

## Celebrate the Savior, the City, and the Saints

Today we cel ASD. Intrstng history. All started when early Xians wanted remem/commrt martyrs (ppl killed for being Xian) on ann/dth. But soon there became so many martyrs: decided set aside 1 day to remem all martyrs who died for J; and called them saints, bec now holy in hvn w/J. Date for this ASD evently: 11/1. But then over yrs, instd of just remmbrng/memrlzng sainted bels, ppl actly began wrshpng, praying to saints, calling on these dead bels to help them in their lives – not good; we trust in Lord alone to hear/answ prayers. Now this: remem 95 theses ML nailed ch door Witt 10/31? Know why date? Bec next day, 11/1, ASD; he knew evone coming ch & see what posted. Further, know why ppl call 10/31 Hlwn? Bec night before big ch fest is called Eve. Xmas 12/25; night before, Xmas Eve. ASD (used be called All-Hallowed), 11/1; night before, Hallwd Eve (Hlwn). ASD has intrstng history, but orig idea still pretty good: set aside day to remem those Xians who've gone before us & now in hvn w/J – and not just bec they're martyrs or really special Xians (they're all just sinners like we are); but bec of God's grace to them, in their earthly life & now etrnal life. That's what ASD's all about: when Xians die, we go hvn, bec of J! So today we turn to Rev 21 and we celbrt ASD by celbrtng: Sav, city, & snnts.

1<sup>st</sup>, cel Sav, bec w/o Sav, there are no: snnts, salvtn, prom/hvn. Rev 21 calls our Sav J: Lamb – 4x. **Vs. 9b; 22b; 23b; 27b.** J: Lamb. Remem who called J: L/G? It was JB: **“Look, L/G who takes away sin/wrld” (Jn 1:29).** Phrase “L/G” makes you think of Psvr Lamb, sacrfd in place of (as sub for) the ppl. Well, that's J! On cross, J: scrfd in place of (as sub for) all/us. All sins/wrld were laid on J, and he took those sins away when laid down life cross. Think Isa 53: **“Led like lamb to slghtr... Piercd for our trnsgrsns; crshd for our inqts” (7, 5).** Isa calls J Lamb; JB; and bk/Rev, sev Xs. Rev 5: **“Wrthy: Lamb, slain, receive pwr, wlth, wsdm, strngth, hnr, glry, praise” (12)** – that's J! And Rev 7: **“Salvtn belngs to our God, who sits on throne, & to Lamb.”** Those **“who've come out great trib... have washed robes & made white in bld/Lamb.”** **“Lamb at centr/throne'll be their shphrd” (10, 14, 17)** – that's J, L/G! In ev Comn serv, right before dist, we sing, *“O Xp, L/G, you take away sin/wrld.”* And when you sit in this ch & look up, where you see lamb? Easter window. What else see in window: A/Ω, first/last letters Grk alphbt. Today J: **vs. 6a.** J: etrnal/evrlstng; existed before time began; and will still be ruling once time has ceased. Says: **vs. 6b.** Our souls thirst for God; we thirst for peace, forgvnss, an end to pain/suffrg/sorrow; thirst for things finly be made right. To woman at well, J: **“Whvr drinks wtr I give them'll nvr thirst. Indeed, wtr I give them'll become in them spring/wtr welling up to etrnal life” (Jn 4:14).** J gives etrnal life, w/o cost, as free gift/grace. To celbrt ASD is to first/all celbrt Sav, LJ, L/G, who: slain, took away sins/wrld, rose victrsly fr dead, & brings home to hvn evone who bels in him. Today, ASD, we celbrt Sav.

And celbrt city. This psg descrbs hvn as a city. **Vs. 2, 10.** It's “new Jrslm,” in contrast to old/earthly Jrslm. King Dvd made Jrslm cap city; & under King Slmn: glorious city. But yrs later, Jrslm: destrdy by Bablms/Roms. Prob no other city on earth has had more battles fght in/for it than Jrslm. But new Jrslm (golden): diffnt; place perf peace. **Vs. 11** – these wrds strth limits/imagntn; they help us begin envision place more btfl than can possly imagine. **Vs. 12, 21a** – where get phrase “pearly gates.” **Vs. 21b** – unfathmbl beauty. **Vs. 22-23, 25.** This is city: where Xians go to live when die; where all yr Xian loved ones who've died in faith are now living; where yr dear Xian fam/frnds who are facing dth will soon be welcmd; and where you, when you die, will go to live w/J. J: **“I am going there prep place for you. And...I will come back & take you be w/me that you also may be where I am” (Jn 14:2-3, NIV84).** ASD is a time for us to pause/ponder prom/God, that when we Xians die, we don't just cease exist, & we don't suffer punshmnt our sins deserve. When we die, soul/body seprt. Body buried grnd, soul goes be w/J. Then on Last Day, J'll come back & raise us to life & reunite body/soul; and evone whose name is writtn in Lamb's bk/life will enjoy etrnal life, body & soul tog, w/J forvr, in hvn, Holy City, New Jrslm. This: prom/God, sealed by res/Xp! And so on ASD, we celbrt that hvnly city & look forward being there.

And finally, on ASD we celbrt saints. And by saints, we don't mean extra special holy ppl who've died and now smhow help us fr hvn. Scrptr is clear: they are w/Lord; cannot help us; Lord alone is our helper. Nor by saints do we mean extra special holy ppl who still alive (like might say: Gma, she's such a saint). Saints are all Xians, whthr alive here on earth (call: ch militant bec still fighting good fight), or now living in hvn (ch trmphant bec finishd race & receivd crwn/rightsnss) (2 Tim 4:7-8). We: saints; God calls us holy – certly not bec our own

holinss, but bec of J's holinss. As bels in J, J covers us w/his holinss, and so God sees us as holy, despite our sins, bec J has alrdy paid for our sins. In Ap Creed: *"I bel in HCC, Com/Saints"* – that's sum total sum of all Xians on earth & in hvn. On ASD we stop/think esp re those saints who are now in hvn. I think: grndprnts; greats; fr-in-law Gary; friends fr ch, ppl I've loved & now buried. Who you think about? **Vs. 4.** That's what you can look forward to, bec of J. Evthng that bring us sadnss, that make us cry, the dth that takes our loves ones away, the dth that constntly chases us & evntly catches up to us, pain we suffer in body/hrt, all the awfuhnss that we all have endured ever since fall into sin – all of that is gone forvr in hvn; doesn't exist, bec that was old order of things. **Vs. 27a** (like sin/suffrg); **vs. 27b** (unbels who reject J); **vs. 27c.** When you baptzd, God made you a saint & wrote yr name in his book. And thruout your life, HS's kept you in faith, thru the Word preached & thru sacrmnt of J's bdy/bld given/shed for you. There's a bk in hvn w/your name in it. So **"rejoice & be glad,"** fellow saints; **"bec great is your reward in hvn"** (Mt 5:12).

Today we celbrt ASD by celbrtng Sav (LJ, L/G); city (hvnly city, new Jrslm); and saints (bels in J who are w/us here & who've gone before us). **Vs. 3.** Come quickly LJ, and make evthng new.

### Revelation 21:1-6, 9-12, 21-27

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup>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."

<sup>5</sup>He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

<sup>6</sup>He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life."

<sup>9</sup>One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." <sup>10</sup>And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. <sup>11</sup>It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. <sup>12</sup>It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.

<sup>21</sup>The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass. <sup>22</sup>I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup>The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. <sup>24</sup>The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. <sup>25</sup>On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup>The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. <sup>27</sup>Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

