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REVELATION CHAPTER 21:1-22:11

OPENING PRAYER



We will take a few moments for silent prayer, then I will pray out loud.

Dear Heavenly Father, how thrilling it is to study Your Word and learn about Your New Golden City. Be our guide as we tour our future home and move about in eternity. Thank You for loving us and providing our permanent dwelling place. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

REVIEW

Vocabulary

Sheol-Hades: *the underworld, made up of compartments housing both angels and humans for assorted reasons. Since Christ's resurrection, it has contained only unbelievers and unholy angels. At the end of time it will be empty as all creatures will have reached their final destinations: believers and Holy angels are in heaven; unbelievers and fallen angels are in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:14; 21:8).*

The abyss: *also called the bottomless pit, the compartment in Sheol-Hades where Satan is incarcerated during the Millennium.*

Books of works: *many books containing the long list of unbelievers' works in their attempt to reach God on their own terms. Their good works are not enough.*

Lamb's Book of Life: *the permanent record of all who believe in Jesus Christ: the Lamb of God. Christ rejecters have been "blotted out" (Ps. 69:28; Ex. 32-33; Rev. 3:5; Luke 10:20).*



The Bema Seat or Judgment Seat of Christ: *place in heaven where believers' works are evaluated and awards are presented during the Tribulation on earth.*

The Great White Throne: *the place of unbelievers' final judgment.*

Heaven: *the perfect final destination or home for believers and holy angels.*

Lake of Fire: *the final tortuous destination for unbelievers and fallen angels.*

Two Gog-Magogs: *1. An attack against Israel by the king of the north possibly happening between the Rapture and the treaty. 2) Satan's rebellion against God at the end of the Millennium. Scripture does not clearly state whether Satan takes on human body or a demonic form at this time, but clearly he is more than a spirit of evil permeating the atmosphere. He is God's enemy: a nasty, vile, malicious individual creature.*

Summary

Previously, we learned of Satan's 1,000 year imprisonment in the abyss. Because Satan is inactive on earth, unbelievers submit to Christ's perfect rule. When Satan is released, he is still God's vicious enemy. The world's unbelievers eagerly join him in open rebellion against Jesus Christ (the Gog-Magog revolution at the end of the Millennium). Though the armies gather from the four corners of the earth, "fire comes down from heaven and devours them". Christ is victorious!

I. ETERNAL ISSUES

A. GOD'S NEW GOLDEN CITY

Chapter 21 contains a report on eternity: that eternal state of timelessness toward which the plan of God has consistently advanced and for which God's people have yearned since the beginning of time. John describes the New Heavens, the New Earth and the New Jerusalem. The first verse implies universal change from the previous order.

1. THE OLD IS GONE AWAY

REVELATION 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away and there is no longer any sea.



a. Predicted by the apostle Peter.

II PETER 3:13 But according to His (God's) promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. *Also note II Peter 3:7.*



- 1) These verses assume two important teaching points. First, they seem to teach God's plan involves only one inhabited planet, called "earth" and they promise God's ultimate purpose for that planet will be accomplished.
- 2) Second, the proclamation that righteousness will dwell in the new earth implies full renovation. Earth and its creatures will be cleansed of sin and evil permanently. Righteousness will rule on earth forever.
- 3) Destruction of the present heavens and earth is part of God's final act of purifying His creation and His creatures from the effects of sin (Operation Footstool: I Cor. 15:25). Pollution of God's perfect universe began with a thought in the mind of Lucifer. The conflict between good and evil has been going on since before Adam and Eve in the garden, but at last it will come to an end.

b. In GENESIS, after the flood, God promised He would not destroy earth with water, again.

GENESIS 9:14, 15, 16 And it shall come about, when I (God) bring a cloud (God controls the weather) over the earth, that the bow (rainbow) shall be seen in the cloud, and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy





all flesh. When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.

c. Peter describes heaven and earth's final judgment by fire or nuclear explosion.



II PETER 3:7 But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men (all believers have resurrection bodies by this time and are not affected by earth's destruction. See '1st Resurrection: 4 Parts''').



II PETER 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief (not announced ahead of time), in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

"Eternal State" chart (on p. 18) might be addressed before going to point 2.

