man-child, the persecution, the flight will create the same feeling for all who are blended together in that beautiful unity and oneness that is prevalent in the Bride. She will be in perfect harmony with her husband and lover. Her deliverance is assured. Rev. 12.

THE PREEMINENCE OF THE LAMB. The Father has established His Son as on the Holy hill of Sion, in His City, the New Jerusalem. Ps. 2:6 Sharing with Him will be His Bride and that very special group and member of the body of Christ. Rev. 14:1 While the Lord saves us as individuals and deals with each and every one of us singularly, it is in His good pleasure to bind His people together as one. As a unit, we are called , . The body is necessary to usher in the finished purpose of the Lord. She is that which brings completion to Him. Eph. 1:23 From the beginning, the Lord created male and female, that they might be one. The Son is not complete without His Bride. In a time when such great emphasis is made concerning the physical condition of the human body, we need to realize that the same is vitally true concerning the spiritual body, the wife of the Lamb. She will be the epitome of spirituality, enjoying perfect health, living in harmony and unity with each member of the body, in absolute and perfect coordination without

even an inkling of division. All in perfect compatibility and fully living the life portrayed by the scripture. No fault, blemish or lack of any kind may be found in her. It is indeed in every sense of the word a perfect bride. Eph. 5:27 .

SAYINGS OF TRUTH. Always a cause for joy and gladness. The time of the marriage of the Lamb has come and His Bride has made herself ready. We need to emphasize the fact that SHE has prepared herself. Her instructions are in the Word of the Lord. She knows perfectly well what is expected of her and she will respond accordingly. Rev. 19:7 She is clothed as no other bride has ever been arrayed. Her bridal gown is an original. It can never be duplicated for it is the righteousness of the Almighty. Beautiful beyond all description, Rev. 19:8 She is clothed with very God Himself. The light, the majesty, the glory of the Lord is her garment. We see her beauty in Rev. 12. Those who are in attendance are those who receive a special invitation, they are called of the Lord. Rev. 19:9 .

A SPIRITUAL CITY WITHOUT A TEMPLE. There is no need for such a structure in this city. Actually, the whole city, in its entirety, is the place of worship. This city is more than a physical entity. It is the awesome presence of the Lord God Almighty and His Son, the Lamb of God. Its occupants will all live by the power of life and the Holy Spirit. The physical sources of light necessary for life on earth will no longer exist. Replacing them will be the glory of the Lord and that blessed light that emanates from the Lamb of God. The constant flow of the power of the Spirit will be in all who dwell there. The excitement and thrill of the Spirit will never diminish nor cease. Pure, uncontaminated worship and praise will be the order of every moment. Time will cease and bored we will never be. Rev. 21:22-23 .

THE ULTIMATE, THE COMPLETION OF THE PURPOSE OF THE LORD. The Lord is the author and creator of new things. This present universe and world is destined for oblivion and is to be replaced by an entirely new heavens and a new earth. From the very beginning of our spiritual journey and experience we are made new creatures in Christ Jesus. The new heavens and new earth will never be contaminated by sin, sickness or death. It is the abode of all that is eternal. Beginning with an eternal God and Father to each and every occupant, they are all beings of life everlasting. Rev. 21:5 .

THE BRIDE. The New Jerusalem is the bride of Christ. She is a being of extreme, perfect and absolute beauty. Her splendor and elegance is equal with that of the Lord himself. She is totally . Rev. 21:2 How vital that is. To be ready for the most magnificent wedding of time and eternity. Surely, the very prospect of such an occasion would stir the deepest emotions of our spiritual nature. What a marvelous privilege to be come bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. To be united with Him in marriage. The only union of two completely similar beings. A glorious wedding for glorified creatures. Eph. 5:27 As difficult as it is for some to receive, the wedding of Christ and His church is the next important even scheduled by the Lord for His people. The preparation of herself must be the imperative and concern of the church today. There will be a people who are ready for that day when it dawns, regardless of where others stand spiritually. Rev. 19:7 Each and every one of us are fully responsible for our own preparedness. The Bridal gown is a gift from the Bridegroom. Its value is priceless beyond measure. It is not something that has any other origin but very God Himself. It is that fine shining linen, so brilliant and pure. A condition that God and God alone can create. The holiness and purity of this Godly marriage is equal to the righteousness of the Lord Almighty. There is no contamination. All impurities will have been utterly removed. Rev. 19:8 .

THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF HOLINESS APPLIED TO THE BRIDE. There is no compromise to be found in this Bride. She is wholly dedicated to the Lord and to the execution of His perfect will. His desires are hers. She will submit to each and every suggestion of holy living that He will present to her. Sanctification is not a strange word to her. She is in total submission to the Word of the Lord and it is the element that is used to sanctify her. Her cleansing is absolute. Her submission is complete. Her cleansing is perfect until there is no contamination to be found in her. SHE IS THE EPITOME OF ALL THAT IS GLORIOUS. Her glory is the glory of the Lord. A gift which He has bestowed on her. Eph. 5:25-26 She is to be the show piece of heaven for eternity. Loved and displaying the mighty effects of that great and marvelous love of God. Eph. 2:6-7 .

THE ALL IMPORTANT WALL OF THE CITY. The wall and the city are measured. There is nothing in the city that is not measured and required to comply to the measurement established. The measuring

rod that is used is of pure gold, there is no higher measurement than the Lord Jesus. He is the one who will measure His people. Rev. 21:15 The wall itself bears the number of our study as it was to be one hundred and forty-four cubits. Inasmuch as the city is foursquare it would seem logical that the wall would likewise be foursquare. Its thickness matching its height. Rev. 21:17 The unit of measurement was to be that of a man. What other man than THE MAN CHRIST JESUS. All things spiritual and scriptural must meet His divine standards. He came as a man, subject to all the temptations of a man, to set an example for all men. In Him, we can be victorious. Paul issued the challenge when he said, . Eph. 4:11 .

THE CITY OF GOD IS COMPOSED OF PERFECTED SAINTS. The Lord does not establish standards that are too difficult to be met. True, they are difficult and impossible for the natural, carnal man but for the spiritual man, all things are possible. The ministry gifts have been given to the church to consolidate, to bring together, to unify the body of Christ. The true test of a move of the Spirit is unity. Unity of the faith, (belief, doctrine, persuasion). Their comprehension and knowledge of the Son of God will all be equal and the same. Not only the wall, but the whole city will be comprised of people who have measured up to the stature of Christ Jesus. Eph. 4:12-13 There will be none in the New Jerusalem who have not fulfilled the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL. It will be a great, immense wall. High, soaring and elevated. In other words, extremely impressive, and that is an understatement. There are to be twelve gates, each gate watched over by a messenger or a pastor. The word *aggello* (Greek) is not confined to an angel but can be a messenger of any title or position in the church. Jesus is the door, men anointed of the Holy Ghost, those who bring good tidings, are keepers of the door, not angels. It is of interest to note that each side has three doors. Significant of the Triunity. Rev. 21:12-13 The wall, had twelve foundations. The church is built upon the teaching and doctrines of the Apostles of the Lamb. In other words, the first twelve whom the Lord chose. Rev. 21:14 We see here the twenty-four elders represented by the foundations and the watchmen of the doors, (The twelve latter day Apostles) who are revealed as the twelve stars of the leadership of the

church by the twelve stars in the crown of the Woman, the Bride of Christ. Rev. 12:1 .

THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD. Through His act of creation, the Lord is the Father of all humanity. Lovingly, kindly, gently and no doubt with much anticipation He formed, (molded, shaped) man from the dust of the earth. He then breathed into the nostrils of man the , which can only originate from God Himself. The form which he had shaped could only live by the breath of very God, or the life of the Lord, which is spirit. It was the divine inspiration of the Spirit of the Lord, that imparted intelligence, the ability to be motivated physically, intellectually and spiritually. Causing Adam to become a living soul. Gen. 2:7 The Lord has created and placed within the human body an amazing process, the ability to reproduce. Again, it is the by the miracle working power of the Lord that there is formed in the womb another human being. Ecc. 11:5 Like it parents, perhaps resembling them in many ways, yet a distinct individual. A person who possesses many characteristics that are uniquely theirs, such as, DNA, finger prints, voice, eyes, and so forth. Only God could place into the procedure of the formation of the human body such a vast variety of differences which identify each person as a distinct individual. No two persons have the same identification marks. God is still involved in the formation and birth of each and every individual born into this world.

