

## The millennial reign of Christ on earth.

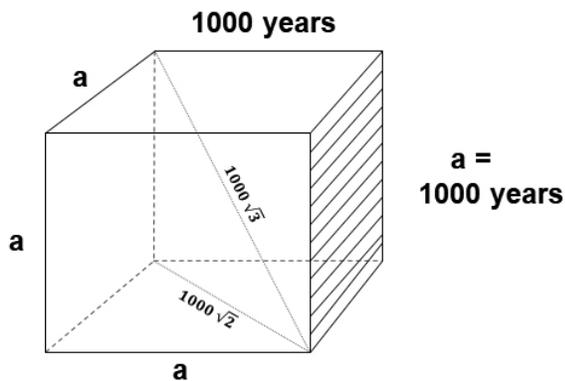
### NEW JERUSALEM IS FOUR-SQUARE

“And I saw the souls of men beheaded [cut off from the nominal church] for the testimony of Jesus and the word of God [proclaiming salvation after death] ...; and these were made alive AGAIN to reign with Christ a thousand years.” – Rev. 20:4.

Worldly people in general do not care about salvation either before or after death. They have other interests than studying the Bible. But ‘religious’ people consider it a dangerous error to teach hope for ‘sinners’, i.e. all unsaved people, after death. Such people do not, of course, co-operate with millennialists, those who believe in the Bible's promised thousand-year kingdom on earth.

In Revelation 21:9-27 this coming Kingdom of God is described in a very interesting metaphorical language. In order to be brief we ask the readers to read these passages themselves. The city – Christ’s government on earth – is compared to a cube with the sidelines = 12000 furlongs. It was surrounded by a wall that was 144 cubits – “according to the measures of a man, which is of the angel”.

The cube is a symbol of perfection, a perfect righteous government of mankind.



Since all people on earth according to Rev. 21:24 during the next age will get into contact with this symbolical cube, it is important to start studying the matter at once. “The kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.”

The sine of the acute angle between the cubic diagonal and the floor diagonal is  $1/\sqrt{3}$ , to be defined later.

In Revelation 22:2 the thousand years are divided into months. The prophetic word counts 12 months in a year (Rev. 11:2, 3 etc). In the Great Pyramid time is represented by measures of length. Therefore we may assume that each furlong represent one month. 12000 months will then, according to the above, be 1000 years (because 1000 years with each year = 12 months will be  $1000 \times 12 = 12000$  months or here furlongs).

Thus the cube shows a perfect just government on earth during “one thousand years”. This is, however, only the beginning of a symbolic description in detail of that time. In the wall there are twelve gates, three in each point of the compass, and every several gate was of one pearl. The street of the city “was pure gold, as it was transparent glass”. The city wall was built of jasper, but the city itself was of pure gold, like pure glass. The foundation-stones of the wall were beautifully laid and were constituted of all kinds of precious stones. The first was a jasper, the second sapphire, the third a chalcedony; the fourth an emerald; the fifth sardonyx; the sixth sardius; the seventh chrysolite; the eight beryl; the ninth a topaz; the tenth a chrysoprasus; the eleventh a jacinth; the twelfth an amethyst.

We have said that this is a symbolic language, and we shall continue to interpret further. All people during the next age who want to get an everlasting life under most happy conditions – everlasting life on earth as human beings, the dead will be raised from their graves – have to go into this cube, which is to subordinate themselves to Christ’s government.

“And the city had no need of the sun [the truth of the New Testament intended only for the church of the Gospel age] neither of the moon [the law and its directions in detail given to the Jews] to shine on it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb [=Jesus Christ] is the light thereof. And the nations shall walk in the light of it; and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.” (Rev. 21:23, 24).

#### DIVINE GOVERNMENT WITH FOUNDATIONS

“And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem (divine government of the people on earth), descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God (the fulfilment of all God’s promises about the liberation of mankind from transgression and its consequences: suffering and death).” (Rev. 21:10, 11).

