

A GLIMPSE OF ETERNAL GLORY! – Revelation 21, 22

Now we come to the conclusion of this glorious Book! Following the one-thousand-year reign of Christ, satan's *banishment* to an *eternal* hell, and the Great White Throne judgement, the new *heaven* and *earth* appears! *What we behold here will come to pass, because God is faithful and true!* This is our *irrevocable*, eternal destiny in Christ!

(v.1-4) The former things, all the temporal things of the *old* earth, all the things people *lie, cheat, steal, and sell their souls* to possess, are gone! A new heaven and earth now appear. ***What happened to the old heaven and earth? First*** – “heaven” mentioned here is not *heaven* where God the Father dwells, or the “celestial realm” – our planetary or stellar heavens – but the atmosphere, the sky surrounding the earth. This is the domain of the devil (**Ephesians 2:1, 2**); he is the ***“prince of the power of the air.”***

Peter gives us insight as to how the old earth and heaven will pass away. (ttt) 2 Peter 3:10-13. Dissolved – literally: *loosen, break up, melt*. Despite the hysteria of many today, the earth will not be destroyed by mankind, but by God! Scripture tells us it is God who renews (keeps) the earth (**Psalm 104:30**). In fact, **(Colossians 1:16-17) For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.**

Consist – *sunistao: set (held) together*. Jesus, not our environmental programs, is literally ***holding*** this world together! *In the same manner, spiritually speaking, it is not our efforts, but Christ, who holds us together when we feel our world is falling apart! In Him our very lives consist, are held*

together! In (v.1b) – What is meant by “no more sea?” This doesn’t mean there will be *no more water*, but a new geographical arrangement of waters on the new earth, possibly to provide more land for its inhabitants.

(v.2) John saw the New Jerusalem descending from heaven, the abode of God! Adorned as a bride, but **not** the bride, for the bride is the church! The new Temple represents the fact that God has come to **tabernacle**, *abide*, with His creation as **one** – His original intent in the Garden of Eden. **(v.4) And God will wipe away every tear.** He **not only** wipes away every tear, but the **cause** for every tear! There will be ***no more death, sorrow, crying, or pain!*** **(Isaiah 65:17) “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.”**

Read: (v.5-7). He who sat on the throne – this is God speaking! ***“It is done!”*** **What is done?** All things are made new! *When God says something is finished, it’s **finished!*** There is nothing we can add or take away from **His work!** **(v.6) Our God is the “Alpha and Omega” (the first and last letter of the Hebrew alphabet) – the “beginning and the end”;** Jesus declared Himself to be the **same** in **(Revelation 1:8; 22:13).**

Thus, being **one** with God, Jesus declared to the woman at the well: **(John 4:13-14) “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”** ***Through faith in Christ we are overcomers! 1 John 5:5.***

(v.8) Cowardly – timid, faithless. Without faith we **cannot** come to God, nor please God **(Hebrews 11:6)**. Faith is **not** the absence of fear, but trusting in God despite our fears! **Unbelieving** – untrustworthy. **Abominable** – detestable (idolater). **Murderers** –

homicide. Sexually immoral – pornos: debauchery (vice: selling of oneself for sensual purposes or power). Sorcerers – pharmakeus: one who relies upon drugs, “magical” remedies, which poison the mind. Idolaters – worship of images (literally/figuratively). Liars – deceitful (satan is the father of lies).

The good news is, every one of these sins, Christ died for! (1 Corinthians 6:9-11) Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. Only His blood can wash away the *guilty* stains of *our* sins!

In (v.9) I will show you the bride, the inhabitants of the New Jerusalem. In (v.10-21) John describes the New Jerusalem, adorned as a bride, in splendor and beauty, but not the bride. Also, this is not another New Jerusalem, but rather, a continuation of John’s description of the city, which he started in (v.2). **READ: (v.10-18). The measurements here are literal, according to the measure of a man.** One furlong (v.16) is about 600ft. X 12,000 furlongs = 7,200,000ft.; divided by 5,280ft. (one mile) = **1,364 miles squared!** That’s how large the New Jerusalem, *from heaven*, will be! (www.tourofheaven.com)

