

8/1/04

Revelation 22

John began revealing to us the eternal state of all things after the 1,000 year reign, the new heaven and earth, the new Jerusalem and its glory. Rev. 21

1. The New and Eternal Order. 21:1-8

- a. The new heaven and earth. vs. 1
- b. The Holy City, New Jerusalem. vs. 2
- c. The new relationship of God with man. vs. 3-4
- d. The absolute authority of the Creator of the New eternal order. vs. 5-6
- e. The new society of the New eternal order. vs. 7-8

2. The New Jerusalem Described. 21:9-21

- a. The bride the Lambs wife. vs. 9-11
- b. The number of walls and gates of the city. vs. 12-14
- c. The measurements of the city and wall. vs. 15-17
- d. The constructing material is listed. vs. 18-21

3. The Glory of the New Jerusalem. 21:22-27

- a. There is no temple. vs. 22
- b. There is no sun or moon. vs. 23
- c. There will be no rebellion or opposition. vs. 24
- d. There will be no night at all- complete access eternally. vs. 25

- e. The purpose of their pilgrimages. vs. 26-27

As we stated before some teachers believe that what is being described from Rev. 21:9-22:7 is a recapitulation of the Millennium by going back and describing it more fully, but if you mark the important differences, they can not be mistaken, you would have to ignore them to hold this view that the passage is describing the Millennium.

John now continues with the Eternal order describing the river of life, the promise of His coming and reward, the warning of tampering with the book and the benediction. Rev. 22

22:1-5 The nature of the fellowship in the Eternal State.

22:1 The vision of the river of life.

- 1) Once again as through the entire book of Revelation perceives all through the vision shown to him by the angel. Rev. 21:9
- 2) The river is a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, representing the eternal holy and perfect state.
- 3) The river proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb, he is the source of a life.
 - a) The Millennial river comes from the temple. Ezk. 47:1

- b) That river comes from Jerusalem to heal dead sea and flow to Mediterranean. Zech 14:4-8
- c) The first river came out of Eden into four heads, coming full circle. Gen 2:10

22:2 The vision of the tree of life,

- 1) The location of the tree is in the middle of its street of gold.
- 2) The tree of life was on both sides of the river.
- 3) The tree of life produces twelve fruits, a different kind every month.
- 4) The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
 - a) Since this is the eternal state and there is no more curse or death it must represent some ongoing health benefit for eternity for overcomer. Rev. 2:7
 - b) There is a similarity with the one in Millennium. Ezk. 47:12
 - * “Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all [kinds of] trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will

be for food, and their leaves for medicine.”

- c) The tree of life was in the midst of Eden and after the fall God guarded the tree of life by cherub until the appropriate time, coming again full circle. Gen. 2:9; 3:24

22:3-5 The vision of oneness with God.

- 1) There will be no trace of sin, there shall be no more curse. Vs. 3a
 - * Gen 3:14-19
- 2) There will be perfect holiness, the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it. Vs. 3b
 - * The word “but” marks the sharp contrast between holiness and no sin!
- 3) The creature will be in complete oneness with his Creator and Redeemer, His servants shall serve Him. vs. 3c
- 4) They will be uninhibited, they shall see His face. vs. 4a
 - a) Moses could not. Ex. 33:20-23
 - b) The pure in heart shall see God. Matt. 5:8
 - c) Without holiness no man shall see God. Heb. 12:14
- 5) They will belong to Him, His name shall be on their foreheads. vs. 4b
- 6) The Lord will be all they need, there shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor

light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. vs. 5a-c

- 7) They will rule with God, and they shall reign forever and ever. vs. 5d
 * Those who survive the 1,000 year reign.

22:6-16 The nearness of the return of Christ.

22:6 The assurance of the vision being genuine.

