

## School Meeting Minutes – 5 October 2025

\*We met on the 19th day of the 7th month during the priest course of Mijamin.

\*We are in the middle of celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles. On the 21st day of the month, we have a Council of the 72 that happens five times a year. We also see this date in Haggai 2.

- Hag 2:1 KJV **In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month**, came the word of the Lord by the prophet Haggai, saying, 2 Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying, 4 Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the Lord; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work: for I am with you, saith the Lord. 6 For thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; 7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.

\*The 22nd day of the 7th month is the 8th day (the Great Day) of the Feast.

- Lev 23:36 KJV Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord: on the **eighth day** shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord: it is a solemn assembly (h6116 ätsereth); and ye shall do no servile work therein.
- We see the solemn assembly (h6116 ätsereth) on the 7th day of Unleavened Bread (Deut 16:8), and there is a solemn assembly on the 8th day of Sukkot or Tabernacles. Why the 7th and the 8th days?
- 2 Pet 3:8 KJV ...one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.
- The 7th day is the 7th Millennium (the Millennial Reign of Christ), and the 8th day is the 8th Millennium which is New Jerusalem.
- Rev 21:3 KJV 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.
- So, the 8th day of the Feast of Tabernacles is memorializing New Jerusalem which happens after the 1000-year reign of Christ.

\*New Jerusalem in the Dead Sea Scrolls.

- Seven copies of this text were found in the caves near Qumran. The text, written in Aramaic, appears to be an apocalyptic vision, relating to the architectural plan of New Jerusalem, showing the concept of a large city extending for miles way before the Revelation was given to Apostle John. The narrator is shown this by an angel. The city's dimensions are enormous. New Jerusalem is described as rectangular in shape and surrounded by a very long wall, with 12 gates named after the twelve tribes of Israel. Although the city is not named in any of the surviving fragments, it is obvious that it is the New Jerusalem.

\*The Measurements.

- The New Jerusalem described in Revelation 21 and 22 is immense as well: a square structure measuring 12,000 stadia in length and width (Rev 21:16), with each wall being 144 cubits high (Rev 21:17).
- Rev 21:16 KJV And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.
- Rev 21:17 KJV And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.
- One of the more prominent elements of the preserved portions of the New Jerusalem text is that the structures of New Jerusalem are carefully measured, with the distances often expressed not once but twice, in both rods and cubits.

\*The Gates.

- Revelation 21 verses 12 and 13 talk about the gates of the city. The gates, like the gates in the Qumran text, are named after the twelve sons of Jacob, here identified as the twelve tribes of Israel (Rev 21:12). Each gate is not named specifically. What are specifically named

are the twelve foundation stones, each being called after one of the twelve apostles (Rev 21:14).

- Rev 21:12 KJV And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.
- Dead Sea Scroll 4Q554 (i)...and this gate is called the Gate of **Simeon**. And from this gate up to the centre gate, he measured, stadia: thirty-five; and this gate is called the Gate of **Levi**. And from this gate he measured to the gate to the South, stadia: thirty-five; and this gate is called the Gate of **Joseph**. And this gate is called the Gate of **Reuben**...(ii) And this gate is called the Gate of **Dan**. And from this gate he measured up to the centre, stadia: 24; and this gate is called the Gate of **Naphtali**. From this gate he measured up to the gate stadia: 24; and this gate is called the Gate of **Asher**.

\*The "Splendor of the City."

- Gemstones or precious metals appear several times in the New Jerusalem literature and there are several references to the gemstones in the New Jerusalem text (e.g., 4Q554 2 ii 15).
- Rev 21:18 KJV And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. 19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; 20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.
- Dead Sea Scroll 4Q554 2 (ii) line 15: And all of it is built in electrum and sapphire and chalcedony, and its laths (are) gold.

\*Electrum/Electron.

- Dead Sea Scroll 4Q554 2 (ii) line 15: And all of it is built in **electrum** and sapphire and chalcedony, and its laths (are) gold.
- The name Electrum comes from the ancient Greek word Electron (ἤλεκτρον), which means amber. It is connected to a term ἠλέκτωρ (ēlektōr) meaning "beaming Sun". It is describing the lightning from the Throne indicating an electric power. This is what we see in the description of the Throne in Ezekiel Chapters 1 and 8.
- Ezk 1:4 KJV And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber (h2830), out of the midst of the fire.
- Ezk 1:27 KJV And I saw as the colour of amber (h2830), as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about.
- Ezk 8:2 KJV Then I beheld, and lo a likeness as the appearance of fire: from the appearance of his loins even downward, fire; and from his loins even upward, as the appearance of brightness, as the colour of amber (h2830).

\*The Street of the City.

- Rev 21:21 KJV ...and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.
- Dead Sea Scroll 4Q554 1 (ii) lines 20-22: but the centre street, which is in the centre of the city, he measured its width, rods: 13 and one cubit, in cubits: 92. And all the streets and the city were paved with white stone ...

\*The "Water of Life."

- A spring that flows from New Jerusalem is another very common theme and one that is also found in the New Jerusalem text (4Q554 4 line 1). The theme of life-giving waters is also an element of Ezekiel, where a stream runs East from under the Temple (Ezk 47:1-12). We see the River of Life in Rev 22:1.
- Ezk 47:1 KJV Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.

- Rev 22:1 KJV And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.
- Dead Sea Scroll 4Q554 4 line 1: ... ] a spring...

\*The "Four-Kingdoms."

- A very fragmentary list of nations appears in 4Q554 2 iii 14-16, a list that seems to consist of a roster of "kingdoms." The list appears to end with "the (kingdom of) the Kittim. The Kittim is a term that refers to the Greeks and the Romans. Daniel 11 states that the "ships of Kittim" would block Antiochus IV Epiphanes from attacking Ptolemaic Egypt. After that, in Daniel 11:31, he would go and oppress Jerusalem. All of these things actually happened. But in the last days, the new Rome is America.

\*New Jerusalem in 2 Baruch.

- In 2 Baruch there is evidence of both a heavenly and an earthly New Jerusalem. The example of the heavenly New Jerusalem in this text is found in Chapter 4.
- (1) And the Lord said to me: "This city will be delivered up for a time, And the people will be chastened for a time, And the world will not be forgotten.
- (2) Or do you think that this is the city of which I said: 'On the palms of my hands I have carved you'?
- (3) It is not this building that is in your midst now; it is that which will be revealed, with me, that was already prepared from the moment I decided to create Paradise. And I showed it to Adam before he sinned. But when he transgressed the commandment, it was taken away from him as also Paradise.
- (4) After these things I showed it to my servant Abraham in the night between the portions of the victims.
- (5) And again I showed it also to Moses on Mount Sinai when I showed him the likeness of the tabernacle and all its vessels.
- (6) Behold, now it is preserved with me - as also Paradise.

\*What have we learned?

- As we are celebrating the 8th Great Day of Tabernacles this week, we are given an opportunity to study the New Jerusalem text found in the Dead Sea Scrolls. It is amazing to see and learn that the Qumran community had an understanding of New Jerusalem centuries before the book of Revelation was written by Apostle John. May to the Most High be all the glory for opening this Heavenly City to us!
- Heb 11:9 KJV By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. 9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, **dwelling in tabernacles** with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: 10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.
- Rev 21:2 KJV And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- Rev 21:3 KJV 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.
- Rev 21:4 KJV And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

**We will meet again during our regular 4 time zone assemblies on October 12th. 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!**