The walls are a clear *greenish* crystal (v.11), measuring one hundred-forty-four cubits. One-cubit = about 18 inches X 144 = 2,592in.; divided by 12 inches (one foot) = **216-foot-high walls!** In (v.19-21) John describes the **twelve foundations, gates, and the streets of the city.**

From bottom to the top: (1) Jasper (a clear greenish crystal); (2) Sapphire (a blue stone); (3) Chalcedony (kal-se-do-ni) (probably a greenish-blue); (4) Emerald (a green stone); (5) Sardonyx (sar-don-nix – a bluish-white stone streaked with brown or red); (6) Sardius (a red stone); (7) Chrysolite (a yellow quartz stone); (8) Beryl (a yellow green stone); (9) Topaz (natural state golden brown or yellow stone); (10) Chrysoprase (kris-e-praise – a golden-green stone); (11) Jacinth (Jaa-sinth – an orange/ brownish stone); (12) Amethyst (a violet or purple stone). (v.21) gates and the streets. **Read: (v.22-27) No temple, sun, or night will be there; and all the “nations” – ethnos (ethnicities) – will enter the city with all reverence!**

CHAPTER 22 – (v.1-5) John is shown a “river of life”; it is symbolic of life flowing from God, the creator of life! (Psalm 46:4-7) There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.

(v.2, 3) On both sides of this river John sees the “tree(s) of life” lining the river. The leaves of the trees “were for the healing of nations.” With no sickness in the New Jerusalem/earth, the meaning here must be symbolic, as with the river. The leaves represent the healing God has brought to the nations, by virtue of the cross, God’s redemptive “tree of life!” **Thus, nullifying the curse! (Galatians 3:13-14) Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

(v.4) We will see His face, the face of Christ; for God is spirit, and the Holy Spirit's ministry will have ended. **Notice:** (v.3-5) where the throne of **God and the Lamb** resides, there is no curse no darkness (night), but rather four attributes of our relationship with Christ: **Service (worship), Intimacy (see His face), Identity (marked by His name), and Light (illumination/revelation).**

(v.6-11) The prophecies (v.6) regarding *things to come* are not for a select few, but for all of God's servants! In fact (v.2), **Jesus said** there is a blessing for all who keep the prophecy of this Book of Revelation! This is precisely why the devil has sought to keep believers from this book. He doesn't want you to be blessed! In (v.8, 9) **The angel has to rebuke John again, "worship God!"** *It brings me hope, knowing that even John had to be reminded to forsake the distractions and to keep the main thing, the main thing – worship God!*
"Seek ye first the Kingdom..."

(v.10-11) **"Do not seal the book," for the time is "at hand!"** The return of Christ will happen *suddenly*; in whatever state He finds us, that we will continue in (v.11). **(Philippians 3:9) "...and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith."**

(v.12-15) – In (v.14, 15) we find another blessing: *blessed are those who do His commandments!* **"Faith without works is dead!"** But outside – that is, *outside of Christ* – mankind's existence is that of "dogs," *an animalistic existence, living only for the flesh.* (Teach our children they are merely a higher form of animal life.) Sin is their practice. **Practice – poieo: to make, specialist in sin.** You have to love a lie in order to *reject* the truth! **And the**

truth is this! (Psalm 107:9) For He satisfies the longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with goodness.

(v.16-21) We find a testimony, a warning, and a promise. First (v.16, 17) Christ's testimony as our Messiah. Jesus is that "bright morning star," *the hope of the world, the splendor and glory of His Kingdom!* *This is the message (gospel) of the Spirit and the Bride.*****

Secondly, (v.18, 19) John issues a stern warning to all who hear the words of this Book. What does the phrase, "God will take away His part" (v.19) mean? The idea here is, those who **do not keep His word, but rather seek to *delete* or *add to* His word, and this Book in particular, *actually* have no faith in His word to save them. Therefore, their names will be "blotted out" from the Book of Life! **Psalm 138:2b** - ***"God magnifies His word above His name."*****

Thirdly, in (v.20) we find a promise!

CONCLUSION: John ends on a note of grace! "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" *These things will come to pass, and soon we will see His face!* Hymn: "Oh I Want To See Him." Communion reminds us, *the curse is forever broken!* **(2 Corinthians 5:17) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**