MAN CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF THE LORD. It must be noted that in His pronouncement of the creation of man like Himself, the Lord used a pronoun that is plural, twice. Let US make man in OUR image. While the Father received the preeminence, the fullness of the Godhead was involved. Gen. 1:26 Note the involvement of the Son, the Lord Jesus. BY HIM ALL things were created. FOR HIM ALL things were created. Col. 1:16 There is not an act of God but what the fullness of the Godhead is involved. The unity of the Triunity is perfect and absolute. There is not even the slightest hint of a division, breach or separation in the Godhead. We are created in HIS IMAGE. Therefore we know that God is a Triune being. We are triune in nature, spirit, soul and body. Each of which is identified by the Word of God. 1 Thes. 5:23 Being triune in nature we are still one in person. God created one man, the man named Adam. Adam lay before the Lord, lifeless until He breathed into him that glorious breath of life. Man lived when he became a triune being. The totality of what man was to be then became evident,

physically man became an image of what God is, Spiritually and in actuality. God is a Spirit. John 4:23-24 The Father seeks those who will worship Him according to His nature and being. That is, in and by the Spirit. The Father, as Spirit, is not none existent. In existence, it is the Spirit which is eternal and everlasting. The flesh is that which will die and return to the dust of the earth. That which possesses reality is the Spirit. The Father is reality personified. Nothing else in creation can measure up to Him nor does it possess eternal life unless He grants it to them. That which is Spiritual is the only reality in the whole of time or the universe. Reality does not exist outside of the Lord.

GOD WAS MARRIED TO ISRAEL. He plainly stated that He, as their creator was also their husband. Isa. 54:5 The one who, in the first place had brought them into being through His original creation, Adam and Eve. Then had called their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to be a race dedicated to Himself. They were to be His bride and to be the people who would bring forth His Son, the Redeemer. He called her unto Himself. Seeking a people who would consecrate themselves unto Him. To be totally and completely dedicated unto Him. Ps. 45:10 Her commitment to Him was considered to be a thing of great beauty. More than appearance, the Lord seeks after those whose hearts are unto Him. He is a covenant making God and desires His people to keep His covenant with them. His heart is greatly moved by the obedience of those who are His very own. Ps. 45:11 .

I AM MARRIED UNTO YOU. This was the confession of the Lord as stated in Jer. 3:14 We can only guess at and imagine the feelings of the heart of the Lord in dealing with a people who were constantly going astray and seeking after other gods. Rest assured that if we can be moved emotionally and find ourselves deeply stirred by another human being with whom we are in love, The Lord is moved in a greater measure. He is LOVE. His love is true, pure and strong. His disappointment can be measured with the same measure, and He was constantly being saddened because of their attitudes toward Him. He called them as a backslidden, apostate, idolatrous people to return unto Him. So wicked had she become in her backsliding that the Lord gave her a bill of divorce. His separation from her was legal and proper because of her adulteries. Jer. 3:8 .

THE COMMUNION AND FELLOWSHIP OF THE LORD. Rather than on a national basis the Lord was to change His association with mankind and make it to be on an individual status. Jer. 3:14 Salvation is not to a nation, a city, or a tribe but as a single person the Lord now deals with us. The destination is Zion, not the earthly but the heavenly, for it alone is eternal. He declared that by one and two He would gather a people together. They will not originate from one nation but from all nations of the world. These are to be pastored, shepherdized and fed the Word of the Lord. They will be a people who are filled with the knowledge and comprehension of the Lord. Jer. 3:15 These are a people who do not worship the Lord after the pattern of the Tabernacle and Temple. They are not under Law, but under grace. Jer. 3:16 Their dwelling place is the New Jerusalem. They worship before the throne of God which is situated in that city. Jer. 3:17 Judah an Israel will be recognized and unified in that day, that is those who have followed fully the ways of the Lord. This is not a natural or simply a physical occurrence but is a work of the Spirit of the Lord in bringing to pass a people who love Him with all of their hearts. For an inheritance in the Lord. Jer. 3:18 .

