

Note

Revelation – Part 15 of 15

Summary

Revelation chapter 22 reveals additional glimpses into life in the New Jerusalem, the Holy City. God promises a glorious future to His people together with Him forever. The final revelation of Jesus Christ is one of absolute victory and authority. We must be prepared and ready for Jesus Christ is coming back soon. We are to obey the word of God and not to change it. God's grace, which includes access to the glorious eternal kingdom is offered to all through Jesus Christ.

Transcript

Revelation – Part 15 of 15

Today, we come to Revelation Chapter 22, the last chapter of the book.

The story has taken a long time. Sometimes, you wonder why it took so long. But we realize Revelation Chapters 21 and 22 show us a realm called eternity. Our God lives in this eternal time frame and we will too.

So let's look at this fulfilment in Revelation (Chapter) 21. We've just gone through that. See what Isaiah had prophesied a long time ago.

Isaiah 65:17 says,

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy and her people to be a gladness.

We learned in Revelation (Chapter) 21, in this beautiful New Heaven and New Earth, that the old is passed away. It's been taken away, and a brand new one, very much featuring the old, same, but different, is here. You can see the similarity and yet you can see the amazing difference. John 14:1-7, a very familiar passage for most of us, I ask myself, Is this literal? Is this what the Lord really meant?"

John 14:1-7

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

When I heard this in the past, "In My Father's house are many mansions, I go to prepare a place for you" I thought, "Oh, that's just figurative." I mean, we will all be spirits up in the cloud, why would I need a mansion for? A house is physical, a mansion is physical. I'm just a floaty being, a floaty spirit. But now we realize, no, no, it's a New Heaven and New Earth, very much the old earth, but new. So we now begin to get a better idea that our eternity is not some mystical thing where it's not really me, and I am not in hell. This is basically what most Christians are happy (about), that they don't go to hell. They're not looking forward to this place of many mansions, this New Earth, that is described.

Let's just go back to Genesis and see what was God's original purpose when He created man in His own image.

Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds to the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

So the original purpose (was), man was made in God's image, to rule God's creation, to have dominion, or rule, or control over God's creation. So man was to rule God's creation, in partnership with God.

That was exactly God's plan in Genesis Chapter 1. And now, in the last chapter, God says, "You're going to do exactly that, except the scope is far bigger, infinitely bigger than the garden I put you in; this is the universe, the New Heaven (and New Earth) united in Christ. And you are going to rule and reign over this, to bring this amazing creation into new and greater uncharted territory." So the story comes one full circle.

And then we learned last week, there is no temple of God in this new creation because God's presence will be filling this New Heaven and the Earth. So why (need) a temple? Now we are the temple of the Holy Ghost, and the world around us is all messed up. One day, the whole universe will

be the temple of God. God's presence will be so real at that time. Right now we struggle to sense God's presence though He lives in us.

Now, we also learned in Genesis that since the fall of man, Genesis 11, Nimrod decided to build the Tower of Babel. And since then, as long as history goes, men tried to build their empires, to make names for themselves, at the expense of others. So basically, the selfish, sinful man decided, when he plucked the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, he decided, "You know what is good? Build your own empire. You know, what is good? Be number one." That is good. That's his new rule. His knowledge of good is, more is better, more powerful is better, richer is better. So grab! That was his idea of good and evil. And what do we see in Revelation, God will destroy Babylon. Every Babylon will be destroyed. It doesn't matter whether it is the real Babylon or the Tower of Babel, or different empires. Everybody builds, selfishly grabs and builds for himself at the expense of everybody else. No more! The New Heaven and New Earth, the Tree of the Knowledge of good and evil, do you know what's good? To be in the image of God, to do good, to bless others and in blessing others, all of us will be blessed. Now that's not how men think. The New Jerusalem represents the opposite of Babylon. Babylon is over, no more after Revelation.

What's the purpose of this book? The purpose of this book is to motivate people. Motivate people, especially the ones John wrote to, who were fearful. "Do I bow to Caesar and say, "Caesar is god?" They had to make a choice - to get some benefits at present or prefer eternity? That's what this book is all about. To motivate men to make the right choice. Make yourself god? Make something else your god, money or power or whatever? Or make God your God and trust Him. Trust your money or trust Him? Trust yourself or trust Him? Trust somebody or trust Him? Trust your idol or trust Him? Two pathways. Motivate people to make the right choice and those who made the right choice, motivate them to think eternal, about this amazing future that we have just described, a New Heaven and a New Earth.

