January 26, 2003 Vista, California

Who We Are

Who are we? Do you know? Do you want to know?

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill..." (Mt 5:14)

"...a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." (Lk 2:32)

We are the Israel of God (Gal 6:16), the sons of God (Gal 3:26; Rom 8:19; 1 Jn 3:2), His princes — those who rule with Elohim.

As our Master Yahshua is in heaven, so also are we in this world (1 Jn 4:17; Jn 14:12). We are the very embodiment of Him who is in heaven (1 Jn 4:15-17; Jn 14:20,23; Jn 17:23).

We are, in His place, the Servant Israel who will fulfill Isaiah's prophecy, becoming the light to the Gentiles (Isa 49:3-6), taking, or literally, *being* His salvation to the ends of the earth. Salvation is portrayed as light in Lk 1:79.

Eph 2:21-22 explicitly portrays God in the process of making for Himself an eternal dwelling place in us. This dwelling place is the twelve tribes of Israel, the bride and wife-to-be of the Lamb, as in Rev 21:2-3,9-12.

God, who is Spirit, wants to make Himself visible in a body, a human body (Eph 1:22-23; 2:12,19-22) — not just one, but as many as can be sons of God. God needs to be seen in a human body — a many-membered Body (Eph 5:30; 1 Cor 12:12,27).

This is why Isa 62:12 says we will be called *derusha* — sought out, wanted, necessary. We are essential and absolutely necessary to form His Body, His Holy Temple through whom He can rule the universe of men. "All things" in Eph 1:22 is the universe, as in Eph 4:10. We are to be the fullness of Him, the Godhead, who fills the universe in His many sons who are just like His first-born Son (Eph 1:23; 1 Jn 3:2).

The "men" in Rev 21:3, who are the "them" with whom He dwells, are those who have been raised from the first death at the Last Judgment and have been judged

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unworthy of the second death. They will live a second and eternal life instead, and "God" will dwell with them. How? In His tabernacle, His dwelling place, which is us.

They will need healing, and we will wipe away their tears (Rev 21:4; 22:2). They will need to be told what to do and how to do it. *Reign* in Rev 22:5 means exactly that. We will show them how to live in the eternal age. They will be dependent on us, just as Adam was made to be dependent on God. God makes them dependent upon His sons in whom He dwells.

To have perfect order in the universe God must be observed in His Body, which is the Holy City of Revelation 21, by whose light the nations walk (Rev 21:23-26). All nations will serve and obey the Holy Ones of the Most High (Dan 7:27, RSV, NEV, ESV, NJB).

"God is Spirit" (Jn 4:24), therefore humans are unable to see Him unless He dwells in humanity. Redeemed humanity will reign over restored humanity (Rev 22:5; Dan 7:27, RSV, NEV, ESV). The One who humbled Himself will now, with His many brothers (redeemed humanity) ascend to the oversight of the universe (Phil 2:9-11; Col 1:18). He who is the body of God now has His many brothers who are the corporate body of God. This is the "perfect man" of Eph 4:11-16, which is now in the making.

Eph 2:22 is now in the process of being fitted together as verse 21 pictures a temple being built by turning huge rocks around until they fit each other perfectly. The chief cornerstone is the support for the whole building or wall. This is usually laid at a formal ceremony. It's the foundation or basic element in the whole building (1 Cor 3:10; Eph 2:20; Ps 118:22; Mt 21:42; Acts 4:11; 1 Pet 2:7). The chief cornerstone is Yahshua our Master, and we are His servants, the living stones of 1 Pet 2:5. We are as the slaves in Rome who would turn the huge stones around making them fit together. We are making out of ourselves an eternal dwelling (temple) for the Godhead to dwell in bodily form, in order to bring peace and order to the whole human family in the far reaches of the universe.

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The whole universe will be qualitatively changed (Heb 1:12), with eternal planets and stars for the immortal humans who will occupy them all — the men of the nations who will now be God's people, and He will be their God through us (Rev 21:2,3,9,12,24; 22:2,5).

"A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel." (Lk 2:32)

His people Israel will be the nucleus for the promise of Gen 22:17 and 32:12 and Isa 48:19. "Your descendants will be like the sands of the oceans..." As Ps 102:28 prophesies, the countless grains, perpetually propagated through the spiritual union of Messiah and His wife (Rev 21:9). This will be a continual increase from the nucleus of the core twelve tribes of verse 12, as Eph 3:21 says from generation to generation, forever and ever (Eph 1:23; 2:22; Rev 21:3).

Rev 22:5 says we will reign over the men of the nations of the universe, which will forever and ever be populated with God's highest creature, man, along with His Redeemed Man who will also, from generation to generation, forever and ever, propagate offspring to fill the need of the essential and necessary ministry of Isa 62:12.

Lk 1:78 — "The Dayspring from on high has visited us..." (Num 24:17; Mal 4:2). The Greek word in Lk 1:78 is *orient* or *dawn*, raising a light to orient people to the truth in the midst of confusion (religious confusion). The Greek word translated as *dayspring* is also used in the Septuagint (Greek Old Testament) in translating the Hebrew word "branch" or "sprout" in Zec 3:8 and 6:12, prophetic of the Messiah.

Lk 1:78-79 — The "dayspring" provides light and truth and true forgiveness of sins and the way of peace for the people in the darkness of their sin, blinded by the darkness of their sins and groping for truth in the midst of confusion (Babylon). If we then are not this "sprout" or "dayspring" from on high, we are just one more religion in all the confusion.

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Isa 49:6 promises the way to verse 8. Lk 2:32 is the light to the nations in Isa 49:6. The Servant Israel fulfills the call of Abraham in Gen 12:1-3 and 18:19, and the nation of priests in Ex 19:5-6, to be a blessing to other nations amongst whom they dwell (1 Pet 2:12) to give them light, as in France, the epitome of darkness.

The demonstration of Mt 24:14 is essential to accomplish Heb 10:13 so as to bring about Acts 3:21. Then Gen 15:18 can be fulfilled in the next age. Paul understood in Acts 13:47 and 26:23 that it would take the light of the restored twelve tribes to bring salvation to the Gentiles and ultimately to win his own countrymen.

Our Master Yahshua will through us proclaim light to the world (Isa 52:15), to carry on where Paul left off (Isa 49:8). We are the ones who bring about this prophecy as we labor night and day in one Spirit (Acts 26:6-8,23; Rom 11:15). This comes about as we serve Him as Mal 1:11 and 1 Tim 2:8 and 1 Pet 2:12 describe.

We are a light of revelation to the nations (Lk 2:32), a light to enlighten (Lk 1:79), a revelation of who Messiah is (Jn 13:35; 17:23). "In Your light we see light." Isa 52:15 says "they shall see" — SEE — enlightening their darkness. *See* is a comprehensive word meaning not merely the thing seen but the interpretation or the unveiling of the truth (Jn 7:17; 18:37; 10:27; Isa 49:6; 58:8; 60:1,3). In contrast, Isa 50:11 is the Christian light.

So we are to be the light of the world (Mt 5:14-16), to enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death (Lk 1:79) to bring revelation to the Gentiles (Lk 2:32), causing even our neighbors to glorify God as He "visits" them through us (1 Pet 2:12). "So the light of Israel will be for a fire, and His Holy One for a flame" — Isa 10:17, fulfilled in the positive in Lk 12:49 by His Holy Ones, the Edah, the witness of the truth.