**NEW JERUSALEM**

By William D. McCrackan

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Beauty and glory shine round about New Jerusalem. It is a state of consciousness which comes with the new birth of water and the Spirit. Neither pain nor bereavement can enter those fair gates; both the lie and the liar are excluded, for the dream of mortal existence gives place to the reality of spiritual living; decrepitude, failure, disappointment, are unknown there. Christian Science has opened the gates of this fair city to those who endure to the end of mortal law, who follow God into the humanly unknown, safe through obedience and trust, overcoming through the sacrifice of self typified by the lamb. In the Glossary of Science and Health ([p. 592](https://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=divine+Science%3B+the+spiritual+facts+and+harmony+of+the+universe%3B+the+kingdom+of+heaven%2C+or+reign+of+harmony.&book=tfccs.main.sh)) we find New Jerusalem interpreted as "divine Science; the spiritual facts and harmony of the universe; the kingdom of heaven, or reign of harmony."

Old Jerusalem typifies the hard and barren dogmas of ecclesiasticism, tyrannizing over its votaries with a tyranny worse confounded. Out of old Jerusalem come the scribes and Pharisees. Saul, the inadequate king, reigned there, and Ananias, the murderous high priest, conspired there for Jesus' crucifixion; it is the abode of the stiff-necked, the self-righteous, those careful of tithing mint, anise, and cummin, the herbs that border a garden, but forgetful of charity and loving-kindness. Of the temple in old Jerusalem Jesus said that not one stone of it should be left upon another, and his prophecy came true, for its exact site is difficult to find to-day. It was over this old Jerusalem that the great Master uttered those sorrowful words, containing both a warning and a lament, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not." Mrs. Eddy's definition of this old Jerusalem is in part (Science and Health, [p. 589](https://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=Mortal+belief+and+knowledge+obtained+from+the+five+corporeal+senses%3B+the+pride+of+power+and+the+power+of+pride%3B+sensuality%3B+envy%3B+oppression%3B+tyranny.&book=tfccs.main.sh)), "Mortal belief and knowledge obtained from the five corporeal senses; the pride of power and the power of pride; sensuality; envy; oppression; tyranny."

But New Jerusalem is a heavenly home everywhere present, founded upon the spiritual stone which the builders rejected. Its fair stones cannot be overthrown nor its site lost, because it is everywhere. Zechariah describes this happy city when he prophesies, "And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof." Nehemiah spoke of the rejoicings in the reconstituted Jerusalem of his day, "So that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off."

Let the idea of New Jerusalem go from land to land and shore to shore until there is no spot where this New Jerusalem cannot be found. One who walks the earth with spiritual joy carries New Jerusalem with him. The sick who have recovered their health through Christian Science have caught glimpses of that city; perhaps they walk its very streets as though on air. Those for whom Spirit has suddenly opened its flood gates and poured forth plenty and destroyed fear of financial disaster smile with the light of the New Jerusalem. The Christian Science healer who sees the light of hope and inspiration dawn upon the faces of the helpless and weary knows what the New Jerusalem means. He who goes apart to pray and bathes in the atmosphere of the divine presence realizes the new birth of the New Jerusalem.

Obedience and gratitude are constant milestones on the way to the holy city. These qualities inspire and sustain; they counteract the weariness of the road and lift up the wayfarer lest he hurt his foot against a stone. The old conception of the world is fast fading away; the new world rises out of the mists. Let the colonists come from far and near to dwell therein, to taste of its fruits and rest in its pleasant places. It is open to all through demonstration; no one may win another's way into its portals, though all may sustain each other over the rough places. No vicarious sacrifice, no salvation by proxy, can gain entrance into the city; no apostolic succession, no mediatory office avails; for every one unto whom the Christ has come possesses the key of David which unlocks Zion, and him no ecclesiastical interdiction can reach, no hostile exclusion can banish. Therefore, though New Jerusalem has many inhabitants they have all made their own way hither and earned their own citizenship.

Perfect love is the New Jerusalem which casteth out fear, envy, hate, and all ungodliness. The Principle of all good is its government, the law of Love rules its happy dwellers. In this city the divine will renders the human will obsolete; the latter fades away because it is useless, having been superseded. Then why not rejoice at the prospect of this vision of loveliness, lifted above the murky plain into the still sweetness of the clear air, even before the height has been actually attained. Even now while clouds of darkness sweep across, and the night still succeeds the day, why not hail with glorious resolve the nearness of that resplendent city where there is no night, no stumbling, no doubting, no halting between opinions, but only the steadfast understanding of all-powerful Truth?

Christian Science is generous, open-handed to all. Its gift is free for all. Is humanity's special need to still that hunger of the heart which matter cannot satisfy—the craving to know God, which means to know Life? Then Christian Science offers the full satisfaction of real understanding. What can transcend the comfort of that supreme assurance which comes from knowing that God is Life eternal and that this Life is the only Life of man! Let the oppressed go free and enter into that Life which crowns New Jerusalem. No wonder the figurative phraseology of Scripture associates gold and pearls and precious stones with that state of consciousness. As John beheld the vision, so may all who will seek it by the way of Life, Truth, and Love; for he said, "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." Years ago the Leader of Christian Science could see the risks and rewards which accompanied her beloved cause, and admonished her followers accordingly. She wrote (Retrospection and Introspection, [p. 85](https://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=The+tempter+is+vigilant%2C+awaiting+only+an+opportunity+to+divide+the+ranks+of+Christian+Science+and+scatter+the+sheep+abroad%3B+but+%27if+God+be+for+us%2C+who+can+be+against+us%3F%27+The+Cause%2C+our+Cause%2C+is+highly+prosperous%2C+rapidly+spreading+over+the+globe%3B+and+the+morrow+will+crown+the+effort+of+today+with+a+diadem+of+gems+from+the+New+Jerusalem.)): "The tempter is vigilant, awaiting only an opportunity to divide the ranks of Christian Science and scatter the sheep abroad; but 'if God be for us, who can be against us?' The Cause, *our* Cause, is highly prosperous, rapidly spreading over the globe; and the morrow will crown the effort of today with a diadem of gems from the New Jerusalem."

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