Now, to prepare for this New Heaven and New Earth, that's the purpose of this book. First, to make sure you don't miss it. Second, make sure you prepare for it. I just checked up Google before I started this message, I just checked under Wikipedia, "galaxies", how many galaxies are there they

say, right now, the guess is 2 trillion. So how many stars are there? Out there in the universe? Stars. The sun is a star. According to Wikipedia, more than the grains of sand on Planet Earth. Oh, that's a lot of sand on Planet Earth. You go to the beach again, you get sand in your sandals or your shoes and we have to knock it off all the time! Now there are more stars, galaxies than the sand on Planet Earth? And you mean all that is going to be the new, going to be renovated in some way, be part of this ecosystem we're going to live in? Part of our world? Now, that world is very far away, that is remote to us. We just live on this tiny little Planet Earth. If the sun is like a grain of sand, then I don't know what Earth is like, maybe a Coronavirus, right? That's how tiny we are. Can you imagine eternity where all those things are part of what we are to reign over? Can you understand why eternity would be long? There's endless things to do, alright? To bring all those things, to harness all those perfect things, perfect galaxies, planets, etc. to new heights, just as God put Adam to bring the Garden of Eden to new heights.

Secondly, earth as we know it, is not wiped out, it's still earth. It's a New Earth, just as when you see me in heaven you can say, "Hi, PC!" "How do you know it's me?" "Oh, of course it is you, but you don't have your glasses, you don't have your limp anymore." I don't have the markers that tells it is me, all the defects are gone but the characteristics are still there. I'm not some new floaty guy. It's not like I died and became somebody else. I'm still PC, the earth is still earth, the New Earth, the resurrected earth.

What does that mean? It means that if you wanted to climb Everest, and that was always your dream, don't worry about it. You don't need to write a bucket list, like many Christians do as if they are never going to enjoy these if they die. That's not biblical. Everest will still be there. If it is your dream to climb it, spend your time now on earth to bring people to Christ. And then you can climb Everest every day if you want to in the New Earth, and it's much better at that time. Anything you want to see, any lake, any beautiful sight you want to see, will still be there, with no pollution. You don't have to pay for your air ticket and hotel fees, and you don't have to get worried about getting COVID. The attractions that you yearn to see as a Christian, "My bucket list, Pastor, I still have a bucket list to see before I go, before my legs are weak." You don't need a bucket list, unless you're planning to go to hell, because in hell it is just a lake of fire. So please, Christian, get your theology right, then you will get your life right. There is nothing wrong in taking a holiday. But it's bad theology (if) you think that I better do this now or I'll never get a chance to experience this again because one day I

will go to heaven and be some spirit there where I have no opportunity to do anything which I wanted to do. You can do anything, except immoral things in the New Earth.

Let's go into Revelation Chapter 22, and tail off our study of the beautiful book.

Revelation 22:1.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

What do we learn about the river of life? Water is what satisfies our thirst. So your thirst will always be satisfied, never unsatisfied, flowing from the throne. This water of life can also be symbolic of the Holy Spirit, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, filling us with satisfaction, with His presence forever and ever.

Revelations 22:2

through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

This river flows right down the middle of the street of the city. In other words, this river of life flows out from the throne of God, where God and the Lamb sat and it was prominently available. Everyone could avail of this, it is a huge river flowing out for all. And then, it says, on either side of the river was a tree of life. Remember Genesis Chapter 2, there were two trees in the Garden, the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil, (which) Adam was told not to eat of it; there was one other tree, the Tree of life. When Adam ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, disobeying God. He chose his own way, and today men choose to live their own way, which is the wrong way, the selfish way and that's why the world has endless problems. Families have endless problems because of the way we chose, the "me first" way. We see that in politics every day, make me first! Make me first! When you make yourself first, everybody will fight with you, and everybody will lose in the end. So, when he chose that way, God said, "Get out of the garden. You will never eat of the Tree of life because the Tree of life signifies he has eternal life the moment he eats of it. So He guarded the tree and chased Adam out. Now we see that Tree (of life) right back here. It was on both sides of the river. Don't ask me how the Tree can be

on both sides of the river. I don't know. And it had 12 kinds of fruits. And then it says here, "yielding its fruit each month". How does one tree have 12 kinds of fruits? I don't know. You have a tree with just lots of mangoes or lots of durian, but here, 12 kinds of fruits. 12 always speak of God's number, His people and so on. "Yielding its fruit each month", there are 12 months a year also, just for the record. "The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." I am not quite sure what it means but we, as doctors, know that a lot of medicine, actually a lot of antioxidants, are actually stored up in leaves. That's why doctors and mothers say eat vegetables. It has been the conventional wisdom that vegetables somehow keep you healthy. So the leaves are for the healing of the nations, whatever that means.

