



The Old and the New: Part 3

Revelation 22

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 22:1-21 NKJV] 1 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 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. 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. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 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. 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. 7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed [is] he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." 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. 9 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." 10 And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. 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." 12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. 13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." 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. 15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. 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." 17 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. 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; 19 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. 20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

APPLICATION

- 3
- 180
- 11,000
- 250,000

What are these numbers?

This is the amount of people who die every second, every minute, every hour, and every day.

Every single day, people, great and small, rich and poor, powerful and weak, face the same reality... death.

It is this reality of death that has brought about the propensity in mankind to search for paradise, for heaven; to try and make peace with eternity. They do it through all sorts of means:

- Spiritualism
- Religion
- Drug-induced spiritual rituals
- Reincarnation

Why is this? Could it be a remnant left in the heart of man from the Garden of Eden? That there is a place we must get back to where we have peace with God, where everything is perfect and the wrongs of this life are made right?

BIBLE PASSAGE

[1Co 2:9 NKJV] 9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

APPLICATION

Sadly, as we come to the end of the chapter of the end of the book of The End of the World, we find that there will be many who hear about God's heaven and decide that they would rather not have anything to do with it.

As we close what has been a powerful study, we are reminded that we will not merely go to heaven; heaven will come to us. And with it, all separation from God will be ended and all death will be defeated.

As we continue our tour into the city of the New Jerusalem, we go from the exterior to the interior.

1 Heaven's Landscape

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 22:1-21 NKJV] 1 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 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.

ILLUSTRATION

Barry's garden and how every corner, plant, and path told a story and had a meaning.

APPLICATION

The Water of Life - Only in Revelation

- Jesus - Living Water (John 4 - woman at the well)

Tree of Life - Genesis chapter 2 (Tree of Life and Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil). They were expelled from the Garden and guarded the Tree of Life with Cherubim with fiery swords.

- Promise to the church of Ephesus - they who overcome will eat of the tree of life. [Rev 2:7 NKJV] 7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." '

How many trees? Or is it one tree? We don't know. The language implies one, but then the language implies many.

- The tree is either excessively large, or there are many trees.

Each tree yields fruit every month. How many months? Apparently, there is some measurement of time in eternity, but we are not constrained by it the way we are currently.

Leaves - there's no more curse, no more death, no more sin, no more sickness, so what is the "healing?" The better translation of the Greek word is vitality or strength. Remember, back in the Garden of Eden, God said that if they eat from the Tree of Life, they will live forever.

2 Heaven's Finality

BIBLE PASSAGE

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. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 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.

APPLICATION

The end of the curse will be final.

The end of night will be final.

The end of separation from God will be final.

- In Exodus 33 He warns Moses, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live..." God knew fallen flesh could never survive the blaze of His glory... That's when God told him, "I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen." Moses was allowed to see God's backside, but never His face. Yet what Moses was denied, you and I are promised. 1Corinthians 13:12 says of Heaven, "For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known." Today, a veil covers our eyes. We know God in part. But when that veil gets taken away there'll no longer be limits on what I can learn of God, or of anyone else

The end of oppression will be final.

The saints victory will be final and last forever and ever.

They serve Him - We will still be working in heaven. Just as Adam and Eve were given a job in the garden, we will occupy ourselves with God's work, whatever that might be. But the difference is we won't be constrained by the difficulties of a dead end job, or a hurting back, or a boss we struggle with. Work is hard now because of the limitation of our flesh and sin.

But even now we sometimes get a little taste of the satisfaction of finishing a job or succeeding at something meaningful. When we serve God in perfection, everything we do will be a meaningful, joyful, life-giving task.

3 Heaven's Warnings

BIBLE PASSAGE

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. 7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." 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. 9 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."

HE COMES QUICKLY - THREE TIMES - EVENTS WHICH MUST SHORTLY TAKE PLACE

Implies the swiftness of the event, not the amount of time until the event.

[Luk 18:7-8 NKJV] 7 "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 "I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

He bears with them long, but he will avenge them speedily.

APPLICATION

The 7 Revelation Beatitudes (Jesus gave 8 others on the sermon on the mount.

Blessed - O how happy (7 beatitudes in Revelation) -

1. 1:3 - Blessed are those who read, hear, and keep the words of the Book of Revelation
2. 14:13 - Blessed are those martyred during the tribulation
3. Rev 16:15 - blessed are the tribulation saints who don't compromise and wait for Jesus to return
4. 19:9 - Blessed are all those who partake in the marriage supper of the Lamb
5. 20:6 Blessed are those who has part in the first resurrection and the 1000-year reign of Christ
6. 22:7 - Blessed are those who keep the words of the prophecy of Revelation
7. 22:14 - Blessed are those who do His commandments by washing their robes in the blood of the Lamb.

BIBLE PASSAGE

10 And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. 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." 12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

QUOTE

“If the warnings of this book are not sufficient to turn the sinner to Christ, there is no more that God has to say.” (Walvoord)

Walvoord

BIBLE PASSAGE

13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." 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. 15 But outside are dogs (*brutal, carnal people that follow their own impulses toward sin. Like a dog returns to its vomit, the fool repeats his folly*) and sorcerers (Pharmacea) and sexually immoral (Pornea) and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. 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."

APPLICATION

Does His commands - Washes His robes

[Jhn 6:28-29 NKJV] 28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

[Jhn 15:14 NKJV] 14 "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you."

It is doubtless that we will struggle with the tendencies of our flesh and worldly affections while we live in this fallen world and fallen body. But obedience to Christ must mark the true believer. Obedience in repentance of sin. Obedience in serving the Lord. Obedience in our faith and trust. Obedience in our mission to stand for Christ and stand for truth. Compromise and cowardice are not the signs of followers of Jesus, they are the signs of those who don't mind identifying with Christ when it means they get something out of it, but the moment they have to sacrifice, they're out. Paul says, "They have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof."

LOVES AND PRACTICES A LIE

[2Th 2:11-12 NKJV] 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

4 Heaven's Invitation

BIBLE PASSAGE

17 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.

APPLICATION

The invitation to eternal life with God is open to all, but one of the prerequisites is a desire to want what God offers.

- The Bride has the same spirit that longs for Christ to come.
- The true Christian doesn't think of Christ's return and go, "I hope he doesn't come back to soon. There's so much I want to do in life!" The person who has the Spirit echoes the Spirit, "COME!"
- While God's children are crying out to Him to come, Jesus is still calling out the world, "Come whoever thirsts and drink of that river."

APPLICATION

In chapter 22:1-5 we see several items that are in heaven. When we go there we will see these things.

- **River of life**
- **Street of the city**
- **Tree of life**
- **No more curse**
- **Light of God**

Do these things sound familiar? They should, they all perfectly represent Jesus:

- Christ has become for us the river of life.
- Christ has become for us the path to God.
- Christ has become for us the tree of life.
- Christ has become for us the curse.
- Christ is for us the light of God.

BIBLE PASSAGE

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; 19 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.

APPLICATION

Years ago, when the Reader's Digest released their condensed version of the Bible they conveniently left out these two verses... I think the reason is obvious? Thomas Jefferson revealed his arrogance when he took a pair of scissors and cut out the parts of the New Testament that offended his anti-supernatural biases. Some folks adopt Dalmatian Theology. They believe a spot here or a spot there. But God has inspired the whole enchilada - all 66 books are the Word of God.

Don't tamper with the Word of God or the Word of God might tamper with you!

BIBLE PASSAGE

20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