And her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone (possibly diamond) clear as crystal – righteousness. The city had a wall great and high, – government (=Jesus and during the Gospel age the selected church) – and had twelve gates (conditions for entrance in the city), and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel (the city thus represents the New Covenant, which will be made with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah; that is with the twelve tribes of the children of Israel). – Jer. 31:31-34. But while the New Covenant will be made only with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, the entrance nevertheless will be free for all nations on earth, which if so must become Israelites that is children of Abraham THROUGH BELIEF IN GOD. They shall not become Abraham’s fleshly children as the natural Jews are. That all people, without respect to persons, will have admittance to the “cube”, the city, the New Covenant, is shown by the fact that three gates opened in either direction. The angel at each gate represents old and young worthies, who will teach the human beings conditions for entering the city.

The foundation-stones of the wall with the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb represent the main theme of the testimony of the apostles in the New Testament. The golden reed to measure the city and its gates and its wall is the word of God.

We have interpreted Revelation 21:16 above. Additionally the city does not only represent Christ’s government on earth during one thousand years but also the New Covenant, as said above.

The wall was “an hundred and forty and four cubits” – if broad or high is not said. Therefore the question here is only about spiritual symbolism. But the cubits should be according to the measures of a man that is of the angel, which represent 1000 as a pure value of numbers. The judgement of Adam was one thousand years long, the judgement of mankind shall be 1000 years long and the same space of time, namely one thousand years long, is allotted for the fallen angels. Christ’s government shall also consist of  $144 \times 1000 = 144\ 000$  members, which is the selected church during the Gospel age.

The wall of the city which was built of jasper (possibly diamond) was thoroughly righteous, but the city itself was pure gold – Christ’s government and the New Covenant are from God – like unto clear glass, that is God’s will shall be clearly and distinctly understood by all at that time. See Jer. 31:34.

The foundation stones of the wall of the city were constituted of all kinds of precious stones = characters, which all members of the heavenly government must have: **Jasper** – righteousness; **Sapphire** – faithfulness; **Chalcedony** – humility; **Emerald** – obedience; **Sardonyx** – capacity as administrator (sense of responsibility, honesty); **Sardius** = Cornelian – love of mankind (neighbourly love); **Chrysolite** – divine wisdom; **Beryl** (possibly goldberyl) – love to God;

**Topaz** – goodwill; **Chrysoprasus** – judgement (capacity to tell the difference between right and wrong); **Jacinth** – self-control (patience) and at last **Amethyst** – obligingness.

Concerning the amethyst it has a deep blue as well as a deep red color, close to purple. This means that only those who are unwaveringly to divine truths and who have a strong love to those are suited for ruling over others (in the millennium kingdom). And in our days no others have true love to God and his plan for a better state of things on earth than the carriers of the mental quality of the amethyst, a willingness to SERVE God and the ever rising light over His word. Faith without works is dead, of no value. The purple in the amethyst symbolizes the desire to bless all people on earth. Everybody lacking purple in his soul may wish to be blessed himself and helped by God, but does not ask what will happen to other people. Such may hear the truth year after year, but do precisely nothing to make others than themselves partakers of the truths of the Divine Plan of the Ages. Quite naturally, these selfish individuals eventually lose the favor of God.

The twelve gates consisted of twelve pearls; each gate consisted of only one pearl – one precious truth: He “gave himself a ransom for ALL to be testified in due time” (next age by the angels, the old and young worthies at the gates). – 1 Tim. 2:6. Old Swedish translation.

There is, of course, much more to tell about the precious stones, about the city, the gates and the wall, but what is said so far is a sufficient introduction. The fact that precious stones symbolize valuable characters can probably not be denied by anybody with common sense. The exchange of one stone to another does not mean so much, since all precious stones symbolize GOOD characters. Different translators, however, do not always have one and the same precious stone for the corresponding word in the original text.

Precious stones = jewels = individuals = characters, see Malachi 3:17.