Revelations 22:3

No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship Him.

"Throne of God" speaks of His authority, He is there ruling this universe, New Heaven and New Earth, unified together as one. And "on the throne" means "to be worshipped". So basically, we will have righteous rule and worship God forever.

Revelations 22:4

They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.

So we will have a sense of God's presence so, so, so much more than we have now. Now we sense God's presence, but one day we will see His face. Of course we know God is a spirit, but whatever that means, Bible says in Corinthians, "we will see Him as He is". And His name will be on our foreheads. "666" was supposed to be on the foreheads for those who belong to the Antichrist. But we belong to God, so we are all marked as His on our foreheads.

Revelations 22:5

And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

So no need for any other light. God is the Light. And we will reign forever and ever. Over what? New Heaven and New Earth - that's a heavy responsibility. If someone said to you, "Your father owns this massive

conglomerate, with thousands of workers and you as his son, one day, will run this company.” You will prepare for that. It's a huge privilege. It's a huge responsibility. You will reign over the New Heaven and New Earth.

Revelations 22:6

And He said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true, And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent His angel to show His servants what must soon take place.”

He's simply saying, “Trust me, when I say these things, trust me. Some things, son, you can't quite understand. No need to describe to you now. You know who I am. You know your Papa owns this whole company.” Except our papa is Abba Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth, and the New Heaven and the New Earth. He said, “Trust me. What I said, just trust me.”

Revelation 22:7

And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.

People always say, “This was written 2000 years ago, coming soon, coming soon, what are you talking about? How can it be?” You know, the day you take your last breath, all these words will come already. What do you mean by that? You take your last breath, and the next breath, you have to see your creator. The future is in front of you. It can be one breath away from you.

Revelation 22:8

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”

He had been warned once. John had been warned earlier at another time when he fell down before the angel to worship him. And he does it again. And the angel says, “No, worship God.” Why is this brought up? Do you know how easy it is to worship things besides God? Like yourself, money, power, a hero figure. And for the people who were receiving this letter written by John, to worship Caesar. Hey, that's the easy way, worship Caesar, your problems will be over. No, worship God! Trust Him alone.

Don't think for one minute that you are not likely to worship something else. If you're spiritual, you might worship yourself, thinking, "Oh, how good I am, how spiritual I am." Be careful, worship God. For those receiving this letter, it was Caesar.

Revelation 22:10

And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

Do you think the prophecy of this book has been sealed up? It has been sealed for a long time by many Christians who refused to read the book, who know nothing about the book, who have never heard it. And many will say, "Hey, all this is new." It's been sealed. It's in the Bible, but it's never been opened. It's been in the Bible but it is seldom preached, it's been sealed. "Don't seal", he said, "the words of this book", they are important.

Revelation 22:11

Let the evildoers still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy."

It emphasizes there are just two ways. There's no middle way. A lot of religions have all kinds of gradations. No, no! Just two ways, either you worship God or the other way -sin and all these evil things.

Revelation 22:12

Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.

Again the words, "soon". My friends, when? I don't know. Could be tomorrow. The word, "soon" is anytime.

Revelation 22:13

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

You read the beginning in Genesis, the Garden of Eden, this is the end. "I have a beginning. I have an end. I started the Garden of Eden and now my ending is amazing." Everyone loves a happy ending. It's not how you start. It's how you end.

Revelation 22:14

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

Wash their robes in the blood of Jesus Christ, trusted Christ took all your sins on the cross and gave you His righteousness. Trust the greatest transaction, the greatest miracle of all time, executed at the cross, completed at the cross, proven on the day of resurrection and ascension to Heaven.

Revelation 22:15

Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

The only ones who enter this kingdom are those who washed their robes, all the rest will never enter this place, they are outside.

Revelation 22:16

I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.

The bright morning star is the star in the morning that leads you on the way. Christ is called the bright morning star, He leads you. The darkest time of the night is just before dawn and so dark, because it's been dark for a long time. But there's a bright morning star to lead you on. In the darkness you are in, Jesus is the bright morning star.

