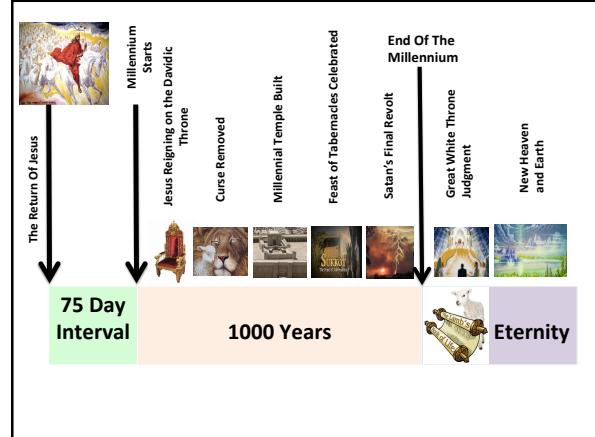


## Revelation

### Chapter Twenty-Two



- In Revelation 20, John witnessed a total reconstruction of the old heaven and earth with a new heaven and earth.
- John also witnessed the descending of New Jerusalem down to earth.
- John's vision was given to him in two sections.
- In Revelation 21:1-8, John sees how the new order of things will operate.
- In Revelation 21: 8-27, an angel takes John to a mountain to witness a detailed account of New Jerusalem and its inhabitants.
- Revelation 22:1-5, continues with the angel giving John a description of New Jerusalem

### Revelation 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. 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.

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

### The River Of Pure Water

- John sees a river coming from the Throne of God and the Lamb.
- This is the fountain of the water of life that was promised in Revelation 21:6, to everyone who thirsts.
- Jesus promised the women at well the water of life. (John 4:10)
- The Throne of God and the Lamb is the source of the river.

- The Psalmist spoke of this river.
- "There is a **river** whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn."-**Psalm 46:4-5**
- "How precious is Your loving kindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light."

### The Tree Of Life

- In the original Greek the definite article "the" tree is not there. It should read "a tree of life".
- It was not one individual tree, but a particular tree as to its kind, as we speak of 'the apple' or 'the oak,' denoting a species of which there are many specimens."-Seiss
- There may have been three trees. John sees a tree "In the **middle** of its street, and **on either side of the river**, or it may have been a grove of trees in the different areas.

## The Twelve Fruits

- The tree of life produces fruit for consumption.
- Fruit is plural so it will be twelve different kinds of fruit.
- The fruit will be for eating.
- Jesus said to the church in Ephesus: "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." -Revelation 2:7

- There will be seasons because we will have 12 months with a different fruit for each month to consume in our resurrected bodies.
- The leaves of the tree are also used for food.
- The mention of months indicates that there will still be some form of calendar system in the eternal state.
- "The fact that months are identified as such in New Jerusalem indicates that the orbital and rotational motions of the earth will go on as God established in the very beginning and that the moon likewise will continue orbiting around the earth." -Morris
- In Genesis the sun, moon, and stars were not created as light which was created on the first day (Gen. 1:3) but were created to "...divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years"-**Genesis 1:14**

## The Leaves of The Tree

- The leaves of the tree are said to be for the "healing of the nations".
- It is interesting that in Revelation 21:24, the kings of the earth bring their gifts of honor and glory into the New Jerusalem.
- These leaves are giving health to the nations, i.e. Gentiles.
- We know that there is no more sin and the curse has been removed.

- Paul said, "Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood** cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does **corruption inherit incorruption**." - **1 Corinthians 15:50**
- When Jesus appeared His body was notably different: "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have **flesh and bones** as you see I have." -**Luke 24:39**
- Jesus' resurrected body is the sort of incorruptible body which the saints will inherit when glorified.
- Whatever is the true purpose of the leaves as healing agents and the seemingly division of nations and their kings we won't know until we get there.
- "All that we can safely conclude is that the healing provided by the leaves of the tree provides some sort of service to the inhabitants of the eternal state"-Garland

### The Curse Removed

- Here is the final consummation of what the history of the Scriptures speak so clearly about.
- At the Fall of man the curse of death and futility were introduced into the history of mankind.
- Here in Revelation 22, the curse is removed and man's fellowship with God is restored.
- God is sitting upon His throne with man dwelling in His midst witnessing His face.
- With the curse not removed, to look upon the face of God, is almost certain death. Jacob saw God's face and lived which is not the norm but the exception (Genesis 32).

