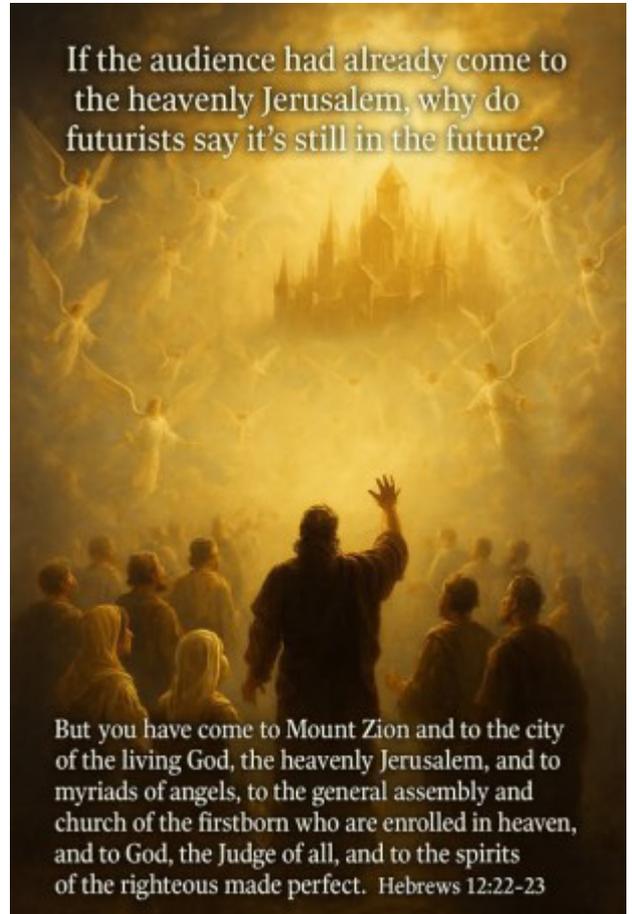


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New Jerusalem - If the audience had already come to the heavenly Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22)



By Dan Maines

If the audience had already come to the heavenly Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22), then it was a present reality, not a distant future hope. The text does not say you will come, it says you have come. That means the New Covenant kingdom had already been inaugurated.

Futurists claim it's still ahead because they misunderstand the nature of the kingdom. They expect a physical city descending from the sky, when scripture describes a spiritual, covenantal reality already present among first-century believers (cf. Luke

17:20-21).

The contrast in Hebrews 12 is between Mount Sinai (Old Covenant) and Mount Zion (New Covenant). The writer was showing that believers had moved from the old to the new. That transition culminated in the destruction of the earthly Jerusalem in 70 AD, confirming the heavenly, spiritual one had fully taken its place.

To say the heavenly Jerusalem is still future is to ignore the inspired writer's words, deny the first-century context, and delay what God already fulfilled.

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