

Revelation – How close might we be?
Session 10 – Chapters 21 – 22
The New Heaven, New Earth, *New Everything!*

I. Chapter 21: *Everything Is Brand New!*

- A. Verse 1: New **heaven**, new **earth**, old **passed away**.
 - 1. Chronologically follows the 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ described in chapter 20.
 - 2. Chapter 21 begins with John’s familiar words “I saw,” which he repeats in verse 2.
 - 3. This new creation is simply described as a new heaven and a new earth.
- B. Verses 2 – 8: **New Jerusalem** descends.
 - 1. John’s attention was then directed to a specific feature of the new heaven and new earth.
 - a. The **holy city**, the New Jerusalem.
 - b. Coming down out of **heaven from God**.
 - c. Prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.
 - 2. In verse 3, John wrote, “I heard a loud voice from the throne.”
 - 3. The new order will be **without sorrow** (verse 4).
 - 4. This dramatic change is described in verse 5: “Behold, I make **all things new!**”
 - 5. In verse 7, Jesus explained that “He who overcomes shall inherit all this, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.”
 - 6. Verse 8: By contrast, those who practice the sins of the unbelieving world will be excluded from the New Jerusalem and will be destined for the fiery lake of burning sulfur (“brimstone”).
- C. Verses 9 – 27: New Jerusalem **described**.
 - 1. John is taken to a greater vantage point on a high mountain.
 - 2. John saw a gigantic city, “square” in shape, and surrounded by a great, high wall with 12 gates.
 - 3. John noticed that he did *not* see a **temple** in the city because God the Father and the Lamb (God the Son) are its temple.
 - 4. From the fact that the nations (the Gentiles) will be in the city, as well as Israel and the church, it is evident that the city is the dwelling place of the saints of all ages, the angels, and God Himself.
 - 5. John is told that the gates of the city will never be shut and, because God’s glory will be present continually, there will be no night there.

II. Chapter 22:1 – 5: The River of Water, the Tree of Life, and the Throne of God.

- A. The angel showed John the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.
- B. It is significant also that the Lamb is pictured on the throne.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 15:24 says that Jesus Christ will “hand over the kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all dominion, authority, and power.”
 - 2. Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords (17:14; 19:16) for **all eternity**.
- C. As John contemplated the heavenly city, he saw the Tree of Life, bearing 12 crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month.
- D. The Seven “All New Things” Listed.
 - 1. New **Heaven**: Revelation 21:1.
 - 2. New **Earth**: Revelation 21:1.
 - 3. New **City**: Revelation 21:9-23.
 - 4. New **Nations** (or **order**): Revelation 21:24-27.
 - 5. New **River**: Revelation 21:1.
 - 6. New **Tree of Life**: Revelation 21:2.
 - 7. New **Throne**: Revelation 21:3-4.

III. Chapter 22:6 – 21: Conclusion.

- A. Verses 6 –7: The **certainty** of Jesus' return.
 - 1. Confirming both the truth and possibility of understanding the prophecies previously given, the angel told John that the words of this book are **trustworthy** and **true**.
 - 2. The theme of Revelation is stated again in verse 7: "Behold, I am coming **quickly!**"
- B. Verses 8 – 9: As he did in 19:10, John repeats his error and begins to worship the angel.
 - 1. Again, the angel corrects John.
 - 2. The angel adds to the correction.
 - a. Fellow servant of your brethren the **prophets**.
 - b. Fellow servant of those who keep the words of this book.
- C. Verses 10 – 11: **Command to proclaim** this prophecy.
 - 1. Daniel was told that his prophecies would be "sealed until the time of the end" (Daniel 12:9).
 - 2. In contrast here, John was told **not** to seal up the words of these prophecies.
- D. Verse 12: Coming **judgment and reward**.
- E. Verse 13: The **Eternal** Christ.
- F. Verses 14 – 15: The coming **blessing** and **judgment**.
 - 1. The last of the seven blessings ("beatitudes") of Revelation is bestowed on the saints, those who "do His commandments." (KJV, NKJV, Young's Literal, others)
 - 2. By contrast, judgment is pronounced on those who remain unsaved ("dogs" refers to people; see Philippians 3:2).
- G. Verses 16 – 17: The **invitation by** the Spirit and the **bride**.
 - 1. The entire Book of Revelation was delivered by Jesus Christ through His angel and is for the **churches**.
 - 2. Jesus described Himself as the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.
 - 3. The Holy Spirit joined with the bride, the **church**, in extending an invitation to all who heed.
 - 4. Those who hear are encouraged to respond and also to extend the invitation to others.
 - 5. The wonderful promise is given that all those who are thirsty may come and will receive God's free gift.
- H. Verses 18 – 19: A final **warning**.
 - 1. While on the one hand an invitation is extended to those who will listen, a word of warning is also given to those who reject the "Revelation" of this final book of the Bible.
 - 2. A dual warning is given against adding to it or subtracting from it.
 - 3. How great will be the judgment of those who despise this book and relegate it to the mystical experiences of an old man, thereby denying that it is the inspired Word of God.
 - a. Rejecting the **Word of God** is rejecting **God Himself**.
 - b. And those who deny His promises of blessing and subtract from His truths will receive His judgment and will have no part in the Tree of Life or access to the Holy City.
- I. Verses 20 – 21: A final **prayer** and **promise**.
 - 1. One further word of testimony was then given: "**Surely**, I am coming quickly."
 - 2. To this John replied in a brief prayer, "Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."
 - 3. With this tremendous revelation completed, a final word of benediction was pronounced.
 - 4. For those who believe that Jesus in His first coming provided **salvation**, there is the magnificent promise of His coming again to bring complete, final **deliverance**.
 - 5. As the book began by introducing a "Revelation" of Jesus Christ, so it ends with the same thought that **He is coming again!**

IV. Some Concluding Thoughts.

- A. No other book of Scripture more sharply contrasts the blessed destiny of the saints with the fearful future of those who are lost.
- B. No other book of the Bible is more explicit in its description of everlasting judgment on the one hand and the saints' eternal bliss on the other.

V. Application.

- A. Three times in this closing passage Jesus promises, "I am coming quickly."
 - 1. Eternity *may* seem far off.
 - 2. Eternal destiny, however, must be settled before one actually enters eternity.
 - 3. "Soon" may be tomorrow!
- B. John recorded Jesus saying in 22:7: "Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book".
 - 1. If we have taken to heart God's call to holiness, seeing the future in Revelation *should* stimulate us to a holy life today.
 - 2. If we have taken to heart God's call to do right, then seeing Jesus at history's end *should* deepen our desire to do right today!
- C. What do you want to be doing when He comes for *you*?