



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

Lord, I admit that I've allowed some bad memories to paralyze me and keep me from taking the step of faith I need to be taking right now. I forgot to consider how You saved me, delivered me, and rescued me from the events that caused those painful memories. I only reflected on the bad part, failing to recognize how faithful You were to help me in that situation. Today I am making the choice to turn my memories around. Holy Spirit, help me see my past bad experiences in the light of God's goodness and faithfulness. Fill my mind with the good things God has done for me and the knowledge that He will continue to be faithful to deliver me, no matter what opposition comes my way, in Jesus' name. Amen
(Sparkling Gems From The Greek)

Worship Music

[All For Love-Lenny LeBlanc](#)

[Lord You Have My Heart-Lenny LeBlanc](#)

[You Are The One-Lenny LeBlanc](#)

[You Have Been So Good-Lenny LeBlanc](#)

Scripture

Revelation 21

Revelation 21:1-27 (AMP) 1 THEN I saw a new sky (heaven) and a new earth, for the former sky and the former earth had passed away (vanished), and there no longer existed any sea. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, all arrayed like a bride beautified and adorned for her husband; 3 Then I heard a mighty voice from the throne and I perceived its distinct words, saying, See! The abode of God is with men, and He will live (encamp, tent) among them; and they shall be His people, and God shall personally be with them and be their God. 4 God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more, neither shall there be anguish (sorrow and mourning) nor grief nor pain any more, for the old conditions and the former order of things have passed away. 5 And He Who is seated on the throne said, See! I make all things new. Also He said, Record this, for these sayings are faithful (accurate, incorruptible, and trustworthy) and true (genuine). 6 And He [further] said to me, It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I [Myself] will give water without price from the fountain (springs) of the water of Life. 7 He who is victorious shall inherit all these things, and I will be God to him and he shall be My son. 8 But as for the cowards and the ignoble and the contemptible and the cravenly lacking in courage and the cowardly submissive, and as for the unbelieving and faithless, and as for the depraved and defiled with abominations, and as for murderers and the lewd and adulterous and the practicers of magic arts and the idolaters (those who give supreme devotion to anyone or anything other than God) and all liars (those who knowingly convey untruth by word or deed)—[all of these shall have] their part in the lake that blazes with fire and brimstone. This is the second death. 9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven final plagues (afflictions, calamities) came and spoke to me. He said, Come with me! I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife. 10 Then in the Spirit He conveyed me away to a vast and lofty mountain and exhibited to me the holy (hallowed, consecrated) city of Jerusalem descending out of heaven from God, 11 Clothed in God's glory [in all its splendor and radiance]. The luster of it resembled a rare and most precious jewel, like jasper, shining clear as crystal. 12 It had a massive and high wall with twelve [large] gates, and at the gates [there were stationed] twelve angels, and [on the gates] the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were written: 13 On the east side three gates, on the north side three gates, on the south side three gates, and on the west side three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation [stones], and on them the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 And he who spoke to me had a golden measuring reed (rod) to measure the city and its gates and its wall. 16 The city lies in a square, its length being the same as its width. And he measured the city with his reed—12,000 stadia (about 1,500 miles); its length and width and height are the same. 17 He measured its wall also—144 cubits (about 72 yards) by a man's measure [of a cubit from his elbow to his third fingertip], which is [the measure] of the angel. 18 The wall was built of jasper, while the city [itself was of] pure gold, clear and transparent like glass. 19 The foundation [stones] of the wall of the city were ornamented with all of the precious stones. The first foundation [stone] was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony (or white agate), the fourth emerald, 20 The fifth onyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoptase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. 21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each separate gate being built of one solid pearl. And the main street (the Broadway) of the city was of gold as pure and translucent as glass. 22 I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Omnipotent [Himself] and the Lamb [Himself] are its temple. 23 And the city has no need of the sun nor of the moon to give light to it, for the splendor and radiance (glory) of God illuminate it, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24 The nations shall walk by its light and the rulers and leaders of the earth shall bring into it their glory.

