

*The Intrinsic Significance of Ezra's Ministry and Nehemiah's Leadership—to Build Up the Church as the House of God and the Kingdom of God by Living Out and Working Out the New Jerusalem***Monday 6/12****Related Verses****Rev. 21:11-12, 18**

**11** Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

**12** It had a great and high wall and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names inscribed, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel:

**18** And the building work of its wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

**Rev 4:3**

**3** And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance, and there was a rainbow around the throne like an emerald in appearance.

**Eph. 2:21-22**

**21** In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

**22** In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

**2 Cor. 5:17**

**17** So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.

**Eph. 3:17-19**

**17** That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

**18** May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are

**19** And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.

**Related Reading**

God sitting on His throne looks like jasper, and the entire wall [of the New Jerusalem]...is built with jasper. Also, the first foundation of the wall is jasper. Jasper, according to Revelation 21:11, is “a most precious stone...clear as crystal.” Its color must be dark green, which signifies life in its richness. God’s appearance being like jasper means that His very appearance is life in its richness. Jasper is the appearance of God, which will also be the appearance of the holy city, New Jerusalem (v. 11). The entire city, in appearance, looks

the same as God...The center of the city is God on the throne who appears as jasper, and the circumference of the city is its wall, which is built with jasper. This means that the entire city from its center to its circumference is an expression of the very God of life in His richness. (CWWL, 1984, vol. 3, “God’s New Testament Economy,” p. 441)

---

Revelation 21:12 tells us that the wall is great and high for separation unto God and for the protection of God’s interest. The height of the wall is one hundred forty-four cubits. A cubit is approximately eighteen inches, so on that basis the wall would be two hundred sixteen feet high. Also, Revelation tells us that the wall is twelve thousand stadia long. Since one stadion is approximately six hundred feet, the wall is approximately one thousand three hundred and sixty-four miles long. This is approximately the distance from Los Angeles to Dallas...The wall of the New Jerusalem is at least seven times higher than the Great Wall of China...Our great wall, which is in the book of Revelation,...is built with jasper, and this jasper is as clear as crystal (v. 11)...Our great wall is transparent. No wall on earth can compare with the wall of the New Jerusalem.

With the wall of the New Jerusalem there are seven implications. The wall implies transformation, building, the image of God, the expression of God, the testimony of Jesus, separation, and protection. A wall always separates a particular piece of space from all the other spaces. A wall also protects what is in it from all sorts of negative and evil things.

The foundations of the wall bear the names of the twelve apostles. Each apostle is signified by a precious stone...The name Peter means “a stone.” A stone is something created by God but not transformed. All the precious stones are transformed entities. Peter was originally a stone, but eventually he became jasper, the first foundation of the New Jerusalem. The wall itself is jasper, and the first foundation of the wall is also jasper. Peter was first a stone, but in the New Jerusalem he is a jasper stone, the first layer of the wall’s foundation. This implies transformation.

The wall is not built with natural materials merely created by God, but the wall is built with transformed items. We all are God’s old creation, but God put us into Christ to make us His new creation. We all were natural beings, but we have been transformed from the old creation into the new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). In the New Jerusalem there will be no Chinese, American, Spanish, Mexican, Japanese, Korean, French, Italian, German, or any other culture or race. All of us will be fully transformed. I believe that even our color will be transformed. In that day we will all be “green.” We will all be jasper! We will be one people in one color—“green”! All the different colors and all the different cultures will be swallowed up by the rich divine life of the Triune God. This is transformation. (CWWL, 1984, vol. 3, “God’s New Testament Economy,” pp. 441-443)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 3, “The Application of the Interpretation of the New Jerusalem to the Seeking Believers,” ch. 3

**Tuesday 6/13****Related Verses****Eph. 5:26**

**26** That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,

**1 Pet. 1:22**

**22** Since you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned brotherly love, love one another from a pure heart fervently,

**Heb. 4:12**

**12** For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**Psa. 119:9, 140**

**9** With what should a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Your word.

**140** Your word is very pure, And Your servant loves it.

**Isa. 55:11**

**11** So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me vainly, But it will accomplish what I delight in, And it will prosper in the matter to which I have sent it.

