

School Meeting Minutes – 23 November 2025

*We met on the 8th day of the 9th month during the priest course of Huppah!

*As we continue our study on the Millennial City and New Jerusalem, we found it necessary to explain the City in the context of the afterlife. Death was not the Creator's plan nor can flesh and blood inherit the Kingdom of God. As we look at the Scriptures, we will see that the saints sleep in Paradise until the Judgment Day or the Resurrection, at which point YHWH will dwell with the resurrected saints in the heavenly City.

- In Hebrews 12, the Holy City, the heavenly Jerusalem has the "spirits of the righteous having been perfected," (Heb 12:23, ABP).
- Enoch and Elijah are examples of these saints. There are also those who resurrected with Christ as mentioned in Matthew 27.
- Mat 27:50 ABP And Jesus again, having cried out with a great voice, let go the spirit. 51 and the earth was shaken, and the rocks split; 52 and the tombs were opened, and many bodies of the holy ones sleeping arose (egeíró); 53 and having come forth from out of the tombs, after his rising up/resurrection (egersis), entered into the holy city, and were revealed to many.
- Those are the ones in Revelation 11:1 that worship in the heavenly Ezekiel Temple. They are the "spirits of the righteous made perfect," that "received the kingdom (basileia)."

*The Measuring Lines.

- New Jerusalem is 12,000 reeds "at stadia," which is the line measurement used for the Holy City. This is where Enoch goes when he is taken to Heaven. He describes seeing angels with measuring lines to measure the place of the righteous.
- 1 Enoch 61:1 And I saw in those days how **long cords** were given to those angels, and they took to themselves wings and flew, and they went towards the north. 2 And I asked the angel, saying unto him: 'Why have those [angels] taken these cords and gone off?' And he said unto me: '**They have gone to measure.** 3 And the angel who went with me said unto me: 'These shall bring the **measures of the righteous**, And the **ropes** of the righteous to the righteous, That they may stay themselves on the name of the Lord of Spirits for ever and ever. 4 The elect shall begin to dwell with the elect, And those are the measures which shall be given to faith.
- 1 Enoch 70:1 And it came to pass after this that his name during his lifetime was raised aloft to that Son of Man 2 and to the Lord of Spirits from amongst those who dwell on the earth. 3 And he was raised aloft on the chariots of the spirit and his name vanished among them. And from that day I was no longer numbered amongst them: and he set me between the two winds, between the North and the West, 4 where the angels took the **cords to measure for me the place for the elect and righteous**. And there I saw the **first fathers and the righteous who from the beginning** dwell in that place.
- We can conclude that Enoch saw people in the "measured" place, but this is not Paradise where Abel went (1 Enoch 22), but rather the Holy City where the "first-fathers and the righteous from the beginning dwell."
- Elijah is described in 1 Enoch 89:52 "And one of them was saved and was not slain, and it sped away and cried aloud over the sheep; and they sought to slay it, but the Lord of the sheep saved it from the sheep, 53 and brought it up to me, and caused it to dwell there."
- Enoch also describes the mansions, the dwelling places for the righteous.
- 1 Enoch 39:3 And in those days a whirlwind carried me off from the earth, and set me down at the end of the heavens. 4 And there I saw another vision, the dwelling-places of the holy, and the resting-places of the righteous. 5 Here mine eyes saw their dwellings with His righteous angels, and their resting-places with the holy. 6 And they petitioned and interceded and prayed for the children of men, And righteousness flowed before them as water, 7 And mercy like dew upon the earth: Thus it is amongst them for ever and ever. 8 There I wished to dwell, And my spirit longed for that dwelling-place: And there heretofore hath been my portion, For so has it been established concerning me before the Lord of Spirits.
- Later, Enoch also gives us a description of the Ezekiel City and New Jerusalem.

- 1 Enoch 90:28 And I stood up to see till they folded up that old house; and carried off all the pillars, and all the beams and ornaments of the house were at the same time folded up with it, and they carried it off and laid it in a place in the south of the land.
- 1 Enoch 90:29 And I saw till the Lord of the sheep brought a new house greater and loftier than that first, and set it up in the place of the first which had been folded up: all its pillars were new, and its ornaments were new and larger than those of the first, the old one which He had taken away, and all the sheep were within it... 33 And those sheep were all white, and their wool was abundant and clean...and the Lord of the sheep rejoiced with great joy because they were all good and had returned to His house... 35 and all the sheep were invited into that house, but it held them not.... 36 And I saw that that house was large and broad and very full.

* The City of the Fatherland.

