



WEEK 21: All Things New Revelation 21

- **Last week**

- We witnessed...
 - ... Satan's binding and imprisonment
 - ... The unique nature of the Millennial Kingdom
 - ... The rise of a "new generation"
 - ... The release of Satan and their rebellion

And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations ... And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. – Revelation 20:7-10 ESV

- **Great White Throne Judgment – Revelation 20:11-15**

- A key event that will take place during the end times
- It tells us what is going to happen to the unredeemed
- The prophet Daniel was given a vision of this day

*"As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and **the books were opened.**" – Daniel 7:9-10 ESV*

- This is the "second" resurrection
- The first was at the beginning of the Millennium and was for the martyred Tribulation saints
- This one includes all the unbelievers of all time:
 - Old Testament
 - Church age
 - The Tribulation
 - The Millennium

- Judgment is the purpose
 - But their guilt is predetermined
 - Their fate is already sealed
 - They have no hope of acquittal

*For the wages of sin is **death**... – Romans 6:23 ESV*

*Godly people find life; evil people find **death**. – Proverbs 11:19 NLT*

*...sin when it is fully grown brings forth **death**. – James 1:15 ESV*

*...**death** spread to all men because all sinned. – Romans 5:12 ESV*

- There are two books mentioned:
 - The book of life
 - A record of names judged based on Christ's work
 - The book of death
 - A record of names judged based on their own works

*...the dead were **judged by what was written in the books**, according to what they had done. – vs 12*

...they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. – vs 13

- Two things are going on here:
 - Judgment for acts of commission
 - Their sinful deeds, words, and thoughts
 - As recorded in the book of death
 - Judgment for a single act of omission
 - Their refusal to accept Christ as Savior
 - Their names are not recorded in the book of life

Jesus told His disciples...

*...don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice **because your names are registered in heaven**. – Luke 10:20 NLT*

God told Daniel...

*...every one of your people **whose name is written in the book** will be rescued. – Daniel 12:1 NLT*

- **Don't miss this!**
 - What sends someone to hell?
 - Their record of sins as found in the one book?
 - Or the absence of their name from the other?
 - Everyone will have a list of recorded sins

- But it is the book of life that matters

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. – Romans 3:23 NLT

Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. – Romans 3:24-25 NLT

- **The New Heaven and New Earth – Revelation 21:1-8**

- What's going on here?

- Remember:

- All creation suffered as a result of the fall

*Against its will, **all creation was subjected** to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that **all creation has been groaning** as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. – Romans 8:20-22 NLT*

- The heavens and earth have suffered throughout the Tribulation
 - God has promised to make **recreate**, not **renovate**

- Recreating, not renovation

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is **a new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. – 2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV*

*For behold, **I create new heavens and a new earth**, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. – Isaiah 65:17 ESV*

*Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, **I am doing a new thing**; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? – Isaiah 43:18-19 ESV*

- Sin must be wiped out, not white-washed over
 - God is required to make all things new
 - The old must be done away with
 - Including creation itself

...no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the wine would burst the wineskins, and the wine and the skins would both be lost. New wine calls for new wineskins. – Mark 2:22 NLT

*...the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which **the heavens will pass away** with a roar, and elements will be dissolved, burning with heat, and the earth and the works in it will not be found. – 2 Peter 3:10 BLB*

- God has redeemed and glorified His people
- Now He will redeem and glorify His creation
- We're not told how God does this
- We're not told where we will be when it happens
- It evidently happens instantaneously
- And along with the new heavens and new earth, there will be a new Jerusalem
- ALL THINGS ARE NEW

- **The New Jerusalem**

- God's dwelling place is with man – this is the main point
- We get hung up on the **place** and miss the **purpose**
- We miss the forest for the trees
- God with us – Immanuel
 - Not as a burning bush
 - Not as a pillar of fire or as a cloud
 - Not smoke, fire, thunder and lightning
 - Not even as the incarnate Son
 - He will be **with us**
- John is given explicit instructions:
Write it down – in the 1st-Century
It is done! – in the future
 - This is all inevitable and unstoppable
 - It's **trustworthy** - *pistos* – believable, faithful
 - It's **true** - *alethmos* – sincere, reliable
 - Because it is based on the promises of God

"I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end." – Revelation 21:6 ESV

- He has it all planned out!

- **The Waters of Life**

*"Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him **a spring of water** welling up to eternal life." – John 4:13-14 NLT*

*"Come, everyone who thirsts, **come to the waters...**" – Isaiah 55:1 ESV*

*Then the angel showed me **the river of the water of life**, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. – Revelation 22:1 ESV*

- **The Bride of Christ**

- This is the New Jerusalem mentioned earlier
- But why is it referred to as the “Bride of Christ”?
- Because of the nature of its residents
- It will be the home of all the redeemed
- We will all become the Bride of Christ
 - Every tribe, nation and tongue
- This is the beginning of the eternal state – heaven
- But what is the nature of this new capital city?
 - Beautiful
 - Huge
 - Glorious
 - Well-ordered
 - Purposeful
 - No temple needed
 - Because God and the Son are present
 - No sun or moon necessary
 - Because God and the Son provide the light
 - No need to shut the gates at night
 - Because there will be no fear of danger

- Glory to God

They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. – Revelation 21:26 NLT

*Your gates shall be open continually; day and night they shall not be shut, that people may bring to you **the wealth of the nations**, with their kings led in procession.* – Isaiah 60:11 ESV

*These I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; **their burnt offerings and their sacrifices** will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.* – Isaiah 56:7 ESV

- The nations will replace their own glory with God’s
- All people will come to honor God in His city
- No more false gods or false places of worship
- No more prayers to non-existent gods
- No more sacrifice of animals
- People will offer themselves as perpetual sacrifices to God

What can we bring to the Lord? What kind of offerings should we give him? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves? Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins?

No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. – Micah 6:6-8 NLT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discuss some practical ways in which you can do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.
- Go back and look at all the incredible descriptions of the New Jerusalem. What do all these things tell us about our God?
- In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” What are some practical ways we can increase our thirst for a life of righteousness on this side of heaven?



Week 22: Homework: The Tree of Life – Revelation 22

- Read Revelation 22. Also read pages 199-211 of the Devotionary™ study on Revelation.
- In last week's lesson, we partially covered the river of life. Go back and read the following passages and then jot down what they teach you about the nature of the life-giving water each describes.

John 4:13-14: _____

Isaiah 55:1-2: _____

Ezekiel 47:1-12: _____

What similarities do you find between the trees described in Ezekiel 47:12 and the tree of life in Revelation 22:2?

Read Genesis 1:29. What about God's command to Adam is similar to the two passages above? What do you find significant about them getting all the nourishment from the fruit of the various trees in the garden?

Now read Genesis 2:8-9. What else do you learn about the trees made available in the garden for Adam and Eve?

According to Genesis 2:15-17, what one tree was off-limits to Adam and Eve in terms of its fruit? Why do you think God banned this particular one?

What happened when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command and ate the fruit of the forbidden tree? (See Genesis 3:6-7, 22-24 for help).

-
-
-
-
- In verse 6 of Revelation 22, God reiterates that the content of what He has provided John is trustworthy and true. It is believable and reliable. Why should this be important to us as we read it?

-
-
-
-
- In verse 7 and 12, Jesus repeats the phrase, "Behold, I am coming soon." What do you think was His intention in making that promise two times in the closing chapter of this book?

-
-
-
-
- Read Revelation 22:18-19. Why do you think God is so stern in his warning about adding or altering in any way the content of this book?