***The Intrinsic Significance of Ezra's Ministry and Nehemiah's Leadership—to Build Up the Church as the House of God and the Kingdom of God by Living Out and Working Out the New Jerusalem*****2 Thes. 3:5**

5 And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the endurance of Christ.

**1 John 2:5**

5 But whoever keeps His word, truly in this one the love of God has been perfected. In this we know that we are in Him.

**1 John 4:16**

16 And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.

**Related Reading**

Today God is in His word. This word contains the reality of God, which is God Himself. God Himself as this reality has a special function, which is to sanctify us. Those of us who read God's Word frequently have this experience. Whether or not we understand the Bible, as long as we read a little of God's Word in the morning and consider this Word a little during the day, we are sanctified.

When we read the Lord's Word again and again, all the worldly matters in us are removed, and we are cleansed and sanctified. God's word brings in God's reality, and in us it produces a special effect, which is to sanctify us and to deliver us from this mixed world so that we may be separated unto God. (CWWL, 1990, vol. 2, "The Oneness and the One Accord according to the Lord's Aspiration and the Body Life and Service according to His Pleasure," p. 71)

---

The world is very mixed. But God's word of reality sanctifies us and makes us pure. The result of this purity is holiness...The more a person is in the word of God, the purer he becomes. A man who is not in God's word but is in the world is complicated and impure...However, if we have God's word within, this word with God's reality will do a sanctifying work within us to separate us unto God, thus making us pure...Satan is the prince of the mixed-up world, but our God is the God of purity. The word of reality sanctifies us and delivers us from the mixed-up world, turning us back to the purity in God. In this way we are one. (CWWL, 1990, vol. 2, "The

Oneness and the One Accord according to the Lord's Aspiration and the Body Life and Service according to His Pleasure," pp. 71-72)

In 1 Peter 1:22-25...the purification of our souls is the Spirit's sanctification of our disposition that we may live a holy life in God's holy nature (vv. 15-16). It is deeper than the purification of our sins (Heb. 1:3) and the cleansing of sin (1 John 1:7). The latter is the purification of our outward doing; the former, the purification of our inward being—the soul. This is like the washing in the word in Ephesians 5:26.

To have our soul purified is to have our mind, emotion, and will, the parts of our heart, purified from any kind of defilement and contamination (Acts 15:9; James 4:8). This actually means to have our mind, emotion, and will delivered from all things other than God and fixed on God as the sole object and unique goal. This kind of purification is accomplished by our obedience to the truth, which is the content and reality of our faith. When we obey the truth, the content and reality of our faith in Christ, our entire soul is concentrated on God and in this way is purified from all things other than God. This is to save our souls from all filthiness by receiving the implanted word (James 1:21), which is the sanctifying truth (John 17:17).

According to Peter's word in 1 Peter 1:22, we purify our souls by obedience to the truth. Here we have the three matters of the purification of the soul, obedience, and truth. We should not take any of these things for granted. Instead, we should ask what truth is here and also what it means to have obedience to the truth. Furthermore, Peter says that this purification of our souls by obedience to the truth is unto unfeigned brotherly love. Here Peter speaks not merely of love, and not only of brotherly love, but of unfeigned brotherly love...Then he goes on to urge us to love one another from the heart fervently. (*Life-study of 1 Peter*, pp. 113-114)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1969, vol. 2, "The Recovery of God's House and God's City," chs. 3-4, 7-8; The Stream, Book 1, pp. 306-308; *Life-study of Ezra*, msgs. 1, 4-5

Wednesday 6/14

**Related Verses****Ezra 7:6**

6 This Ezra went up from Babylon, and he was a scribe skilled in the law of Moses, which Jehovah the God of Israel had given; and the king granted him all his request according to the hand of Jehovah his God upon him.

**Neh. 13:24**

24 And as for their children, half spoke in the language of Ashdod; and none of them could speak the language of Judah, but they spoke the language of the respective peoples.

**1 Cor. 2:16**

16 For who has known the mind of the Lord and will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

**1 Cor. 14:31**

31 For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

**Titus 1:9**

9 Holding to the faithful word, which is according to the teaching of the apostles, that he may be able both to exhort by the healthy teaching and to convict those who oppose.

**John 6:63**

63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

**John 1:4-5**

4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.  
5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

**Related Reading**

Ezra was not only a priest but also a scribe, someone who was skilled in the law of God (Ezra 7:6).

