

#1422 The United States of America as the New Jerusalem/New Israel – At its founding, the land of America was looked upon by many as representing a New Jerusalem and/or a City Upon a Hill and/or a New Israel, part 5, Distinguishing between an *earthly* new Jerusalem and the *heavenly* New Jerusalem

The *heavenly* New Jerusalem. When it is stated that the Christian Church built the *earthly new* Jerusalems of Salem and America in the New World, in the background are lingering thoughts of the *heavenly* New Jerusalem. In fact, to distinguish between the two in these writings, the attempt is to use a lowercase “n” on the *earthly new* Jerusalem, and a capital “N” on the *heavenly New* Jerusalem.



John of Patmos watches the descent of the New Jerusalem from God in a 14th century tapestry

Key Understanding: *The heavenly New Jerusalem.* The *heavenly* New Jerusalem is described by John in Revelation 21-22. This New Jerusalem is not built by human hands. It is a heavenly and eternal city of God – one built and provided by God himself (Revelation 21:2). Yet, at the same time, John identifies “the great city, the holy Jerusalem” (Revelation 21:10) as “the bride, the Lamb’s wife” (Revelation 21:9).

In the description of New Jerusalem in Revelation 21:1-3, the intermingling of the concepts of the *heavenly* New Jerusalem representing a city and yet also representing the people of the city is clear (just as the *earthly* Babylon the Great represents a city and yet essentially also represents the people of the city).

Revelation 21:1-3 (KJV) And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw **THE HOLY CITY, NEW JERUSALEM**, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and **they shall be his people**, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.



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