THE MIRACLE OF RENEWED CAPABILITIES. The power and virtue of a name change. The Lord took a letter from His own name JHVH and inserted it in the name of Abram, (high father). Changing his name to Abraham (father of a multitude). Gen. 17:5 The name of his wife was changed from Sarai (ruler) to (princess or queen). The letter h, which He used is the in Hebrew. It is the eighth letter in the Hebrew alphabet and is significant of resurrection and revival. Isaac was born of parents that were as . Heb. 11:12 The impossible became the fact by the power and virtue of the promises of the Lord. ALL THINGS are possible to those who believe. Mark 9:23 The Lord is unlimited in all of His intents and designs. He will accomplish all that He has promised in His Word. In Abraham and Sarah the Lord started to build a dynasty that would be eternal and everlasting.

MESSIANIC CAPABILITIES. Jesus is the continuation of that reign which will rule from the New Jerusalem in the ages to come. Jesus, born in a miraculous manner. Born of a virgin. Not after the will of man but after the divine will and intent of God the Father. To accomplish His will the Lord has and will bypass the usual to do the unusual. Among the titles given Christ In the great prophetic utterance of His birth and

subsequent ministries is one that is extremely interesting. He will be the . This has no reference to any other person, except the Lord Jesus Christ. He is destined to be a Father. He is not the Father of the redeemed. As our redeemer He is granted many titles and positions but never is He called our Father. Even so, He is called the everlasting Father. Isa. 9:6 The word is as eternal as eternal can be meant to mean. It bears the connotation of perpetuity, eternal, world without end. It is not intended to portray Him as the Father of eternity, but to be just exactly what He is declared to be, the everlasting Father.

OF THE INCREASE OF HIS GOVERNMENT, THERE SHALL BE NO END. Isa. 9:7 It is extremely difficult to obtain opinions pertaining to the previous statement and this one. Most commentaries seem to ignore them. They are vital and of great importance, else the Lord would never have Isaiah record them. The Lord is eternal. Everything about Him is everlasting. He has never ceased to exist and have being, nor will He ever. All that He accomplishes is for eternity. He builds for that which shall never end. Therefore it is not strange to read that of the increase, the growth and expansion of His domain and empire there will be no end. The responsibility of leadership and government is to be on His shoulders. The high priest bore the twelve stones with the twelve names of the tribes of Israel on His shoulders. So, the Lord Jesus, the great shepherd, our High Priest, our Governor will be responsible for the establishment of an eternal government and an eternal nation.

WHERE IS THE HOUSE OF THE LORD? There are a great variety of physical buildings to which men have applied the title, . Yet it is necessary for Him to ask the question, ? Isa. 66:1 He is seeking a place that is everlasting, a habitation where he may cease from His labors and find rest, (Hebrew, Menuwchah, a resting place, a place of peace or marriage). That which pleases Him has not yet been constructed. It is currently in the process of creation. Rather than the material things of this earth He is searching for the spiritual, the eternal. He plainly declared His choice to be Zion. She is the desire and longing of His heart for His eternal dwelling place. The Lord has proclaimed Her to be that place of His habitation and dwelling place. Ps. 132:13-14 .

IS IT NATURAL SION OR SPIRITUAL SION? Our God is a Spirit and those who worship Him must do so in Spirit and in Truth. The natural buildings, the tabernacle and the temple were but types and shadows of that which is the original and eternal. Heb. 8:5 What shall we choose? The shadow or the real thing? By the Spirit, we today, are privileged to enter into and to worship in that which is heavenly and everlasting. The only city that the Lord will and may accept as His dwelling place, is the true, the spiritual. That which is built on the chief corner stone, the Lord Jesus, and is composed of lively stones. 1 Pet. 2:5-6 There are two simple, yet of vital necessity, requirements expressed by Isaiah for acceptance in this company. The first is, a Christ like spirit of humility, tenderness and broken before the Lord. The second is a profound respect and appreciation for the Word of the Lord. These are they whom the Lord will use to build a habitation for Himself. Isa. 66:2 Very emphatically the Word states that the Lord is not the least bit interested in temples made by the hands of men. Acts 7:48 .