2. THE NEW IS HERE TO STAY

Eternity clusters around a single city, Almighty God's Golden City named Jerusalem. God will give her a new name in eternity: a name that totally and permanently reflects the glory and perfection of Jesus Christ. There are hints of what that new name might be: "The Lord our Righteousness" (JEREMIAH 33:16), "Abode of Righteousness" (JEREMIAH 31:23) or, "The Lord is There" (EZEKIEL 48:35). In eternity, God's City, made perfect, comes down from heaven to be the dwelling place for men (also made perfect). The glory of the Millennium is the fact that the Lord is there. Down through history, two cities stand in opposition to each other: one a holy city (Jerusalem) and one a counterfeit city with corrupt, religious and political systems characteristic of ancient Babylon. God's Perfect, Golden City is victorious in the end.



a. Characteristics of God's city.

1) Jerusalem is suspended over earth during the Millennium and seems to be able to move between heaven and earth. Evidently, New Jerusalem holds that same position in eternity.



REVELATION 21:2, 3 And I (John) saw the holy

city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them.



2) In heaven and in the new city of Jerusalem are the many "mansions or dwelling places" Jesus Christ promised to prepare for His people.

3) Memory Verse.

JOHN 14:2 In My Father's house are many dwelling places (or mansions); if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you and if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.



4) Paraphrase.

Jesus promises permanent, deluxe living quarters in heaven for every individual member of His Church. Jesus has gone ahead of us to design, build and decorate many magnificent mansions, suitable for royalty and fulfilling every personal need and desire. Jesus Christ guarantees He will come back and take His bride home to settle luxuriously with Him.

Additional Scripture for teacher: HEBREWS 12:12-24; REVELATION 21:9, 10.



5) At last, there are men with whom God has perfect harmony. The most important statement in **REVELATION 21:3** is the declaration that God "dwells" among men. Almighty God, maker of heaven and earth, is comfortable with His people in the New Jerusalem because they have chosen to love Him and they possess His righteousness. Eternity is perfect: all sinful thoughts and experiences are gone and all God's children are there.



IN ETERNITY GOD LIVES COMFORTABLY AMONG MEN.

REVELATION 21:4-5...and He (God) shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He (God) said, "Write, (God directs John to keep on writing) for these things are faithful and true."





REVELATION 21:6-7 And He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end (*He is everything worth thinking and talking about*). I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son."



c. Those who trust Jesus Christ as Savior should thirst for the water of life and overcome the temptations of the world. John describes an "overcomer" as one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.



I JOHN 5:4-5 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith. And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

3. THE ABSENTEES

a. **Since there is no place for unrighteousness in heaven, some creatures will not be there.** Satan and his demons will not be present. Unrighteous humans will never live there. All who side with Satan will be judged with Satan (MATTHEW 25:4). Verse 8 confirms the final destiny of the unrighteous.



REVELATION 21:8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, (*description of those who never trusted Jesus Christ*) their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (*unbelievers will be in the lake of fire with Satan and his angels*).



b. The description in Chapter 21 matches one in Chapter 9.

REVELATION 9:21 ...And they did not repent (*change their minds*) of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.



THEY DID NOT
"CHANGE THEIR MINDS" ABOUT JESUS CHRIST.

c. The hearts of these creatures remain unchanged. They do not and will not turn to God. Down through the corridors of time the

opportunity to trust Jesus Christ as Savior has always existed.

It exists at this moment. If you have never before understood that Jesus Christ took your place and paid for your sins so that you could live in that perfect heaven, *you might take the opportunity right now.* You need to trust Jesus Christ and believe He died for you. The moment you trust Christ as personal Savior, in the privacy of your own soul, Jesus Christ gives you Eternal Life and His perfect righteousness. You will live in harmony with God in His Golden City forever.



I know I will live in God's Golden City because I have trusted Jesus Christ as my Savior. I pray you have trusted Him, too.



B. DELIGHTS OF GOD'S GOLDEN CITY

REVELATION 21:9, 10 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues, came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I shall show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.



1. ITS GLORY

Notice the bride, the wife of the Lamb is in the Holy City, Jerusalem. One of the same angels involved in pouring out the plagues of God's wrath (from the drinking Goblets), invites the apostle John to see the bride of the Lamb. Evidently, she lives in God's Golden City, the New Jerusalem. Neither the bride nor the city possess any glory of their own. Still, neither could reflect more brilliance. Their glory is sourced in God. **There is no greater glory!**

New Jerusalem. This heavenly city will be the abode of all the saints (Heb. 12:22-24), the bride of Christ (Rev. 21:9-10), and the place Christ is preparing for His people (John 14:2). During the Millennium the new Jerusalem (described in detail in Rev. 21:9-22:5) apparently will be suspended over the earth, and it will be the dwelling place of all believers during eternity (as is emphasized in 21:1-6).

