

# Revelation 22

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The Millennium is past. All sin and evil, all the lost of all time, Angels and Men, have been cast into the Lake of Fire to be punished forever. Time will be no more... only eternity... forever and ever without end.

God has destroyed our present Earth and Heaven and created a New Heaven and a New Earth.

Previously we saw from Ezekiel that God's Throne and Throne room, in His Heavenly Temple, are portable... God, on His Throne, *is* wherever He chooses to be.

In chapter 21, John was describing New Jerusalem for us. We'll read the last part of that chapter as it then continues with chapter 22, the last chapter of Revelation, the very last Word of God to Man before He returns.

John writes of New Jerusalem... <sup>22</sup> ***I saw no temple in it***, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. God Himself is the Temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the Glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp *is* the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup> In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; <sup>26</sup> and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; <sup>27</sup> and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Notice... ***'The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.'*** That seems to imply there will be multitudes of people **not living in**, or part of, New Jerusalem. They are outside its walls, walking by its light. The kings of all the various peoples of the Earth... all the Nations will bring their glory **into** New Jerusalem **from the outside**: ***'they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.'***

The Church and Israel **are** New Jerusalem... the Bride, the wife of the Lamb... but there are multitudes of Gentiles who repopulated the World during the Millennium who are **neither Israel nor the Church**. It seems they continue to live out in the New Earth... not in New Jerusalem.

**Chapter 22:** And he showed me a pure river of ***water of life***, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

There is no Temple now. What else is different? Remember, we saw from Daniel, there had been a stream of fire coming forth from God's Throne. Everyone's life and works passed through that fire. Some of our works were burned up as wood, hay and stubble... others of our works withstood the fire and were proven to remain and result in eternal rewards.

The stream of fire coming from God's Throne is no longer necessary... no more lives and works to be tested. From then on, all our lives and works, for all eternity will be lived and done for the Glory of God... and He will glorify us for eternity.

Now, instead of God's fire which destroys worthless works... a pure river of water of life flows forth, giving life to all who drink it. This is the water of which Jesus spoke when He told the woman at the well, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.' John 4:13

We said earlier that the New Earth would be something like the Garden of Eden, before sin corrupted everything of the old Earth. Genesis 2 tells us that a River went out from Eden and watered the Garden. Look what else is like the Garden of Eden...

**Verse 2:** In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, ***was the tree of life***, which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month. The ***leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations***.

The Tree of Life was in the middle of the Garden. After Adam and Eve sinned, they were expelled from the Garden and barred from the Tree of Life lest they should eat of it and live forever in their sinful state.

Now, in the New Jerusalem, the Tree of Life is no longer kept from God's children. We will all have free access to it and its leaves will be for healing of the nations. Again... perhaps this... the nations with their kings bringing their glory into the City and the Tree of Life's leaves being for the 'healing' of individual nations... each with its own king, under the King of kings Who rules over an ever expanding Government and Kingdom ('of the increase of His Government there shall be no end' Isa. 9:7)

...perhaps it refers to mortals still living at the end of the Millennium, having repopulated the Earth... continuing to be 'mortal' in some sense... needing to drink of the Water of Life and needing the leaves from the Tree of Life for healing of injuries... we don't know for sure. Some things, God has not made clear. It wouldn't be a need for healing from sickness or disease because that was a result of 'the curse' of sin.

**Verse 3:** And there shall be **no more curse**, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. <sup>4</sup> They shall see His face, and His name *shall be* on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

No more curse... only the blessings of God. No matter our failings or shortcomings in this life... there is no curse for us who have been redeemed by the Lord Jesus Christ... He became a curse for us...

'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. Gal 3:13

No more darkness, no more night. Satan's was the kingdom of darkness... Christ's is the Kingdom of Light. Sin loves darkness... Righteousness loves Light.

***[Or maybe it's a simple as... we are all given eternal, glorified bodies, we're all made to be kings and priests unto God and we all go back and forth between New Jerusalem and the New Earth and the Universe and we all, as kings bring our glory into the New Jerusalem... but I don't think so.]***

**Verse 6:** Then he said to me, "These words *are* faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. <sup>7</sup> "Behold, I am coming quickly!"

