

REVELATION – 101

11/16/25 – PM (week 13)

Chapters 21-22

Review chapters 19-20

- Chapter 19
 - Praise in Heaven
 - The four alleluias
 - A Wedding in Heaven
 - The marriage of the Lamb and His bride, the Church
 - Arrayed in white linen, fine and clean, the righteousness of Christ
 - The Return of Christ (19:11-16)
 - Not the rapture (I Thess. 4:13-17)
 - His glorious appearing
 - Christ seated upon a white horse
 - Judges and makes war righteously
 - Eyes as a flame of fire
 - On his head were many crowns
 - A name that no man knew but he himself
 - Clothed with a vesture dipped in blood
 - The armies of heaven follow him
 - His weapon – “a sharp sword” proceeding out of his mouth.
 - He smites the nations and rules them with a rod of iron.
 - He treads the winepress of the wrath of God
 - His name – KING OF KINGS, and LORD OF LORDS
 - The Battle of Armageddon (19:17-20)

- The beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies gather in the Valley of Megiddo against Christ and His armies.
 - The beast and false prophet are cast alive into “a” lake of fire
 - The armies of the earth are slain with the sword that proceeded out the mouth of Christ.
 - The blood runs to the horses’ bridle for nearly 200 miles.
- Chapter 20
 - Satan is bound in the bottomless pit for 1000 years
 - He is rendered completely inactive for this period, but must be loosed for “a little season” at the end of the Millennial Reign of Christ.
 - After the 1000 year reign of Christ, the Devil is loosed
 - Why? For the people born and living during the millennial kingdom to be tested by evil, just as all other generations of humanity were. God is just and holy and fair. The heart of those people must have opportunity to trust God in faith and love, not just in fear of disobedience.
 - Satan gathers nations once more against Jerusalem, from the four quarters of the earth.
 - This time, fire comes down from God, out of Heaven and devours them.
 - Satan is cast in “the” lake of fire, where the beast and the false prophet “are” (1000 years later, and they are still there).
 - The Great White Throne Judgment (20:11-15)
 - John sees God’s throne and the dead, small and great standing before the Lord to be judged out of the books.
 - At least three books are present
 - Death and Hell are cast into the lake of fire

- Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

We have sought throughout the series to show the Book of Revelation in chronological order, even though there are several parenthetical chapters that required us to jump ahead to discuss things and other times to look back to review things. We have also had to discuss several of the Old Testament prophets and their messages, including Daniel, Ezekiel, Joel, Isaiah and others. As we come to the last two chapters, we are completing the chronological order of what John saw. These are the closing visions – after everything previously witnessed by John, including Armageddon, the Great White Throne Judgment, and the Lake of Fire.

Chapter 21 – “And I Saw”

- A. The NEW Heaven and NEW Earth (vs. 1)
 - a. Though many commentaries speak of a “refurbished” or “remodeled” earth, the Bible makes it very clear that there will be not be a restoration of this earth.
 - i. “for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away”
 - 1. The “first heaven” is the atmosphere around the earth
 - ii. “from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away” (Rev. 20:11)
 - iii. Isaiah 24:19-20
 - iv. 2 Peter 3:10-13
 - v. Matthew 24:35 (Jesus himself said it!)
 - b. “and there was no more sea” – no saltwater on the new earth
- B. The NEW Jerusalem (vs. 2)
 - a. “the holy city”
 - i. “coming down from God out of heaven”
 - 1. Coming down from God’s abode (the third heaven) and landing on the new earth.
 - 2. It is the capital city of the new earth.

- ii. “prepared as a bride” – This is symbolic of a wedding gift from the groom (Christ) to his bride (the Church). It is a place for her that feels like home. “In my Father’s house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you.” (John 14)
 - 1. This new city is closely linked with the bride, and the vision of the city will go into greater detail in vs. 9.

C. The NEW Things (vs.3-8)

- a. A great voice out of heaven (great = authoritative / important)
 - i. Most believe that Christ is speaking here
 - 1. In the Old Testament, God met with man in the tabernacle or the temple.
 - 2. In the New Testament, God met with man through the Holy Spirit dwelling within us.
 - 3. In eternity, God and man dwell together.
- b. The former things are passed away (gone) – vs. 4
 - i. God wipes away all tears from their eyes (notice this happens after the judgment in chapter 20. Lots of sadness after that event.)
 - ii. No more death, sorrow, crying, pain. Our remembrance of the things of the former earth will be removed. You and I could never have joy for eternity if we remembered the pain, the suffering, and the lost of earth. (Isaiah 65:18-19 – “New Jerusalem”)
- c. God / Jesus speaks – (vs. 5-8)
 - i. “he that sat upon the throne” (Rev. 20:11-12)
 - ii. “and he said unto me write . . .” (Rev. 1:17-19)
 - iii. “he that overcometh” – message to 7 churches “overcomers”
 - 1. I John 5:4-5 / I John 5:10-13
 - iv. One last warning against sin and those who reject the Son

D. The NEW City (vs. 9-21)

- a. Now one of the seven angels of the seven vials takes John to show him the “Lamb’s wife”. This is a description of the city, the New