Ryrie Study Bible, (ASV) footnote, page 1920.



REVELATION 21:11-15 ...having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. It had a great



and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are those of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. There were three gates on the east and three gates on the west. And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.



Display symbols for the new Jerusalem with the pearl gates and the angels.

2. ITS CONSTRUCTION

a. The brilliance of New Jerusalem is that of a costly stone of crystal clear jasper. Its brilliance symbolizes the character of God in all His perfection: Sovereignty, Righteousness, Justice, Eternal Life, Love, Omniscience, Omnipotence, Omnipresence, Immutability and Veracity.



Display or distribute a complete list of God's Characteristics (with accompanying Scripture and symbols). List is in Teacher's Appendix.

b. The great high wall with twelve gates and an angel at each one, pictures protection: the permanent, absolute security of the New Jerusalem and its inhabitants.

c. Inscribed on the twelve gates of the New Jerusalem are the names of Israel's twelve tribes. The twelve apostles' names appear on the layers of the foundation of the city. Even in eternity, God distinguishes between Israel and the Church. **Israel and the Church are not the same.** Each has its own place in God's plan, but it does seem both reside in God's Golden City.

21:15-17 And the one (*the angel*) who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city and its gates and its wall. And the city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements (*Jerusalem is evaluated by both angels and men and found to be perfect*).

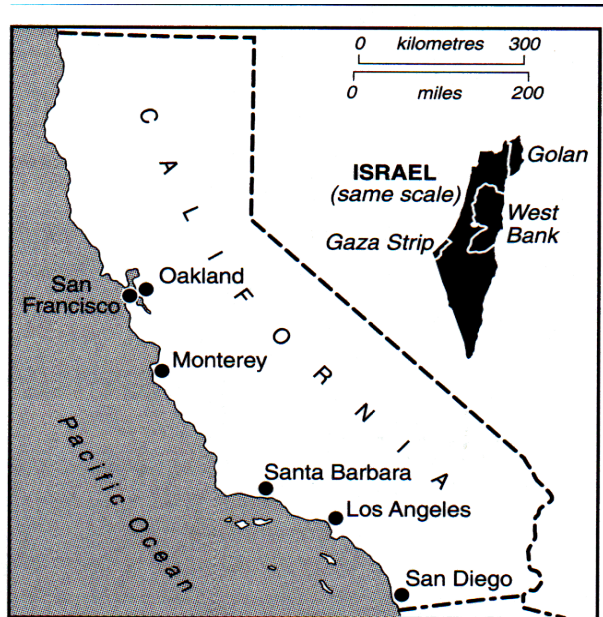


d. There was an earlier evaluation, remember (Chap. 11:1-2). In that measuring the Jewish temple in Jerusalem turned out to be worthless. **The New Jerusalem is not wanting in any way.** This city

is perfect. The angel measuring uses a golden (divine) measuring rod, because he knows ahead of time, this evaluation will be positive.

e. Each dimension of the New Jerusalem is the distance from the Pacific coast of the United States all the way to the Mississippi River. Though John is guided by the Holy Spirit he is still mortal. Human words are not enough to describe the magnificent Holy City. Imagine such a city, if you can, but we will not fully appreciate it until we see it with our own eyes in our resurrection bodies. This phenomenal city is ten times larger than the entire country of France. Dr. David Jeremiah says it is 600 stories high.

Earlier, the size of modern Israel was compared to the state of California. Imagine the insignificant size of present Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem will be quite different.



3. ITS RELATIONSHIP

REVELATION 21:18-20 And the material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone, The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprasus; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.



a. The foundation, adorned with precious stones, is a sparkling reminder of the rainbow, the symbol of God's promise never to destroy earth with water again. It speaks of God's faithfulness.

Go over the foundation stones and their colors. The composition and color of these precious stones is not exact, but is derived from several resources: as far as we can tell, jasper is clear as crystal, sapphire is blue, chalcedony is a greenish blue agate, emerald is a startling green, sardonyx is brown and white (speckled), sardius is blood red, chrysolite is golden in color, beryl is sea green, topaz is yellow, green, chrysoprasus is apple green, jacinth is blue and amethyst is purple.