Again we are told that what we are reading in The Revelation is the truth! It's all true! These, the last words of the Lord Jesus Christ to His Bride, are what He wanted us to know, to remember and to think about always. The end of this World is coming... Jesus Christ will return for us in the clouds to remove the true Church before He judges the lost, rebellious World. The Church will soon go into apostasy but the true Church, a remnant, will continue faithfully until He returns. The Antichrist is coming... he is a real person who will rule the World.

He said He was coming **quickly**. He didn't mean a moment in time very soon... the word for quickly... 'tachy' (takhu) means 'by surprise, suddenly, lightly, readily, quickly.' Suddenly, by surprise... the Rapture... at any moment... unexpected.

We are to be watching and waiting... always '**walking in a manner worthy of the calling with which we've been called.**' Eph 4:1... '**walking worthy of the Lord**' Col 1:10... '**walking worthy of the Gospel**' Phip 1:27... '**setting our hearts and minds on the things above, not on the things of the Earth.**' Col 3:2

Because we know what's coming, because He has told us all these things in advance, because He has fully warned us, He expects us to **walk as Children of God, Children of Light, Sons and Daughters of the Most High** and He has enabled us to do so because He has put His Holy Spirit within us and He has told us of the unimaginable rewards awaiting those who choose to be faithful to their calling.

**"Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."**

In chapter 1 Jesus said that those who read and hear this book will be blessed. Now He adds that those who listen, pay attention and keep this book in their hearts will be blessed.

The word here for keep, 'tereo' means: 'to attend to carefully, to guard, to take care of, to observe'

No other book of the Bible has the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word of God Himself, taken it upon Himself to personally commend, command and commit His chosen ones to read, believe and remember... and yet, no other book is so neglected, so maligned and so ignored as Revelation. How many pastors and teachers, false pastors and false teachers, never read, never teach, never even touch ***The Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ!*** This is the shameful fruit of the ***Great Apostasy*** throughout the Church in these last days. These are the same pastors and teachers who never preach the ***True Gospel of Salvation, salvation only by Faith in the Finished Work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross and His Resurrection.*** Their one goal is to fill their churches with tithing benchwarmers... not to save sheep and make disciples. Their churches are filling with people who are being ripened for the slaughter, after they miss the Rapture and blindly turn to faith in the Antichrist, believing him to be the returned Christ because they were never warned of Hell, taught of Salvation and Heaven and never taught the truth of what is coming soon... the truth found in ***the Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ,*** given to John, written for us. Their feigned authority comes not from preaching and teaching the Word of God but rather in quoting other spurious false teachers and authors.

**Verse 8:** Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

<sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "See *that you do not do that, for I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.*"

John and we are commanded to worship only God. Not angels, not Michael the archangel, not saints, not Mary, not any created being or thing... only God! And notice what this angel does here... if we keep the words of Revelation... he includes us in a very auspicious group... servants of God and God's Prophets. Our knowing and ***keeping*** the words of The Revelation are clearly ***very important to God.***

Verse 10: And he said to me, "***Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.***

Daniel, at the end of his book, was told to ***seal up the words of his book*** until the time of the end.

The angel said to Daniel...

"At that time Michael shall stand up,

The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people; (Israel)

And there shall be a time of trouble, (The Tribulation)

Such as never was since there was a nation,

*Even* to that time.

And at that time your people shall be delivered,

Every one who is found written in the book. (The Lamb's Book of Life)

<sup>2</sup> And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,

Some to everlasting life,

Some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

<sup>3</sup> ***Those who are wise shall shine***

***Like the brightness of the firmament,***

***And those who turn many to righteousness***

***Like the stars forever and ever.***

<sup>4</sup> "But you, Daniel, ***shut up the words, and seal the book*** until the time of the end;

***many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.***"

Now... 2500 years later, we are living in the time for which Daniel's book was written... worldwide travel seems almost instantaneous while knowledge and information are exploding, nearly doubling every day. Now it's finally possible for entire populations to be controlled and for one man to control them all. The world is ready for the Antichrist and his one-world government.

Daniel saw much of what we read in the Revelation, he saw the Tribulation and the Antichrist but he wasn't given as clear a picture as was shown to John... and John is told specifically to ***not seal up the words of his***

**book** because ***the time is at hand!*** It could begin at any moment. The time for Daniel's book and the Revelation is for us... for now!