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25 And its gates shall never be closed by day, and there shall be no night there. 26 They shall bring the glory (the splendor and majesty) and the honor of the nations into it. 27 But nothing that defiles or profanes or is unwashed shall ever enter it, nor anyone who commits abominations (unclean, detestable, morally repugnant things) or practices falsehood, but only those whose names are recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Revelation 21. Heaven ;This chapter does not refer to a new social order in this present world, but to the eternal home of the redeemed, the "Father's house with many rooms" (John 14:2). It is one of the most beautiful, comforting, and precious chapters in the whole Bible, a chapter we will never tire of reading. The new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:1). The first heaven and earth have passed away, as Peter had said (2 Peter 3:10), the heaven with a great noise (an explosion?) and the earth and its works simply burned up. What amount of change in the physical universe is involved, we do not know. Nor do we know whether it will be this earth made over and renewed by fire, or an entirely different earth. Nor to what extent, with our glorified, incorruptible, spiritual bodies, we may be confined to any material planet or star, or be free to roam in the limitless spheres of space and eternity. How we would love to know! Someday we shall. There is no longer any sea (Revelation 21:1), but there is a river (22:1). So we wonder if it is to be taken literally. Perhaps the "fire" by which the earth was consumed left no sea. Perhaps the "river of the water of life" is not real water. Some think that the "sea" is a symbol of perpetual unrest and wickedness, and its absence indicates the unruffled peace prevailing in heaven. Or, since the sea was viewed as a barrier between nations, its absence may mean universal brotherhood. The New Jerusalem (21:9–10), the Holy City. The Bible presents two Jerusalems. The first is on earth and becomes the earthly home of Christ during the Millennium. The other is in heaven, a celestial city that is a mirror image of the earthly Jerusalem (see Galatians 4:25–26 ; Hebrews 12:22 ; and Psalm 122). It is this heavenly city which Abraham left his home in Ur of the Chaldees to find (Hebrews 11:10). This city, "whose architect and builder is God," is now brought to completion, with Abraham and the rest of the redeemed saints reveling in its glories.

The tabernacle of God (Revelation 21:5). The tabernacle or dwelling place of God has been in heaven. Now, in the person of Jesus, God dwells among His people (v. 3). God's dwelling place—"the Father's house with many rooms." In Eden, humanity—Adam and Eve—was driven from the actual, immediate, conscious presence of God. Here God's presence is restored. We shall actually see His face and will be with Him throughout the ceaseless cycles of never-ending ages. No more death, no tears, no pain, no heartaches, no sorrow, for the old order of things has passed away. Christ says, "I am making everything new!" and then commands John to write what is trustworthy and true: "It is done. I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son" (vv. 6–7). Those who live without God will be on the outside, in the fiery lake of burning sulfur (v. 8 ; 22:15). To God there are only two classes: those who are His, and those who are not.

The City of Gold, 21:9–22:5 :The bride of Christ, a city, is shown to John by the same angel who had shown him the adulterous church (chap. 17), which was also a city: Babylon. The ancient city of Babylon was a "city of gold" (see The City of Babylon). Now the real city of gold appears in its infinite splendor and magnificence. The city is, of course, filled with God's people. The measurements of the city (21:15–17). Twelve thousand stadia (about 1,400 miles). This may be the length of each side or the entire distance around, which would make each side 3000 stadia and the 12 gates 1000 stadia apart. The wall was 144 cubits (about 200 feet) thick. The measurements are in multiples of 12. Twelve is the signature of God's people. There are 12 gates, inscribed with the names of the 12 tribes of Israel, and 12 foundations, with the names of the 12 apostles. The city was a perfect cube, as was its prototype, the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle. Placed over the United States of America, it would extend from the northernmost tip of Maine to the southernmost tip of Florida and from the east coast westward to the state of Colorado—and it also extends 1,400-plus miles into the sky. Twelve thousand, then, is the symbol of God's people, multiplied by 1000; it represents the completed, perfected, and glorious state of redeemed creation. The names of the 12 tribes inscribed on the gates, and the 12 apostles on the foundations, may be meant to indicate that the founders of the city would never be forgotten but would be held in loving remembrance by the city's inhabitants throughout the endless ages of eternity. The precious stones (21:18–21). The breastplate of the high priest, bearing 12 stones inscribed with the names of the 12 tribes (Exodus 28:15–30) must have been a sort of dim foreshadowing, given in the distant past, of what God was working toward. The stones are similar to those of the New Jerusalem. There is difficulty in identifying some of these stones. They may not have been the same as those which now bear their names. The colors the stones are thought to represent: jasper, clear; sapphire, blue; chalcedony, sky-blue; emerald, green; sardonyx, red and white; sardius, fiery red; chrysolite, golden; beryl, sea-green; topaz, transparent green; chrysoprase, purple; jacinth, red; and amethyst, violet.

The foundations sparkle with the colors of the rainbow. Each gate is a pearl, and the whole is composed of the most valuable and beautiful material things known to man, constructed together in a spectacle resplendent beyond imagination—a spectacle of eternal beauty, glory, peace, security.

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History & Commentaries; pages 964-966)

A New Heaven and Earth; V11 "Jasper stone" is the diamond. V12 The number twelve is used often in the new city. V16 The new city will be about 1500 miles in a cube, so it may be built on many levels. V19-20These stones were in the breastplates of the Jewish priests. V23 God will provide the light source for the new city.

(New Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; Chuck Smith; 2005; commentaries; page 201)

God is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End (see Revelation 21:6). Since this is the case, He is also everything in between. He knows your situation and will lead you and guide you if you trust Him to do so. Rely on your heavenly Father to give you what you need, one day at a time.