He realized that there was the need for someone who was skilled in the law of God to help the people to know God not merely in a general way but according to what God had spoken. Ezra had such a capacity, so he volunteered himself to go to the king and to request a

***The Intrinsic Significance of Ezra's Ministry and Nehemiah's Leadership—to Build Up the Church as the House of God and the Kingdom of God by Living Out and Working Out the New Jerusalem***

decree from the king permitting the Jews to do everything freely. (*Life-study of Ezra*, pp. 21, 28)

---

In studying the books of history in the Old Testament, we need to learn how to link these books to God's economy. In His economy God chose Israel, established them as a people, formed them as a nation, and gave them the law. How can we link this with God's economy? God's economy is God becoming a man that man may become God in life and in nature (but not in the Godhead) to produce the organic Body of Christ, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem. Christ is the center, the reality, and the goal of God's economy...The law is linked to God's economy because the law was given as God's portrait, God's picture, God's image, and God's testimony. As God's testimony, the law is a type of Christ, who, being the image of God, is God's portrait, God's picture, God's testimony.

In typology, to keep the law means to express God. Keeping the law by not killing, not committing adultery, not stealing, not lying, and not coveting is the living of a God-man. Those who have the living of a God-man bear the image of God. They are a portrait of God and even a duplication of God...For the children of Israel to keep the law was to live God and express God. (*Life-study of 1 & 2 Chronicles*, pp. 75-76)

In the new language of the Lord's recovery,...incarnation means that God brought Himself into man, mingled His divinity with humanity, and made God and man one entity. This is the new language. To understand that God became a man is easy, but it is more difficult to understand that God brought Himself into man and mingled His divinity with humanity. The mingling of divinity and humanity is the highest interpretation of incarnation. If our understanding of incarnation does not reach this height, we do not know it well...Incarnation means that God mingles Himself with man, making Himself one entity with man. This is deeper than saying that God became a man.

There are many examples like this of the new language. The highest definition of regeneration is that God has regenerated His people with His divine life, grafting His divine life with the human life to have one

living (Rom. 11:17). To be renewed is to have our mind changed to be Christ's mind (1 Cor. 2:16; Phil. 2:5). Christ's mind with the mingled spirit penetrates our mind, making our spirit the spirit of our mind (Eph. 4:23)...Our spirit is the center of our being, and our soul, the main part of which is our mind, surrounds our spirit. In regeneration the Spirit comes into our spirit to be one with our spirit (1 Cor. 6:17). From that time on, the Spirit, who is mingled with our spirit as one, is waiting for the opportunity to spread into our mind, that is, into our soul. This is renewing according to the new language.

We all must learn to pick up this new language in the Lord's recovery...The Lord's recovery is a new culture. I hope that all the saints will enter into the new vocabulary, the new language and utterance, of this new culture. (*CWWL, 1994-1997*, vol. 4, pp. 38-39)

Further Reading: *CWWL, 1984*, vol. 2, "Elders' Training, Book 3: The Way to Carry Out the Vision," chs. 1, 3, 5-6, 9-13

**Thursday 6/15**

**Related Verses**

**1 Pet. 5:10**

**10** But the God of all grace, He who has called you into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground you.

**John 1:16**

**16** For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

**Rev. 21:14**

**14** And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

**1 Cor. 15:10**

**10** But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.

**1 Pet. 4:10**

**10** Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

**Rom. 8:5-6**

**5** For those who are according to the flesh mind the things of the flesh; but those who are according to the spirit, the things of the Spirit.

**6** For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

**Rom 12:2**

**2** And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

**Related Reading**

The precious stones are not only produced by the transforming work of the Lord the Spirit but also constituted with the unsearchable riches of Christ (Eph. 3:8)...Grace is just Christ, the embodiment of Christ. Hence, to be constituted with grace is to be constituted with Christ as the constituent of the New Jerusalem. The more we experience Christ and gain Christ, the more we participate in the divine element of Christ, and the more we become constituents of the New Jerusalem to be built up together with all the God-chosen and transformed people, that we could be the holy city, God's eternal dwelling. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, p. 2718)

The apostles [in Revelation 21:14] represent the grace of the New Testament, signifying that the New Jerusalem is built upon the grace of God. While entrance into the holy city is according to the law of God, the city is built upon the grace of God. Apostles here implies that the New Jerusalem is composed not only of the Old Testament saints, represented by Israel, but also of the New Testament saints, represented by the apostles. (*Rev. 21:14*, footnote 2)

---

We should do only one work, which is to make God's chosen people regenerated ones, sanctified ones, renewed ones (the new man), transformed ones, conformed ones (those conformed to the image of the firstborn Son of God), and glorified ones. All those who will be in the New Jerusalem are this kind of people.