- In Hebrews 11, Apostle Paul alludes to 2 Baruch 4 where we read that the Holy City was prepared beforehand along with the Garden of Eden, and shown to both Adam and Abraham.
- Thus, Abraham dwelling in the Promised Land, yet having seen the Holy City, sacrificed building of houses for living in tents.
- Heb 11:9 ABP By belief Abraham sojourned in the land of the promise, as an foreigner in tents dwelling with Isaac and Jacob, the joint-heirs of the same promise; 10 for he looked out for the city having foundations, of which the craftsman and engineer (maker) is God.
- Later in the same chapter, Apostle Paul uses the word "Fatherland."
- Fatherland in Greek is g3968 πατρίς patris; from g3902; i.e. a native town; a heavenly home: — often translated as one's own country, one's native country, one's fatherland, i.e. a city where you come from!
- Heb 11:13 KJV These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
- Heb 11:14 ABP For the ones saying such things reveal that they anxiously seek the **Fatherland** (patris).
- When we go back to 1 Enoch 90 we've read earlier, we see the sheep returning to the house, "they were all good and had returned to His house." Apostle Paul implies the same thing in the next verse (Hebrews 11:15):
- Heb 11:15 ABP And if indeed, those **remembering from where they came forth**, they had even time to **return**. 16 But now a better thing they reach for, that is to say, a heavenly. Therefore, God is not ashamed of them to be called their God; for he prepared for them a **city**.

*Lazarus and the Rich Man.

- A good example of the afterlife is the parable of Lazarus and the rich man. At first glance, it would appear that Lazarus goes to Heaven and the rich man to Hell. But Lazarus was taken to "Abraham's bosom," which is understood as Paradise. This parable also gives us an insight into Lazarus' 4 days in Paradise where Abraham was.
- Lazarus in Greek is g2976 Λάζαρος. The name is of the Hebrew origin Eleazar h499 אֱלִיעֶזֶר 'el'âzâr; or Eliezer אֱלִיעֶזֶר 'el'y'ezer h461 used in Genesis 15:2, which means "God has helped."
- Lazarus appears in John 11 and 12, and in Luke 16, and we were able to draw comparisons between the two.
- John 11:39 KJV Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.
- Luke 16:20 ESV And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores.
- John 12:2 KJV Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.
- Luke 16:21 ESV who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table.
- John 12:8 KJV For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.
- Luke 16:20 ESV ...a poor man named Lazarus.
- John 12:17 ESV The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness.
- In Luke 16, those who bear witness are Abraham, Moses and the prophets.
- Luke 16:29 KJV Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.
- John 11:43 ESV He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." 44 The man who had died came out.
- Luke 16:31 KJV ...neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

*The Rich Ruler.

- We looked at the “certain rich man” in Luke 16, but we also see a “certain rich ruler” in Luke 18. Is it the same person?
- Luke 18:18 KJV And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?
- Luke 18:19 KJV And Jesus said unto him...20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. 21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. 22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. 23 And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich (plousios g4145).
- The same word for rich (plousios) is used in Luke 16.
- Luke 16:19 KJV There was a certain rich (plousios g4145) man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20 And there was a certain beggar/poor (ptōchos) named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate.
- Luke 16:22 KJV And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.
- If in fact the rich man is the same as the rich ruler who was sorrowful after speaking with Christ, we understand why he ended up in Hades.
- Luke 18:24 KJV And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!
- Luke 16:13 KJV Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

*What have we learned?

- For most, the afterlife consists of Heaven and Hell, but why are the dead believers “sleeping” if they are in Heaven? We would suggest that they are “sleeping” until the Resurrection when they are “awakened.” We can see a clear distinction between the two places for the righteous in the afterlife: the Holy City and Paradise; the Holy City for the resurrected saints, and Paradise for those awaiting the resurrection. The Ezekiel Temple will host the saints of the “first resurrection.” At the conclusion of the Millennial reign of Christ, there would be another resurrection when the Holy City, New Jerusalem will come down from Heaven. Why is this important to understand? Because we press towards the high calling, the better resurrection which is the first resurrection. Otherwise, instead of spending the 1000 years with Christ, one must await the resurrection until the end of the Millennium, when New Jerusalem will come down from Heaven. Therefore, let us be mindful of the heavenly things, and not the things of this earth, and follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

We will meet again during our regular 4 time zone assemblies on November 30th. Have a blessed week as we continue to watch and pray, and obey the voice that came out of the Throne saying Praise our God, all you His servants, both small and great!