## The New Jerusalem (Continued)

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### THE HOLY CITY

“And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.” Rev. 21: 21. This street is explained and described, among other things, in the 35th chapter of Isaiah, verses 8 - 10: “And there shall be a highway, a fairway, and it shall be called ‘the holy way’; no ‘unclean’ [ungodly] shall walk therein; it shall be for themselves [for the unclean, who want to repent and are therefore counted clean, regardless of all sins in the past]. He that walketh in that way shall not go astray, though he be of the ignorant. There shall be no lion [church or sectarian system with false doctrines that lead believers astray], nor shall any other beast [any other human organization with its own ideas about what is best for people] come there. No such thing shall be there, but a saved [redeemed by Jesus from the Adamic death sentence] people shall walk upon it. ... Eternal joy shall crown their heads, gladness and rejoicing shall they have, but **sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**”

“Like transparent glass”: hitherto God’s plan has been unknown not only to the Church but to all men. God’s will has been an **opaque** ‘jasper’ to the vast majority. It still applies: “The gate is strait, and the way is narrow, that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” – Matt. 7:14. But in the next age God’s will will become **transparent** ‘jasper’, will be “like transparent glass” – clear and distinct. “Then [finally] they will no longer need to teach one another, not one brother to another, saying, ‘Know the Lord’; for they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord.” – Jer. 31:34.

Before the millennium, only those who understand God’s will have responsibilities, and this to the extent that they understand it. “The servant that knoweth his lord’s will, and doeth not his will, shall be punished with many stripes [shall be chastened to righteousness].” – Luke 12:47.

This age offers God self-sacrifice for divine truths in return for a higher reward than other living beings could receive in all eternity. This self-sacrifice is not a command from God. It is a voluntary thing. And those who will not sacrifice themselves will naturally receive no punishment for it. But those who have promised God self-sacrifice, and yet fail to fulfill their promise, naturally incur a certain responsibility in direct proportion to their neglect. None are the “servants” of Jesus in this age except those who have volunteered for service. The rest will be chastened to righteousness in the next age, whereby each will have a hundred years to attain to perfect love in the heart, after which they will never die. (Isaiah 65:20) Men shall be young even at the age of a hundred years, and shall retain their youthful vigor and appearance forever, if they obey the Messiah.

“And I saw in it no temple.” – Rev. 21:22. In the next age there will be no Christian church on earth, no papal church, no state churches, and no sect. The teaching of the word of God shall come from the worthy old and the worthy young, from the prophets of old, who shall then be raised from the dead and made alive again as men, and from other men as they attain to human perfection before others.

“Its gates shall never be shut by day” (verse 25): Throughout the millennial age it will be possible to enter into the new covenant and gain eternal happy human life on earth. “There shall be no night” – those who have entered the “cube”, inside the city wall, shall be free from sickness, pain, suffering and death! The New Jerusalem is thus a very important institution for people, and when they realize this, they will naturally flock there

in large numbers. But in order to enter, they must at once in will and gradually also in action, renounce all that is evil, for “no unclean thing shall enter therein, neither shall any man do that which is evil and a lie, but they only which are written in the book of life, the Lamb’s book” (verse 27), that is, only those who in their hearts earnestly strive to keep the eternal laws of the true kingdom of God, which can be summarized in the words: RIGHTEOUSNESS and LOVE. For “it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto [learn from and obey] that prophet [Messiah = Jesus and the church chosen in the gospel age = the ‘wall’ of the city] shall be cut off from among the people [suffer eternal death].” Acts 19:23.

“And he showed me a stream of living water, clear as crystal. It came out of the throne of God and of the Lamb, and flowed through the middle of the city street.” – Rev. 22:1. This stream of LIVING water, that is, of truths that will bring eternal human life, will not flow outside the city, so that all who are never part of the “cube” must finally die again, even though they have all been raised from the graves to human life again, a direct continuation of their pre-millennial lives (though without bodily diseases or infirmities). We are now fast approaching the time when the New Jerusalem will come down from heaven, from God.

#### DESCEND FROM HEAVEN

“These words are sure and true; and the Lord, the God of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants [those who stand up for and labor for the TRUE gospel] what is about to take place.” – Rev. 22:6.

The angel said, “Come hither, and I will show thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” – Rev. 21:9. You would think you would see a woman, but instead you see a city, the New Jerusalem, coming DOWN from heaven, from God. And the city is a cube of equal length, width and height. All the edges of the cube are each 12000 furlongs. The city is surrounded by a great and high wall with twelve gates, etc.