***The Intrinsic Significance of Ezra's Ministry and Nehemiah's Leadership—to Build Up the Church as the House of God and the Kingdom of God by Living Out and Working Out the New Jerusalem***

Specifically, God proceeds step by step to make a chosen one of God a person who is regenerated, sanctified, renewed, transformed, conformed to the image of the firstborn Son of God, and even glorified by God. In this way we go up level by level until we reach the highest point, where we become the same. There is no more flesh and no more natural being. All are in the spirit. All are in the kingdom of the heavens, and all are beings of the New Jerusalem...As we go step by step, ascending level by level, eventually we reach the highest point, where there is no more flesh and no more natural being, and all are in the spirit. That is the New Jerusalem...[We] should only do the work of the New Jerusalem. (CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 5, p. 529)

To be fashioned according to this age [Rom. 12:2] is to be conformed to the present course of the world. Instead of being conformed to the present age, we should be transformed by the renewing of the mind. The more we are transformed, the more we are delivered from the flesh, the self, and the world.

Anything can become an item of the world to us, if that thing occupies us and preoccupies us...The time must come when you are able to say, "Lord, I praise You that I have been liberated. I have been fully emancipated from every kind of preoccupation. On this earth there is nothing occupying me or preoccupying me." When this is your situation, you will have nothing to do with the world, yet you will still be living on the earth. You will continue to need food, marriage, clothing, housing, and transportation, but none of these things will occupy or preoccupy you.

If we see the vision of the world, we will realize that we should not love anything worldly. We should not love any occupying or preoccupying thing. Rather, we should give our love fully, wholly, and absolutely to the Lord. All our capacity is for Him. All the ground, all the room, in us is for Him. (CWWL, 1965, vol. 3, "The Heavenly Vision," pp. 204-205)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1991-1992, vol. 2, "The Law and Grace of God in His Economy," ch. 2; CWWL, 1965, vol. 3, "The Heavenly Vision," ch. 5; *Life-study of 1 & 2 Kings*, msgs. 8, 13

**Friday 6/16****Related Verses****Rev. 2:17**

17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except him who receives it.

**Zech. 5:7-8a**

7 (Then a lead cover was lifted up) and this is a woman sitting within the ephah vessel.

8a Then he said, This is Wickedness.

**1 John 5:4, 12**

4 For everything that has been begotten of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory which has overcome the world -- our faith.

12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

**John 14:30**

30 I will no longer speak much with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and in Me he has nothing;

**Phil. 3:7-8**

7 But what things were gains to me, these I have counted as loss on account of Christ.

8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ

**Related Reading**

Manna is a type of Christ as the heavenly food that enables God's people to go His way. A portion of manna was preserved in a golden pot concealed in the Ark (Exo. 16:32- 34; Heb. 9:4). The open manna was for the Lord's people to enjoy in a public way; the hidden manna, signifying the hidden Christ, is a special portion reserved for His overcoming seekers, who overcome the degradation of the worldly church. While the church goes the way of the world, these overcomers come forward to abide in the presence of God in the Holy of Holies, where they enjoy the hidden Christ as a special portion for their daily supply. This promise is being fulfilled today in the proper church life and will be

fulfilled in full in the coming kingdom. If we seek the Lord, overcome the degradation of the worldly church, and enjoy a special portion of the Lord today, He as the hidden manna will be a reward to us in the coming kingdom. If we miss Him as our special portion today in the church life, we will surely lose the enjoyment of Him as a reward in the coming kingdom. (Rev. 2:17, footnote 2)

---

Zechariah 5:5-11 describes the vision of the ephah vessel, which is the measuring vessel, a container able to hold one ephah, used for purchasing and selling in business.

"Then the angel who spoke with me...said, This is the ephah vessel that goes forth; and he said, This is their appearance in all the land" (vv. 5-6). A large percentage of the world's population is engaged in business or commerce. The appearance of business is not that bad; rather, in all the land commerce seems to have a proper appearance. But as we will see, actually today's commerce is totally wicked.

[Verses 7b and 8a] reveal that the woman sitting within the ephah vessel signifies the wickedness contained in commerce, such as covetousness, deceit, and the love of mammon. The seller loves money and tries to get money out of the buyer's pocket; the buyer also loves money and tries to obtain the things he wants at a low price, thereby saving money.