THE TRUE TEMPLE PROCLAIMED BY THE LORD. You are the temple of the living God. A straightforward and positive statement made by the Lord. The Lord is developing a lively, active, consecrated and dedicated temple composed of the redeemed, the blood washed and Spirit filled. The invitation to participate in that temple is as personal as it can possibly be. His determination is to personally live IN His church and to walk IN His church. To be their God, with all His abilities and manifestation of power and exceeding great glory. He is looking for them to be His people, totally and unequivocally dedicated and surrendered to Him. A people who are in love with Him and Him alone. Their thoughts and desires are all directed towards Him. Their undivided attention is always focused on Him. Their whole being is committed to the Lord Jesus and their absolute devotion is centered on Him and Him alone. He is their God and they are His people. It cannot be any other way. 2 Cor. 6:16 .

THE LORD WILL NOT ACCEPT ANIMAL SACRIFICES. His feelings and attitude are amply expressed, even in the Old Testament. Hear the Word of the Lord. The following is as powerful a and a prophetic voice as any that may be expressed. The Lord said concerning the multitudinous of sacrifices, NIV. I am full, I have had sufficient. I have no pleasure, I delight not in them. Isa. 1:11. Bring NO MORE, vain and

meaningless offerings. Your incense is an abomination, detestable to me. Cease your special, holy days, they are iniquity, evil unto me. I hate them, I am weary of them. When your hands are spread in prayer, I will not hear, I will hide my eyes from seeing you. Your hands are filled with blood. Isa 1:13-15 They are commanded to wash, be clean, have a changed attitude. Reason with the Lord and He will receive them. Only repentance and the acceptance of the way of the Lord is acceptable in His sight. Isa. 1:16-18 .

HEAR AND CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE THOUGHTS OF THE LORD. These ARE HIS THOUGHTS CONCERNING ANIMAL SACRIFICES. That which was acceptable under the LAW is NO LONGER to be offered nor is it permissible, or pleasing to the Lord. The slaying of an ox as a sacrifice to the Lord is EQUAL to murder. The presentation and slaying of a lamb, is paramount to cutting off a dogs neck as a sacrifice. This too is totally unacceptable and is most reprehensible to the Lord. Those bringing a gift, under the Law, are offering the blood of a swine to the Lord, how repulsive to Him. The burning of incense, in any religion, is compared to the worship of an idol. To practice any of these is obnoxious in the fullest degree to the Lord. It is a declaration of the rebellion of their hearts and a choice, by them, of ignoring the Lord and doing their own thing. They have chosen to work their own abominations before the Lord. Isa. 66:3 .

ANIMAL SACRIFICES TAKE AWAY OUR SINS. How futile to even believe and teach that they can in any way be effective in the removal of sin, when they never have. Note the of Hebrews ten. The priesthood stood daily offering the same sacrifices but they were in vain. For they can never take away sins. Heb. 10:11 The decades of continuous offerings, under the Law were futile, for their offerings yearly, year after year, bring them to perfection. Heb. 10:1 The OLD is to be replaced by the NEW covenant. The Old has been liquidated, never to be reinstated. The OLD has been proven ineffective and lacking the ability to forgive and cleanse man from sin. The NEW has been activated and is busy producing eternal life in all those who believe and put their trust in the true sacrifice of God, the Fathers only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus. Heb. 8:13 The NEW is administered by a more excellent ministry, the Lord Jesus. The NEW is by far the better covenant, it is effectively producing eternal life in those who accept it. Its promises are not only

better but they are the very best. None better could be made. Heb. 8:8 .

PLAIN AND SIMPLE, GOD DOES NOT DWELL IN MAN MADE TEMPLES. However beautiful and grand the edifice, it is not to be the dwelling place of the Most High. Let it be made of gold or other like precious metal, there is no way that man can produce a structure that the Lord would even begin to consider to be His dwelling place. Since He is omnipresent and is present every where, in all realms. Where is the house or the place of His dwelling? Where will He find rest, peace and complete satisfaction? Acts 7:48-49 .