The majority of the color descriptions are from Ryrie Study Bible. P. 1921. Also, We assume the layers are described from bottom to top.

b. The New Jerusalem has no negative characteristics. She is a city of flawless beauty and faultless magnificence. She is an eternal, Golden City poised upon a rainbow. Her builder and maker is God. **(HEBREWS 11:10).**



Display the foundation symbol, here: an enlargement of the twelve foundation stones of the New Jerusalem.

REVELATION 21:21-27 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street (*take note: there is one street, not numerous streets*) of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. And the nations shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it. And in the daytime (*for there shall be no night there*) its gates shall never be closed; and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; 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.



Display the Lamb's Book of Life symbol.

c. Paraphrase of verses 21-27.

There is a perfect, Golden City full of beauty, security and protection, suspended upon a rainbow foundation, where men and women dwell in harmony with each other and God, because of God's faithfulness. There is never any night in this city. The One who drives away darkness, casts His bright glory over all and lights are no longer

necessary.

Colossal pearl gates stand open at all times, because access into this glorious city depends on willingness to enter according to God's plan. No traffic problems irritate its inhabitants as each person in resurrection body transports himself along the solitary, golden highway connecting the many mansions. Unrighteousness cannot defile this city. No sin, evil or anything bad (including bad memories) will ever penetrate its gates. It is God's permanent paradise.

Only those whose names are in the Lamb's Book of Life live there. In addition to God and His Holy angels, residents are redeemed, purified humans who trust the One who died for their sins. He is faithful and they are God's children forever.

d. Important Truth.

ONLY THOSE WHOSE NAMES ARE IN THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE LIVE IN HEAVEN. IS YOUR NAME PERMANENTLY EMBOSSSED IN THAT MARVELOUS BOOK? ALL IT TAKES IS FOR YOU TO TRUST JESUS CHRIST AND BELIEVE HE DIED AS YOUR SUBSTITUTE SIN BEARER.

WON'T YOU PLACE YOUR TRUST IN HIM AND LIVE IN GLORIOUS PERFECTION FOREVER?



e. Eternal state.

In earlier studies, the books of Genesis and Revelation were compared. Everything begins in Genesis and everything comes to a conclusion in Revelation. Paradise was lost in Genesis. Revelation 22 records the glorious restoration of Paradise. Verses 1 through 11 contain John's final description of the eternal state.

f. Insufficient words.

Mortals cannot adequately describe eternity, but John, guided by the Holy Spirit, does his best. It is equally true that living humans cannot fully appreciate eternity, but we owe it to God to listen. John attempts to depict the perfection of the place God prepared for His children. Let's see what else we can learn.

C. PERFECTIONS OF GOD'S GOLDEN CITY

John's description teaches the perfection of eternity. The angel calls John's attention to seven specific perfections. The first is perfect life.

1. PERFECT LIFE



REVELATION 22:1-2 And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. And on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds (*different crops of*) fruit yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.



Display the symbol for the throne, the street, the river of life and the tree of life.

a. The angel shows John a glistening, crystal-clear river originating from God's throne in heaven.

1) The river of life flows from God's throne down through the center of heaven's solitary, golden street dividing it into a super highway.

2) The tree of life is a type of tree. Just as it takes many individual apple trees to form a grove, it requires many eternal life "trees" to grace both sides of the riverbank in eternity. The "eternal life trees" bear 12 healing and life giving fruits (possibly a different fruit each month).

INHABITANTS OF THE NEW JERUSALEM BELONG TO
THE FRUIT OF THE MONTH CLUB!

b. Double guarantee.

God's faithfulness guarantees perfect, permanent life in eternity. Just as the rainbow is the sign that God will not flood the entire earth again, so the river of life and the tree of life are signs that God double guarantees eternal life. All believers possess eternal life. They could not lose it in time. They cannot lose it in eternity. The tree is the same one from which Adam and Eve might have eaten in the Garden of Eden. After they sinned, God provided a guardian angel to protect them from eating of the tree of life and living forever in their sinful condition (**GENESIS 3:22**). Now, many men are righteous and will live forever in perfection.