The vision in Zechariah 5 corresponds to that of Babylon the Great in Revelation 18. These visions show us that in the sight of God the wickedness contained in commerce is a kind of idolatry and fornication. Business is an adulterous woman desirous of making money.

In Zechariah 5:7 and 8 we see that a lead cover, a lead weight, is thrown over the opening of the ephah vessel. This signifies the restriction of the wickedness in commerce by God's sovereignty...If commerce, especially international trade, could be restricted, the whole earth would be holy.

The one woman becoming two women [v. 9a] signifies the double effect of commerce once it becomes free of the restriction.

***The Intrinsic Significance of Ezra's Ministry and Nehemiah's Leadership—to Build Up the Church as the House of God and the Kingdom of God by Living Out and Working Out the New Jerusalem***

The two women had wings like the wings of a stork, and the wind was in their wings. They lifted up the ephah vessel between the earth and the heavens (v. 9b). All of this signifies the rapid spreading of the wicked commerce.

“I said to the angel who spoke with me, Where are they taking the ephah vessel? And he said to me, To build a house for her in the land of Shinar; and when it is prepared, she will be set there in her own place” (vv. 10-11). This signifies that God’s sovereignty will cause the wickedness in business, which the people of Israel learned of the Babylonians in their captivity, to go back to Babylon (the land of Shinar). Let this wickedness return to Babylon. All the people among God’s elect should be honest and simple in their living. (Life-study of Zechariah, pp. 35-37)

Further Reading: *CWWL, 1983*, vol. 2, “Concerning the Lord’s Recovery,” chs. 2-3; *Life-study of Zechariah*, msgs. 6, 10-11

**Saturday 6/17**

**Related Verses****Rom. 16:20**

**20** Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

**Eph. 6:11**

**11** Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,

**Deut. 32:30**

**30** How shall one chase a thousand, And two put ten thousand to flight, Were it not that their Rock sold them, And Jehovah delivered them up?

**Rev. 12:11**

**11** And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

**Eccl. 4:9-10, 12**

**9** Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor;

**10** For if they fall, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls and does not have another to lift him up!

**12** And while a man may prevail against the one, the two will withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

**1 Cor. 12:24**

**24** But our comely members have no need. But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked,

**Eph 5:26-27**

**26** That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,

**27** That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

**Related Reading**

The church is the Body of Christ. This Body renders supply [and]...also renders protection to every member. This is especially important when it comes to the matter of spiritual warfare. Ephesians is a book that deals specifically with the Body of Christ. In chapter 6 we see that spiritual warfare is something that is related to the church, not to individuals...Satan is not afraid of individuals. He is afraid of the church...(Matt. 16:18). We must meet the devil on the ground of the Body. Even in our private prayers we should stand by faith on the ground of the Body. Many Christians fall before the foe because they stand alone. In fact, if we stand alone, we invite Satan’s attack. (*CWWN, vol. 44, p. 803*)

---

The Body of Christ puts on the whole armor of God. In the Body every member has its specialty, and all these specialties combined together form the whole armor of God. If a brother has faith, he has the shield of faith. If another brother has the word of God, he has the sword of the Spirit. The whole armor of God is the totality of all the specialties of the members. Hence, the whole armor is for the whole church, not for individuals...One function of the Body of Christ is to protect all the members. We need the covering of the Body; otherwise, we will be constantly exposed to the enemy. An isolated individual is also prone to be deceived, so we need the covering of the Body for this as well. We should consult constantly with our fellow believers. We must not only acknowledge the need for the Body in a general way, but

we should also go to our brothers and sisters in a specific way and ask for help.

Many people do things without consulting and praying with the brothers and sisters. They are ignorant of the protection of the Body, and the result is nothing but failure. We all must see the reality of the Body’s protection, hide under its protection, and accept its safeguard.

The one who knows the Body merely as a truth may seek the counsel and covering of the Body, but he will do it as a matter of policy, not as a matter of life. When he thinks of it, he will do it, but he can also forget about it. The one who has seen the Body as a reality and has entered experientially into the realm of the Body has no possibility of forgetting. His acting by the Body-principle is something spontaneous because it is his life.

In Ephesians 6:11 we are told to put on “the whole armor of God” that we may wage warfare against the hosts of darkness. However, the equipment for the fight is not given to one believer; it is given to the church. “The whole armor” can only be put on by the Body, not just by one member. Spiritual warfare is in this principle—one will chase a thousand and two will put ten thousand to flight (Deut. 32:30). The so-called church has not defeated the enemy’s host, because Christians are living scattered lives instead of functioning in the Body.

