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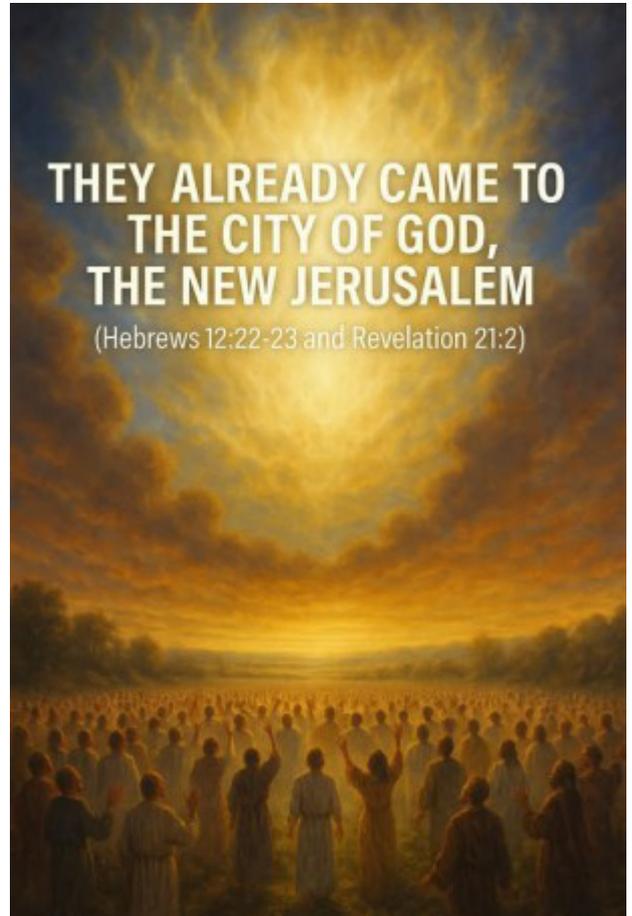
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## New Jerusalem They Already Came to the City of God, the New Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22-23 and Revelation 21:2)



By Dan Maines

### **They Already Came to the City of God, the New Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22-23 and Revelation 21:2)**

**Hebrews 12:22-23** says, "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect."

Now stop and think about that. The writer of Hebrews is not talking about something far off in the future. He says plainly,

"You have come", not "you will come." These believers had already entered something real. Something heavenly. They had already come to the New Jerusalem.

**That raises a fair question though.** If they were already in the New Jerusalem in Hebrews 12, then why does Revelation 21:2 say the New Jerusalem was still coming down?

**"And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."**

Same city, same promise, but one says they already had it, the other says it was coming. So which is it?

**The answer is: both.** Hebrews shows the believers were already in it positionally, and Revelation shows that it was being revealed. It was still veiled because the Old Covenant system hadn't vanished yet. That old order was still standing, but fading away fast.

**Hebrews 8:13 spells this out:** "When He said, 'A new covenant,' He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear."

The Old Covenant was dying. The temple still stood when Hebrews was written, but it was about to fall. And when it did, the New Jerusalem, the church, the bride, would no longer be hidden behind the shadow of the old system.

**Let me give you more proof.**

Ephesians 2:6 says believers had already been "raised up with Christ" and "seated in the heavenly places." That's not future. That's spiritual reality, a present possession. And Galatians 4:26 tells us plainly, "But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our

mother."

They were already citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem. The same city Revelation 21 talks about, coming down out of heaven, not to land on dirt, but to be revealed in full once the old passed away.

**Look at what Revelation 21:9-10 says:** "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb... and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God."

The city is the bride. That's the church. That's not some future structure. Paul already said in Ephesians 5 that the church is the bride of Christ. She existed before Revelation 21, which means the city existed too. It just wasn't fully revealed until the old system was judged.

**So let's sum it up.**

Hebrews 12:22-23 says they had already come to the New Jerusalem. That's spiritual access, it was theirs already.

Revelation 21:2 shows the New Jerusalem coming down, that's the public unveiling of what had already been in place through Christ.

Hebrews 8:13 says the Old Covenant was growing old and about to disappear. That happened in AD70.

And the church, the bride of Christ, was the New Jerusalem, not waiting for a city to arrive, but waiting for the old to vanish so the new could shine.

**The New Covenant was already here.** The heavenly city was already theirs. They didn't need to wait for some future physical fulfillment. They were already seated in the kingdom. The city

had already come.

**And so have we.**

We are not waiting for the kingdom, or for the bride, or for the city. We are part of it. We are citizens of the New Jerusalem. The church is the bride. The bride is the city. The city has come down. The old has passed away. The new is here, and Christ reigns forever.

**That's the gospel of fulfillment. And it's good news.**

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