

## LEARNING TO INTERPRET REVELATION

### Rev. 21-22

**After all believers are raptured to be with the Lord in Heaven,  
 After seven years of tribulation upon the earth,  
 After the wicked, idolatrous rule of antichrist over the world,  
 After Christ returns at Armageddon leading armies of saints and angels,  
 After rebellious soldiers are instantaneously slain fighting the King of Kings,  
 After the antichrist and false prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire,  
 After the remnant of Israel are saved as they trust the Returning Christ,  
 After Satan has been bound and cast into the bottomless pit,  
 After believers reign with Christ for 1,000 years on a renewed earth,  
 After Satan and those who followed him are forever cast into the Lake of Fire.**

#### I. GOD CREATES A NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH (Rev. 21:1 – 22:5)

*Revelation 21:1–8 1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." 6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. 8 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."*

If we check the meaning of "new," we find it means "new in character" and does not imply destruction but remaking. Peter says the elements will melt with fervent heat. The result will be a brand new world, the centerpiece of a universe freed from sin.

What is new?

**God dwells with men. No death. No mourning. No crying. No pain.**

#### II. THE NEW JERUSALEM DESCENDS FROM HEAVEN TO THE NEW EARTH.

**Rev. 21:9 – 22:5** 9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. 12 Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

14 Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. 16 The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. 17 Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. 18 The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. 21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

22 But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. 24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. 25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). 26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. 27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

**Rev. 22:1-5** 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.

1. The New Jerusalem is already in existence and filled with \_\_\_\_\_ for believers.  
**John 14:2** In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

2. Enormous in size - 1377 mi. X 1377 mi. X 1377 mi. (either a pyramid or a cube), nearly \_\_\_ million sq. mi., half the size of United States! If you sliced it in \_\_\_ mi. layers, it would cover the surface of the earth.
3. Indescribable in Beauty
  - a. Prepared as a \_\_\_\_\_ adorned for her husband (she is the home of the bride!)
  - b. It shines with the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - c. It has a wall, \_\_\_\_\_ feet high, all the way around it.
    - 1) Wall made of jasper, \_\_\_\_\_ in color, but clear like glass.
    - 2) 12 gates, each with name of one of tribes of Israel.
    - 3) Each gate made of single \_\_\_\_\_.
    - 4) Each gate has its own angel.
  - d. It is built on 12 \_\_\_\_\_ of foundation.
    - 1) Each a layer of beautiful precious stone.
    - 2) Each with a name of one of 12 \_\_\_\_\_.
  - e. City itself of pure \_\_\_\_\_, even the streets.
    - 1) At the \_\_\_\_\_ of the city is the throne of God the Father and His Son, the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - 2) From thence radiates the glory of God that \_\_\_\_\_ the entire city.
    - 3) From the \_\_\_\_\_ runs the river of the water of life, crystal clear and pure.
    - 4) To the throne runs the main street of the city.
    - 5) In the middle of the street and on either side of the river grows an \_\_\_\_\_ of the tree of life, bearing 12 kinds of delicious \_\_\_\_\_, one kind growing each month.

Can you just imagine life with the believers of all the ages? We will be able to talk with Adam and Eve about the Garden of Eden, visit with Job about the \_\_\_\_\_ he wrote about, ask Noah about life in the ark, and discuss ancient Babylon with Daniel. Can you anticipate meeting John, Luke, and Paul or talking with one of the shepherds who went to Bethlehem's manger, one of the magi, or the Roman Centurion who believed?

We shall get to know the saints through history and the saints you know who have gone on before you: family, dear friends, relatives. My mom and dad are there, as are many of yours. Some of you may have children there, some perhaps whom you never met, for they died before they were born. They will be there, and you will \_\_\_\_\_ them, and they will \_\_\_\_\_ you.

All of those who trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior will be there.

But most importantly, we shall live in the midst of the Pervading \_\_\_\_\_ of Almighty God. **Revelation 22:4** *They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.* We shall bask in His glory. We shall live in the abundance of His \_\_\_\_\_.

will have no limits because of safety or \_\_\_\_\_; we will be able to do and go. We will have no restriction because of \_\_\_\_\_; we will be able to learn and understand and remember! We will have no lack of \_\_\_\_\_; we will have forever to pursue our interests and desires for the glory of God.

And we shall \_\_\_\_\_. We shall see God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and we shall see Him as He is. We will bow. We will \_\_\_\_\_. We will praise. We will adore Him. And all of this we will do for all \_\_\_\_\_.

Thus the revelation of the Book of Revelation ends with a fitting series of admonitions:

***Revelation 22:6–20 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 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.”***

***\_\_\_\_\_ . Even so, come, Lord Jesus!***