Every person, with no exceptions, will one day stand before God and give an account of his life (see Romans 14:12). I want to encourage you not to "live like there is no tomorrow," because tomorrow always comes. Jesus will come for us when we least expect it, and then it will be too late to do all the things we intended to do but never got around to. One of the spiritual laws we see throughout the Word of God is that we reap what we sow. Galatians says very emphatically that we are not to be deceived and misled, for whatever a man sows that and that only is what he will reap.

Salvation is a gift of God; it is given by His grace and is to be received by faith. We do not get into heaven because of our good works, but Revelation 22:12 teaches us that our works will be judged and rewarded according to what we have merited.

Our works are not even judged only by what we have done, but by the motives behind them. Works done for impure motives will be burned up. If we give money or things, but do so to be seen of men or to be admired and well thought of, then we should be sure that satisfies us because that is all the reward we will ever get.

God sees what we do in secret and we will be rewarded openly. Everything that is now done behind closed doors will one day be brought out in the open, so we should be sure that we realize nothing is really eternally hidden. The day of reckoning will come.

Some people might think, Well, as long as I am going to heaven, that is enough. If this is our only motive in life, then we are living selfishly. We should live for God and His glory. We should realize that we are alive for a purpose and part of that purpose is to be used by God to reconcile others to Him. We are actually created for the good works that God prepared for us ahead of time (see Ephesians 2:10). It is God's desire and will that we do good works, but we are to do them because He loves us, not to get Him to love us or to impress people.

Payday is coming! Are you ready?

I come;...Rev 22:7 — And behold, I am coming speedily. Blessed (happy and to be envied) is he who observes and lays to heart and keeps the truths of the prophecy (the predictions, consolations, and warnings) contained in this [little] book. Zep 1:14 — The great day of the Lord is near—near and hastening fast. Hark! the voice of the day of the Lord! The mighty man [unable to fight or to flee] will cry then bitterly.

and my;...Rev 11:18 — And the heathen (the nations) raged, but Your wrath (retribution, indignation) came, the time when the dead will be judged and Your servants the prophets and saints rewarded—and those who revere (fear) Your name, both low and high and small and great—and [the time] for destroying the corrupters of the earth. Isa 3:10 — Say to the righteous that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds. Isa 3:11 — Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with them, for what their hands have done shall be done to them. Isa 40:10 — Behold, the Lord God will come with might, and His arm will rule for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him. Isa 62:11 — Behold, the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the Daughter of Zion, Behold, your salvation comes [in the person of the Lord]; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work and recompense before Him. 1Co 3:8 — He who plants and he who waters are equal (one in aim, of the same importance and esteem), yet each shall receive his own reward (wages), according to his own labor. 1Co 3:14 — If the work which any person has built on this Foundation [any product of his efforts whatever] survives [this test], he will get his reward. 1Co 9:17 — For if I do this work of my own free will, then I have my pay (my reward); but if it is not of my own will, but is done reluctantly and under compulsion, I am [still] entrusted with a [sacred] trusteeship and commission. 1Co 9:18 — What then is the [actual] reward that I get? Just this: that in my preaching the good news (the Gospel), I may offer it [absolutely] free of expense [to anybody], not taking advantage of my rights and privileges [as a preacher] of the Gospel.

to give:...Rev 20:12 — I [also] saw the dead, great and small; they stood before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is [the Book] of Life. And the dead were judged (sentenced) by what they had done [their whole way of feeling and acting, their aims and endeavors] in accordance with what was recorded in the books. Mt 16:27 — For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory (majesty, splendor) of His Father with His angels, and then He will render account and reward every man in accordance with what he has done. Ro 2:6-11 — For He will render to every man according to his works [justly, as his deeds deserve]: 7 To those who by patient persistence in well-doing [springing from piety] seek [unseen but sure] glory and honor and [the eternal blessedness of] immortality, He will give eternal life. 8 But for those who are self-seeking and self-willed and disobedient to the Truth but responsive to wickedness, there will be indignation and wrath. 9 [And] there will be tribulation and anguish and calamity and constraint for every soul of man who [habitually] does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek (Gentile). 10 But glory and honor and [heart] peace shall be awarded to everyone who [habitually] does good, the Jew first and also the Greek (Gentile). 11 For God shows no partiality [undue favor or unfairness; with Him one man is not different from another]. Ro 14:12 — And so each of us shall give an account of himself [give an answer in reference to judgment] to God.

(Word 9 Bible Software: Bible Software, multiple translations, dictionary, atlas, sermons of the past saints, concordance, 2005)
(The Everyday Life Bible; Amplified, 2005, Joyce Meyers, Scripture, Commentaries, pages 2148-2150)