- "Then He said, 'I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.' But He said, '**You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.**'

And the LORD said, 'Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that 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.'"-**Exodus 33:19-23**

### They Shall Reign Forever

- Jesus told the church of Thyatira the overcomers would rule with Him (Revelation 2:27).
- The initial reign begins during the 1000 year kingdom and is carried over to eternity.
- After the kingdom years, the throne of the Son is merged with His Father in New Jerusalem and the saints continue to reign with Jesus in eternity. Daniel said: "the saints of the Most High shall receive the **kingdom**, and possess the kingdom forever, **even forever and ever**"-**Daniel 7:24**

### **Revelation 22:6-11**

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

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

### **A Reminder**

- Revelation 22:6-9 is a reminder of what was said in Revelation 1:1-3.
- "God does not command believers to read Revelation merely to satisfy their curiosity about the future. He did not inspire it to provide material for detailed chronological charts of end-time events. There is a seemingly endless stream of books on prophecy being churned out, with speculative prophetic schemes proliferating *ad infinitum, ad nauseam*. But it was not God's purpose to give Christians a detailed analysis of the prophetic significance of contemporary cultural, political, military, and social events or trends. God inspired Revelation for one purpose: to reveal the glory of His Son and call believers to live godly, obedient lives in light of His soon return. The purpose of Revelation is not to provide entertainment, but to provide motivation for godly living." - MacArthur

### **Worship God**

- John falls at the feet of the angel and is quickly told by the angel not to worship the messenger but God and Him only.
- Man is constantly tempted to worship something other than God.
- The angel is a servant, along with the prophets, and those "...who keep the words of this book".
- The book is not simply the book of Revelation but the whole inspired revelation of Scripture.
- **Angels believe in the inspired Word of God but man seems to think He knows more than God and that God needs a little help in telling His story of creation to consummation.**

### **Do Not Seal**

- Daniel was told to seal (Dan. 8:26;12:4,9). John is told to not seal the "words of the prophecy".
- What is the difference between the time of Daniel and John?
- Mainly Daniel's prophecy covered over 500 years to the time of Jesus' coming into the world. The Revelation of Jesus that John writes about completes the vision that was given to Daniel.
- Daniel is only part of the story of redemption. The Book of Revelation completes the story. The two books are intertwined.

### **The Condition Of Man**

- “Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, ‘My lord, what shall be the end of these things?’ And he said, ‘Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. ‘Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.’”-**Daniel 12:8-10**
- People will continue to ignore the message of the cross and the second coming of the Lord.
- People will go on living unjust and filthy lives until the end is upon them either through death or through the coming of the Lord.
- The best option is to believe in Jesus and His righteousness for our lives.

### **Revelation 22:12-17**

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.” 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.

But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. “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.” And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let

### The Reward

- “The purpose of the return of Jesus is to render to each man according to his works. His coming at the Rapture is to reward the saints for the works done in their bodies since salvation. The purpose of the Second Coming is to render judgment for the works of unrighteousness.”-Fruchtenbaum
- “For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”-**Matthew 16:27**

- There are only two options:
  1. A person can stand before the holy God of the universe and present his works before Him on his own.
  2. A person can stand before the holy God of the universe and let Jesus advocate on his behalf.
- “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”-2 Corinthians 5:21
- “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world”-1 John 2:1-2
- The key word is “propitiation” for our sins. Before Jesus, the offering was made to cover sin, but after Jesus’ death and resurrection our sins now have been not only covered but made void.

### Revelation 22:18-21

“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; 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. I Am Coming Quickly He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”

### **A Warning**

- The warning is addressed to anyone adds to the words of the prophecy that is written in the book of Revelation.
- The same principle applies to all of Scripture.
- God takes His word very serious.
- “Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.”-**Proverbs 30:6**