The city has only one street, and through it flows a stream of “living water, clear as crystal”. The city and the street were pure gold, like transparent glass. “And on either side of the river were trees of life yielding twelve crops, for they bore fruit EVERY MONTH; and the leaves of the trees were for the healing of the people” (Rev. 22:2).

Jesus adds: “Behold, I come quickly. Blessed [happy] is he that heareth the words of the prophecy which are written in this book [Revelation].” – Rev. 22:7. We wonder how many of those who profess to be Christians have heeded the prophetic word in the Book of Revelation, and especially the above. If not, they cannot be blessed or happy, according to verse 7. But one cannot be satisfied or happy by what one does not understand. It is preached in churches, chapels and on the radio, but no priest or ‘religious’ speaker interprets the book in question for the listeners, who can therefore never be truly happy from all the talk. But just as people generally prefer to see bad movies and read bad literature, so they prefer to listen to sermons of little or no value. Nor is it worth while in this age to interpret prophecies to the great masses. God foresaw this, and therefore the angel was not sent to worldly people or to nominal Christians, but only to God’s (and Jesus’) “servants” – see Rev. 1:1; 22:6.

IN THE NEXT AGE all will come to understand the imagery of the Bible, but then the narrow way to life – on the spiritual plane – will be closed and a broad and paved road to eternal earthly life in the most happy circumstances will be opened. Those who receive

and STAND UP FOR the truth, while it is still unpopular, will of course receive a higher reward from God than other people.

Wherein, then, is the happiness of taking heed to the prophetic word? Those who have done this become sick like other people and die like other people. They are often worse off economically than millions of other people, and in addition, they are despised by their fellow men and especially by the 'religious' because of their faith, which differs significantly from all other so-called Christian faith. In 22:6 we read: "... to show unto his servants WHAT SHALL SOON BE".

According to the generally accepted Christianity, we know this, so it was nothing new. The 'saved' will go to heaven when they die and then sit on the clouds playing the harp (or guitar) for all eternity. The wicked will go to purgatory or eternal torment, from which latter alternative there will be no escape. In former times eternal torment was generally regarded as an unquenchable sea of fire, the eternal abode of all unsaved souls, but nowadays some have – at least in the case of outward behavior – somewhat mitigated the punishment to eternal torment. They cannot, however, prove the modern view by the Bible, and therefore especially the pious prefer the old hell. Now the Bible does speak of "the eternal fire" for the wicked (Matt. 25:41 and other places), but this ignores the fact that this is a metaphor, and besides, the Bible declares unequivocally that "the burning lake ... is THE SECOND DEATH" (Rev. 20:14) – eternal destruction of "both soul and body in Gehenna [according to the above a picture of the 'second death']" – Matt. 10:28.

It is the peoples of the earth and their leaders ("kings" = leaders), who will go into the New Jerusalem, THEN THIS CUBE WILL DESCEND FROM HEAVEN TO EARTH. So people will never go to heaven, for there is no mention in the Bible that the "cube" – full of people and "kings of the earth kings of the earth" – will again go UPWARD into heaven. Many other prophecies say the opposite, that God prepared the earth or created it as an eternal dwelling place for eternally happy people. Only in the present age has there been an invitation to heavenly life – to those who have ears to hear this invitation, which presupposes a serious and deep longing for a better order of things on earth than the present one. These have learned to understand that eternal peace and happiness among men cannot come from human power or wisdom, but only from God Himself, which is why they also expect help from above IN THE TIME DETERMINED BY GOD.

Those who have no ears to hear are too much occupied with earthly interests to want to stay and listen to the heavenly bidding, even though this will never be fulfilled in eternity. They will, nevertheless, in the next age be fully satisfied with eternal earthly life under indescribably happy circumstances.

#### TREES OF LIFE

In Rev. 22:2 speaks of "trees of life, which ... bore fruit EVERY MONTH", namely for a thousand years. This makes 12000 months. Now the New Jerusalem, coming down from heaven, from God, is likened to a cube with each side equal to "a thousand stages" (Rev. 21:16). It would therefore seem natural to assume that 'stages' in this case represent months. The New Jerusalem, and therefore also the 'cube', symbolizes Jesus' thousand-year reign on earth. The fact that time is represented in the form of a cube signifies the content of time or what will happen during the thousand years or the 12,000 months.