Jerusalem. This is the dwelling place of the Bride of Christ, the Church.

b. John is “in the spirit” (much like in chapter 1) and carried to a great and high mountain as a vantage point to observe the wife and her wedding present, this new dwelling place given to her by her groom.

c. Some of what he saw:

- i. The Glory of God (vs. 11) – a beaming light / aura
- ii. A Wall, great and high with twelve gates (vs. 12-13)
 1. 3 gates on each wall ($3 \times 4 = 12$)
 2. An angel at each gate
 3. Each gate having the name of one of the tribes of Israel
- iii. The city had 12 foundations (vs. 14)
 1. Each foundation having the name of one of the apostles
- iv. The dimensions of the city (vs. 15-17)
 1. Foursquare (cube)
 2. The equivalent of 1400 miles in length, width, and height. If placed in the middle of the United States, it would stretch from Canada to Mexico, and from the Appalachian Mountains to the California border. Don't forget the 1400 miles in height. Its ground level will be nearly 2 million square miles. That's 10 times larger than France or Germany, and that's just the first floor.
- v. The building materials (vs. 18-21)
 1. *What we have heard about “heaven” – really refers to this heavenly city.
 - a. Walls of jasper
 - b. Pure gold / like glass
 - c. Precious stones / foundations
 - d. “pearly” gates
 - e. Streets of gold (Bible says “street” -singular)

E. The NEW Temple (vs. 22)

- a. John was evidently looking for a temple (earthly thought), but when God is present, there is no need of a temple. In Heaven, no need of a temple, synagogue, or church. We don't need a structure to worship when we are in the presence of God himself!

F. The NEW Light (vs 23)

- a. No need of the sun or moon, because there is no night there. Day and night were relative to the earth. This is a new earth, and the Glory of God and the Lamb are the light thereof.

G. The NEW Guests (vs. 24-27)

- a. The saints of all ages and nations, Jews and Gentiles, Tribulation saints included – those not numbered among the church, are the honored guests within the city. Their faith and sacrifice are recognized by the Bride. Another reference to the holiness of the city, the Bride, and that the only way to enter it is to have your name written in the Lamb's book of life.

Chapter 22 – The Last Chapter of Revelation, and of the Bible

A. Vs. 1-5 – John sees several final scenes from Paradise

- a. A pure river of water of life, clear as crystal from the throne of God and of the Lamb
- b. The tree of life, with twelve manner of fruits which “were” for the healing of the nations. “No more curse” – The former earth was cursed by sin. That earth is gone, and with it, the curse is gone.
- c. No night (another reference). We shall reign forever and ever (eternity).

B. Vs. 6 – The angel that carried John away at the beginning of chapter 21 is still with him, and testifies that these sayings are “faithful and true”, and that the Lord sent his angel to show the things which must shortly be done.

- C. Vs. 7-9 – the KJV inserts the voice of Jesus saying – “Behold, I come quickly”, almost as an “amen” or verification, of what the angel just said.
 - a. This appears to cause John to mistake the angel for Jesus, and he falls down at his feet to worship him (as he had done before in the book).
 - b. The angel tells him (again) not to do it, but to only worship God.
- D. Vs. 10 – The angel tells John to “seal not the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.”
 - a. Unlike other prophets who were told to “seal” or close the books for future generations, this being God’s last revelation to mankind – John is instructed to leave it open for all to read. There is no further word from the Lord coming. Don’t look for another message. This is it. The time is at hand for the reading and hearing the prophecy of this message.
- E. Vs. 11 – We see the eternal destiny of the sinner and the saint
 - a. How you die is how you will spend eternity
 - i. Lost when you die? Lost for all eternity
 - ii. Saved when you die? Saved for all eternity
- F. Vs. 12-13 – Jesus Himself speaks
 - a. Again testifying that He comes quickly
 - i. “quickly” – not “soon” as in “immediately”, but “quickly” as in the speed (“twinkling of an eye”) – I Corinthians 15:52
 - ii. He says his reward is with him (Judgment seat of Christ) – I Corinthians 3:12-15)
 - iii. Identifies himself as He did in chapter 1 (first and last in the first and last chapter!)
- G. Vs. 14-15
 - a. Another mention of blessing on the saved and a curse of the lost, with reference to the holy city (ch. 21) and the tree of life (ch. 22).
- H. Vs. 16-19
 - a. The first mention of the word “church” since chapter 3:22
 - b. The last invitation of the Bible – “come”, “whosoever will” (vs. 17)

- c. Vs. 18-19 are dire warnings about tampering with God's words
 - i. Warnings are found throughout the Bible, including Proverbs 30:6, Deuteronomy 4:2.
 - ii. Some argue that vs. 19 teaches that you can lose your salvation, but it doesn't say that God will take your "name" out of the book of life. It says he will take your "part" out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book". While we don't know exactly what that means, I wouldn't want to find out.
- I. Vs. 20-21 - The last promise and the last prayer in the Bible
 - a. "Surely I come quickly" – the last promise (by Jesus himself)
 - b. "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all." – the last prayer. "Amen" – so be it, or let it be so.