

Jerusalem, My Happy Home

Author F.B.P.

Composer American folk hymn tune

1 Samuel 16: 23

Revelation 3: 17-18

Revelation 7: 9-17

1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

Hebrews 12: 18-29

Thoughts on the Text

A popular contemporary author penned the words, "Begin with the end in mind," meaning, always have a clear vision and goal toward which to work. As believers and followers of Christ, we walk toward the eventual goal of spending eternity in the presence of God in a city known as the New Jerusalem.

As a place of redemption and wholeness, the New Jerusalem makes all things new, righting the wrongs of the world and perfecting the old order of life. In the days prior to Christ's birth, the Israelites worshiped at the Temple in Jerusalem—a location that helped define them as people of the Living God, a place where they found their very identity.

John writes that our heavenly home will be a perfected reflection of this city Jerusalem; this is where followers of Christ will find their identity and completion, the place where believers will receive ultimate healing and wholeness.

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away'" (Revelation 21:1-4, NIV).

Our earthly lives are fraught with pain and hurt, wrongdoing and grief. A part of our inner beings will always cry out for healing and ultimate completion; we long for peace and joy that will last, for our troubles to end. Never will we achieve this on earth; only in the New Jerusalem, in heaven.

In order to live "with the end in mind," let us remember that we were created for eternity, not for mere survival in this world. May we remind ourselves that God has more for us in store—far beyond the ups and downs we experience within our earthly bodies. Let us find peace in the fact that this is not the end; the situations and hardships we face presently are fleeting, and that our ultimate reward and life is yet to come. There will come a time when we no longer have to face pain and death! We will see God face to face! What hope!