A FORTHRIGHT IDENTIFICATION OF THE TEMPLE. A fact that should be known and acknowledged by every true Christian. A privilege that supersedes all privileges. The rights granted those who will accept Him and follow Him are astronomical. They cannot be measured, they are as endless and innumerable as God Himself. Only by the revelation of the Word and the Spirit can we even begin to comprehend the tremendous high calling that is in Christ Jesus. 1 Cor. 3:16 The living temple is distinguished by its commitment to the Lord. It is separated unto Him. It will not involve itself with the spirit or the practices of this world. A sure sign and test of any revival is the consecration of its adherents. The restoration of a life of holiness is always evidenced by the workings of the Spirit in the lives of those involved. Revival will produce a beautiful and glorious intertwining of our lives with His. He has promised that He will dwell in us. That would make us to be like Him with the splendor and purity of His life being made manifest in us. Our walk, our pattern of life would then blend with His and His presence would be made manifest in us by our walk and our conduct before Him and before the world. 2 Cor. 6:16 .

THAT WHICH SHALL BE, THE ETERNAL. The city without a temple, the whole of which is the temple of the Lord God Almighty and of the Lamb. His presence in its wholeness, saturating the City of God, the Bride of Christ. For all the pleasantries available here on earth, could we accumulate them all in one place at one time, they would not begin to compare with the blessings, the joy and gladness that will constantly be the portion of those who comprise the New Jerusalem. Rev. 21:22 It is here that the tree of life appears once again. This time in all of its splendor and beauty. Rev. 22:2 This tree and its fruit was

made available from the very beginning for it was planted in the garden of Eden and was not a forbidden tree. The Lord has never withheld the fullness of His blessings from those who are so inclined as to seek after them. Because of sin in the garden, availability to the tree was cut off until the sprout came. Christ Jesus is the root that came forth in dry ground. At a time when Israel was spiritually defunct and dry. Isa. 53:2 He is the root that is growing that tree of life of which the body of Christ, His bride will a great part and a participant of all the activity that will take place in the growth of that tree. She has her part in the tree of life.

THE CONTRAST OF THE TWO JERUSALEM.

THE EXISTING CITY. THE OLD CITY. The history of the birth of the sons of Abraham is made into an allegory by Paul. In which he reversed the spiritual status of the two covenants, the two women and the two sons. In which, the one which now is, became the natural, earthly, the city of the old covenant. Illustrated by Ishmael and Hagar. According to Paul, the earthly city which they represented exemplified bondage. Hagar was a slave, a bondswoman. Her son was born after the will of the flesh, the natural, the carnal. The covenant which was imparted from mount Sinai speaks of bondage and is declared to be Hagar or the Jerusalem which is currently in existence and is in bondage with her children. Gal. 4:22-25 What does the scripture say? Cast out the bond woman and her son. Remember, Hagar and Ishmael are being used by Paul as representing Israel and Jerusalem. The bond woman and her son will not be heirs of God. Gal. 4:30 In the plan and purpose of the Lord for today all, Jew and Gentile, all must be a part of the NEW JERUSALEM. Jesus said, to the old city, your house is left unto you desolate. Mt. 21:38 He likewise made many other statements showing that His interest was in the NEW.

THE CITY TO COME. NEW JERUSALEM, THE ETERNAL CITY. It is that which is from above and is the mother of the redeemed in Christ Jesus. That which is NEW, is FREE, liberated and serving the Lord in the freedom and liberty of the Spirit. The son of the freewoman which was Isaac, was the one who was born after the promise of the Lord. Gal. 4:23 Sarah being she who exemplified the New Jerusalem which is the heavenly city and is the mother of us all. The redeemed in Christ are counted as being the children of promise, or the children of the

New Covenant which is sealed by the blood of Jesus. This is the one and only covenant acknowledged by the Lord. Gal. 4:28, 31 .

A REFERENCE TO A PROPHECY BY ISAIAH. This one who is called is the New Jerusalem, the Bride of Christ. Gal. 4:27 Yet she is declared to be barren or childless. Even so, she will rejoice, break forth and cry aloud, for the children of the childless woman shall be more than the woman with a husband. The woman never having given birth will find her husband to be her creator. Who will create the Bride but Christ? The Lord of Hosts, her personal Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, the God of the whole earth. Isa. 54:5 The children of the so called will be multiplied more than those of she who had a husband. There is a positive reference here to the offspring of Christ and His Bride. It involves the one hundred forty-four thousand for they will be the productive portion of the body of Christ. Isa. 54:1 The secrets of the Lord are revealed in many ways and in many places in the Word.

To be continued...