2. PERFECT RESTORATION



REVELATION 22:3a And there shall no longer be any curse...



a. The curse pronounced on earth in Genesis is lifted in eternity (GENESIS 3:17-19). Never again will there be anything negative: no more tears, no more sorrow, no disease, no pain, no weeds or thistles,

no storms, no hatred and best of all no more sin...ever!

b. Restoration is complete. The Millennium is the front porch into eternity. During the Kingdom Age, people enjoy many of eternity's blessings, but not all. Satan is banished from earth, but men continue to be born with sinful natures. In eternity, perfect people live in permanent perfection.

3. PERFECT SUBMISSION

REVELATION 22:3b...and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him...



God guarantees perfect rule, worship and service in eternity. Each person has a perfect job suited to each one's talents, abilities, gifts and pleasure. The service always pleases God and His servants never tire of serving, because they love what they do and they love the One they serve.

More information on the doctrine of heaven is in Teacher's Appendix.



4. PERFECT RESURRECTION

REVELATION 22:4a ...and they shall see His face...



This statement is God's guarantee that the citizens of eternity are in perfect, permanent resurrection bodies. Physical human eyes could not bear the sight of the glorified face of the Lord Jesus Christ. Righteous citizens gaze at His shining glory forever. John speaks of this fact.

JOHN 17:24 *Father, I desire that they also whom Thou hast given Me be with Me where I am, in order that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me, for Thou didst love Me before the foundation of the world (God knew ahead of time, those who would belong to Christ).*



5. PERFECT IDENTIFICATION

REVELATION 22:4b *And His name shall be on their foreheads...*



God guarantees eternity's citizens permanently belong to Jesus and He belongs to them. Unbelievers receive the mark of Antichrist during the Tribulation (666). It is a temporary, meaningless brand, signifying nothing. Believers (Christ's possessions) have His name permanently branded on their souls and it means everything. God guarantees their

identity and unchanging relationship to Him. Citizens of heaven are God's children and He is their Father, forever.



REVELATION 3:12 He who overcomes, I (*Jesus*) will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it any more; and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God (*the New Jerusalem*), and My new name.

6. PERFECT ILLUMINATION



REVELATION 22:5 ...and there shall no longer be any night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them...

God is light and this is His guarantee of eternal, perfect light for heaven's citizens. There will be no need for flashlights or light bulbs. The entire city, 1,500 miles long, 1,500 miles wide and 1,500 miles high is perfectly illuminated by God's glory which reaches into the farthest corner. There will never be darkness again.

a. Eternal light exists in two distinct categories.

1) The first category is the light of day. God promises constant daylight. Citizens of eternity will never walk in darkness again. There is one bright, eternal day.

2) The second category is the light of the knowledge of God. God promises perfect spiritual light. Heaven's citizens understand who and what Jesus Christ is and what he has done for them. He is the Shekinah Glory, God's presence, leading and protecting His people (**JOHN 1;1; 1:14**). Eternal citizens carry spiritual light in their souls (**MATTHEW 7:2; COLOSSIANS 1:27**).



b. The personal residence of Jesus Christ, the Shekinah Glory guarantees both categories of light forever.

7. PERFECT EXALTATION



REVELATION 22:5c...and they shall reign forever and ever.

a. God guarantees His people will reign with Him. Imagine! Not many of us have great authority here on earth, but we are special to Jesus Christ and those who follow His plan after they are saved will

rule with Him. God is exalted and He permanently exalts His children.

II TIMOTHY 2:12 If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us...

REVELATION 3:21 He who overcomes (*ie: lives in God's plan for his life after salvation*), I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.



THUS CONCLUDES OUR LIST OF PERMANENT PERFECTIONS
GUARANTEED BY ALMIGHTY GOD FOR HIS CHILDREN
IN ETERNITY.

b. There are more, but this is our “full and complete” (**Note there are seven**) list of eternity’s perfections found in **REVELATION 22: 3-5.**



c. God’s teaching angel.

REVELATION 22:6 And he (*the teaching angel*) said to me (*John*), “These words are faithful and true”; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must shortly take place.



One of the angels who had the seven bowls or goblets of God’s wrath, began speaking in **REVELATION 21:9**. He is still talking to John (and to us) in **REVELATION 22:6**. He wants us as God’s children (who can attest to the absolute integrity of God’s Word) to love it, guard it, respect it and defend its honor.



d. Two subjects.

REVELATION 22:7-9 And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book. And I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I (*John*) heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. And he (*the angel*) said to me, “Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book; worship God.”



1) The first subject concerns Christ’s return. Verse 7 contains the first of four references to Christ’s return in the final verses of Revelation



(REVELATION 22:7, 12, 17, 20).