- 1) The angel said, “These words are faithful and true, reliable and real or genuine. vs. 6a-b
 a) He was not hallucinating or dreaming!
 b) He was not speaking of his own origin or impulse. 2Pet. 1:20-21
- 2) And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. vs. 6c
 a) God who sent the prophets sent his angel.
 b) The chain of command, God, Jesus, angel John. Rev. 1:1-2
 c) To reveal the things which must shortly or suddenly take place
 * The book opens with the same thing, the parallels can not be missed. Rev 1:1-3; 22:6-10

22:7 The exhortation in view of His coming.

- 1) Behold, I am coming quickly! vs. 7a-b
 a) Behold “idou” means to focus attentively so as to comprehend.
 b) It is a key word in Revelation.
 c) The word quickly “tachy” means suddenly, with out delay, found three times in this chapter. Rev. 22:7, 12, 20
- 2) Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.” vs. 7c
 a) Blessed “makairos” as we have studied means, oh how happy.
 b) This is the sixth Beatitude in the Revelation.
 c) The promise is to the one who keeps the words of the prophesy of this book.
 * The book opens with the same promise to him who reads, hears and keeps the word because the time is near.” Rev. 1:3

22:8-9 The response of John the beloved.

- 1) John affirms that he saw and heard these things. vs. 8a-c
 * The angel stated it, now John, before two or three witness!
- 2) John fell at the feet of the angel and worshipped him, for revealing these things vs. 8d-e

- a) The word worship “proskuneo” means to kiss the hand or to prostrate oneself on the floor as an expression of profound reverence.
 - b) The word appears ? times in the book of Revelation, more than any other book in the New Testament.
- 3) The angel rebukes John. vs. 9
- a) The angel tells John, “See that you do not do that. vs. 9a-b
 - * This is the second time. Rev.19:10
 - b) The reason given is that the angel was John’s fellow servant, and of his brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Vs. 9c-d
 - * Angels are ministering spirits to the heirs of salvation. Heb. 1:14
 - c) The command of the angel is “Worship God.” vs. 9e
 - * God alone deserves our worship!

22:10 The imperative instructions.

- 1) The angel tells John, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book,” vs. 10a-b
- 2) The reason is also given, “For the time “kairos” is at hand”, meaning in place and position, in other words “imminent”. vs. 10c

- a) The opening blessing to him who reads confirms this statement. Rev. 1:3
- b) The prophecies of Daniel were sealed till the time of the end. Dan. 8:26; 12:9

22:11 The two categories of men warned of His coming.

- 1) The unsaved, “He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still.” vs. 11a-d
- 2) The saved, “He who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.” vs. 11e-h
 - a) Saints and aints, and there is nothing in between!
 - b) This type of listing is called polysyndeton, the linking of each clause to the previous clause by means of the linking verb.

22:12 The admonishment to look for His coming with view of being rewarded.

- 1) The imminence marks the urgency, “And behold, I am coming quickly”. vs. 12a-b
 - a) Here it appears that the speaker changes to the first person and it is Christ speaking, till the end.

- b) This is the fourth time Jesus indicates His coming. there will be one more. Rev. 3:11; 16:15; 22:7, 12, 20
* The rapture could happen at any time!
- 2) The Lord's reward is with Him, to give to every one according to his work." vs. 12c-d
- a) AT the Bema-seat of Christ for the Christian b fire, examining the motives of the heart. Prov. 24:12; 1Cor. 3:12-15; 4:5; Rom. 14:10; 2Cor. 5:10
- b) The churches are also told this. Rev. 2:5, 16; 3:11; 16:15
- c) Jesus is the judge of mankind, both saved and non-saved. Jn. 5:2; Acts 10:42; Rom. 2:6, 16; 1Thess. 1:7-11; 1Pet. 1:17; Rev. 20:11-14

22:13-14 The stamp of Divine authority.