Through the city (= the cube) flowed a stream of living water, and "on both sides of the stream were trees of life, yielding twelve harvests, for [and] they bore fruit every

month; and the leaves of the trees were for the healing of the nations” (22:2). To understand the meaning of these trees of life, it is necessary to understand the philosophy of the atonement.

Adam, by disobedience, forfeited human life rights for himself and his descendants. Jesus sacrificed his unforfeited human life rights for the benefit of the whole human race condemned to death. These human life rights of Jesus constitute the ransom price from the death sentence. However, it was part of God’s plan that people would not receive Jesus’ human life rights directly, but through an assembly that would be chosen AMONG people in advance. In order to receive these, however, they must first be redeemed from the curse, and this purchase required the entire ransom price, which is necessary for the salvation of one man as well as for all.

The ransom price, however, redeems this age only to those who are willing to exchange earthly life for heavenly life immediately, whereby the human life rights of Jesus can thus be passed on to the world when the whole assembly has been taken and received heavenly life.

Of those who have agreed to the exchange, two classes arise: the ‘little flock’ and the ‘great multitude’ (whose number is not given). The former serve the truth faithfully unto death; the latter lay down their lives only in part for the word of God, and therefore do not receive in the resurrection the highest reward: immortality or life in themselves, so that they cannot become ‘trees of life’ either. But they do receive heavenly life, probably closest to the plane of immortality – “in front of the throne” (Rev. 7:9) but not ON it, where the ‘little flock’ comes. The number of members of the ‘little flock’ is given as 144000.

Each tree of life has twelve harvests every month during one year = 144 harvests, during one thousand years = 144000 harvests; 144000 trees of life during one thousand years thus  $144000 \times 144000 = 20,736,000,000$  harvests or the number of people, who win eternal happy life on earth in the next age. The propagation will continue, until the number becomes full. But if the number should be exceeded, what will be the consequence? We have not yet found a satisfactory explanation of this. All unrepentant people will then suffer the “second death”, which means eternal destruction. Some believe that any survivors will be transferred to other planets.

“And the leaves of the trees [teachings] served for the healing of the peoples.”

“And there shall be no more curse [poverty, sickness and death]. And the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it [divine government over the nations], and his servants shall serve him [all that men do, they shall do for the Lord, and all shall do some kind of work, but without labor. The Lord has no use or pleasure, either now or then, in those who do not serve him] and they shall see his face [enjoy the favor of God]; and his name shall be written on their foreheads [all shall understand the divine plan of the ages]. And there shall be no more night [the reign of sin and death]; neither need they the light of a lamp [they need not laboriously search for truth in the Bible, as in the present age], nor the light of the sun [the gospel shall then no longer be preached, since the promised Messiah has come and his power is manifest to all], for the Lord God shall shine upon them [all shall know the Lord at last, from the least to the greatest], and they [the people] shall [when they have reached perfection] reign [rule and order on earth in line with God’s will] for ever and ever.” – Rev. 22:3-5.

We are so accustomed to sickness, other sufferings, and death that such future happiness for mankind seems incredible, but the Bible adds: "These words are sure and true" (Rev. 22:6). However, all this good cannot come before the return of Jesus, since it is He who will establish the better order on earth. But then it will take a long time, some reply. He will not come for many, many thousands of years, if he returns at all. Those who say so have neglected to study the Bible seriously on this subject, or else they lack all faith in the Bible as being the word of God. This class of objectors cannot usually be won to the truth in this age. They need external view to believe, and this will not be given until the next age. In this age God seeks only people who have faith in Him and His Word or who come to faith by studying or hearing the Word.

#### THE TRUE GOSPEL

"Hide not under any seal the words of the prophecy which are written in this book: for the time is at hand." – Rev. 22:10.

"And when the seven thunders had spoken, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Hide ... under a seal what the seven thunders have spoken, and do not write it.'" – Rev. 10:4.

