

City Dwelling

Ponder: A country kid living in the city

Scripture: “For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come” (Heb. 13:14, NKJV).

We moved from the country to a town of two thousand when I was in sixth grade. It was genuine culture shock! Since then I’ve lived in a huge city (three years, due to educational necessity) and numerous small towns (the largest being around eight thousand). I definitely prefer the country!

The first city was built by Adam and Eve’s son, Cain; he named it after his son, Enoch (Gen. 4:17). Innumerable cities have sprung up since then, some more desirable than others.

God chose Jerusalem as the city where His temple would be located and His people would come to worship under the Law of Moses. Under the New Covenant, worship doesn’t depend on a place.

There is, however, a spiritual application to the Old Testament Jerusalem. Even before the Law was given, Abraham and the other patriarchs “waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Heb. 11:10). That city cannot be found at any earthly location. “But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them” (11:16).

Revelation chapters 21 and 22 identify that city as “New Jerusalem” (21:2). And what a place! No more tears, “no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying” (21:4). Even a country kid will be just fine there! No traffic jams, no pollution, no crime, all the neighbors love God and love each other – what’s not to like?

Would you like to live in New Jerusalem? “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city” (Rev. 22:14).

Song: “No Tears In Heaven”

Prayer: Mighty Father, Thank You for preparing a city for us. We plead for you to forgive our sins that we might be clean before You, and fit to reside in the New Jerusalem. Help us, we pray, to keep your commandments, knowing that Jesus is the author of eternal salvation to all those who obey Him. We pray in His name, Amen.