Mathematically..., if one can chase a thousand, two should only be able to chase two thousand. But in spiritual mathematics, one chases a thousand while two chase ten thousand. The strength of two persons put together is five times that of two who are considered separately. Two is the minimum corporate number. If two persons chase the enemy separately, they will not defeat ten thousand. This is a principle: The strength of the corporate Body is very great. God cares for the corporate Body. (*CWWN, vol. 44, pp. 803-805, 838*)

Further Reading: *CWWL, 1964*, vol. 4, “The Vision of God’s Building,” ch. 3; *CWWN, vol. 44*, chs. 100, 105; *CWWN, vol. 38*, ch. 52

**The Intrinsic Significance of Ezra's Ministry and Nehemiah's Leadership—to Build Up the Church as the House of God and the Kingdom of God by Living Out and Working Out the New Jerusalem****Lord's Day 6/18****Related Verses****Matt. 16:18**

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

**Eph. 2:20-21**

20 Being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone;  
21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

**Eph. 4:15-16**

15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,  
16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

**Rev. 4:3**

3 And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance, and there was a rainbow around the throne like an emerald in appearance.

**Rev. 21:11, 18-19**

11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.  
18 And the building work of its wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.  
19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every precious stone: the first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald;

**Further Reading:**

Further Reading: *CWWL, 1994-1997*, vol. 3, "The Application of the Interpretation of the New Jerusalem to the Seeking Believers," chs. 3, 5

**Hymns, #979**

1 How glorious, how bright it shines,  
The holy, new Jerusalem;  
It is God's dwelling place with man,  
The spotless bride of Christ, the Lamb.

- 2 Saints of the Old and of the New,  
Heirs of the promise God bestowed,  
Components of the city are,  
Together built for God's abode.
- 3 Perfectly square the city lies,  
All sides are equal-length, width, height;  
No measurement more long or short,  
No part oblique, it stands upright.
- 4 The city with its street pure gold  
As clear as glass transparent is,  
Showing that God's transcendent life  
Its quality and nature is.
- 5 Twelve city gates are each one pearl;  
Thus man is through redemption shown  
Reborn and as a pearl transformed,  
Entering to a realm God's own.
- 6 The twelve foundations of its wall  
Are with twelve precious stones adorned;  
Through fire and pressure recomposed  
And with eternal value formed.
- 7 The wall of jasper, crystal clear,  
God's glory by it fully shown;  
His glorious light through it does shine,  
And He appears as jasper stone.
- 8 The wall a separation makes,  
Excluding all that is unclean;  
Gold, pearls, and precious stones alone  
The holy city has within.
- 9 God and the Lamb the Temple are!  
We shall behold His glorious face;  
His presence never will depart,  
We'll worship Him thru endless days.
- 10 The city needs no sun nor moon  
For God's own glory is its light;  
The Lamb's the lamp the city bears,  
In all directions blazing bright.
- 11 Out from the throne of God and the Lamb  
Flows midst the street a living stream,

- And on its banks, on either side,  
The tree of life is thriving seen.
- 12 This signifies the life of God  
Not just for food or water flows,  
But carries God's authority  
As it throughout the city goes.
- 13 The street of purest gold therein  
God's nature as the way doth show;  
A river in it flows for drink  
And fruits of life abundant grow.
- 14 The number twelve means government,  
Perfection which eternal is;  
God blent with man it also tells-  
Three multiplied by four shows this.
- 15 Darkness and death shall be no more,  
Sorrow and pain shall pass away,  
Old will be gone and all be new,  
God will abide with man for aye.
- 16 The city has God's image full,  
It rules for Him, the sovereign King,  
Fulfilling His eternal plan,  
Complete content to Him to bring.

**Churchwide Truth Pursuit of Romans****Level 1—Romans Sequential Study**

Scripture: Rom. 9:1-10:21

Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Romans*, msgs. 22-23

**Level 2—Romans Topical Study**

Crucial Point: Raised and Growing Together with Him,  
Walking in Newness of Life

Scripture: Rom. 6:1-5

Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Romans*, msgs. 35-36;  
*Crystallization-study of the Complete Salvation of God in Romans*, ch. 3

Supplemental Reading: None

Hymn: 475

For study questions and additional materials, please visit the church website at [churchinnyc.org/bible-study](http://churchinnyc.org/bible-study)