2) The second subject concerns worship of God. John is appreciative of the teaching angel and he becomes emotional. John makes the mistake of wanting to worship the communicator instead of the One who sends the message. Often we find ourselves making too much of someone who teaches God's Word rather than worshipping the One who sent it. The words in verse 8 remind us of **Chapter 1, Verse 17** where John has the same reaction. In both cases, the angel tells John it is wrong to worship an angel. The angel says "Worship God".



"WORSHIP GOD!" IS A COMMAND.

3) Those who know who and what God is are overwhelmed when they think of all God has done and want to worship Him. How, then, do we do so ?

4) We recognize God's ultimate victory, so we worship Him **triumphantly**. We recognize the time for Christ's return is growing near, so we worship by proclaiming the Rapture **urgently**. We worship by testifying with our lives and serving God on earth **fervently and faithfully** as we wait and watch **expectantly** for Christ's quick return.

e. Gospel.

REVELATION 22:10 And he (*the angel*) said to me (*John*), "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near."



1) The book of Revelation is not a "sealed" book. God forbids anyone to seal it. "It belongs to those who have trusted Christ as Savior and to their children, forever, that they may observe all the words of this law" (DEUTERONOMY 29:29). Daniel was told to seal his prophecy in the Old Testament (DANIEL 12:9). John is told to "open and proclaim" his prophecy in the New Testament. John's prophecy is called a "REVELATION". **A "Revelation" is NOT a Mystery.**

2) VERSE 10 reminds us the time is near for the things that "happen after these things". The time was near in John's day. It is even closer, today. The Rapture of the Church is next on God's calendar.

I am looking forward expectantly and eagerly to the Lord's return. I pray you are, too.



REVELATION 22:11 Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong, and let the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and let the

one who is holy still keep himself holy.

3) In Verse 11, God emphasizes the permanence of eternity. At the end of the Millennium, time is up and permanent divisions are established among men. The filthy are stuck with their filthiness. Their chance to be cleansed is past. The filthy are eternally separated from the righteous who trusted Christ to cleanse them.



4) If you have never trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, will you consider His claims, right now? He left the perfection of heaven for you. He went to the cross and died for your sins so you could be righteous and live with Him. He had you in mind in eternity past. When you trust Him as your Savior He guarantees Eternal Life for you in heaven as opposed to eternal death (separation from God) in the lake of fire for those who follow Satan (**REVELATION.21:8**).



5) The New Jerusalem has 12 pearl gates and they are “always open” (**REVELATION 21:25; 22:14**). Those **open** gates tell us of every person’s equal opportunity to be saved and have access to God’s New Golden City. Those “open gates” are eternal reminders that we will live in heaven only because...“Jesus loves us, He who died, heaven’s gates to open wide”, is the One who “washed away our sin and lets His little child come in.”



YES, JESUS LOVES ME. THIS, I KNOW.

5) SONG: “Blessed Assurance”, Great Hymns of the Faith, p. 255; “Now I Belong to Jesus”, p. 487 or “Jesus Loves Me” p. 479, Especially verse 2.



CLOSING PRAYER

Thank You, heavenly Father for this glorious description of Your Golden City. Thank You for making it possible for sinners to become righteous and live with You. Thank You for the Bible that describes these things to us and for the teaching of Your Spirit that makes them understandable. May we be aware of those who do not know your Son as Savior. May we be conscious of the value of other souls in the light of eternity and may we, as Your children, fulfill our personal place in your plan by allowing your Spirit to live through us to your eternal glory. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.



THE ETERNAL STATE

1. In the Eternal State, a new heaven and a new earth replace the present heavens and earth (Revelation 21: 1).
2. The present system is destroyed (II Peter 3:7 and 10-13). A new arrangement begins and lasts forever.
3. The old and new forms relate to each other, but Scripture indicates extreme changes. “No more sea” (Rev. 21:1): seas separate land masses and drastically effect the climate).
4. A new Jerusalem (God’s Golden City) is suspended between the new heaven and the new earth, serving as headquarters for the Eternal State (Psalm 87:2-3; Rev. 20:9; 21:2, 9-10).
5. New Jerusalem fulfills, forever, God’s promise to Abraham that his (Abraham’s) children would become a great nation and be a blessing to the entire world (Genesis 15:1-21; Is. 9:7; Zech 8:23).