Revelation 22:17

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

The Bride and the Spirit. The Spirit and the Bride. The Holy Spirit welcomes you. We as God's people say, "Come", that's our job. "Come, come." What do you need to come? You just need to be thirsty. That's all. Let the one who is thirsty come, a desire, that's all, and take the water without price. Salvation is free. Anyone that doesn't go in, having heard this message, has made his choice because the condition is so simple. Just say, "I know something is wrong with this life. I know something is wrong with my life. I

know there's something missing." Thirst, just take it. It's free, Christ is free. This last part is actually a gospel message here.

Revelation 22:18.

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

Be careful not to take anything out from this book. God has put three stamps in the Bible to say, "Be careful, don't touch. Don't take anything out of this book." Let's look at the three stamps. In the beginning, it's found in Deuteronomy Chapter 4 - here it says, "Don't tamper with this word of God. Don't take, don't add." Let's go to Deuteronomy (Chapter) 4. Deuteronomy is part of the Torah, the first book as far as the Jews are concerned.

Deuteronomy 4:2.

You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.

So in the beginning of the Bible, God says, "Don't add to this word, don't take out of this word." Be careful. You're dealing with God's word. Then in the middle of the Bible in Psalms 12, you will see another one.

Psalms 12:6-7.

The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in the furnace on the ground, purified seven times. You, O LORD, will keep them; You will guard us from this generation forever.

In the middle of the Bible, God says, "I will keep this word." Deuteronomy says, "You don't tamper with it." Psalms say, "I will keep it" and then we go back to Revelation, where we are right now and God says, "Don't you dare take out or add." So basically, God is telling us don't tamper with His word. How can you tamper with God's word? There are many ways. You can't take a scissors and cut it and add some new words; the Bible is there, more or less. It's there, so how do you take out or add? To take out is very easy, just say, "Oh, it is myth. It's not true at all." There are a lot of (such) preachers today. Don't say everything is myth, everything is story, or everything is just symbolic. Be careful. When God describes it as 1000 years, 6 times in one chapter, take it seriously. When God says He created

the world in 6 days, evening and morning is the first day, evening and morning is the second day, take it seriously. Don't just say, "It's not important." And then, don't add things to God's word. Don't write new chapters and preach it as if it is God's word. Be careful.

Let's go back to Revelation 22:20.

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Do you think most Christians say that? "Come, Lord Jesus!"? Do you think most Christians say that? "Oh, I haven't finished my bucket list." You know, it is sad to leave this world with things undone. It is sad to leave this world because you haven't finished what you should have done. But if you have been faithful, doing your best, you can say these words, "Come, Lord Jesus, come" with joy, with confidence. And you know, Jesus said, "I am coming. I am waiting for you." When you take your last breath, "I am there!" instantly, not soon, but instantly. When I take my last breath on this old earth, I believe, I'm sure when I take my last breath, there is someone waiting for me.

Now this book has ended. Revelation is not an easy book. It's not meant to give us time to argue about God's timetables and who is the Antichrist and who are these seven kings, what some words were or what's not and all these things. What do you think is the main goal of this book? So we can argue on the dates? Argue on which is the Gog and Magog? Is that really what this book is about? Spending our time on that, or spending it by preparing yourself for this eternity and leading others, "come to this eternity", by your life, your testimony, your ministry, your preaching. And when you have been faithful doing that, you will say, "Come, Lord Jesus!" You will look forward and will want to put the tears and the sorrow and the pain of this unrighteous, sinful world behind forever.

So I hope that you can say this book is the greatest love story you ever read. The God who loved you, plans for you, prepares you and finally, the Bride is prepared for our creator. Everybody loves a wedding. When the bride and groom come together, and the story says, "And they lived happily ever after." No fairy tale can say that. Maybe 30 years, 40 years and there's a lot of sorrow along the way. That's just a fairy tale. Jesus said, "I am trustworthy. Trust me." This is the story of stories. This is the beautiful book, written by a beautiful, wonderful God who got a bride for His Son. And He loves His Son so much, that in eternity, it's not one beloved Son, but many,

many sons in His New Heaven and New Earth, all bearing the image of His Son, who bears the image of the Father. And this is forever, enjoying and worshipping our God.

May this book bless you. May the last book of the Bible bless you, most of all.