- 1) The person speaking is God, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." vs. 13
- a) The phrase is a title for God.
- b) The title Alpha and Omega is the first and last letter of the Greek alphabet and is only used in Revelation of Jesus and the Father. Rev. 1:8, 11; 21:6; 22:13

- c) The title First and the Last is used for the Father but only for Christ in the Revelation. Is. 41:4; 44:6; 48:12; Rev. 1:17; 2:8
- d) The Beginning and the End is used of Jesus. Rev. 1:8; 21:6; 22:13
* He us the author and finisher, Creator and developer, Savior and Redeemer of everything!
- 2) The promise is the believer, "Blessed are those who do His commandments". vs. 14a
- a) The person who obey the commandments of God are promised to be happy.
- b) Their obedience will entitle them to two things.
- 1)) To have the right to the tree of life,
* Some text read "who wash their robes."
- 2)) To enter through the gates into the city.
* Jesus the Good Shepherd is the door. Jn 10
- c) This is the seventh and last Beatitude in Revelation.

22:15 The non-existing in the Eternal State.

- 1) But outside are dogs, male prostitutes, sodomites. Deut. 23:17-18; 1Tim. 1:10

* Paul used it of the Jews, mutilators of the flesh. Phi. 3:2

- 2) Sorcerers “pharmakos” magical arts of the occult with drugs. Deut. 18:10-11
- 3) Sexually immoral, fornicator and adulterers. Lev. 18:22; 20:13; 1Cor. 6:8; 1Tim. 1:10
- 4) Murderers, takers of life. Tit. 1:9
- 5) Idolaters, worshippers of everything but God. 1Cor. 5:10; 6:9, 10:7
- 6) Whoever loves and practices a lie, haters of truth. 1Tim. 4:1-2

22:16 Jesus testifies his part in the Revelation.

- 1) He is the true envoy, “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches.” vs. 16a-c
 - a) The word churches appears for the first time since the third chapter. Rev. 3:27
 - b) Chapter one mentioned the word four times.
 - c) Chapter two and three mention it sixteen times.
 - d) Not one time is the word found between chapters 5-21, the church is never found in the tribulation!
- 2) He is the fulfillment of all hope, “I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.” vs. 16d-e
* Is. 11:1; Rev. 2:28

- a) He is the fulfillment of David’s line, the God-Man.
- b) The idea behind Morning Star is of promise and future hope fulfilled. Mal. 4:2; Ps. 84:11; Matt. 17:2; Rev. 1:16; 2Pet. 1:19

22:17 The invitation to all to come!

- 1) And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"
- 2) And let him who hears say, "Come!"
- 3) And let him who thirsts come.
- 4) Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.
 - a) The H.S. draws and convicts man of sin. Jn. 16:8
 - b) The bride is the church who preaches the gospel to the lost.
 - c) The invitation universal, conditional on repentance. Jn. 7:37; Is. 55:1

22:17-21 **The invitation and warning of meddling with the Revelation.**

22:18-19 The warning is severe.

- 1) Jesus is the speaker, “For I testify”.
- 2) The warning is all inclusive, “To everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book.”
- 3) The specific are clear, “If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book 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.”

- 4) This is stated throughout the Scriptures. Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:5-6; Gal. 1:8-9

22:20 The coming of Jesus is soon.

- 1) Jesus is the speaker again, “He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.”
- 2) The affirmation is clear, “Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”

22:21 The closing benediction.

- 1) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
 - a) Grace is unmerited favor. Eph. 2:8-9
 - b) Grace is depending on the finished work of Jesus for my sins and justification before God. Rom. 5:1-2
 - c) Grace is always giving glory to God not man.
 - d) Grace keeps every person knowing that they are debtors to God.
 - e) Grace causes man to fall in love with God.
 - f) Grace opened up the Revelation and it closes it, “John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and

peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne.” Rev. 1:4

* For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, I looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. Tit. 2:11-14

- 2) Amen, is the affirmation of what has been stated.
 - a) It could be translated, “so be it”.
 - b) It is an affirmation and confirmation of the truth and validity of the statement.