

2024-2025 BSP#19 Group Time Discussion

(A) 為查考和認識的題目 Questions for Studying and Understanding (15 minutes)

1. 若望看見的新天新地，「海也沒有了」(21:1)。應如何明白這視景？
 - a. 新天新地是沒有海的。
 - b. 若望可能看錯。
 - c. 若望跟隨聖經傳統，用海來象徵邪惡。例：依 27:1。
 - d. 海既是邪惡勢力聚居地，「海也沒有了」指再沒有邪惡。
 - e. 默示文體常語無倫次，「海也沒有了」是另一例證。

In the new heaven and new earth that John saw, “the sea was no more” (21:1). How are we supposed to understand this vision?

- a. There will be no sea in the new heaven and new earth.
 - b. John might have seen it wrong.
 - c. John follows biblical tradition and uses the sea to symbolize evil.
Example: Isaiah 27:1.
 - d. Since the sea is where evil forces gather, "the sea was no more" means that there is no more evil.
 - e. The apocalyptic genre is often incoherent. "The sea was no more" is another example.
2. 經歷悠長歲月和很多困苦後，新耶路撒冷聖城「如一位裝飾好迎接自己丈夫的新娘」(21:2)，從天降下成為「羔羊的淨配新娘」(21:9)。你如何看聖經最後像童話故事般的結局？它是真實的嗎？
 - a. 它只是若望的寫作。他心地善良，喜愛童話故事般的結局。
 - b. 它是若望虛構的。可見若望不適合做荷李活編劇，他們的故事一定要悲慘結局。
 - c. 這顯示著若望和很多作家一樣，深受童話故事的影響，用自己想像力去虛構這甜蜜美好的結局。
 - d. 聖城從天降下，人神結婚等明顯地是神話故事，是默示文體胡言亂語不知所云的寫作。
 - e. 這聖神默感的故事是真實的。世上「白馬王子救美，二人結合共享幸福」的童話故事的確很多。它們都反影著人心底深處的期望，預告著天主救贖人類和人結合的真實故事。

After experiencing long years and many hardships, the Holy City of New Jerusalem is “prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” (21:2), descending from heaven to become “the bride, the wife of the Lamb” (21:9). What do you think of the fairy tale-like ending of the Bible? Is it real?

- a. It is only John’s writing. He is kind-hearted and loves fairy tale endings.
- b. It was invented by John. Clearly John is not suitable to be a Hollywood screenwriter - their story must have a tragic ending.

- c. This shows that John, like many writers, was deeply influenced by fairy tales and used his imagination to create this sweet and beautiful ending.
- d. The holy city descended from heaven, the marriage between humans and God, etc. are obviously myths and nonsense written in the apocalyptic genre.
- e. This is a true account that the Holy Spirit inspired. There are indeed many fairy tales in the world about "prince charming saves the beauty, and the two marry and live in happiness ever after". They reflect the deepest desires in people's hearts and foreshadow the true story of God's redemption of mankind and his union with man.

(B) 為反思和應用的題目。 **Reflection and application question (10 minutes)**

「我看見那新耶路撒冷聖城，從天上由天主那裏降下」(21:2)。出乎意料地，新耶路撒冷不在天上，卻從天上「降下」地上。參考書 CCSS 解釋說：人不是要離開這有形可見的世界往天上去活在新天新地中，而是新天新地從天降下讓這有形可見的世界轉變為一個重新創造的樂園(CCSS p.342)。伯多祿也有類似觀點，他說：「在那一日，天要轟然過去，所有的原質都要因烈火而溶化...可是，我們卻按照他的應許，等候正義常住在其中的新天新地。」(伯後 3:10,13) 你對這看法可有甚麼感受？它如何影響你今天生存和做人的方法？

“I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God” (21:2). Surprisingly, the new Jerusalem is not in heaven but has “come down” from heaven to earth. The reference book CCSS explains: Man does not leave this visible world and go to heaven to live in the new heaven and new earth, but the new heaven and new earth descend from heaven to transform this visible world into a re-created paradise (CCSS p.342). Peter also had a similar view. He said: "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire... according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." (2 Peter 3:10, 13) How do you feel about this view? How does it impact your existence and how you live today?