The meaning of all the preaching of this age, from the time of Jesus to the present day, has been a total secret to the world and, in fact, to the nominal church. Salvation to heavenly life has been proclaimed, but only a comparatively few have listened to this message. Others have been condemned to eternal torment or at best purgatory (the Catholic Church). Even the greater majority of those who profess to be Christians will hardly have taken either heaven or hell seriously, which is why they also end up in the unblestness in accordance with the name – Christian doctrine. (Hell would only catch fire with the return of Jesus.)

The true gospel in a deeper sense has been and still is a SECRET to all but the elect. And it is probable that even they did not understand much of it before the return of Jesus. "Many are called, but few chosen." Rev. 10:4 thus has its application before the time of Jesus' second presence, while Rev. 22:10 refers to the time when this (invisible) presence began. "Who is the faithful and discreet servant, whom his Lord [after his return] hath set over his household [believers in God's word], to feed them in due season [correct scriptural interpretations of God's plan]." – Matt. 24:45, Diaglott translation.

During the period 1874 - 1914, Charles T. Russell provided this "timely food". Those who therefore want to know something about the true gospel in a deeper sense MUST read the Bible with the help of Russell's explanations. If they neglect this, they will also remain in darkness until the end of the present age. In the next age all will hear the true message of the Lord, whether they want to hear it or not, and for this purpose the obstinate will be chastened into obedience if possible. If they finally disobey, they will lose their lives for all eternity. After Russell's death [1916], the true gospel in a deeper sense cannot be understood without the help also of the Great Pyramid testimony – Isa. 19:19,20. The program for our time can be read in Rev. 14:14-20.

Although the great secrets of God began to be made public from about 1874 A.D. (see above), neither the nominal church nor the world has hitherto taken any interest in or listened to these interpretations. And God's great secrets are still being revealed, though to deaf ears except in the case of a few. The whole symbolic language of the Book of Revelation is not yet clear, but it would seem that this will be done before the time of

restoration begins. The great fault of the great majority of professing Christians is, among other things, that they do not seriously and thoughtfully study the whole Bible. Even if they could not by themselves understand the deeper secrets therein, yet they would thereby understand much more than they now do. Many believe they can convert the world to Christ before Jesus' return, but the Bible clearly teaches that this will not happen. And even some time after Jesus returns (and is invisibly present), neither the nominal church nor the world will know anything about it.

“Let him that is unrighteous [not caring at all or only partially for the word of God] continue in his unrighteousness, and let him that is unclean [more or less possessed by evil spirits and zealous for their doctrines] be unclean.” – Rev. 22:11. “And he that is righteous [believing and working for God's truths], let him continue [until death] in [his] righteousness [working for the Truth]; and he that is holy [pure in heart in his relationship with God], let him sanctify himself [rejecting all that is against God's plan for the ages].” (Continued same verse.)

“Behold, I am coming quickly, and I have my reward with me, to recompense every man according to his deeds” (verse 12). Many think that believing in God is enough, but faith without works is dead, is worthless before the Creator. What are you doing for the truth if you know it and believe it? If you do not know the truth, you are without responsibility in this age, but if you know the truth and do nothing for it – or very little, you will surely be in great trouble in the near future, or you will be long ashamed in the resurrection for your indifference in the present age. Every one who has had faith, however small, has a greater responsibility than pure men of the world, since this faith should have led to the search for truth.

When the new Jerusalem descends from heaven, not just anyone can enter that city and enjoy its blessings. Conditions are set for entry. Those who will not WORK for truth and righteousness, those who pervert the word of God, those who are selfish and more than lawful lovers of pleasure, those who are unfaithful in their stewardship, those who are unfaithful in word and deed, those who are sarcastic and unkind to others, those who extort their fellow men with excessive prices, those who drink liquor to excess, those who lie and deceive, etc., etc., all these must remain outside until they repent – Rev. 22:15. But “blessed are they that do his commandments, [repentance] that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city [by obeying... the worthies of old, who were raised up from the dead, and made rulers over all the earth by Jesus].” (22:14.)

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