At any moment, everything in the Revelation after chapter 3 could begin to happen. The final 2 churches of chapters 2 and 3... Philadelphia and Laodicea are now the reality of the Church.

**Verse 11:** He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

Remember to whom the Revelation is written... to the true Church and to Tribulation Saints... to the Church, He gives us chapters 1-3 and 19-22. To Tribulation Saints He gives chapters 4-22. The Revelation, like all Scripture is written to God's Elect and as warning to those who turn from Him, trusting in themselves and false religion. The division between the elect and the nonelect is almost complete... the division between the sheep and the goats, between the wheat and the tares. The time is at hand!

Those who have placed their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ are, in God's sight, holy and righteous and they will remain holy and righteous... completely holy and righteous because we are in the Lord Jesus Christ... His Holiness and Righteousness has been imputed to us... God sees us as Holy and Righteous.

Those in the World and those who fill so many churches... goats and tares... no matter how religious or how faithful in going to church and looking spiritual... apart from true faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone and His Righteousness... in God's eyes they are filthy and unjust... all their good works, self-righteousness and religiousness are as filthy rags in God's sight... and they will remain filthy and unjust... unjustified.

Verse 12: "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work."

Here He speaks to the Church... again He says the same thing... a double promise but also a double warning... 'I Am coming quickly!' 'tachy' (takhu) 'by surprise, suddenly, lightly, readily, quickly.' Suddenly, by surprise... the Rapture... at any moment when unexpected.

Verse 13: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End, the First and the Last."

He is the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End... He is the Originator, the Doer and Upholder of all Creation and He will destroy it and remake it. He is the Author and Finisher, the Completer of Salvation. He created time and He will end time. He began His Word in Genesis with the Beginning of Creation and He ended His Word with a New Creation. He began His Word with the promise of a coming Savior and He ended His Word with the return of that same Savior. He began His Word with the creation and fall of Man and He ended His Word with the restoration and complete redemption of His Elect.

**Verse 14:** Blessed *are* those who do His commandments that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

**Maybe...** here He is speaking to Tribulation Saints and Millennial Saints... they are not 'born again'... they have not had Jesus Christ's Righteousness imputed to them... they must observe the Law. Jesus Christ will be ruling with a 'Rod of Iron.' They need the Tree of Life. They can then 'enter' New Jerusalem. We ARE New Jerusalem. We are the City... we are the Bride... we are NOW and always 'in Christ and He is in us.

Not so these others.

We, the true Church do not need access to the Tree of Life... we possess Eternal Life now... eternally.

**Verse 15:** But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

This seems to indicate that the Lake of Fire may be visible to some degree from New Jerusalem. Seeing it, out, down over the wall, we will eternally worship and glorify God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ for what He

did for us... for choosing us, for dying for us, for saving and keeping us, for taking us to be forever with Him... for **keeping us from the Lake of Fire**. We won't see it with regret or grief for those who are condemned to it... those former thoughts and remembrances will have faded and passed. We won't remember Uncle Joe who rejected Christ but we will forever know and rejoice with Aunt Jane who did trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 16: "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." <sup>17</sup> And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

This is written to everyone now.

The Holy Spirit and we say 'Come, Lord Jesus!' and also to the lost... 'Come! while there is still time... Come!' The invitation goes out to all... and all that the Holy Spirit draws to Himself... will come. **All** His Elect will come. Now... the Tree of Life is not available but the Water of Life, the Word of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God is available freely to any who will come. **Sadly, most will not come.**

Verse 18: For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; <sup>19</sup> and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

No true child of God will change the Word of God. A true believer loves God's Word... He will say, like David, 'O how I love Thy law... It is my delight every day... Thy Word have I hid in my heart... Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.'

No goat, no tare, no false teacher, no wolf in sheep's clothing... no child of darkness will hold and keep the Word of God... they will despise it and change it to suit their newest teaching.

Verse 20: He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Again... the third time He says, 'I Am coming quickly!'... 'by surprise, suddenly, lightly, readily, quickly.' Suddenly, by surprise... the Rapture... at any moment when unexpected.

Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! Maranatha!

<sup>21</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

His final indication that this book is written to His Elect... a final blessing and promise of His Grace to us.