

God's blueprint for Cities of God

I. God deeply desires to dwell with us.

- A. He has chosen us as a dwelling place.
- 4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house...

 1 Peter 2:4-5
- B. He has chosen cities as a dwelling place.

13For the LORD has chosen Jerusalem^b; he has desired it for his home. 14"This is my resting place forever," he said. "I will live here, for this is the home I desired. 15I will bless this city and make it prosperous; I will satisfy its poor with food. 16I will clothe its priests with godliness; its faithful servants will sing for joy.17 Here I will increase the power of David; my anointed one will be a light for my people. 18I will clothe his enemies with shame, but he will be a glorious king." Psalm 132:13-18

- C. Human history begins in a Garden and ends with a City.
- 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. Revelation 21:2-3
- D. The attributes of a City of God based upon Psalm 132:13-18, Revelation 21:2-3
- 1. Divine Blessing (Socioeconomically)
- 2. Divine Character (Spiritually)
- 3. Divine Wisdom and Might (Governmentally)
- 4. Divine Joy (Culturally)



God's blueprint for Cities of God

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, The holy dwelling places of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. Psalm 46:4-5 (ESV)

II. Cities are our inheritance.

E. He has given us the status of priesthood.

... to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:5

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood 6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father..

Revelation 1:5-6

F. Holy Districts (Ezekial 45)

- The Lord's Portion (Ezekial 45:1-3)
- The Priests Portion (Ezekial 45:4)

In the sacred district, measure off a section 25,000 cubits long (7 miles) and 10,000 (2.81) cubits[f] wide. In it will be the sanctuary, the Most Holy Place. 4 It will be the sacred portion of the land for the priests, who minister in the sanctuary and who draw near to minister before the Lord. It will be a place for their houses as well as a holy place for the sanctuary.

- The Servants Portion (Ezekial 45:5)
- The Tribes' Portion (Ezekial 45:6)

III. God Builds and Names the City



God's blueprint for Cities of God

Ezekial 48:35 "The distance all around will be 18,000 cubits. [f] "And the name of the city from that time on will be: "The Lord is there."

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 2 Corinthians 3:17 (ESV)

Jeremiah 23:5-6

"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute **judgment** and **righteousness** in the earth. 6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which **He** will be called:

(Jehovah Tsidkenu) THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Jeremiah 33: 4,15-16 **4** 'Behold, the days are coming,' says the Lord, 'that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah: 15 'In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David, A Branch of right-eousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 16 In those days Judah will be saved, And Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which **SHE** will be called:

THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.' JEREMIAH 33:14-16



God's blueprint for Cities of God

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face. -Psalm 89:14

Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people. -Proverbs 14:34

G. Levitical Cities and the Requirement of Righteousness

Numbers 35

- 1. v.1-5 Cities assigned to the Levites (A place under the governance of the priests)
- 2. v. 6-15 Assign Cities of Refuge (A place where the foreigner who doesn't live under the Psalm 91 covering can find rest. *immigrants/refugees*
- 3. v. 16-32 Regulations the Accused Murderer/Guilty Murderer/Avenger (Stay until the High Priest dies) A place for a fair trial, righteous government, unbiased criminal justice system.
- 4. v.33-"Do not pollute the land where you are. Bloodshed pollutes the land, and atonement cannot be made for the land on which blood has been shed, except by the blood of the one who shed it. 34 Do not defile the land where you live and where I dwell, for I, the Lord, dwell among the Israelites."Do not defile the land" (The LAND itself is clean so that it can host the Holy One.)

H. Defiled Land and the Day of Indignation Ezekiel 22:24-31



God's blueprint for Cities of God

24 "Son of man, say to her: 'You are a land that is not cleansed or rained on in the day of indignation.' 25 The conspiracy of her prophets in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured people; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her midst. 26 Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them. **27** Her princes in her midst *are* like wolves tearing the prey, to shed blood, to destroy people, and to get dishonest gain. 28 Her prophets plastered them with untempered mortar, seeing false visions, and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord God,' when the Lord had not spoken. 29 The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger. **30** So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. 31 Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord God.

The Day of Indignation: Isaiah 26:5

For He brings down those who dwell on high, The lofty city; He lays it low, He lays it low to the ground, He brings it down to the dust. v.9 For when Your judgments *are* in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. v.20Come, my people, enter your chambers, And shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, Until the indignation is past.

I. Get CLEAN, CLEANSE the land

2 Chronicles 7:13-14:



God's blueprint for Cities of God

"When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, 14 if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Nehemiah 9: Sacred Assembly-Corporate Confession

Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with [a]dust on their heads. 2 Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. 3 And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the Lord their God.

Daniel 9: Individual Confession and Intercession on behalf of the land. **3** Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. **4** And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession,

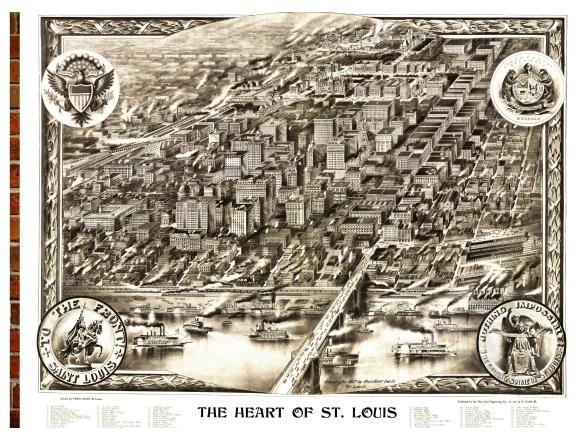
IV. He resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Ephesians 3:8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,



God's blueprint for Cities of God

Prophetic Symbols



- 1. E Pluribus Unum: Out of Many, One.
- 2. United We Stand, Divided We Fall.
- 3. To The Front. King Louis IX and the Model Monarch.
- 4. Nothing Impossible. The Guiding (Pioneer) Spirit of St.Louis.

Act Justly, Walk Humbly, Love Mercy -Micah 6:8

As an act of Worship and Warfare to dispossess the enemy and prepare our cities as the dwelling place of God.